

New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. True or False: Fecal flotation and sedimentation are two methods for collecting the eggs of internal parasites for identification.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only flotation**
 - D. Only sedimentation**

- 2. Garter snakes are harmless to humans.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. They are venomous**
 - D. They are dangerous otherwise**

- 3. What is one direct consequence of touching preserved specimens?**
 - A. The mount becomes brighter.**
 - B. Feathers and fur may fall out.**
 - C. The specimen becomes more accurate.**
 - D. There is no effect.**

- 4. Feeding on the wing means which of the following?**
 - A. Eating on the ground**
 - B. Eating during flights**
 - C. Feeding on carrion**
 - D. Feeding at dusk**

- 5. Eye protection is recommended for handling certain waterbirds because of their tendency to strike at the face due to long necks and stabbing beaks. Which statement is most accurate?**
 - A. They are often calm**
 - B. They have long necks and stabbing beaks which can injure you**
 - C. They require special diets**
 - D. They are easy to handle**

- 6. Which statement about Newcastle Disease symptoms in birds is true?**
- A. Respiratory distress, greenish watery diarrhea, muscle tremors, drooping of the wings, and twisting of the head and neck**
 - B. Skin lesions**
 - C. Hair loss**
 - D. Increased appetite**
- 7. When using an external heat source, which of the following, if used improperly, can cause injury to the animal?**
- A. Heating pad**
 - B. Incandescent light bulb with reflectors**
 - C. All of the above**
 - D. Infrared lamp**
- 8. Should adult muskrats be housed together or separately?**
- A. Together**
 - B. In pairs only**
 - C. In a colony**
 - D. Separately**
- 9. Which statement is correct regarding feeding very young opossums?**
- A. The easiest and best method is stomach tube-feeding (gavage).**
 - B. The most effective method is feeding by bottle with a large nipple while the animal is on its back.**
 - C. The preferred approach is hand feeding in a loud, bright area.**
 - D. Feeding should be avoided entirely until the eyes open.**
- 10. How many babies can a female opossum have at one time, according to typical records?**
- A. Up to 13**
 - B. Up to 7**
 - C. Up to 5**
 - D. Up to 9**

Answers

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1. A
2. A
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. A

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Explanations

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1. True or False: Fecal flotation and sedimentation are two methods for collecting the eggs of internal parasites for identification.

A. True

B. False

C. Only flotation

D. Only sedimentation

Two main stool examination techniques rely on the physical properties of parasite eggs: buoyancy and density. Fecal flotation uses a saturated solution with higher specific gravity than most eggs, so the eggs float to the surface and can be collected on a coverslip for microscopic identification. Sedimentation, in contrast, allows heavier eggs to settle to the bottom, concentrating them for examination. Some eggs float readily, some settle best, and some don't float well at all, so using both methods increases the likelihood of detecting a wider range of parasites. For this reason, the statement is true.

2. Garter snakes are harmless to humans.

A. True

B. False

C. They are venomous

D. They are dangerous otherwise

Garter snakes are not a threat to people. They have a mild venom in their saliva to help subdue prey, but this venom is not potent enough to harm humans, and bites are rare and typically only cause minor local irritation. So the statement that garter snakes are harmless to humans is accurate. Claims that they are venomous or dangerous to people misrepresent how their saliva venom functions and overlook the generally low risk to humans.

3. What is one direct consequence of touching preserved specimens?

A. The mount becomes brighter.

B. Feathers and fur may fall out.

C. The specimen becomes more accurate.

D. There is no effect.

Touching preserved specimens is risky because these mounts are fragile and treated with chemicals to prevent decay and keep their appearance. The feathers and fur are often only lightly attached, and the oils from skin or the friction of handling can loosen them or weaken the adhesives and pins that hold them in place. The direct result is that feathers or fur may shed or detach with handling. This is a real, observable consequence, whereas touching won't make the mount brighter or more accurate, and there is indeed an effect from touching. To protect specimens, handle them only with gloves or appropriate tools and follow proper handling guidelines.

4. Feeding on the wing means which of the following?

- A. Eating on the ground
- B. Eating during flights**
- C. Feeding on carrion
- D. Feeding at dusk

Feeding on the wing means feeding while the bird is in flight, catching and eating prey mid-air rather than foraging from the ground or from a perch. This behavior is typical of many insect-eating birds and some raptors that chase prey in the air. It's distinct from eating on the ground, scavenging carrion, or feeding at dusk, because those descriptions refer to where or when the food is obtained, not to feeding while airborne.

5. Eye protection is recommended for handling certain waterbirds because of their tendency to strike at the face due to long necks and stabbing beaks. Which statement is most accurate?

- A. They are often calm
- B. They have long necks and stabbing beaks which can injure you**
- C. They require special diets
- D. They are easy to handle

Eye protection is essential because these waterbirds can quickly strike at the face with their long necks and stabbing beaks, putting the eyes at real risk of puncture or injury during handling. Their anatomy and sudden movements create a credible threat, so guarding the eyes is a practical safety measure. The other statements don't address this immediate risk: calmness isn't reliable behavior, diet has no bearing on the injury risk during handling, and ease of handling doesn't reflect the potential for a sharp, targeted beak to cause harm.

6. Which statement about Newcastle Disease symptoms in birds is true?

- A. Respiratory distress, greenish watery diarrhea, muscle tremors, drooping of the wings, and twisting of the head and neck**
- B. Skin lesions
- C. Hair loss
- D. Increased appetite

Newcastle disease in birds often presents with a mix of respiratory symptoms and nervous system signs, especially when the virus is more virulent. Birds can show breathing difficulties, coughing, sneezing, and other respiratory distress, often accompanied by nasal or ocular discharge. In more severe cases, there can be digestive upset with greenish watery diarrhea. Neurological involvement is also common in virulent forms, leading to tremors, weakness, drooping of the wings, and twisting of the head and neck (torticollis). This combination of respiratory trouble, diarrhea, and nervous signs is characteristic of Newcastle disease, making the statement describing all of these features true. Skin lesions and hair loss aren't typical signs of Newcastle disease, and a markedly increased appetite is not consistent with illness from this virus. Sick birds usually reduce food intake and become lethargic.

- 7. When using an external heat source, which of the following, if used improperly, can cause injury to the animal?**
- A. Heating pad**
 - B. Incandescent light bulb with reflectors**
 - C. All of the above**
 - D. Infrared lamp**

External heat sources must be used carefully because heat applied too intensely or for too long can harm wildlife. A heating pad can cause deep, tissue burns if the animal sits on it or if it stays on a high setting; plus the possibility of electrical issues or burns if the cord is chewed. An incandescent light bulb with reflectors can create concentrated hotspots and heat a small area very quickly, so direct exposure or placing bedding too close can burn skin or start a fire. An infrared lamp adds radiant heat, which can heat tissue even without direct contact; if the animal is too close or exposed too long, it can suffer burns or dehydration, and overheated environments can stress or injure them. Because any of these sources can cause injury when misused, the safest takeaway is that all of these heat sources carry risk and must be used with proper distance, temperature control, and continuous monitoring.

- 8. Should adult muskrats be housed together or separately?**
- A. Together**
 - B. In pairs only**
 - C. In a colony**
 - D. Separately**

Muskrats are social but territorial, and adults can become aggressive when housed with too many conspecifics. Keeping two adults together provides the needed social interaction to reduce stress, while avoiding the conflicts that arise in larger groups. A colony or multiple adults together often leads to fights over space, resources, and dominance, increasing the risk of injuries in captivity. Housing adults separately eliminates social interaction, which can also cause stress or boredom in a rehab setting. Therefore, pairing adults is the best compromise: it satisfies social needs, minimizes aggression, and allows easier monitoring and care. If aggression occurs, or if breeding factors come into play, adjust housing accordingly by separating or rearranging pairs.

9. Which statement is correct regarding feeding very young opossums?

- A. The easiest and best method is stomach tube-feeding (gavage).**
- B. The most effective method is feeding by bottle with a large nipple while the animal is on its back.**
- C. The preferred approach is hand feeding in a loud, bright area.**
- D. Feeding should be avoided entirely until the eyes open.**

Feeding newborn opossums requires delivering a precise, controlled amount of nutrition with minimal stress and a low risk of aspiration. Stomach tube feeding (gavage) accomplishes this best because it allows you to deliver exact volumes of warm, species-appropriate formula directly into the stomach, which is crucial for tiny marsupial neonates whose suckling can be unreliable. With gavage, you control how much each animal gets at each feeding and reduce the chance of air swallowing or formula entering the airway, both of which can happen with bottle feeding. Bottle feeding with a large nipple while the animal is on its back increases the risk of misdirected flow, regurgitation, and aspiration. The mouth of a neonate is very small, and a large nipple can overwhelm it, making it hard to regulate intake. Feeding in a loud, bright area is stressful for a neonate and can elevate respiration and agitation, further increasing the risk of aspiration and poor digestion. It's also important to note that neonates need nutrition before their eyes are open; delaying feeding until eye opening is inappropriate. Provide warmth, gentle handling, and a calm environment, and use a method that delivers nutrition safely and predictably—gavage—under proper training and protocol.

10. How many babies can a female opossum have at one time, according to typical records?

- A. Up to 13**
- B. Up to 7**
- C. Up to 5**
- D. Up to 9**

The number a female opossum can have at one time is limited by how many teats she has to feed each newborn. In Virginia opossums, there are about thirteen teats, and after birth the tiny joeys must crawl to a teat to nurse. Because each teat can support only one youngster, the pouch can typically hold up to around thirteen babies at once. While a female can give birth to more than that, only as many joeys as there are teats can be sustained in one litter, so 13 is the practical upper limit you'll see in typical records.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://nyswildliferehabilitation.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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