Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education (PAVE) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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

1. Which intermediary host is involved in Dipylidium caninum infection in dogs?

A. Fleas

B. Ticks

C. Mites

D. Flies

2. Detecting mast cells on a feline blood smear points toward which tumor?

A. Lymphoma

B. Mast Cell Tumor

C. Hemangiosarcoma

D. Osteosarcoma

3. What organism most commonly causes dermatophytosis in cats?

A. Microsporum gypseum

B. Trichophyton mentagrophytes

C. Microsporum canis

D. Epidermophyton floccosum

4. Which worm in pigs causes clinical signs similar to swine dysentery?

A. Trichuris (whipworms)

B. Ascaris suum

C. Strongyloides ransomi

D. Taenia solium

5. Postmortem findings associated with gossypol toxicity include which of the following?

A. Red-tinged fluid, edema, pale-streaked heart, edematous lungs

B. Yellow fat necrosis

C. Dehydration of kidneys

D. Hemorrhagic enteritis

6. What is the most likely cause of coliform bacteria detected in a milk bulk tank?

A. Lack of equipment washing with subsequent environmental contamination

B. Inadequate milking technique

C. Mastitis in cows

D. Contaminated feed or water

7. Which smear finding is most consistent with disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)?

A. Spherocytes

B. Agglutination

C. Nucleated red blood cells

D. Schistocytes

8. What clinical sign is characteristic of Marek's disease in chickens?

A. Enlarged nerves esp. sciatic

B. Respiratory distress

C. Diarrhea

D. Feathering abnormalities

9. The gestational window during which Brucella infection commonly causes abortion in dogs is?

A. 20-35 days

B. 35-45 days

C. 60-75 days

D. 45-60 days

10. What is a significant zoonotic concern with imported turtles?

A. Rabies

B. Salmonella

C. Mycobacterium

D. Echinococcus granulosus

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which intermediary host is involved in Dipylidium caninum infection in dogs?

A. Fleas

B. Ticks

C. Mites

D. Flies

Understanding how Dipylidium caninum is transmitted helps explain why fleas are the intermediary host. This tapeworm relies on an intermediate host to complete its life cycle. The dog becomes infected by swallowing an infected flea (most commonly the dog flea, a flea larva carrying the cysticercoid stage) during grooming. Inside the flea, the parasite develops to an infective form. When the dog ingests the flea, the cysticercoid is released in the intestine and grows into the adult tapeworm. Fleas are the usual vehicle for this infection, whereas ticks, mites, and flies do not participate in Dipylidium caninum's life cycle.

2. Detecting mast cells on a feline blood smear points toward which tumor?

A. Lymphoma

B. Mast Cell Tumor

C. Hemangiosarcoma

D. Osteosarcoma

Seeing mast cells on a feline blood smear points toward mast cell tumor because the tumor arises from mast cells, and malignant mast cells can circulate in the bloodstream when the disease is systemic. This circulating mast cell population is not typical for the other tumor types listed, which originate from different cell lines (lymphoid, osteogenic/mesenchymal, or vascular) and do not characteristically shed mast cells into the blood. So the presence of mast cells in the blood most strongly supports a diagnosis of a mast cell tumor.

3. What organism most commonly causes dermatophytosis in cats?

A. Microsporum gypseum

B. Trichophyton mentagrophytes

C. Microsporum canis

D. Epidermophyton floccosum

Dermatophytosis in cats is most commonly caused by Microsporum canis. This fungus is well adapted to keratinized tissues (skin, hair, nails) and is shed readily by infected cats, creating environmental contamination that facilitates transmission to other cats and even to humans. In feline cases, M. canis accounts for the majority of infections, producing the typical ringworm–like lesions on the face, ears, and paws. Other dermatophytes can infect cats, but they are far less common in this species; Epidermophyton floccosum is more associated with humans and not a typical feline pathogen. Thus, Microsporum canis is the best answer.

4. Which worm in pigs causes clinical signs similar to swine dysentery?

A. Trichuris (whipworms)

B. Ascaris suum

C. Strongyloides ransomi

D. Taenia solium

The key idea is that a large-intestinal nematode can produce colitis in the cecum and colon, leading to mucohemorrhagic diarrhea that resembles swine dysentery. Trichuris suis, the whipworm, embeds in the large intestine and irritates the mucosa, causing inflammation with bloody, mucus-rich diarrhea and tenesmus—signs that look like swine dysentery. In pigs, swine dysentery is caused by a spirochete in the same region, so the clinical picture overlaps when whipworms are present. The other parasites listed affect different parts of the gut or body and typically don't produce the same dysentery-like large intestinal diarrhea: Ascaris suum mainly causes respiratory issues and poor growth via small-intestinal infection; Strongyloides ransomi can cause enteritis in piglets but not the classic large-intestinal dysentery picture; Taenia solium is a tapeworm with largely minimal GI signs in pigs.

5. Postmortem findings associated with gossypol toxicity include which of the following?

A. Red-tinged fluid, edema, pale-streaked heart, edematous lungs

B. Yellow fat necrosis

C. Dehydration of kidneys

D. Hemorrhagic enteritis

Gossypol toxicity predominantly affects the heart, causing cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. This cardiac failure leads to widespread congestion and edema, so you see edematous tissues and effusions. In the postmortem state, a reddish-tinged fluid can be present in body cavities from congestion and minor hemorrhages, the heart may show pale streaks where myocardial fibers have been damaged, and the lungs become edematous from backup of blood due to poor cardiac output. Together, these signs reflect the cardiovascular collapse that gossypol can induce. Other findings listed are less characteristic for gossypol. Yellow fat necrosis is more typical of pancreatic fat necrosis or lipomatosis; dehydration of kidneys points to pre-renal or renal causes of fluid loss rather than primary cardiotoxic injury; hemorrhagic enteritis suggests GI mucosal hemorrhage from other etiologies.

6. What is the most likely cause of coliform bacteria detected in a milk bulk tank?

A. Lack of equipment washing with subsequent environmental contamination

B. Inadequate milking technique

C. Mastitis in cows

D. Contaminated feed or water

Coliform bacteria in a milk bulk tank point to sanitation and environmental contamination introduced during or after milking. These environmental organisms are common on surfaces and in water, and when equipment, hoses, and the bulk tank aren't thoroughly washed and sanitized, residues and biofilms can harbor them and shed bacteria into the milk during collection and storage. This route—inadequate cleaning and sanitation of equipment and contact surfaces—provides a direct, preventable pathway for coliforms to enter the bulk tank. Inadequate milking technique can contribute to contamination at the teat end, but it's not as direct a route for introducing coliforms into the bulk tank as poor equipment cleaning. Mastitis involves infection of the udder and can introduce bacteria into milk, but coliforms detected in bulk milk are more characteristic of environmental contamination than an udder infection. Contaminated feed or water could introduce bacteria, but the most actionable and likely cause in this scenario is insufficient cleaning and sanitization of equipment and surroundings.

7. Which smear finding is most consistent with disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC)?

A. Spherocytes

B. Agglutination

C. Nucleated red blood cells

D. Schistocytes

Disseminated intravascular coagulation causes widespread formation of microthrombi in small vessels, which mechanically fragment red blood cells as they pass through these vessels. This hemolysis produces fragmented red cells called schistocytes on a peripheral smear. Schistocytes are the hallmark of microangiopathic hemolytic processes like DIC. Other options don't reflect this fragmentation pattern: spherocytes come from membrane loss in immune or hereditary conditions, agglutination is antibody-mediated clumping, and nucleated red cells indicate an aggressive bone marrow response rather than intravascular fragmentation.

8. What clinical sign is characteristic of Marek's disease in chickens?

A. Enlarged nerves esp. sciatic

B. Respiratory distress

C. Diarrhea

D. Feathering abnormalities

The main concept here is that Marek's disease causes a distinctive nervous-system manifestation. The virus induces lymphoid tumors and infiltration in nerve tissues, leading to enlargement of peripheral nerves. This neuropathy most commonly shows up as paralysis or weakness of the legs and wings, with the sciatic nerve often being noticeably enlarged. So, the characteristic clinical sign is enlarged nerves, especially the sciatic nerve, which points to Marek's disease. Respiratory distress, diarrhea, and feathering abnormalities are not typical hallmarks of Marek's disease. They can occur with other poultry diseases or conditions, but they do not define the neuropathic presentation that Marek's disease classically causes.

9. The gestational window during which Brucella infection commonly causes abortion in dogs is?

A. 20-35 days

B. 35-45 days

C. 60-75 days

D. 45-60 days

Brucella canis tends to cause abortion in the late stages of pregnancy, when placental infection disrupts nutrient exchange and fetal growth. In dogs, pregnancy runs about 63 days on average, so the period from roughly 45 to 60 days is the late gestation window during which placental vulnerability is highest. This makes abortions most commonly occur in that 45–60 day range. Earlier gestation abortions are less typical for this organism, and near-term or post-term abortions are less common than the late-gestation window. Hence, 45–60 days best fits the typical Brucella canis abortion window.

10. What is a significant zoonotic concern with imported turtles?

A. Rabies

B. Salmonella

C. Mycobacterium

D. Echinococcus granulosus

Salmonella is the main zoonotic concern with imported turtles. These reptiles can carry Salmonella in their intestines and shed the bacteria in their feces regardless of how healthy they look. People can become infected by handling the turtle or its habitat and then touching their mouth, or by contact with contaminated water, soil, or surfaces. Young children and immunocompromised individuals are especially at risk due to closer contact and hygiene challenges. Imported turtles may pose a higher risk because stress and varied health statuses can increase shedding, raising the chance of transmission. Other options don't fit as well because rabies is primarily a concern with mammals, and the others are not classically linked to turtles in the context of zoonotic transmission.

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://pave.examzify.com

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