



## AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS

### MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

#### *Medicine and Surgery of Unusual Pets*

#### INTRODUCTION

These Membership Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the *Membership Candidate Handbook*.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Refer to the *Membership Candidate Handbook*.

#### OBJECTIVES

Membership of the College is an official recognition of a veterinary surgeon's knowledge and experience in a designated field of veterinary science. Membership is an indication to the profession and the general public of an advanced practitioner, representing a middle-tier of knowledge, competence and experience in a specific area of veterinary practice. Membership is not a specialist qualification. Membership requires examination with members signified by post-nominals MANZCVS.

#### LEARNING OUTCOMES

For the purposes of this document "unusual pets" are defined as unusual species legally kept as pets and commonly encountered in veterinary practice in Australia and New Zealand. These include:

- Exotic mammals including rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats, and mice.
- Native and exotic reptile and amphibian species
- Commonly kept invertebrates
- Native mammals likely to be encountered in clinical practice

For these species:

1. The candidate will have a **sound**<sup>1</sup> knowledge of:

1. Normal anatomy and physiology of unusual pets including reproduction and

<sup>1</sup> **Sound knowledge** – candidate must know all of the principles of the topic including some of the finer detail, and be able to identify areas where opinions may diverge. A middle level of knowledge.

**Basic knowledge** – candidate must know the main points of the topic and the core literature.

immunology;

2. Captive management of unusual pets, including nutrition and preventative health requirements;
3. Aetiology, pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnosis, treatment and management of the common infectious and non-infectious diseases of unusual pets;
4. Tests and procedures used for diagnosis of common diseases in unusual pets, including haematology, clinical biochemistries, diagnostic imaging, molecular diagnostics, cytology, histopathology, microbiology and their interpretation;
5. Therapeutic modalities used in unusual pets, including pharmacotherapy, anaesthesia, surgery, dentistry, endoscopy, and supportive care;
6. Public health and animal welfare issues arising from the keeping and handling of unusual pets, including zoonotic diseases and workplace health and safety.
7. The application of practical skill associated with the discipline, including those pertaining to capture and handling, clinical examination, history acquisition, diagnostic sampling, surgery and necropsy of usual pets.

2. The candidate will have a **basic** knowledge of:

1. Infectious diseases that are exotic to Australia and New Zealand which could be introduced into the unusual pet population of Australia and New Zealand region;
2. Genetics of unusual pets in relation to heritable disease or disease susceptibility;
3. Normal behaviour of unusual pets, behavioural problems and their management;
4. Handling, immobilisation and anaesthetic procedures of venomous or dangerous species of unusual pets.

## EXAMINATIONS

For information on both the standard and format of the computer based Written; and digital or in person Oral examinations, Candidates are referred to the *Membership Candidates Handbook*. The Membership examination has **two separate components**:

1. **Written Examination** (*Component 1*)  
**Written Paper 1** (two hours): Principles of the Subject  
**Written Paper 2** (two hours): Applied Aspects of the Subject
2. **Oral Examination** (*Component 2*)  
**Oral** (one hour)

The written examination will comprise of two separate two-hour written papers taken on the same day. There will be an additional 15 minutes perusal time for each paper, during which no writing in an answer booklet is permitted. In each paper you are provided with four (4) questions to answer, worth 30 marks each, giving a total of 120 marks per paper. There is no choice of questions. Questions may be long essay type, a series of shorter answer sub-questions, or multiple-choice questions. Marks allocated to each question and to each subsection of questions will be clearly indicated on the written paper.

### **Written Paper 1:**

This paper is designed to test the Candidate's knowledge of the principles of medicine and surgery of unusual pets as described in the Learning Outcomes. Answers may cite specific examples where general principles apply, but should primarily address the theoretical basis underlying each example.

### **Written Paper 2:**

This paper is designed to (a) test the Candidate's ability to apply the principles of medicine and surgery of unusual pets to particular cases/problems or tasks and (b) test the Candidate's familiarity with the current practices and current issues that arise from activities within the discipline of medicine and surgery of unusual pets in Australia and New Zealand.

### **Oral Examination:**

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate achievement of the above-mentioned Learning Outcomes. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. This will be conducted as a power point presentation, but radiographs, typed blood results or other physical aids may be used. Ten cases are presented with supporting questions asked verbally. The oral examination has a total of 100 marks with each case allocated 10 marks.

## RECOMMENDED READING MATERIAL

The candidate is expected to read widely within the discipline, paying particular attention to areas not part of their normal work experiences. This list of books and journals is intended to guide the candidate to some core references and other source material. Candidates also should be guided by their mentors. *The list is not comprehensive and is not intended as an indicator of the content of the examination.*

### Textbooks<sup>2</sup>

#### General

##### *Recommended textbooks*

Carpenter JW and Harms CA. *Carpenter's Exotic Animal Formulary*, 6th Ed. Elsevier 2022.

Meredith A and Johnson-Delaney C. *BSAVA Manual of Exotic Pets Fifth Edition. A Foundation Manual*. BSAVA 2010.

O'Malley B. *Clinical Anatomy and Physiology of Exotic Species*. Elsevier 2005.

##### *Additional references*

Campbell TW and Grant KR. *Exotic Animal Hematology and Cytology* 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Blackwell Publishing 2022.

Cogger HG. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. CSIRO Publishing 2018.

Miller RE, Calle PP and Lamberski N. *Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine Current Therapy, Volume 10*. Elsevier 2022.

Samour J. *Exotic Animal Medicine Review and Test*. Elsevier 2012.

#### Mammals

##### *Recommended textbooks*

Harcourt-Brown F and Chitty J. *BSAVA Manual of Rabbit Surgery, Dentistry and Imaging*. BSAVA 2013.

Johnson-Delaney CA. *Ferret Medicine and Surgery*. CRC Press 2017.

Meredith A and Lord B. *BSAVA Manual of Rabbit Medicine*. BSAVA 2014.

Quesenberry KE, Orcutt CJ, Mans C and Carpenter JW. *Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents Clinical Medicine and Surgery*, 4th Ed. Elsevier Saunders 2020.

Varga M. *Textbook of Rabbit Medicine*. 3rd Ed. Elsevier 2022.

Vogelnest L and Portas T. *Current therapy in medicine of Australian mammals*. CSIRO Publishing 2019.

##### *Additional references*

Brown SA. and Rosenthal KL. *Self-Assessment Color Review of Small Mammals*. Blackwell 1997.

Bohmer E. *Dentistry in Rabbits and Rodents*. Wiley Blackwell 2015.

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<sup>2</sup> **Definitions of Textbooks**

**Recommended textbook** – candidates should own or have ready access to a copy of the book and have a sound knowledge of the contents.  
**Additional references** – candidates should have access to the book and have a basic knowledge of the contents.

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Capello V, Gracis M and Lennox A. *Rabbit and Rodent Dentistry Handbook*. Zoological Education Network 2005.

Capello V and Lennox AM. *Clinical Radiology of Exotic Companion Mammals*. Wiley Blackwell 2008.

Fox JG and Marini RP. *Biology and diseases of the Ferret*. 3rd Ed. Wiley Blackwell 2014.

Jackson SM. *Australian mammals: biology and captive management*. CSIRO Publishing 2003.

Oglesbee B.L (Editor). *Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult: Small Mammal*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Blackwell 2011.

## Reptiles

### *Recommended textbooks*

Divers SJ and Stahl SJ. *Mader's Reptile and Amphibian Medicine and Surgery*. 3rd Ed. Elsevier Saunders 2019.

Doneley B, Monks D, Johnson R and Carmel B. *Reptile Medicine and Surgery in Clinical Practice*. Wiley & Sons 2018.

### *Additional references*

Barnard SM and Upton SJ. *A Veterinary Guide to the Parasites of Reptiles. Volume 1: Protozoa*. Krieger Publishing 1994.

Barnard SM and Durden LA. *A Veterinary Guide to the Parasites of Reptiles. Volume 2: Arthropods*. Krieger Publishing 2000.

Frye FL. *Self-Assessment Colour Review of Reptiles and Amphibians*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. CRC Press 2015.

Garner MM, Jacobson ER. *Infectious Diseases and Pathology of Reptiles*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. CRC Press 2020.

Girling S and Raiti P. *BSAVA Manual of Reptiles*. 3rd Ed. BSAVA 2019.

McArthur S, Wilkinson R and Meyer J. *Medicine and Surgery of Tortoises and Turtles*. Blackwell Publishing 2004.

## Amphibians and Invertebrates

Frye FL. *Captive Invertebrates: A guide to their biology and captive care*. Krieger Publishing 1992.

Henderson A, Henderson D and Sinclair J. *Bugs Alive! A Guide to Keeping Australian Invertebrates*. Museums Victoria 2008.

Lewbart GA. *Invertebrate Medicine*. 3rd Ed. Wiley Blackwell 2022.

Wright KM and Whittaker R. *Amphibian Medicine and Captive Husbandry*. Krieger Publishing 2001.

## Journals<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> **Definitions of Journals**

**Recommended Journal** – candidates should have ready access to either print or electronic versions of the journal and have a sound knowledge of the published articles in the subject area.

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Australian Veterinary Journal

Exotic DVM

Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery

Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine

Veterinary Clinics of North America: Exotic Animal Practice

### **Other Resources**

Proceedings 327 *Wildlife in Australia Healthcare and Management*. Post Graduate Committee in Veterinary Science 1999

Unusual and Exotic Pet Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association, conference proceedings

Veterinary Information Network ([www.vin.com](http://www.vin.com))

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information contact the College Office

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**Additional Journal** – candidates should be able to access either printed or electronic versions of the journal and have a basic knowledge of the published articles in the subject area.

**Additional Reading Materials** - These are conference proceedings, other non-refereed publications and other journals that would offer some information in the subject area including differing points of view, but are not required reading.

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