

# Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

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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. What condition do schistocytes in a blood smear indicate?**
  - A. Differentiation between blood types**
  - B. Thrombocytopenia**
  - C. Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)**
  - D. Iron-deficiency anemia**
  
- 2. When a cat presents with crusts, pruritis, and erythema spots on the face and ears, what action should the owner take?**
  - A. Apply steroid cream**
  - B. Monitor and wait**
  - C. Scrape and culture the lesions**
  - D. Change the cat's diet**
  
- 3. What is the most likely cause of coliform bacteria being found in a milk bulk tank?**
  - A. High feed quality**
  - B. Lack of equipment washing**
  - C. Inadequate refrigeration**
  - D. Milk from a sick cow**
  
- 4. Which ocular disease can sulfa drugs cause?**
  - A. Glaucoma**
  - B. Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS)**
  - C. Corneal ulcerations**
  - D. Retinal degeneration**
  
- 5. What economic problem does atrophic rhinitis cause?**
  - A. Poor feed conversion**
  - B. Decrease in weight gain**
  - C. Increased veterinary costs**
  - D. Higher mortality rates**

- 6. If a cow 300 days pregnant develops a uterine torsion, what is the recommended action?**
- A. Attempting to manually correct the torsion**
  - B. Inducing labor immediately**
  - C. Performing a C-section**
  - D. Administering anti-inflammatory drugs**
- 7. Which signs are typically associated with hypokalemia in animals?**
- A. Weakness and vomiting**
  - B. CNS depression and hypoglycemia**
  - C. Weakness, CNS depression, ventroflexion of neck in cats**
  - D. Tremors and cardiac arrhythmias**
- 8. What should you do if you find a horse with red lesions on its tongue and it is dysphagic?**
- A. Float teeth and administer antibiotics**
  - B. Float teeth and take cytology of the lesion**
  - C. Administer anti-inflammatory medication**
  - D. Provide supportive care and monitor**
- 9. What is the recommended treatment for coccidiosis in animals?**
- A. Amprolium or sulfadimethoxine**
  - B. Fenbendazole**
  - C. Metronidazole**
  - D. Ivermectin**
- 10. In which species are reticulocytes a reliable indicator of RBC regeneration?**
- A. Cats**
  - B. Dogs**
  - C. Cattle**
  - D. Horses**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What condition do schistocytes in a blood smear indicate?

- A. Differentiation between blood types
- B. Thrombocytopenia
- C. Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)**
- D. Iron-deficiency anemia

Schistocytes are fragmented red blood cells that are typically associated with microangiopathic processes. The presence of schistocytes in a blood smear is a hallmark indicator of disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC). In DIC, there is an abnormal activation of the coagulation cascade, leading to the formation of small thrombi in the microcirculation. This process results in the destruction of red blood cells as they pass through narrowed or obstructed vessels, leading to the formation of schistocytes. DIC can be a serious condition associated with a variety of underlying problems, including sepsis, trauma, and obstetric complications. The presence of schistocytes serves as an important diagnostic clue, prompting further investigation into the underlying cause of the DIC and the appropriate therapeutic interventions. Understanding the context in which schistocytes appear helps differentiate this condition from other choices, such as thrombocytopenia, which specifically refers to a low platelet count and does not inherently cause the fragmentation of red blood cells. Iron-deficiency anemia presents with microcytic, hypochromic red blood cells, but does not typically include schistocytes. Similarly, differentiation between blood types is unrelated to the presence of schistocytes, as it pertains to antigen

## 2. When a cat presents with crusts, pruritis, and erythema spots on the face and ears, what action should the owner take?

- A. Apply steroid cream
- B. Monitor and wait
- C. Scrape and culture the lesions**
- D. Change the cat's diet

When a cat presents with symptoms such as crusts, pruritus (itchiness), and erythematous spots (redness) on the face and ears, it is crucial to investigate the underlying cause of these skin changes. The action of scraping and culturing the lesions is essential for a couple of reasons. Firstly, this method allows for the identification of potential dermatological conditions such as bacterial infections, fungal infections (like ringworm), or parasitic infestations (such as mites). Diagnosing these conditions can guide appropriate treatment and management. Secondly, simply applying a steroid cream or monitoring the cat without further investigation might mask symptoms or lead to a progression of the underlying issue, which can worsen the cat's condition. Additionally, changing the cat's diet may be helpful in cases of food allergies, but it is not a definitive approach for addressing lesions on the skin without knowing the specific cause. Thus, scraping and culturing are critical first steps in accurately diagnosing and treating skin issues in cats, ensuring your cat receives proper care based on clear evidence.

**3. What is the most likely cause of coliform bacteria being found in a milk bulk tank?**

- A. High feed quality**
- B. Lack of equipment washing**
- C. Inadequate refrigeration**
- D. Milk from a sick cow**

Coliform bacteria in a milk bulk tank are commonly associated with environmental contamination, often stemming from sanitation issues. The presence of coliforms suggests that fecal contamination may have occurred, which can happen if the equipment used for milking and storing the milk is not properly cleaned and sanitized. Residual organic matter, such as milk or feed residues, can provide a growth medium for these bacteria. Regular washing and sanitizing of milking equipment are critical to prevent bacterial growth and ensure the safety and quality of milk. If equipment washing is neglected, it creates an environment where bacteria, including coliforms, can thrive and subsequently contaminate the bulk tank. While other factors like poor refrigeration or milk from an infected cow could potentially contribute to spoilage or the presence of other pathogens, the specific association between coliform bacteria and inadequate sanitation practices in equipment is well-documented in dairy management. Therefore, the lack of proper equipment washing is the most significant factor leading to coliform contamination in a milk bulk tank.

**4. Which ocular disease can sulfa drugs cause?**

- A. Glaucoma**
- B. Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS)**
- C. Corneal ulcerations**
- D. Retinal degeneration**

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS), also known as dry eye, can be caused by the use of sulfa drugs in certain cases. Sulfonamides may lead to a decrease in tear production by affecting the lacrimal glands, which are responsible for producing the aqueous layer of tears. The reduction in tear secretion results in inadequate lubrication of the ocular surface, leading to dry eyes and inflammation of the conjunctiva, commonly associated with KCS. Understanding the side effects of medications such as sulfa drugs is important in veterinary practice, as it emphasizes the need for careful monitoring of patients on these drugs. It's crucial for veterinarians to recognize potential adverse effects and to manage the complications effectively, ensuring the well-being of their patients.

**5. What economic problem does atrophic rhinitis cause?**

- A. Poor feed conversion**
- B. Decrease in weight gain**
- C. Increased veterinary costs**
- D. Higher mortality rates**

Atrophic rhinitis is a condition affecting pigs that results in the inflammation and atrophy of the nasal turbinates, which can lead to significant respiratory issues. This disease can negatively impact the animal's ability to efficiently convert feed into body weight, which is essential for the economic viability of pig farming. When feed conversion is poor, more feed needs to be consumed to achieve the same weight gain, leading to higher feed costs and reduced profitability. Poor feed conversion means that animals are not utilizing their feed efficiently, which can be directly linked to the health challenges posed by atrophic rhinitis. When swine struggle to process feed effectively due to respiratory distress or other related complications, farmers may face increased operational expenses as they are unable to maximize growth from their feed inputs. Thus, the economic problem created by atrophic rhinitis primarily manifests in poor feed conversion rates, leading to diminished returns for the producer.

**6. If a cow 300 days pregnant develops a uterine torsion, what is the recommended action?**

- A. Attempting to manually correct the torsion**
- B. Inducing labor immediately**
- C. Performing a C-section**
- D. Administering anti-inflammatory drugs**

In the case of a cow that is 300 days pregnant experiencing a uterine torsion, performing a C-section is the most recommended action. Uterine torsion can lead to severe complications, including compromised blood flow to the uterus and potentially jeopardizing the lives of both the dam and the fetus. Given the advanced stage of pregnancy—being almost at term—the fetus may be significantly affected by the torsion. A C-section provides a direct and effective means to address the situation by allowing for the surgical delivery of the fetus while also resolving any issues related to the torsion. This method helps ensure the safety of both the cow and the calf, especially in cases where other methods, such as manual correction or inducing labor, may not be successful or could pose further risk. Other approaches, such as administering anti-inflammatory drugs, may offer symptom relief or reduce inflammation but do not address the underlying issue of the torsion that threatens the health of both the mother and fetus. Likewise, trying to induce labor immediately could lead to complications if the torsion is not resolved first, as contractions during labor might exacerbate the condition. Attempting to manually correct the torsion is often not feasible in many cases, particularly with significant torsions, and can lead to

**7. Which signs are typically associated with hypokalemia in animals?**

- A. Weakness and vomiting**
- B. CNS depression and hypoglycemia**
- C. Weakness, CNS depression, ventroflexion of neck in cats**
- D. Tremors and cardiac arrhythmias**

Hypokalemia, or low potassium levels in the blood, presents with specific clinical signs that reflect the muscle and nerve dysfunction resulting from this electrolyte imbalance. The correct choice highlights several of these symptoms that are particularly representative of hypokalemia in animals, especially in cats. Weakness is a common sign since potassium plays a crucial role in muscle function. With low potassium levels, muscle fibers may not function properly, leading to generalized weakness. CNS depression can occur as potassium is vital for proper neuronal function; insufficient levels can impact the central nervous system, resulting in lethargy or decreased responsiveness. Ventroflexion of the neck is particularly notable in cats with hypokalemia. This characteristic posture arises due to weakness of the neck muscles, which is directly related to potassium deficiency. This sign often stands out as it is quite specific to this condition, especially in feline patients. Understanding these signs allows veterinarians and pet owners to recognize the potential for hypokalemia and seek timely treatment, which is crucial for reversing its effects and restoring normal physiological function.

**8. What should you do if you find a horse with red lesions on its tongue and it is dysphagic?**

- A. Float teeth and administer antibiotics**
- B. Float teeth and take cytology of the lesion**
- C. Administer anti-inflammatory medication**
- D. Provide supportive care and monitor**

If a horse presents with red lesions on its tongue and is experiencing dysphagia, taking cytology of the lesion is a critical step. Cytological examination allows for the assessment of the cellular characteristics of the lesions, which can help determine the underlying cause. Conditions such as viral infections, chemical irritation, or other inflammatory processes could be responsible for the clinical signs. Identifying the specific nature of the lesions is essential for guiding appropriate treatment. By performing cytology, you can gather vital information regarding potential pathogens (like viruses or bacteria) or other causes of inflammation, thus facilitating targeted therapy. While assessing the horse's teeth could be important in some cases of dysphagia, particularly if dental problems were suspected to be the cause, it does not directly address the primary issue of the lesions observed on the tongue. The presence of red lesions strongly suggests that inflammation or infection in the oral cavity is a primary concern that needs immediate attention. Moreover, administering anti-inflammatory medications could be supportive but would not provide the specific insights needed to formulate an effective treatment plan without understanding the underlying cause. Supportive care is helpful but does not replace the need for diagnostic evaluation through cytology in this scenario.

## 9. What is the recommended treatment for coccidiosis in animals?

- A. Amprolium or sulfadimethoxine**
- B. Fenbendazole**
- C. Metronidazole**
- D. Ivermectin**

The recommended treatment for coccidiosis in animals primarily involves the use of specific anticoccidial agents. Amprolium and sulfadimethoxine are both effective medications designed to combat coccidia, which are protozoan parasites that can infect the intestines of various animals, leading to symptoms such as diarrhea and weight loss. Amprolium works by inhibiting the utilization of thiamine (vitamin B1) in the coccidia, halting their growth and reproduction. It is particularly popular in poultry and some livestock as a preventive and therapeutic measure against coccidiosis. Sulfadimethoxine, a sulfonamide antibiotic, also targets coccidia and helps in reducing the severity of the infection by interfering with the synthesis of folic acid, which is necessary for the parasites' growth. In contrast, the other options are not primarily used for the treatment of coccidiosis. Fenbendazole is effective against various gastrointestinal parasites but does not specifically target coccidia. Metronidazole is mainly used for anaerobic bacterial infections and certain protozoal infections but is not a routine treatment for coccidiosis. Ivermectin is an antiparasitic primarily used for external and

## 10. In which species are reticulocytes a reliable indicator of RBC regeneration?

- A. Cats**
- B. Dogs**
- C. Cattle**
- D. Horses**

In dogs, reticulocytes serve as a reliable indicator of red blood cell (RBC) regeneration. When an animal is experiencing anemia, the bone marrow responds by increasing the production of red blood cells, and reticulocyte counts are assessed to evaluate this regenerative response. In dogs, reticulocytes can be quantified relatively easily, and their presence in the bloodstream reflects the bone marrow's activity in producing new red blood cells following an anemic condition. This reliable measurement helps veterinarians determine whether an underlying disease is causing the anemia or if it is due to blood loss or destruction. In contrast, in species like cats, cattle, and horses, reticulocyte counts are not as reliable in assessing RBC regeneration. In cats, for example, the reticulocyte response may be less pronounced and can vary significantly. In cattle and horses, the regenerative response may be delayed or less pronounced altogether, making reticulocyte counts less useful as indicators of anemia recovery. Thus, the unique physiological response of dogs allows for an effective interpretation of reticulocyte counts as reflective of RBC regeneration.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://pavevetedequivalence.examzify.com>**

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

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