



**AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS  
MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES**

*Surgery of Horses*

## INTRODUCTION

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

## ELIGIBILITY

Refer to the *Membership Candidate Handbook*.

## OBJECTIVES

Candidates attempting the membership examination will be expected to have a good understanding of the principles of surgery and therapeutics and a sound working knowledge of the management and diseases of horses with surgical treatment options. Success indicates that the person has demonstrated competence superior to colleagues in this field.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. The candidate will have a **sound<sup>1</sup> knowledge** of:
  - 1.1. equine anatomy and physiology

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### <sup>1</sup> 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 major literature.

- 1.2. basic underlying principles of surgery, such as wound healing, wound infection, biomechanics, the pathophysiology of shock, fluid therapy, haemostasis, antimicrobial therapy, and biomaterials and sutures
  - 1.3. the aetiology, pathogenesis, and pathophysiology of surgical diseases in the horse
  - 1.4. the diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of surgical diseases in the horse
  - 1.5. diagnostic imaging including radiology, ultrasound, scintigraphy, anaesthesia and intensive care, and chemotherapeutics, as they apply to the diagnosis and treatment of equine surgical diseases
  - 1.6. aseptic techniques and sterilising procedures.
2. The candidate will have a **basic knowledge** of:
- 2.1. pathology of surgical conditions
  - 2.2. tumour biology and the effectiveness of different treatment protocols
  - 2.3. the ability to critically evaluate the current veterinary literature and concepts in equine surgery.

## **EXAMINATIONS**

For information on the standard and format of both 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** (approximately 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 Surgery of Horses as described in the Learning Outcomes. Answers may cite specific examples in which 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 Surgery of Horses to particular case/problems or tasks, and (b) test the candidate's familiarity with the current issues that arise from activities with the discipline of Surgery of Horses in Australia and New Zealand.

**Oral Examination**

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate and achievement of the above mentioned Learning Outcomes. The exam may include images, radiographs and other clinically relevant material to assess the candidate's diagnostic skills, problem solving skills and ability to apply surgical principles to clinical problems. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. Four (4) 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 LISTS**

The candidate is expected to read widely within the discipline, from editions listed or later, 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**

Auer JA & Stick JA, editors. *Equine surgery*. 4th edn. WB Saunders, St Louis, 2011.

McIlwraith CW et al., editors. *Diagnostic and surgical arthroscopy in the horse*. 3rd edn. Mosby Elsevier, Philadelphia, 2005.

Nixon AJ, editor. *Equine fracture repair*. WB Saunders, Philadelphia, 2nd edn. Wiley 2011.

Ross MW & Dyson SJ, editors. *Diagnosis and management of lameness in the horse*. 2nd edn. WB Saunders, St Louis, 2010.

Slatter D, editor. *Textbook of small animal surgery, Volume 1*. 3rd edn. WB Saunders, St Louis, 2003 (chapters 1–19).

## **JOURNALS**

*American Journal of Veterinary Research*

*Australian Veterinary Journal*

*Equine Veterinary Education*

*Equine Veterinary Journal*

*Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*

*Veterinary Clinics of North America (Equine Practice)*

*Veterinary Surgery*

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information contact the College Office

Telephone: International +61 (07) 3423 2016

Fax: International +61 (07) 3423 2977

Email: [admin@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:admin@anzcvs.org.au)

Web: [www.anzcvs.org.au](http://www.anzcvs.org.au)

Postal Address: Building 3, Garden City Office Park, 2404 Logan Road

EIGHT MILE PLAINS QLD 4113 Australia

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