

PRIMARY CARE II SENIOR DOG CARE EXAM 2 PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. When dosing medications in a senior dog with liver or kidney disease, what general principle should apply?**
 - A. Use higher doses to ensure efficacy
 - B. Use standard dosing and intervals regardless of organ disease
 - C. Use reduced doses or longer intervals; monitor function and adjust; minimize polypharmacy
 - D. Stop all medications
- 2. What is the purpose of dental evaluation as part of a geriatric assessment?**
 - A. To measure blood glucose levels.
 - B. To evaluate liver enzymes.
 - C. To assess pain from dental disease and ensure proper nutrition.
 - D. To assess immune status via vaccination.
- 3. Which vaccines are typically continued for senior dogs and what is a common vaccination interval approach?**
 - A. Core vaccines continued; intervals spaced farther apart depending on risk; non-core vaccines given based on exposure risk.
 - B. All vaccines discontinued after age 10
 - C. Vaccines every 3 weeks regardless of risk
 - D. Only non-core vaccines continued
- 4. Before performing a dental cleaning on a senior dog, what major risk must be evaluated?**
 - A. Age alone
 - B. Diet history
 - C. Coat condition
 - D. Anesthesia risk; pre-anesthetic assessment including kidney and liver function, hydration, blood pressure, and cardiopulmonary status
- 5. IRIS Stage 1 CKD in dogs is characterized by a creatinine level of ____.**
 - A. Less than 1.4 mg/dL
 - B. 1.5-2.5 mg/dL
 - C. 2.0-3.0 mg/dL
 - D. Greater than 3.5 mg/dL

- 6. At approximately what age are large and giant breed dogs considered 'senior'?**
- A. 3-5 years
 - B. 6-8 years
 - C. 5-7 years
 - D. 4-6 years
- 7. How can a veterinarian minimize polypharmacy in a senior dog?**
- A. Add more medications.
 - B. Use only herbal supplements.
 - C. Stop all medications.
 - D. Comprehensive medication review, remove duplicates, assess interactions, use the lowest effective doses, and re-evaluate regularly.
- 8. Why is the urine protein-to-creatinine ratio (UPC) important in senior dogs with suspected kidney disease?**
- A. It measures urine concentration.
 - B. It assesses hydration status.
 - C. UPC quantifies protein loss in urine to differentiate glomerular/tubular disease, monitor CKD progression, and guide therapy.
 - D. It has no clinical utility.
- 9. Which NSAIDs are commonly used for canine osteoarthritis, and what is a key safety caution when used in seniors?**
- A. Ibuprofen; caution in cats only
 - B. Prednisone; caution GI ulcers; monitor liver enzymes
 - C. Firocoxib only; caution: use with anticoagulants
 - D. Carprofen, meloxicam, deracoxib; caution dehydration, CKD, liver disease; monitor kidney function and GI tolerance
- 10. What is the role of fructosamine testing in diabetes management for dogs?**
- A. To diagnose diabetes
 - B. To assess kidney function
 - C. To measure insulin levels
 - D. To monitor longer-term glycemic control in diabetics

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When dosing medications in a senior dog with liver or kidney disease, what general principle should apply?

- A. Use higher doses to ensure efficacy
- B. Use standard dosing and intervals regardless of organ disease
- C. Use reduced doses or longer intervals; monitor function and adjust; minimize polypharmacy**
- D. Stop all medications

When organ function is impaired, how the body handles drugs changes, so dosing must be adjusted to stay effective without causing toxicity. The best general principle is to use reduced doses or extend dosing intervals, monitor liver and kidney function, and adjust as needed while keeping polypharmacy to a minimum. In senior dogs with liver or kidney disease, clearance of many drugs is slowed—liver disease can reduce metabolism and kidney disease can reduce elimination—so drugs can accumulate if given at standard doses. Starting with lower doses or longer intervals helps prevent adverse effects and allows you to see how the patient tolerates the medication. Regular monitoring of function tests and clinical signs guides further adjustments. Minimizing the number of concurrent drugs helps reduce interactions that could worsen toxicity or reduce efficacy. In contrast, using higher doses would increase risk of accumulation, standard dosing ignores the impairment, and stopping all medications isn't appropriate when some drugs are needed for comfort or disease management.

2. What is the purpose of dental evaluation as part of a geriatric assessment?

- A. To measure blood glucose levels.
- B. To evaluate liver enzymes.
- C. To assess pain from dental disease and ensure proper nutrition.**
- D. To assess immune status via vaccination.

Dental health in older dogs is a frequent source of chronic pain that directly affects feeding and nutrition. The main purpose of a dental evaluation during a geriatric assessment is to identify painful dental conditions—such as periodontal disease, tooth fractures, or abscesses—and address them so the dog can eat comfortably and maintain adequate calorie and nutrient intake. Alleviating dental pain often improves appetite, chewing efficiency, and body condition, which are crucial for quality of life and overall health in seniors. While other health checks like blood glucose, liver enzymes, or vaccination status are important, they're not the central focus of a dental exam; that exam centers on pain from dental disease and its impact on nutrition.

3. Which vaccines are typically continued for senior dogs and what is a common vaccination interval approach?

- A. Core vaccines continued; intervals spaced farther apart depending on risk; non-core vaccines given based on exposure risk.**
- B. All vaccines discontinued after age 10
- C. Vaccines every 3 weeks regardless of risk
- D. Only non-core vaccines continued

In senior dogs, keeping up protection against the diseases that cause the most serious illness is still important, but the plan is adjusted to the dog's age and risk. Core vaccines, which protect against the most dangerous diseases (the ones dogs are at risk for regardless of location or lifestyle), are continued. Because immune memory from these vaccines tends to be long-lasting, boosters are given at longer intervals—commonly about every 3 years after the initial puppy/adult series—rather than year-round. Non-core vaccines, on the other hand, are selected based on exposure risk: where the dog lives, travel plans, indoor vs. outdoor lifestyle, and potential exposure to certain pathogens. If the risk is low, those vaccines may be deferred or omitted, while the core protections are maintained. This is why the best answer emphasizes continuing core vaccines and spacing intervals longer while tailoring non-core vaccines to exposure risk. Discontinuing all vaccines after age 10 isn't standard practice, vaccines every 3 weeks regardless of risk isn't evidence-based, and limiting vaccination to only non-core vaccines misses essential protection against serious diseases.

4. Before performing a dental cleaning on a senior dog, what major risk must be evaluated?

- A. Age alone
- B. Diet history
- C. Coat condition
- D. Anesthesia risk; pre-anesthetic assessment including kidney and liver function, hydration, blood pressure, and cardiopulmonary status**

Anesthesia risk is the major factor to evaluate. Senior dogs can have subclinical organ disease that makes anesthesia riskier, so a pre-anesthetic workup is essential. This includes checking kidney and liver function, assessing hydration, measuring blood pressure, and evaluating cardiopulmonary status. With that information, the veterinary team can choose safer drugs, adjust dosing, and monitor appropriately to reduce complications during the procedure and recovery. Age alone or factors like diet history or coat condition do not reliably predict anesthesia risk and aren't sufficient to guide safety for the dental cleaning.

5. IRIS Stage 1 CKD in dogs is characterized by a creatinine level of ____.

- A. Less than 1.4 mg/dL**
- B. 1.5-2.5 mg/dL
- C. 2.0-3.0 mg/dL
- D. Greater than 3.5 mg/dL

Creatinine is used as a proxy for glomerular filtration rate (GFR) in IRIS CKD staging. In dogs, Stage 1 CKD corresponds to normal or near-normal kidney function, so the creatinine level is still below 1.4 mg/dL. This means the kidneys aren't yet filtering at a reduced rate, even though there may be signs of kidney damage or risk factors present. As creatinine rises above that threshold, stages indicate progressively worse kidney function. So a value under 1.4 mg/dL best fits Stage 1.

6. At approximately what age are large and giant breed dogs considered 'senior'?

- A. 3-5 years
- B. 6-8 years
- C. 5-7 years**
- D. 4-6 years

Large and giant breed dogs age into senior status earlier than small breeds because their rapid growth and overall metabolism accelerate aging. The time where aging changes commonly become noticeable and management needs shift toward more frequent health screening is about five to seven years. By around five years you may start to see early signs such as reduced activity, subtle changes in body composition, and dental wear; by seven, the risk of chronic conditions like osteoarthritis, heart or organ function changes, and overall reserve decreases is higher. Other ranges tend to be too early or too late for most large breeds, so five to seven years best fits when these dogs typically transition to the senior stage.

7. How can a veterinarian minimize polypharmacy in a senior dog?

- A. Add more medications.
- B. Use only herbal supplements.
- C. Stop all medications.
- D. Comprehensive medication review, remove duplicates, assess interactions, use the lowest effective doses, and re-evaluate regularly.**

Minimizing polypharmacy in a senior dog starts with a careful, systematic review of every medication and supplement the dog is taking. Older dogs often have altered drug metabolism and increased sensitivity to side effects, so each drug must have a clear, ongoing benefit. By conducting a comprehensive medication review, you can identify duplicates, overlapping indications, and potential drug-drug interactions that raise risk for adverse effects or reduced efficacy. The goal is to discontinue meds that are no longer needed, avoid unnecessary additions, and use the lowest effective doses for the remaining drugs while continuously re-evaluating as the dog's condition changes. Involve the owner in monitoring for signs of adverse effects and consider regular lab work or veterinary check-ins to adjust therapy as needed. Relying on a single strategy like adding new meds, stopping all meds, or using unregulated herbal products does not address the complexity of aging pharmacology; a thoughtful, evidence-based approach to review and deprescribe is the safest way to minimize polypharmacy.

8. Why is the urine protein-to-creatinine ratio (UPC) important in senior dogs with suspected kidney disease?

- A. It measures urine concentration.
- B. It assesses hydration status.
- C. UPC quantifies protein loss in urine to differentiate glomerular/tubular disease, monitor CKD progression, and guide therapy.**
- D. It has no clinical utility.

Protein in the urine reflects kidney injury and has important implications for prognosis and treatment in aging dogs. The urine protein-to-creatinine ratio provides a reliable measure of protein loss by comparing the amount of protein to the amount of creatinine in the same urine sample. Creatinine excretion is relatively stable for a given urine volume, so this ratio normalizes for how concentrated or dilute the urine is, making results more comparable across samples. A higher UPC means more protein is escaping the kidneys, which often points to glomerular damage and signals a greater risk of progression in kidney disease. Because ongoing protein loss can worsen kidney injury, UPC helps guide therapy—such as the use of medications like ACE inhibitors or ARBs to reduce protein leakage and slow CKD progression, along with dietary and blood pressure management. In short, UPC quantifies proteinuria, aids in differentiating potential patterns of kidney disease, monitors disease progression, and informs treatment decisions. It's not a measure of urine concentration or hydration status, and it does have clear clinical utility.

9. Which NSAIDs are commonly used for canine osteoarthritis, and what is a key safety caution when used in seniors?

- A. Ibuprofen; caution in cats only
- B. Prednisone; caution GI ulcers; monitor liver enzymes
- C. Firocoxib only; caution: use with anticoagulants
- D. Carprofen, meloxicam, deracoxib; caution dehydration, CKD, liver disease; monitor kidney function and GI tolerance**

NSAIDs used for canine osteoarthritis include carprofen, meloxicam, and deracoxib. These drugs work by inhibiting prostaglandin production to reduce inflammation and pain, which is especially helpful in aging joints. In senior dogs, however, age-related changes in kidney and liver function and a tendency toward dehydration raise the risk of NSAID-related problems, so safety hinges on careful monitoring. A crucial caution is to prevent or address dehydration and preexisting kidney or liver disease, and to closely monitor kidney function (creatinine, BUN) and GI tolerance (vomiting, GI bleeding) during treatment. Baseline labs and regular follow-ups are often recommended, and NSAIDs should be used with attention to hydration status and avoidance of other nephrotoxic or ulcerogenic drugs.

10. What is the role of fructosamine testing in diabetes management for dogs?

- A. To diagnose diabetes
- B. To assess kidney function
- C. To measure insulin levels
- D. To monitor longer-term glycemic control in diabetics**

Fructosamine testing gives a mid-term view of blood glucose by measuring glycated serum proteins, mainly albumin. Because these proteins turn over over a couple of weeks, the test reflects average glucose levels over roughly 2 to 3 weeks. In dogs with diabetes, this makes fructosamine a useful tool to monitor how well glycemic control has been achieved over time and to help adjust insulin dosing, complementing daily glucose checks. It isn't used to diagnose diabetes—persistent hyperglycemia and clinical signs, plus other tests, are needed for that. It also doesn't measure insulin levels or assess kidney function, which rely on different tests. So, its role is to monitor longer-term glycemic control in diabetics.

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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://primarycare2seniordogcare2.examzify.com>

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

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