



Australian and New Zealand College of  
Veterinary Scientists

**Membership Examination**

June 2022

**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

# Paper 1: Veterinary Behaviour

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**Answer all four (4) questions**

1. Answer **all** parts of this question: *(30 marks)*

a) Define the following *(6 marks)*

- Punishment
- Desensitisation

b) Discuss the disadvantages and advantages of punishment in dog behaviour management. *(12 marks)*

c) Explain the factors that must be in place for a successful desensitisation program and any consequences if these factors are not addressed. In your answer briefly discuss **one (1)** example where desensitisation would be a useful management strategy, and **one (1)** example where it may not and why. *(12 marks)*

2. Answer **all** parts of this question: *(30 marks)*

a) Explain the purpose of communication. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different communication methods used by animals, giving examples. *(15 marks)*

b) Compare and contrast a psittacine versus a sheep in communication styles. *(15 marks)*

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3. Answer **all** parts of this question: (30 marks)

- a) Describe the functions of the limbic system as a whole. (10 marks)
- b) Explain the difference between Anxiety and an anxiety disorder. (10 marks)
- c) Discuss the role and distribution of the neurotransmitters, Serotonin and GABA in the CNS. (6 marks)
- d) Describe the action of Diazepam at the GABA-receptor. (4 marks)

4. Answer **all** parts of this question: (30 marks)

- A) Compare the timelines and briefly describe behavioural hallmarks for the developmental stages in the dog, and cat. A table may be used. (12 marks)
- B) Discuss the socialisation period and effects on behavioural development of puppies and kittens. (10 marks)
- C) Discuss maternal care factors in young puppies that can influence the neurological and behavioural development in the dogs. (8 marks)

**End of paper**



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**Paper 2**

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Answer **ALL FOUR (4)** questions

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

# Paper 2: Veterinary Behaviour

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**Answer all four (4) questions**

1. An owner has brought in a 4-year-old, desexed male cat to your clinic for a 15-minute consultation and vaccination. During the consultation you note the cat hisses and resists examining. The owner states that he is weeing on the couch

Answer **all** parts of this question (30 marks)

- a) Outline an immediate plan for this cat and explain the reason for each component (8 marks)
- b) List the differential diagnoses and how and why you will investigate them (10 marks)
- c) Outline an environmental management, behaviour modification and medication plan for the cat and explain the recommendations (12 marks)

2 Answer **all** parts of this question: (30 marks)

- a) Outline common abnormal adverse behavioural outcomes for puppies sold from commercial breeding establishments (puppy farms). (10 marks)

- b) Discuss environmental and other factors for puppies from commercial breeding establishments (puppy farm) that can have a significant influence on behavioural outcomes. *(15 marks)*
- c) Discuss the long term prognosis for puppies rescued from a puppy farm situation. *(5 marks)*

3. Answer **all** parts of this question: *(30 marks)*

- a) A pig farmer has contacted you to visit his farm and give advice on behaviours he has noticed occurring in his sows. He is concerned that his production has dropped despite the fact that the size and intensity of his production system has been increasing over time. The main behaviour he is concerned about is sows biting the bars of their farrowing crates repetitively.
- Discuss possible causes for this behaviour and what you would explain this behaviour as to the farmer. Include in your answer how you would explain the behaviour to the farmer. Define any theoretical terms that you use. *(10 marks)*
  - Describe the management strategies that you would suggest to decrease the incidence of bar biting behaviour in the sows. *(6 marks)*
- b) A neighbouring dairy farmer has also asked for your advice having recently observed inter-sucking behaviour amongst his calves.

- Discuss reasons why inter-sucking behaviour occurs in calves and the possible consequences of this behaviour. (9 marks)
- Describe the management strategies you would recommend to the farmer to manage inter-sucking behaviour in the calves. (5 marks)

4. Answer **both** parts of the question: (30 marks)

- a) A client brings her pet parrot for an annual check-up. The bird is difficult to handle, and the owner tells you she cannot do anything with the bird at home.

Describe a training program to teach this bird to step up. Justify your answer, considering training principals, benefits and common problems encountered in training. (15 marks)

- b) The owner also tells you that the bird is flapping in the cage and screeching when her son practices his clarinet.

Write a behaviour modification plan for the owner to help the bird learn to cope with music practice. In your answer discuss why the bird is not habituating and the learning principals you are using to generate the behaviour modification plan. (15 marks)

**End of paper**