

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists  
**Membership Examination**

June 2010

**Medicine of Horses**

**Paper 1**

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

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

Answer **four (4)** from the six questions **only**.

All questions are of equal value.

Subsections of questions are of equal value unless stated otherwise.



# Paper 1: Medicine of Horses

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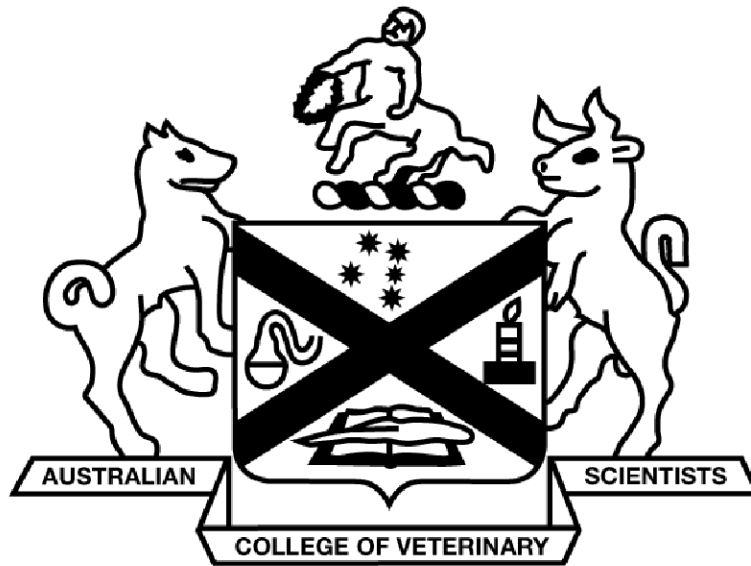
Answer four (4) from the six questions only.

1. Describe the mechanism of action, indications for, and potential side effects of **three (3)** of the following drugs:
  - a) flunixin meglumine
  - b) detomidine
  - c) butorphanol
  - d) deslorelin acetate.
  
2. *Streptococcus equi* subsp *equi* is a major pathogen encountered in equine practice. Describe the clinical signs, clinical pathological changes, ideal diagnostic samples and potential complications of disease caused by this organism.
  
3. Answer **three (3)** of the following:
  - a) Discuss the causes of oral ulceration in horses.
  - b) Describe the clinical signs, differential diagnoses and treatment of staphylococcal dermatitis.
  - c) Describe the pathogenesis and management of congenital flexor tendon laxity.
  - d) Define uveitis and discuss the possible aetiologies and treatment.
  
4. The presence of fever can influence your differential diagnoses in a horse showing signs of colic. Answer **both** of the following:
  - a) List the disease conditions that cause both fever and colic.
  - b) Explain how you would differentiate between these differentials.

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5. Cyathostomes are an important group of parasites in terms of their impact on the health and management of horses. Answer **both** of the following:
  - a) Describe the life-cycle of cyathostomes and relate this to the clinical signs observed in infected horses.
  - b) Discuss treatment and prevention strategies on a property that has had ongoing cyathostome-related disease in resident horses.
  
6. Echocardiography and electrocardiography are two modalities used for the diagnosis of cardiac disease in the horse. Compare and contrast these two procedures, using examples of equine cardiac disorders that can be diagnosed with **each**.

**End of paper**



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**Paper 2**

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Answer **four (4)** from six questions **only**.

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# Paper 2: Medicine of Horses

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**Answer four (4) from the six questions only.**

1. A yearling filly is noted to be reluctant to walk up at feeding time one evening. One of her eyes is half-closed and a watery discharge is evident. Answer **each** of the following:
  - a) Describe your investigation of this case.
  - b) List **three (3)** possible diagnoses.
  - c) Describe, in detail, your treatment of **one (1)** of the conditions that may be present.

2. Owners of a hobby farm are considering buying a pony for their children to ride. They have been offered a 12-year-old Welsh mountain pony mare that has suffered from previous bouts of laminitis. Answer **both** of the following:
  - a) Explain how you would advise them to further investigate the suitability of this pony for purchase.
  - b) Describe, in detail, management strategies that should be employed to maintain good health and to minimise the likelihood of recurrence of laminitis.

3. A two-day-old filly foal appears lethargic and is not suckling as much as it was the day before. The owner is concerned that it may have been injured by the dam who has been acting very differently.

Describe your investigation of the mare and the foal. Include in your answer a brief explanation of possible conditions, and useful features of history, clinical examination and further diagnostic tests that would allow you to differentiate between your differential diagnoses.

4. A 14-year-old Arab gelding is presented with depression and inappetance. Physical examination reveals pale yellow mucous membranes and a heart rate of 72 beats/min. Initial haematology and biochemistry reveal a PCV of 9%, total protein of 65 g/L, white cell count of  $7.7 \times 10^9/L$  with  $5.5 \times 10^9/L$  neutrophils. His fibrinogen is 5 g/L. His urine is dark brown in colour. Answer **both** of the following:
  - a) With reference to this information, list your differential diagnoses in this case.
  - b) For **each** of these diagnoses, describe further diagnostic tests that would be useful.

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5. A day-old miniature foal presents with head tilt and circling. The foal was apparently normal at birth and did stand and suckle.

Describe your approach to diagnosis and treatment of this foal.

6. Discuss the use of antimicrobial drugs in the treatment of **each** of the following conditions in the adult horse:
- a) acute colitis (10 marks)
  - b) chronic cystitis (5 marks)
  - c) septic arthritis. (5 marks)

**End of paper**