



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

Medicine and Surgery of Unusual Pets

INTRODUCTION

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

ELIGIBILITY

Refer to the *Membership Candidate Handbook*.

OBJECTIVES

Membership of the College is an official recognition of a veterinary surgeon's knowledge and experience in a designated field of veterinary science. Membership is an indication to the profession and the general public of an advanced practitioner, representing a middle-tier of knowledge, competence and experience in a specific area of veterinary practice. Membership is not a specialist qualification. Membership requires examination with members signified by post-nominals MANZCVS.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

For the purposes of this document "unusual pets" are defined as unusual species legally kept as pets and encountered in veterinary practice in Australia and New Zealand. These include:

- Exotic and native mammals kept as companion animals in Australia or New Zealand including rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats, mice, and sugar gliders.
- Native and exotic reptile and amphibian species kept in captivity in Australia or New Zealand. This includes lizards, snakes, crocodiles, turtles, axolotls, frogs, and toads.
- Invertebrates commonly kept as pets or as feeder insects in Australia or New Zealand. This includes cockroaches, crickets, mealworms, snails, phasmids, silk worms, hermit crabs, spiders and scorpions.

For each of the species listed above, the candidate should have a sound¹ knowledge (for the mammals, reptiles and amphibians listed above) or basic knowledge (for the invertebrates listed above) of the:

1. Normal anatomy and physiology, including reproduction and immunology;

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.

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2. Captive management, including nutrition and preventative health requirements;
3. Aetiology, pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnosis, treatment and management of the common infectious and non-infectious diseases;
4. Tests and procedures used for diagnosis of common diseases, including haematology, clinical biochemistries, diagnostic imaging, molecular diagnostics, cytology, histopathology, microbiology and their interpretation;
5. Therapeutic modalities, including pharmacotherapy, anaesthesia, surgery, dentistry, endoscopy, and supportive care;
6. Public health and animal welfare issues, including zoonotic diseases and workplace health and safety;
7. The application of practical skills associated with the discipline, including those pertaining to capture and handling, clinical examination, history acquisition, diagnostic sampling, surgery and necropsy;
8. Infectious diseases that are exotic to Australia and New Zealand which could be introduced into the region;
9. Genetics in relation to heritable disease or disease susceptibility;
10. Normal behaviour, behavioural problems and their management;
11. Handling, immobilisation and anaesthetic procedures of venomous or dangerous species.

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EXAMINATIONS

For information on both the standard and format of the computer based Written, and digital or in person 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. There is no choice of questions. Questions may be long essay type, a series of shorter answer sub-questions, or multiple-choice 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 medicine and surgery of unusual pets as described in the Learning Outcomes. Answers may cite specific examples where 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 medicine and surgery of unusual pets to particular cases/problems or tasks and (b) test the Candidate's familiarity with the current practices and current issues that arise from activities within the discipline of medicine and surgery of unusual pets in Australia and New Zealand.

Oral Examination:

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate achievement of the above-mentioned Learning Outcomes. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. This will be conducted as a computer based presentation which may include diagnostic results, photos, or diagrams.

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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 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.

Textbooks¹

General

Recommended textbooks

Carpenter JW and Harms CA. *Carpenter's Exotic Animal Formulary*, 6th Ed. Elsevier 2022.

Meredith A and Johnson-Delaney C. *BSAVA Manual of Exotic Pets Fifth Edition. A Foundation Manual*. BSAVA 2010.

O'Malley B. *Clinical Anatomy and Physiology of Exotic Species*. Elsevier 2005.

Additional references

Campbell TW and Grant KR. *Exotic Animal Hematology and Cytology* 5th Ed. Blackwell Publishing 2022.

Cogger HG. *Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia*. 7th ed. CSIRO Publishing 2018.

Mayer J and Donnelly TM. *Clinical Veterinary Advisor. Birds and Exotic Pets*. WB Saunders 2013.

Mammals

Recommended textbooks

Harcourt-Brown F and Chitty J. *BSAVA Manual of Rabbit Surgery, Dentistry and Imaging*. BSAVA 2013.

Johnson-Delaney CA. *Ferret Medicine and Surgery*. CRC Press 2017.

Meredith A and Lord B. *BSAVA Manual of Rabbit Medicine*. BSAVA 2014.

Quesenberry KE, Orcutt CJ, Mans C and Carpenter JW. *Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents Clinical Medicine and Surgery*, 4th Ed. Elsevier Saunders 2020.

Varga M. *Textbook of Rabbit Medicine*. 3rd Ed. Elsevier 2022.

Vogelnest L and Portas T. *Current therapy in medicine of Australian mammals*. CSIRO Publishing 2019.

Additional references

Bohmer E. *Dentistry in Rabbits and Rodents*. Wiley Blackwell 2015.

Capello V, Gracis M and Lennox A. *Rabbit and Rodent Dentistry Handbook*. Zoological

¹ **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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Education Network 2005.

Capello V and Lennox AM. *Clinical Radiology of Exotic Companion Mammals*. Wiley Blackwell 2008.

Fox JG and Marini RP. *Biology and diseases of the Ferret*. 3rd Ed. Wiley Blackwell 2014.

Jackson SM. *Australian mammals: biology and captive management*. CSIRO Publishing 2003.

Reptiles

Recommended textbooks

Divers SJ and Stahl SJ. *Mader's Reptile and Amphibian Medicine and Surgery*. 3rd Ed. Elsevier Saunders 2019.

Doneley B, Monks D, Johnson R and Carmel B. *Reptile Medicine and Surgery in Clinical Practice*. Wiley & Sons 2018.

Additional references

Garner MM, Jacobson ER. *Infectious Diseases and Pathology of Reptiles*. 2nd Ed. CRC Press 2020.

Girling S and Raiti P. *BSAVA Manual of Reptiles*. 3rd Ed. BSAVA 2019.

McArthur S, Wilkinson R and Meyer J. *Medicine and Surgery of Tortoises and Turtles*. Blackwell Publishing 2004.

Amphibians and Invertebrates

Frye FL. *Captive Invertebrates: A guide to their biology and captive care*. Krieger Publishing 1992.

Henderson A, Henderson D and Sinclair J. *Bugs Alive! A Guide to Keeping Australian Invertebrates*. Museums Victoria 2008.

Lewbart GA. *Invertebrate Medicine*. 3rd Ed. Wiley Blackwell 2022.

Wright KM and Whittaker R. *Amphibian Medicine and Captive Husbandry*. Krieger Publishing 2001.

Additional Resources

Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery

Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine

Veterinary Clinics of North America: Exotic Animal Practice

Australian Veterinary Journal

Conference Proceedings from the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association

Veterinary Information Network (www.vin.com)

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact the College Office

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