INTRODUCTION

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

ELIGIBILITY

Refer to the Membership Candidate Handbook.

OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate that the candidate has sufficient knowledge of and experience in Small Animal Medicine to be able to give sound advice in this field to veterinary colleagues.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

For the purposes of this and further discussion, the term small animals will be taken as meaning cats and dogs.

1. The candidate will have a sound\(^1\) knowledge of:
   1.1 the aetiology, pathogenesis and pathophysiology of organ dysfunction in the cat and the dog;
   1.2 the diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment and management of canine and feline diseases;
   1.3 diagnostic tests and procedures as these apply to the diagnosis of disease conditions in the cat and the dog;

\(^1\) Knowledge Levels:
- **Detailed knowledge** – candidates must be able to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the topic including differing points of view and published literature. The highest level of knowledge.
- **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.
1.4 preventive medicine as it applies to the cat and the dog.

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

2.1 canine and feline anatomy, physiology and pharmacology;
2.2 chemotherapeutics, vaccines and biologics used for the treatment, prevention and control and management of canine and feline diseases;
2.3 canine and feline nutrition and husbandry, especially as it applies to the management of disease conditions, paediatrics, geriatrics and other special life stage or training requirements;
2.4 canine and feline diseases exotic to Australia and New Zealand but which could be of potential significance or importance to canine or feline health in Australia and New Zealand;
2.5 the measures to reduce the public health significance of those diseases of the cat and the dog which are zoonotic.

3 The candidate will **be able to**:

3.1 collect, interpret and record clinical data in canine and feline cases including:
3.1.1 historical and physical examinations of all body systems;
3.1.2 the results of common clinical pathology investigations;
3.1.3 the results of diagnostic imaging examinations including radiography and ultrasound imaging

**Sound** diagnostic expertise is required.

3.2 perform the following technical procedures, with a **basic** level of expertise;
3.2.1 biopsy techniques (fine needle aspiration and cutting needle core samples, with and without imaging guidance)
3.2.2 blood pressure measurement
3.2.3 body cavity centesis: thoracic, abdominal, pericardial
3.2.4 bone marrow biopsy & aspiration
3.2.5 cerebrospinal fluid collection
3.2.6 electrocardiography
3.2.7 enteral nutrition tube placement
3.2.8 joint fluid aspiration
3.2.9 prostatic massage/ejaculate collection
3.2.10 thoracostomy tube placement
3.2.11 transtracheal aspiration & bronchoalveolar lavage

3.3 analyse common clinical problems and make sound clinical judgements;
3.4 communicate effectively with clients and peers

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2 *Skill levels:*

**Detailed expertise** – the candidate must be able to perform the technique with a high degree of skill, and have extensive experience in its application. The highest level of proficiency.

**Sound expertise** – the candidate must be able to perform the technique with a moderate degree of skill, and have moderate experience in its application. A middle level of proficiency.

**Basic expertise** – the candidate must be able to perform the technique competently in uncomplicated circumstances.
EXAMINATIONS

For information on both the standard and the format of the Written and Oral examinations, candidates are referred to the Membership Candidates Handbook. The Membership examination has two separate, autonomous 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 or a series of shorter answer sub-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 Small Animal Medicine as described in the Learning Outcomes using essay-style, short answer and note-point formats. 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 Small Animal Medicine 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 Small Animal Medicine in Australia and New Zealand using essay-style, short answer and note-point formats. The Candidate may be required to justify their clinical approach and treatment options using their knowledge of pathophysiology and pharmacology.

**Oral Examination:**

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate achievement of the above mentioned Learning Outcomes. Discussion will be predominantly based on case material. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. Images and laboratory results are likely to be used during this examination. Four cases are presented with supporting questions asked verbally in a face-to-face setting. The oral examination has a total of 60 marks with each case allocated 15 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.

Recommended Textbooks


Additional references – non essential but useful reference material if available:


Australian Veterinary Journal

New Zealand Veterinary Journal

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact the College Office

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