



# Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

## **Membership Examination**

June 2018

## **Veterinary Behaviour Paper 1**

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

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

Answer **ALL FOUR (4)** questions

Answer **FOUR (4)** questions, each worth 30 marks..... total 120 marks

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# Paper 1: Veterinary Behaviour

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## Answer all four (4) questions

1. Answer **all** parts of this question:

- a) Draw a timeline to illustrate the normal developmental stages of the domestic dog from birth to adulthood. *(10 marks)*
- b) For **each** stage of canine development, describe the features of **each** stage including sensory state, reflexes, behaviours and neurological progress. *(15 marks)*
- c) For the socialisation period describe how the environment of a puppy may have positive and negative effects on its behavioural development. *(5 marks)*

2. Answer **all** parts of this question:

- a) Define fear **and** briefly describe the purpose of fear. *(3 marks)*
- b) Define anxiety **and** briefly describe the purpose of anxiety. *(3 marks)*
- c) Discuss the difference between anxiety and an anxiety disorder. In your answer, provide an example of **each**. *(10 marks)*
- d) Describe the different anatomical areas of the brain involved in the experience of fear **and** the expression of fearful behaviour. *(8 marks)*
- e) Discuss the effects and side effects of **three (3)** medications that may be used to manage anxiety disorders. Your choices must be from different psychotropic medication classes. *(6 marks)*

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3. Answer **all** parts of this question:

a) Define **each** of the following and provide an example for **each**:

i. positive reinforcement (2 marks)

ii. negative punishment (2 marks)

iii. secondary reinforcer (2 marks)

iv. Premack principle (2 marks)

v. habituation. (2 marks)

b) Define the difference between classical conditioning and operant conditioning. Give an example of **each** that leads to a decrease in a behaviour. (10 marks)

c) Define learning and identify factors (internal and external) that may affect an individual animal's learning. (10 marks)

4. Answer **all** parts of this question:

a) Describe the features of normal play behaviours in dogs. (7 marks)

b) Discuss the function and rules of play in dogs. (10 marks)

c) Describe and give examples of abnormal play in dogs. (3 marks)

d) Describe and discuss normal grooming behaviour in cats. (10 marks)

**End of paper**



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## Paper 2

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Answer **ALL FOUR (4)** questions

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# Paper 2: Veterinary Behaviour

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**Answer all four (4) questions**

1. An 18-month-old, entire male Australian cattle dog presents to you for veterinary attention because he is chewing his owner's possessions and excessive barking when home alone. His owners report that he has been a bit destructive since he was a puppy, but they only became aware of his barking when their neighbours complained about the noise.

Answer **all** parts of this question:

- a) List the most relevant questions to ask the owner in order to make a diagnosis. Explain your choices. *(8 marks)*
- b) For the behaviours exhibited in this case, list the differential diagnoses that should be considered. *(4 marks)*
- c) You make a tentative diagnosis of separation anxiety. What other behaviours should you ask the dog's owner about to confirm your diagnosis? *(4 marks)*
- d) Suggest a long-term **and** a situational medication for the treatment of separation anxiety. Justify your choices, considering the potential side effects of **each** medication alone **and** in combination. *(8 marks)*
- e) Describe appropriate environmental and behavioural modification management strategies for separation anxiety. *(6 marks)*

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2. Answer **both** parts of this question:

- a) A client asks you about training their young dairy heifer to lead for showing. Design and outline a training program for the client to implement **and** justify your methods. In your answer, identify the learning principles involved in the training. (18 marks)
- b) The client calls you after their first show. The heifer was very unsettled by noise and wouldn't enter the ring. Define behaviour modification **and** describe the behaviour modification steps that should be recommended to help reduce the heifer's fear. (12 marks)

3. Answer **all** parts of this question:

- a) A family visits your clinic with questions about buying a pet guinea pig. Describe the normal behaviour of guinea pigs **and** how the behavioural and environmental needs for pet guinea pigs should be met. (15 marks)
- b) The following week, the family returns with one young guinea pig. They have pre-school aged children, and live in an apartment with no outdoor access. Identify and discuss the factors that may affect the welfare of this animal. (8 marks)
- c) A friend gives another guinea pig to the family. Discuss how the introduction of the new guinea pig to the original guinea pig should occur. Describe the behavioural signs that would indicate social bonding has occurred. (7 marks)

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4. A 10-year-old sulphur crested cockatoo presents to you for feather loss on his body. He lives alone in a 2 x 3 x 2 metre cage. He has been observed preening excessively and chewing at his feathers.

Answer **all** parts of this question:

- a) Describe the potential aetiological categories for feather-damaging behaviour in a bird. (5 marks)
- b) Outline the normal time budgets for wild parrots. (5 marks)
- c) Discuss the potential factors that may increase the risk of feather-damaging behaviour for this bird. (10 marks)
- d) Describe the appropriate environmental and behavioural modification management strategies for this bird. (10 marks)

**End of paper**