

PROGRAM FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF VETERINARY EDUCATION (PAVE) PRACTICE TEST (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. Which parasite causes alopecia on ventral abdomen and elbows?**
 - A. Ringworm
 - B. Demodex
 - C. Scabies
 - D. Fleas
- 2. Anaplasma infection in cows is most commonly seen in which age group?**
 - A. 0-1 year
 - B. 2-4 years
 - C. 5-7 years
 - D. Adults over 8 years
- 3. Which tumor has approximately a 90% curative rate when treated with chemotherapy?**
 - A. Osteosarcoma
 - B. TVT (transmissible venereal tumor)
 - C. Lymphoma
 - D. Melanoma
- 4. In mares, a granulosa cell tumor commonly arises from granulosa cells and often causes which behavioral change due to estrogen production?**
 - A. Estrogen
 - B. Testosterone
 - C. Progesterone
 - D. Cortisol
- 5. In a horse that is $\frac{3}{4}$ lame and a palmar nerve block relieves the lameness, which structure is not affected by this block?**
 - A. P3 (distal phalanx)
 - B. Bulbs of the heel
 - C. Navicular bone
 - D. Digital cushion

- 6. In iguanas, radiographs showing demineralized bone indicate a deficiency of which vitamin?**
- A. Vitamin C
 - B. Vitamin D3
 - C. Vitamin A
 - D. Vitamin K
- 7. Why can't reticulocytes be used to assess RBC regeneration in horses?**
- A. They are not found in peripheral blood
 - B. They are not found in marrow
 - C. They are destroyed quickly
 - D. They are only in bone marrow
- 8. Which diagnostic step is recommended for a cat with facial crusts to evaluate potential zoonotic infection?**
- A. Scrape & culture cat lesions
 - B. Blood culture
 - C. Urinalysis
 - D. Radiography
- 9. Cat transfusion from Type A to B & vice versa causes what reaction(s)?**
- A. Acute transfusion reaction and death
 - B. Decreased RBC lifespan and PCV drops within days
 - C. Both acute reaction and decreased RBC lifespan/ PCV drop
 - D. No reaction
- 10. Detecting mast cells on a feline blood smear points toward which tumor?**
- A. Lymphoma
 - B. Mast Cell Tumor
 - C. Hemangiosarcoma
 - D. Osteosarcoma

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which parasite causes alopecia on ventral abdomen and elbows?

- A. Ringworm
- B. Demodex
- C. Scabies**
- D. Fleas

The distribution of lesions is a big clue. Scabies causes intense itching and self-trauma, and the mites burrow into the skin in areas that are prone to scratching and rubbing, so you often see hair loss with crusting on ventral surfaces like the abdomen and elbows. This ventral/ellbow pattern is a classic sign of sarcoptic mange in dogs, where the itching drives the alopecia there. Ringworm can cause hair loss as well, but it usually presents as circular patches with scaling and broken hairs rather than a predilection for ventral abdomen and elbows. Demodex typically causes alopecia around the face and front legs, especially in puppies, and fleas tend to produce hair loss around the tail base and hindquarters from flea bite reactions. If scabies is suspected, diagnostic skin scrapings can reveal mites, eggs, or fecal pellets, and effective treatment targets the mites and the itching.

2. Anaplasma infection in cows is most commonly seen in which age group?

- A. 0-1 year
- B. 2-4 years**
- C. 5-7 years
- D. Adults over 8 years

Anaplasma marginale infection in cattle tends to cause clinically noticeable disease most often in animals that are past the neonatal period but not very old. Calves under a year usually have maternal antibodies and milder or subclinical infections, so they're less likely to show obvious illness. In very old cattle, prior exposure and acquired immunity, along with management practices, often reduce the chance or severity of clinical disease. The two- to four-year-old group sits in the sweet spot: their immune system is mature and they have had enough opportunity for vector exposure to permit meaningful parasitemia, but they haven't yet developed strong, lasting immunity or management-related protection. When infection becomes evident, these animals commonly show anemia and related signs, making this age range the one most frequently seen with clinical anaplasmosis.

3. Which tumor has approximately a 90% curative rate when treated with chemotherapy?

- A. Osteosarcoma
- B. TVT (transmissible venereal tumor)**
- C. Lymphoma
- D. Melanoma

Chemosensitivity varies widely among tumors, and this particular one is known for its exceptional response to chemotherapy. Transmissible venereal tumor in dogs typically shows dramatic shrinkage and is often completely cured with a standard chemotherapy approach, with cure rates around 90% or higher. This high success is due to the tumor's biology, which makes it highly susceptible to agents like vincristine, and it often regresses quickly with treatment. In contrast, osteosarcoma usually requires aggressive local control (surgery) plus chemotherapy, and cure rates with chemo alone are not that high. Lymphoma can respond very well to chemotherapy and produce long remissions, but a guaranteed cure rate near 90% across all cases isn't as consistent. Melanoma tends to be more chemo-resistant, with lower cure rates from chemotherapy alone.

4. In mares, a granulosa cell tumor commonly arises from granulosa cells and often causes which behavioral change due to estrogen production?

- A. Estrogen**
- B. Testosterone
- C. Progesterone
- D. Cortisol

Granulosa cell tumors in mares produce estrogen in excess. This rise in estrogen drives signs of estrus, so affected mares show persistent estrous behavior—being continually receptive to a stallion and displaying typical heat signs such as vulvar winking and other outward estrous behaviors—even outside the normal breeding cycle. The other hormones listed would lead to different effects: testosterone would cause male-typical behaviors, progesterone would promote diestrus-like quieting of estrous behavior, and cortisol is not tied to this ovarian tumor's effects.

5. In a horse that is $\frac{3}{4}$ lame and a palmar nerve block relieves the lameness, which structure is not affected by this block?

- A. P3 (distal phalanx)**
- B. Bulbs of the heel
- C. Navicular bone
- D. Digital cushion

Understanding how nerve blocks localize lameness in horses hinges on which tissues the palmar digital nerves actually supply. These nerves desensitize the soft tissues of the hoof region—the sole, frog, digital cushion, and the bulbs of the heel—and they also give branches to the coffin joint and the navicular apparatus. Because those structures are the ones you're blocking, relief of lameness from a palmar block points to a problem in those tissues or in the navicular apparatus. The distal phalanx, or P3, is not primarily targeted by this block. Its pain pathways aren't reliably blocked by this palmar digital nerve block, so a lesion confined to the distal phalanx would be unlikely to be fully desensitized by it. Therefore, if the lameness is relieved by the block, the structure not affected by the block—and thus not likely to be the source of pain in this scenario—is the distal phalanx.

6. In iguanas, radiographs showing demineralized bone indicate a deficiency of which vitamin?

- A. Vitamin C
- B. Vitamin D3**
- C. Vitamin A
- D. Vitamin K

Calcium balance and bone mineralization hinge on vitamin D3 because it enables efficient gut absorption of calcium (and phosphorus) and supports deposition of minerals into the bone. In iguanas, not getting enough vitamin D3—often from insufficient UV exposure or a calcium-poor diet—leads to metabolic bone disease. The bones become demineralized and osteopenic on radiographs, reflecting a failure to mineralize properly due to low calcium availability. Deficiencies of the other vitamins don't produce this pattern as directly. Vitamin C deficiency affects collagen synthesis and can cause fragile bones, but it doesn't typically present with the generalized radiographic demineralization seen with vitamin D3 deficiency. Vitamin A deficiency alters growth and mucosal health rather than producing this specific mineral loss on imaging. Vitamin K is involved in bone turnover and blood clotting, but its deficiency isn't the classic cause of demineralized bones on radiographs in reptiles.

7. Why can't reticulocytes be used to assess RBC regeneration in horses?

A. They are not found in peripheral blood

B. They are not found in marrow

C. They are destroyed quickly

D. They are only in bone marrow

In horses, circulating reticulocytes are not present in peripheral blood, so you can't rely on a reticulocyte count to gauge red blood cell regeneration. Reticulocytes are immature RBCs and, in many species, their appearance in blood after anemia indicates a regenerative response. But in horses, the erythropoietic process does not release detectable numbers of reticulocytes into the bloodstream, making this marker unreliable for assessing RBC regeneration. Instead, clinicians look at other indicators of recovery, such as overall hematocrit trends, marrow activity if needed, or other indirect measures of erythropoiesis.

8. Which diagnostic step is recommended for a cat with facial crusts to evaluate potential zoonotic infection?

A. Scrape & culture cat lesions

B. Blood culture

C. Urinalysis

D. Radiography

Suspected dermatophytosis (ringworm) in a cat with facial crusts raises a zoonotic risk, so obtaining a tissue sample from the lesion for culture is the most informative next step. Superficial skin scraping or hair plucking collects keratin-containing material where dermatophytes grow, and culturing these samples allows the organism to be identified definitively. This not only confirms infection but also guides treatment and informs precautions to limit transmission to people and other animals. Blood culture isn't helpful here because dermatophytosis is a superficial fungal infection, not a bloodstream issue. Urinalysis and radiography won't reveal the fungal cause of facial crusts and are not diagnostic for dermatophyte infection.

9. Cat transfusion from Type A to B & vice versa causes what reaction(s)?

A. Acute transfusion reaction and death

B. Decreased RBC lifespan and PCV drops within days

C. Both acute reaction and decreased RBC lifespan/ PCV drop

D. No reaction

Transfusion compatibility in cats hinges on naturally occurring antibodies against RBC antigens. Cats have blood groups A and B (and AB is rare). Type B cats carry strong anti-A antibodies, while Type A cats have anti-B antibodies, usually in smaller amounts. When blood of a different type is given, the recipient's antibodies rapidly bind the donor red cells and activate the immune system, causing acute intravascular hemolysis. This immediate reaction can be severe and even fatal if not promptly addressed. Even if the initial crisis is survived, the donor red cells that survive can be targeted and cleared over the following days, leading to a shortened lifespan of those transfused cells and a drop in packed cell volume as they are destroyed. So mismatched transfusions can produce both an acute transfusion reaction and a later decrease in red cell mass, which is why the best answer reflects both phenomena.

10. 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.

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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:

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

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