



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Medicine of Cats

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 Medicine of Cats to be able to give sound advice to colleagues on problems and procedures commonly encountered in this field of general veterinary practice.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. The candidate will have a **sound¹ knowledge** of:
 - 1.1. the aetiology, pathophysiology, investigation and treatment/management of feline diseases of all body systems (other than those listed in section 2 at points 2.3 and 2.4) including toxicities, infectious diseases, and genetic, metabolic and nutritional disorders
 - 1.2. clinical problem solving

¹Knowledge 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 major literature

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- 1.3. disorders of fluid and electrolytes (including acid-base disturbances) and the fluid/electrolyte therapy required to address them
 - 1.4. preventative medicine in cats
 - 1.5. measures to reduce public health risks of zoonotic diseases transmitted by cats
 - 1.6. behavioural disorders as they relate to the systemic health of the feline patient (e.g. feline idiopathic cystitis).
2. The candidate will have a **basic knowledge** of:
 - 2.1. feline anatomy, physiology, nutrition and reproduction
 - 2.2. pharmacology and chemotherapy
 - 2.3. disorders of skin, eyes and reproduction
 3. The candidate will be able to do the following with **sound² expertise**:
 - 3.1. collect a clinical history
 - 3.2. perform a physical examination
 - 3.3. collect, record, and analyse clinical data from feline medicine cases and make appropriate clinical judgments based on that data
 - 3.4. provide high quality medical care for cats with the most efficient use of resources in a manner that is responsive to the owner's needs and wishes
 - 3.5. communicate with clients and peers.
 4. The candidate will be able to interpret clinical pathology data and the results of radiography, ultrasonography, and routine ECG, and the written diagnostic imaging report from computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging with **basic expertise**.
 5. The candidate will be able to perform the following technical procedures:
 - 5.1. with a **sound expertise**:
 - 5.1.1. neurological examination
 - 5.1.2. in-house laboratory procedures including packed cell volume, refractometer use, urinalysis, faecal floatation, blood and cytology smear preparation
 - 5.1.3. routine biopsy procedures (fine needle aspiration)
 - 5.1.4. blood pressure measurement

² **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.

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- 5.1.5. routine centesis: thoracic, abdominal, cysto-
- 5.1.6. routine electrocardiography
- 5.1.7. routine radiography
- 5.1.8. fluid therapy
- 5.1.9. oesophagostomy tube placement and naso-oesophageal tube placement.
- 5.1.10. placement of a urethral catheter
- 5.2. with a **basic expertise**:
 - 5.2.1. ophthalmic examination
 - 5.2.2. thoracostomy tube placement
 - 5.2.3. bone marrow biopsy and aspiration
 - 5.2.4. joint fluid aspiration
 - 5.2.5. bronchoalveolar lavage
 - 5.2.6. blood transfusion

EXAMINATIONS

For general information on the required standards 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 typing is permitted. The exam may include a series of short answer questions, multiple-choice questions or may require an essay-type response. The exam is worth a total of 120 marks and all questions must be answered. Allocated marks to each question/sub question will be clearly indicated.

Written Paper 1:

This paper is designed to test the candidate's knowledge of the principles of medicine of cats 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 feline medicine to particular cases/problems or tasks and (b) test the candidate's familiarity with current issues in feline medicine and recommended current diagnostic and management practices in feline medicine.

Oral Examination:

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate achievement of the Learning Outcomes listed earlier. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. Clinical and clinicopathological images, laboratory test results, radiographs and basic ultrasound images may be used during this examination. A number of cases will be presented with supporting questions asked verbally in a face-to-face online setting. The oral examination has a total of 100 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 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 Texts³

Little S.E. *The Cat; Clinical Medicine and Management*. Elsevier Saunders 2011.

BSAVA Manual of Feline Practice, A Foundation Manual. 2013. Editors: Andrea Harvey, Severine Tasker.

Recommended Journal⁴

Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery

Candidates should be familiar with the AAFP and ISFM Consensus Guidelines and Cat Friendly handling/interaction statements available through the JFMS website:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/page/jfm/collections/guidelines/index#1>

3.

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

4.

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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ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

TEXTBOOKS

Please note that if a newer edition of the listed textbooks has been published since the updating of these subject guidelines, candidates should utilise the most recent edition of the book as the most appropriate source of information.

Small Animal Internal Medicine. 6th Ed, 2019, Editors Nelson RW & Couto CG.

The Feline Patient, 5th Ed, 2018. Editors Gary D. Norsworthy, Sharon Fooshee Grace, Mitchell A. Crystal, Larry P. Tilley.

Feline Medicine: Review and Test, 2015. Samantha Taylor and Andrea Harvey.

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Nephrology and Urology, 3rd Ed, 2017. Editors: Jonathan Elliott, Gregory F Grauer, Jodi Westropp.

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Cardiorespiratory Medicine, 2nd Ed, 2010.
Editors: Virginia Luis Fuentes, Lynelle Johnson, Simon Dennis.

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline to Procedures in Small Animal Practice, 2nd Ed, 2014. Editors: Nick Bexfield, Karla Lee.

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Anaesthesia and Analgesia, 3rd Ed, 2016.
Editors: Tanya Duke-Novakovski, Marieke de Vries, Chris Seymour.

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Clinical Pathology, 3rd Ed, 2016. Editors:
Elizabeth Villiers, Jelena Ristic.

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Emergency Medicine and Critical Care, 3rd Ed, 2018. Editors: Lesley King, Amanda Boag.

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Endocrinology, 4th Ed, 2012. Editors: Carmel Mooney, Mark Peterson. (5th Edition due January 2023)

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Gastroenterology, 3rd Ed, 2020. Editors: Edward Hall, David Williams and Aarti Kathrani

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Neurology, 4th Ed, 2013. Editors: Simon Platt, Natasha Olby. (5th Edition due January 2023)

BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Oncology, 3rd Ed, 2011. Editors: Jane Dobson, Duncan Lascelles.

JOURNALS

Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association

Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association

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Journal of Small Animal Practice

Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine

Veterinary Clinics North America — Small Animal Practice

Veterinary Record

WEBSITES

International Society of Feline Medicine: International Cat Care. <https://icatcare.org/isfm>

International Renal Interest Society. iris-kidney.com

Veterinary Information Network, www.vin.com

Mark Peterson (endocrinology). <https://www.drmarkepeterson.com>

Case studies in cardiology, www.vmeth.ucdavis.edu/Cardio/cases/

FURTHER INFORMATION

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