

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) Practice Test (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. In a dog with hypotonic forelimbs and spastic paresis in the hindlimbs after being hit by a car, where is the lesion likely located?**
 - A. Cranial cervical: C1-C5**
 - B. Thoracolumbar: T3-L3**
 - C. Cervicothoracic: C6-T2**
 - D. Lumbosacral: L4-S3**

- 2. What is a primary associated factor with atresia coli in calves?**
 - A. Rectal palpation in early pregnancy**
 - B. High fat diet during gestation**
 - C. Infection during birthing**
 - D. Caloric restriction during lactation**

- 3. A spayed female cat presents with abnormal vocalizing and behaviors consistent with estrus. What is the most appropriate course of action given the suspected ovarian remnant syndrome?**
 - A. Order MRI of the brain to rule out a pituitary tumor**
 - B. Measure serum testosterone levels**
 - C. Exploratory laparotomy to remove the ovarian remnant**
 - D. Measure serum estrogen and progesterone levels**

- 4. What is the most likely diagnosis for a 5-year-old male castrated Mastiff presenting with left pelvic limb lameness and a clicking sound in the stifle during manipulation?**
 - A. Left luxating patella**
 - B. Left cranial cruciate ligament rupture with meniscal cartilage tear**
 - C. Left cranial cruciate ligament rupture with no meniscal cartilage tear**
 - D. Left caudal cruciate ligament rupture with no meniscal cartilage tear**

- 5. Which ectoparasite typically spends its entire life cycle on the chicken, resulting in feather damage and anemia?**
- A. Neocnemidocoptes gallinae**
 - B. Dermanyssus gallinae**
 - C. Northern fowl mite**
 - D. Red chicken mite**
- 6. Which normal anatomic feature may predispose cats to extrahepatic biliary obstruction?**
- A. Narrowing of the duodenum distal to the entry of the common bile and pancreatic ducts**
 - B. Common opening of the pancreatic and common bile ducts into the duodenum**
 - C. Enlarged duodenal papilla compared to other species**
 - D. Decreased diameter of gall bladder wall muscle fibers**
- 7. Which intervention is effective in mitigating the spread of avian pox among turkeys?**
- A. Regular vaccination**
 - B. Thorough sanitation practices**
 - C. Mosquito control**
 - D. Adding antibiotics to feed**
- 8. Which imaging procedure is best to confirm a diagnosis of gastric dilation and volvulus in a dog?**
- A. Abdominal ultrasound exam**
 - B. Right lateral recumbency abdominal radiograph**
 - C. Left lateral recumbency abdominal radiograph**
 - D. Barium contrast abdominal radiograph**
- 9. What condition can be associated with a grossly enlarged nonpainful testicle and atrophied contralateral testicle in a male dog?**
- A. Benign prostatic hypertrophy**
 - B. Feminization syndrome**
 - C. Increased aggression**
 - D. Hypothyroidism**

10. What is the likely diagnosis for a 2-week-old calf exhibiting watery diarrhea and weight loss?

- A. Colibacillosis**
- B. Cryptosporidiosis**
- C. Coccidiosis**
- D. Ostertagiasis**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In a dog with hypotonic forelimbs and spastic paresis in the hindlimbs after being hit by a car, where is the lesion likely located?

- A. Cranial cervical: C1-C5**
- B. Thoracolumbar: T3-L3**
- C. Cervicothoracic: C6-T2**
- D. Lumbosacral: L4-S3**

The presence of hypotonic forelimbs and spastic paresis in the hindlimbs is indicative of a specific neurological condition that can be linked to a lesion at the cervicothoracic area (C6-T2). In this case, the hypotonia in the forelimbs suggests that there may be a disruption in the lower motor neurons or peripheral nerves that innervate those limbs. This is typically associated with a spinal cord lesion in the cervical region affecting the lower motor neurons that influence the forelimbs. Additionally, the spastic paresis seen in the hindlimbs indicates that there may be concurrent upper motor neuron involvement in this area, which points to a lesion located higher in the spinal cord. Since the hypotonicity is affecting the forelimbs while spasticity is present in the hindlimbs, the lesion is likely located within the cervicothoracic junction, where both the cervical spinal nerves innervating the forelimb and the neuronal pathways that affect the hindlimb exist. In contrast, lesions in the cranial cervical region (C1-C5) would generally affect all four limbs, causing tetraparesis rather than a differential effect on the forelimbs and hindlimbs. Thor

2. What is a primary associated factor with atresia coli in calves?

- A. Rectal palpation in early pregnancy**
- B. High fat diet during gestation**
- C. Infection during birthing**
- D. Caloric restriction during lactation**

Atresia coli is a congenital defect characterized by the absence or closure of a segment of the colon, which leads to colonic obstruction in affected calves. This condition is predominantly associated with fetal developmental issues during gestation. The connection between atresia coli and rectal palpation during early pregnancy lies in the potential impact of such procedures on the developing fetus. While rectal palpation is a common practice for diagnosing pregnancy in cattle, excessive or inappropriate manipulation can cause trauma or stress to the developing fetus, potentially contributing to developmental abnormalities including atresia coli. Other factors listed, such as dietary influences or infections, are less directly tied to the etiology of atresia coli. Specifically, a high-fat diet during gestation could affect overall health or fetal growth but does not have a strong association with congenital defects like atresia coli. Similarly, infections during birthing or caloric restriction during lactation may impact the calf's health but do not relate to the fetal development issues that lead to atresia coli. Thus, the primary factor associated with atresia coli in calves is the potential effects of rectal palpation during early pregnancy, underscoring the importance of careful obstetric practices to minimize risks of congenital abnormalities

3. A spayed female cat presents with abnormal vocalizing and behaviors consistent with estrus. What is the most appropriate course of action given the suspected ovarian remnant syndrome?
- A. Order MRI of the brain to rule out a pituitary tumor
 - B. Measure serum testosterone levels
 - C. Exploratory laparotomy to remove the ovarian remnant**
 - D. Measure serum estrogen and progesterone levels

The most appropriate course of action in this scenario is to perform an exploratory laparotomy to remove the suspected ovarian remnant. In spayed female cats, the presence of abnormal vocalizing and estrus-like behaviors strongly suggests ovarian remnant syndrome, which occurs when ovarian tissue is inadvertently left behind during a spay procedure. This remnant tissue can produce hormones, leading to the manifestations of estrus behavior. Surgical exploration allows for direct visualization and removal of any remaining ovarian tissue, which not only alleviates the behavioral symptoms but also eliminates the risk of developing complications associated with persistent hormonal activity, such as pyometra or neoplasia. While other diagnostic options, such as measuring hormone levels or performing imaging studies (like an MRI for a pituitary tumor), can be beneficial in some contexts, they do not address the immediate concern of removing the source of the hormone production. Therefore, an exploratory laparotomy is the most effective and direct way to resolve the issue confirmed by clinical signs indicative of ovarian remnant syndrome.

4. What is the most likely diagnosis for a 5-year-old male castrated Mastiff presenting with left pelvic limb lameness and a clicking sound in the stifle during manipulation?
- A. Left luxating patella
 - B. Left cranial cruciate ligament rupture with meniscal cartilage tear**
 - C. Left cranial cruciate ligament rupture with no meniscal cartilage tear
 - D. Left caudal cruciate ligament rupture with no meniscal cartilage tear

The most likely diagnosis for the presented case, which involves a 5-year-old male castrated Mastiff with left pelvic limb lameness and a clicking sound in the stifle during manipulation, is left cranial cruciate ligament rupture with meniscal cartilage tear. In dogs, cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) injuries are common, especially in larger breeds like Mastiffs. The clinical signs of lameness and joint instability can manifest due to the ligament's role in stabilizing the knee joint. The clicking sound during manipulation of the stifle indicates that the joint may be affected by incomplete joint congruity, possibly associated with meniscal injury, which frequently occurs alongside CCL tears. A meniscal tear often presents as a 'clicking' or 'catching' sensation when the joint is moved due to the damaged cartilage shifting within the stifle. This clicking, combined with the lameness demonstrated by the dog, strongly suggests a concurrent meniscal tear, which is a common complication when there is a CCL rupture. Other conditions could lead to similar symptoms, but the specific combination of lameness and the clicking sound in an older dog like this Mastiff points toward the more complex diagnosis of a CCL.

5. Which ectoparasite typically spends its entire life cycle on the chicken, resulting in feather damage and anemia?

- A. Neocnemidocoptes gallinae**
- B. Dermanyssus gallinae**
- C. Northern fowl mite**
- D. Red chicken mite**

The Northern fowl mite is specifically known for its life cycle being completed entirely on the chicken host, which is crucial for its survival and reproduction. This ectoparasite attaches to the feathers and skin of chickens, leading to significant feather damage as they feed on the host's blood. The feeding activity of the Northern fowl mite can lead to anemia, especially in heavy infestations, as they draw blood from the affected birds. Understanding the biology and behaviors of ectoparasites is essential in veterinary practice, particularly in poultry management. The Northern fowl mite's close association with the host makes it a notable concern for poultry producers, as it can lead to both economic loss due to reduced egg production and welfare issues for the birds affected by the irritation and potential transmission of diseases. In contrast, other ectoparasites listed have differing life cycle patterns and impacts on chickens, such as requiring other stages to develop off the host or not causing the same level of feather damage or anemia.

6. Which normal anatomic feature may predispose cats to extrahepatic biliary obstruction?

- A. Narrowing of the duodenum distal to the entry of the common bile and pancreatic ducts**
- B. Common opening of the pancreatic and common bile ducts into the duodenum**
- C. Enlarged duodenal papilla compared to other species**
- D. Decreased diameter of gall bladder wall muscle fibers**

The correct answer identifies that the common opening of the pancreatic and common bile ducts into the duodenum can predispose cats to extrahepatic biliary obstruction. This anatomical arrangement means that any condition affecting the duodenum, such as inflammation or obstruction, can simultaneously affect both the biliary and pancreatic secretions. Anatomically, cats have a unique configuration where both ducts open at the same site, which raises the likelihood of one duct's dysfunction impacting the other. If, for instance, there is swelling or a pathological process at the site of the common opening, it can lead to obstruction of both bile and pancreatic secretions, resulting in extrahepatic biliary obstruction, which is a critical concern in feline medicine. Other features discussed, such as the narrowing of the duodenum or the diameter of gall bladder wall muscle fibers, do not present the same level of risk for obstructing the biliary flow directly due to their anatomical and physiological roles. Additionally, while the enlarged duodenal papilla compared to other species might be an interesting observation, it is not inherently linked to an increased risk of obstruction in cats specifically. Therefore, the unique anatomical feature of the common duct opening plays a crucial role in understanding the predisposition to biliary

7. Which intervention is effective in mitigating the spread of avian pox among turkeys?

- A. Regular vaccination**
- B. Thorough sanitation practices**
- C. Mosquito control**
- D. Adding antibiotics to feed**

The effective intervention for mitigating the spread of avian pox among turkeys is regular vaccination. Avian pox is a viral disease in birds caused by the avian poxvirus, which can be transmitted through direct contact with infected birds or indirectly through vectors, including mosquitoes. Vaccination plays a crucial role in controlling outbreaks of avian pox, as it helps to induce immunity in the turkey population, thus reducing the incidence of the disease spread. By vaccinating turkeys, the likelihood of transmission through close contact is significantly decreased, and it also protects individual birds from developing severe disease if they become exposed to the virus. While thorough sanitation practices, mosquito control, and the addition of antibiotics to feed can be part of a broader management strategy, they do not specifically target the viral nature of avian pox. Sanitation may help in reducing overall disease risk, but it is not specific to controlling avian pox. Mosquito control addresses vectors but does not prevent the disease within the flock. Antibiotics, being effective against bacterial infections, have no impact on viruses, including poxvirus. Consequently, regular vaccination stands out as the key intervention for mitigating avian pox in turkeys.

8. Which imaging procedure is best to confirm a diagnosis of gastric dilation and volvulus in a dog?

- A. Abdominal ultrasound exam**
- B. Right lateral recumbency abdominal radiograph**
- C. Left lateral recumbency abdominal radiograph**
- D. Barium contrast abdominal radiograph**

The best imaging procedure to confirm a diagnosis of gastric dilation and volvulus (GDV) in a dog is a right lateral recumbency abdominal radiograph. This positioning allows for optimal visualization of the gastric outline and helps to clearly identify the characteristic signs of GDV, such as a severely distended stomach with a characteristic "double bubble" appearance. Abdominal radiographs taken in right lateral recumbency provide crucial information, including the position of the pylorus and the overall shape of the stomach, which are key indicators of GDV. In this position, the air-filled stomach and any displacement caused by volvulus can be effectively evaluated, enabling a more accurate diagnosis. While abdominal ultrasound may provide useful information, it is less definitive in diagnosing GDV since it may not adequately visualize the distended stomach or reveal the typical displacement patterns associated with volvulus. Similarly, a left lateral recumbency abdominal radiograph may not present the same clarity for detecting the signs of GDV when compared to right lateral views. Barium contrast studies are contraindicated in cases of GDV because they can complicate the clinical situation and may delay necessary emergency interventions.

9. What condition can be associated with a grossly enlarged nonpainful testicle and atrophied contralateral testicle in a male dog?

- A. Benign prostatic hypertrophy**
- B. Feminization syndrome**
- C. Increased aggression**
- D. Hypothyroidism**

In male dogs, feminization syndrome is characterized by a range of symptoms linked to an increase in estrogen levels, often due to a testicular tumor like Sertoli cell tumors or Leydig cell tumors. This condition can lead to the development of an enlarged, nonpainful testicle while the contralateral testicle undergoes atrophy, which aligns with the description in the question. The nonpainful enlargement of one testicle suggests a pathological increase in size due to the presence of a tumor or other estrogen-secreting condition, typically seen with feminization. The atrophy of the contralateral testicle can occur as a response to hormonal imbalances, where the high estrogen levels cause suppression of normal testicular function, resulting in reduced size. Thus, the grossly enlarged nonpainful testicle and the observation of the atrophied contralateral testicle strongly indicate feminization syndrome as the underlying condition affecting the dog.

10. What is the likely diagnosis for a 2-week-old calf exhibiting watery diarrhea and weight loss?

- A. Colibacillosis**
- B. Cryptosporidiosis**
- C. Coccidiosis**
- D. Ostertagiasis**

The likely diagnosis for a 2-week-old calf exhibiting watery diarrhea and weight loss points to cryptosporidiosis. This disease is commonly caused by the protozoan parasite *Cryptosporidium parvum*, which is particularly known to affect young calves, usually under 3 months of age. In neonates, cryptosporidiosis manifests as severe diarrhea that can lead to dehydration and significant weight loss, primarily due to the calf's immature immune system and underdeveloped gut flora when exposed to the parasite. The life cycle of *Cryptosporidium* is such that it can quickly cause infection in young animals, leading to large amounts of watery fecal excretion. While there are other diseases that could cause similar symptoms in calves, cryptosporidiosis is distinctly known for causing diarrhea in very young calves in particular. Colibacillosis, typically caused by *E. coli*, often presents with severe diarrhea but is frequent in younger calves particularly during the first week of life. Coccidiosis generally occurs in calves older than 3 weeks and typically presents with a different type of diarrhea. Ostertagiasis is more common in older calves or heifers and is associated with a watery diarrhea but usually appears after the first few months of life.

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://navle.examzify.com>

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

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