



## AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS

### MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

#### *Veterinary Behaviour*

### INTRODUCTION

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

### ELIGIBILITY

Refer to Section 2 of the *Membership Candidate Handbook*.

### OBJECTIVES

To demonstrate that the candidate has sufficient knowledge of and experience in veterinary behaviour to be able to give sound advice to colleagues on problems and procedures commonly encountered in this field of general veterinary practice.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

**1. The definition of behaviour and the role of the following in its expression:**

- 1.1. genetics, ethology, environment and learning theory
- 1.2. effects of disease states on behaviour

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<sup>1</sup> **Knowledge levels:**

**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

**2. The definitions for normal, abnormal, acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and consideration of the following with regard to these behaviours:**

- 2.1. obtaining a good history
- 2.2. differential diagnoses
- 2.3. possible aetiologies (including medical conditions) and their welfare implications
- 2.4. appropriate treatment options, where applicable, including behaviour modification strategies for the animal and the owners, environmental management and / or use of behavioural medications including nutraceuticals and pheromones (together with medical or surgical treatment as required).

**3. The behaviour considered to be normal (aka species-typical) in captivity and the wild, appropriate to the importance of the species, of the following:**

- 3.1. companion, performance or laboratory species that are kept in Australia or New Zealand:
  - 3.1.1. dogs, cats, pet bird species, horses, rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, rats and mice
- 3.2. production animal species that are bred in New Zealand or Australia:
  - 3.2.1. cattle, sheep, pigs, deer, goats, fowl and alpaca.

**4. An understanding of how knowledge of behaviour can be used as an indicator of an animal's welfare**

**5. The principles and practice of learning theory and how it applies to behaviour modification and training.** An essential understanding of the principles and application of: dimensions of learning, instinct vs learned behaviours e.g. imitation and observational learning, trial-and-error learning, learned helplessness, the nature of memory.

- 5.1. Individual behaviour and its development: indication of temperament, indication of perception, cycles of behaviour, time budgets, fear and territorial behaviour, navigation, migration, thermoregulation, and responses to intra and interspecies communication.
- 5.2. Group behaviour: recognition of species and group members, communication within and between groups, dynamics of groups including territory, home range, predator avoidance, protection of group, effectiveness of strategies such as mutual grooming.

**B. The candidate will have a **basic** understanding of the following:**

1. neurophysiology and neuroanatomy and psychopharmacology concepts
2. Pet Ownership:
  - 2.1 advantages and disadvantages for the pets and the community
    - a. selection of appropriate pets and provision of suitable environments
    - b. animal management strategies in urban, periurban, rural and remote communities with regard to community concerns and implications for animal control and welfare
    - c. an understanding of the human-animal bond and how this can impact on pet behaviour and longevity.

3. The design of facilities and equipment for training, handling, transportation and housing of companion animals and domestic livestock:
    - a. advantages and disadvantages of different facilities (including pounds and shelters) and the equipment used
    - b. relevant applications for each species.
  
  4. The behaviour of intensively housed production animals and wild animals in establishments such as companion animal breeding facilities, shelters, zoos, circuses and oceanariums:
    - a. constraints of a restricted environment and how these may be addressed
    - b. effects of these constraints on behaviour
    - c. management implications
    - d. welfare concerns
    - e. balancing multiple aims for animals in captivity – animal welfare, conservation, education, research, recreation, entertainment.
    - f. discuss possible management techniques.
    - g. address methods of assessing success of these techniques.
- C. The candidate will be able to perform the following technical procedures with **sound**<sup>2</sup> expertise:
- a. clinical examination
  - b. neurological examination
  - c. fitting equipment such as harnesses, collars, claw caps and head collars.
  - d. low stress handling techniques

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<sup>2</sup>**Skill levels:**

**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 the required standard and format for both the Written and Oral examinations, candidates are referred to the *Membership Candidate 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 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 veterinary behaviour as described in the Learning Outcomes.

### **Written Paper 2:**

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

### **Oral Examination:**

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate achievement of the Learning Outcomes listed earlier. Multimedia is likely to be used during this examination as stimulus for discussion. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. Five (5) cases (using video and case history) are presented with supporting questions asked verbally in a face-to-face setting. The oral examination has a total of 100 marks with each case allocated 20 marks.

Additionally the examiners may ask the candidate to demonstrate the ability to recognise and fit commonly used equipment in all species.

## 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 major 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<sup>3</sup>

Houpt, K.A. (2010). *Domestic Animal Behavior for Veterinarians and Animal Scientists*. (5th ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.

Landsberg, G., Hunthausen, W., & Ackerman, L. (2013). *Behavior Problems of the Dog and Cat*. (3rd ed.). Elsevier Saunders.

McGreevy, P., & McLean, A. (2011). *Equitation Science*. John Wiley & Sons.

Overall, K. (2013). *Manual of Clinical Behavioral Medicine for Dogs and Cats*. (1st ed.). Mosby.

Serpell, J. (Ed.). (2017). *The domestic dog, its evolution, behaviour and interactions with people*. (2nd ed.) Cambridge University Press.

American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (Author), Horwitz, D.F., (Ed.), Ciribassi, J., & Dale, S., (Contributors) (2015). *Decoding Your Dog: Explaining Common Dog Behaviors and How to Prevent or Change Unwanted Ones*. First Mariner Books.

Luesher, A.U. (2006). *Manual of Parrot Behavior*. Blackwell.

Tynes, V., (Ed.). (2013). *Behavior of Exotic Pets*. Wiley (incl e-pub).

Turner, D.C., & Bateson, P. (2013). *The Domestic Cat: The Biology of its Behaviour*. (3rd ed.). Cambridge University Press.

### Additional Textbooks

Broom, D., & Fraser, A. (2015). *Domestic Animal Behaviour and Welfare*. (5th ed.). CABI Publishing

Yin, S.A. (2009). *Low Stress Handling restraint and behaviour modification of dogs and cats*. Cattle Dog Pub.

Grandin, T. (Ed.). (2014). *Livestock Handling and Transport, 4th Edition: Theories and Applications*. CABI.

Rodan, I. (Ed.). (2015). *Feline Behavioral Health and Welfare*. Elsevier Saunders

Nelson, R. (2005). *An Introduction to Behavioral Endocrinology*. (3rd ed.). Sinauer Associates Inc.

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<sup>3</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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## Feline Behaviour Guidelines / Feline Friendly Handling

<https://www.catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/handling-guidelines>  
From the American Association of Feline Practitioners 2011

### **Journals<sup>4</sup>**

Journal of Veterinary Behaviour Clinical Applications and Research

Applied Animal Behaviour Science

Animal Behavior

Anthrozoos

### **Reading for Interest**

Alcock, J. (2013). *Animal Behavior-an evolutionary approach*. (10th ed.). Sinauer Associates Inc, Massachusetts.

Mellor, D., Patterson-Kane, E., & Stafford, K.J. (2009). *The Sciences of Animal Welfare*.

Webster, J. (Ed.). (2011). *Management and Welfare of Farm Animals: The UFAW Farm Handbook*. (5th ed.). Wiley-Blackwell. (E-book also available).

Donaldson, J. (2013). *The Culture Clash*. (2nd ed.). Dogwise Publishing.

McConnell, P. (2002). *The Other End of the Leash*. Ballantine Books.

Reid, P. (1996). *Excel-erated learning*. James & Kenneth Publishers.

Robinson, I. (Ed.). *The Waltham Book of Human Animal Interaction: Benefits and Responsibilities of Pet Ownership*. (Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition). Oxford.

(**download at**) <https://www.waltham.com/dyn/assets/pdfs/waltham-booklets/Human-AnimalInteractionsBookletElectronicversion.pdf>

Gregory, N.G. (Ed.). (2004). *Physiology and Behaviour of Animal Suffering*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Manning, A., Dawkins, M.S. (2012). *Introduction to Animal Behaviour*. Cambridge University Press.

Webster, J. (1995). *Animal Welfare: A Cool Eye Towards Eden*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Scott, J.P., & Fuller, J.L. (1965). *Genetics and the Social Behaviour of the Dog*. Iowa State University Press.

(Although a very old reference, it contains some of the groundwork still relevant to understanding dog behaviour currently.)

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#### <sup>4</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.

**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.

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## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

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