

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists  
**Membership Examination**

June 2011

**Medicine and Surgery of Unusual Pets**  
**Paper 1**

Perusal time: **Fifteen (15)** minutes

Time allowed: **Two (2)** hours after perusal

Answer **ALL FOUR (4)** questions.

All four main questions are of equal value

Answer **FOUR** questions each worth 25 marks .....total 100 marks

# Paper 1: Medicine and Surgery of Unusual Pets

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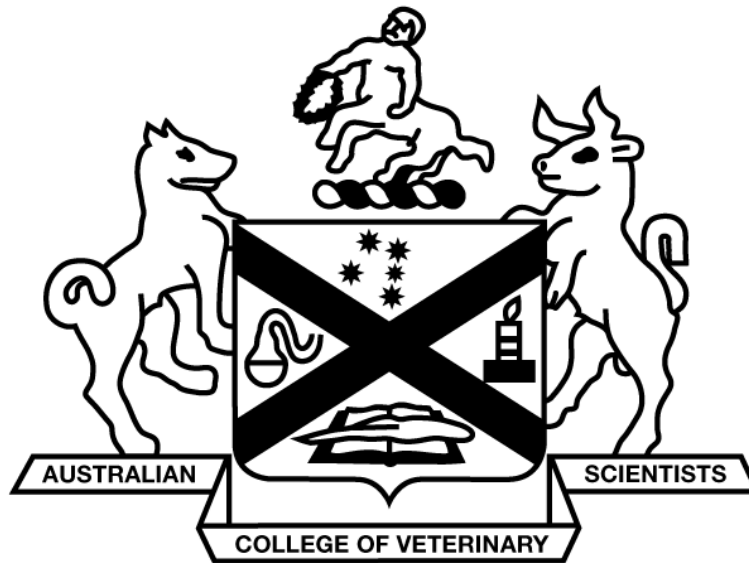
Answer ALL **FOUR (4)** questions.

1. Outline the husbandry requirements of the ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*). Your answer should include, but not be limited to: nutrition, enclosure design and cleaning, behavioural requirements, and preventative disease management. (25 marks)
  
2. Discuss dentition in **each** of the following species:
  - a) guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*) (10 marks)
  - b) rabbits (10 marks)
  - c) bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*) (5 marks)
  
- 3: Discuss the aetiology and pathogenesis of **each** of the following:
  - a) cheyletiellosis (fur mites) in the rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) (9 marks)
  - b) ovarian cysts in a guinea pig (*Cavia porcellus*) (8 marks)
  - c) mammary neoplasms in the rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) (8 marks)
  
4. Answer **all** subparts of this question:

Discuss the indications for, administration, pharmacology and dose rates for **each** of the following drugs:

  - a) meloxicam in a ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) (8 marks)
  - b) doxycycline in a domestic rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) (9 marks)
  - c) ceftazidime in a central bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) (8 marks)

**End of paper**



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**Paper 2**

Perusal time: **Fifteen (15)** minutes

Time allowed: **Two (2)** hours after perusal

Answer your choice of any **FOUR (4)** questions from the six questions **ONLY**

All six main questions are of equal value

Answer **FOUR** questions each worth 25 marks .....total 100 marks

# Paper 2: Medicine and Surgery of Unusual Pets

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Answer your choice of any **FOUR (4)** questions from the six questions **ONLY**

1. Answer **all** subparts of this question:
  - a) Discuss the differential diagnoses and diagnostic options applicable to a guinea pig with abdominal distension. (17 marks)
  - b) Briefly discuss treatments for **two (2)** of these causes. (8 marks)
  
2. You are presented with a pet rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) exhibiting ataxia. Answer **all** subparts of this question:
  - a) Provide your list differential diagnoses. (10 marks)
  - b) Describe the diagnostic options available to differentiate between these causes. (15 marks)
  
3. Describe the clinical signs, diagnosis, treatment and control of a myxomatosis outbreak in pet rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculi*). (25 marks)
  
4. Describe **two (2)** approaches to performing a surgical coeliotomy in a chelonian. In your answer describe the surgical techniques involved, the equipment used and the advantages and disadvantages of each approach including post-operative recovery, healing times and potential complications. (25 marks)
  
5. Describe euthanasia of commonly kept unusual pets. In your answer, compare and contrast reptile, small mammal, and amphibian euthanasia techniques. (25 marks)
  
6. Write brief notes on **each** of the following:
  - a) barbering in pet mice (*Mus musculus*) (8 marks)
  - b) clinical signs and diagnostic tests you would recommend for a ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*) with insulinoma (9 marks)
  - c) treatment of an eastern blue-tongue lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides scincoides*) which has undergone autotomy (self-amputation) of the distal half of the tail. (8 marks)

**End of paper**