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National Examining Board
Bureau national des examinateurs

Self Assessment Tool for the Clinical Proficiency Exam





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This self-assessment tool is intended to help you evaluate your readiness for the **Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE)**. It is designed as a guide only and should not be considered a complete or comprehensive summary of the knowledge and skills required to successfully complete the examination.

Candidates are encouraged to review the **Manual of Administration (MOA)** for the CPE for detailed information about each of the seven sections of the examination.

In North America, entry-to-practice competency is demonstrated through proficiency in the following areas:

- Clinical Reasoning and Decision-Making
- Individual Animal Care and Management (including Surgery)
- Animal Population Care and Management
- Public Health
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Professionalism and Professional Identity
- Financial and Practice Management
- Scholarship

The questions below are intended to help you assess your preparedness for the CPE. Consider whether you can consistently and confidently perform each of the following tasks.



Anesthesia

Can you:

1

Develop, calculate, and implement an appropriate sedation, induction, and anesthesia protocol for a companion animal?



2

Identify several drugs commonly used in pre-anesthetic protocols and explain the role of each within a multimodal anesthetic plan?



3

Calculate drug dosages using a patient's weight in either pounds or kilograms?



4

Calculate appropriate fluid administration rates for maintenance, surgical procedures, and replacement of fluid deficits?



5

Select the correct size endotracheal tube for your patient?



6

Calculate and select the appropriate size rebreathing bag?



7

Identify all components of an anesthetic machine and verify that the system is functioning safely and properly?



8

Explain which physiologic parameter is measured by each anesthetic monitoring device?



9

Consistently place and secure an intravenous catheter using appropriate aseptic technique in a variety of species?



10

Adjust an anesthetic plan appropriately in response to changes in a patient's physiologic status?





Small Animal Medicine, Radiology and Pharmacology

Can you:

1 Obtain a complete and accurate medical history? 

2 Safely perform a physical examination on a variety of species? 

3 Recognize normal physiologic parameters and understand how they relate to one another? 

4 Explain expected physiologic changes in healthy, anesthetized, and ill patients? 

5 Develop a comprehensive problem list and formulate appropriate differential diagnoses? 

6 Clearly explain your findings and proposed plan to an animal's owner, including options for further assessment and treatment? 

7 Develop an appropriate diagnostic plan and justify the selection of each test? 

8 Perform basic diagnostic procedures and collect samples, including:

-  Packed cell volume (hematocrit)
-  Urine specific gravity
-  Blood smear preparation
-  Serum total protein

9 Properly position companion animals to obtain diagnostic-quality radiographs? 



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Small Animal Medicine, Radiology and Pharmacology

Can you:

10

Interpret thoracic and abdominal radiographs in companion animals?



11

Integrate clinical findings to establish a working diagnosis?



12

Develop and implement an appropriate treatment plan and explain the rationale for each component?



13

Communicate the working diagnosis and treatment options clearly to the owner?



14

Write clear, complete hospital orders that enable veterinary staff to appropriately monitor and care for hospitalized patients?



15

Prepare accurate and complete veterinary prescriptions?





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Surgery

Can you:

- 1 Perform all steps required to prepare a canine surgical site for an ovariohysterectomy? ☐
- 2 Perform a complete ovariohysterectomy on a dog using appropriate surgical technique? ☐
- 3 Achieve and maintain an effective sterile surgical field? ☐
- 4 Gown and glove using both open and closed gloving techniques? ☐
- 5 Describe the normal anatomical position of abdominal organs in dogs, cats, horses, and cattle? ☐
- 6 Select appropriate suture materials and sizes for different procedures and justify your choices? ☐
- 7 Safely enter the abdominal cavity while demonstrating proper tissue handling techniques? ☐
- 8 Close an abdominal incision appropriately using multiple tissue layers with correctly spaced sutures and proper tension? ☐





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Equine Practice

Can you:

1

Perform a lameness examination and accurately assess lameness in a horse?



2

Obtain and evaluate diagnostic radiographs of equine limbs?



3

Use correct anatomical terminology in English or French?



4

Clearly communicate instructions to support staff during diagnostic and treatment procedures?



5

Identify several common causes of equine colic and describe the diagnostic procedures used to differentiate them?



6

Describe appropriate treatment approaches for different types of colic?



7

Use a rebreathing bag to assess pulmonary function in a horse and effectively direct an assistant during the procedure?





Food Animal Practice

Can you:

- 1 Identify drugs that are prohibited for use in food-producing animals? ☐
- 2 Recognize public health and food safety issues relevant to North America and communicate associated risks to clients? ☐
- 3 Identify at least four zoonotic diseases of significance in North America? ☐
- 4 Perform common diagnostic and treatment procedures in ruminants, including but not limited to:
 - ☐ Passing a stomach tube
 - ☐ Assessing for a displaced abomasum
 - ☐ Performing rectal palpation for pregnancy diagnosis
- 5 Evaluate the health of ruminants of different species and ages, including herd health and regulatory considerations? ☐
- 6 Develop an initial problem list and differential diagnoses, select appropriate diagnostic tests, and interpret the results? ☐
- 7 Determine the most likely diagnosis and develop an appropriate treatment plan for the individual animal or herd? ☐
- 8 Estimate prognosis while identifying relevant regulatory and public health implications? ☐



Necropsy

Can you:

1

Select the appropriate equipment, supplies, and personal protective equipment (PPE) required to perform a systematic necropsy safely?



2

Collect and preserve tissue samples of appropriate size and thickness from a variety of organs?



3

Accurately document findings from both the external and internal examination, including normal and abnormal observations involving organs, musculature, joints, glands, and lymph nodes?



4

Remove an animal's head appropriately for rabies testing?



5

Remove and dissect the heart using appropriate technique to identify all major anatomical structures?

