# USDA NVAP Global Health Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide


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# Questions

**1. What factor complicates the prevention of diseases with wild birds as reservoirs?**

**A. Wild birds are easy to control in urban areas**

**B. Wild birds migrate freely without restrictions**

**C. Wild birds have no known diseases**

**D. Wild birds are easy to monitor**

**2. In California, how many wild animals were diagnosed with rabies in 2015?**

**A. 228**

**B. 420**

**C. 15**

**D. 360**

**3. To test for Senecavirus A, which method is typically employed?**

**A. Viral culture**

**B. RT PCR of oral, vesicular fluids, tissue samples**

**C. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay**

**D. Western blot analysis**

**4. Which of the following statements is true regarding rabies reservoirs?**

**A. Feral cats are the primary reservoirs**

**B. Wild mammals are the most important reservoirs**

**C. Domestic pets are responsible for most transmissions**

**D. Humans can be reservoirs if infected**

**5. What is the focus of the NCAHS?**

**A. Surveillance and disease eradication in animal health**

**B. Regulating organic farming practices**

**C. Funding veterinary research only**

**D. Managing environmental health risks**

**6. What is a veterinarian's responsibility when suspecting a foreign animal disease?**

- **A. Diagnose the disease independently**
- **B. Report it to the Area-Veterinarian-in-Charge or State Animal Health Official**
- **C. Ignore it if symptoms are mild**
- **D. Only inform the animal owner**

**7. Who is primarily responsible for protection against foreign animal diseases in the U.S.?**

- **A. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
- **B. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **C. The United States Department of Agriculture-APHIS**
- **D. The Food and Drug Administration**

**8. Which of the following diseases can be classified as reportable?**

- **A. Only endemic diseases**
- **B. Diseases like rabies and foot-and-mouth disease**
- **C. Only those regulated by state authorities**
- **D. Diseases only affecting livestock**

**9. What is a fomite?**

- **A. A living organism that transmits diseases**
- **B. An inanimate object that can become contaminated**
- **C. A type of infectious virus**
- **D. A method of disease transmission between animals**

**10. What characterizes the structure of OIE?**

- **A. It operates solely through regional offices in various countries.**
- **B. It has a World Assembly of Delegates as its highest authority.**
- **C. It is governed by a single central committee in Paris.**
- **D. It has no appointed director and is run by volunteers.**

# Answers

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

# Explanations

## 1. What factor complicates the prevention of diseases with wild birds as reservoirs?

**A. Wild birds are easy to control in urban areas**

**B. Wild birds migrate freely without restrictions**

**C. Wild birds have no known diseases**

**D. Wild birds are easy to monitor**

**The prevention of diseases with wild birds as reservoirs is complicated primarily because these birds migrate freely without restrictions. This migratory behavior allows them to travel great distances and spread pathogens across vast regions, often without environmental barriers that might otherwise limit the spread of disease. This mobility makes it challenging to track and manage outbreaks, as these birds can be carriers of diseases without showing symptoms, thus posing a continuous risk to other wildlife, livestock, and even human populations. In contrast, the other options do not accurately capture the complexity involved in disease prevention relating to wild birds. For instance, attempting to control wild bird populations in urban areas presents significant difficulties due to their adaptability and legal protections, while the notion that wild birds have no known diseases is incorrect, as many are known carriers of various pathogens. Additionally, the monitoring of wild birds can be quite complex due to their widespread distribution and the dynamic environments they inhabit, making it hard to gather consistent and comprehensive data. Therefore, the unrestricted migration of wild birds is the predominant factor complicating disease prevention efforts.**

## 2. In California, how many wild animals were diagnosed with rabies in 2015?

**A. 228**

**B. 420**

**C. 15**

**D. 360**

**The correct answer reflects data collected regarding confirmed cases of rabies among wild animals in California during the year 2015. Specifically, there were 228 reported cases of wild animals diagnosed with rabies. This figure is important as it illustrates the distribution and prevalence of rabies among wildlife, which can have significant implications for public health and wildlife management efforts. Confirming rabies cases in wild animals is crucial for understanding transmission dynamics, assessing the risk to domestic animals and humans, and implementing vaccination programs where necessary. In regions like California, monitoring rabies in wildlife populations is especially important due to the interaction between human populations and wildlife, increasing the potential for rabies to affect domestic animal health and community safety.**

## 3. To test for Senecavirus A, which method is typically employed?

**A. Viral culture**

**B. RT PCR of oral, vesicular fluids, tissue samples**

**C. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay**

**D. Western blot analysis**

**The most appropriate method for testing for Senecavirus A involves RT PCR of oral, vesicular fluids, and tissue samples. This technique is particularly effective for detecting the viral RNA, allowing for accurate diagnosis of the infection. RT PCR, or reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, is highly sensitive and specific, making it ideal for identifying viral presence even at low levels. This method is advantageous because it can quickly provide results and is capable of detecting the virus in various sample types, which is crucial for accurate epidemiological studies and outbreak management. By utilizing specific primers for Senecavirus A, RT PCR ensures that the test will specifically amplify the targeted viral sequences, thereby minimizing the chances of false positives that could arise with less specific methods. Other methods, while valuable in different contexts, are less commonly used as primary tests for Senecavirus A. For example, viral culture requires viable virus and is more time-consuming. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is typically used for antigen detection or measuring immune responses but may not be as effective as RT PCR for early detection of the virus. Western blot analysis is primarily used for protein detection, which would not provide direct evidence of active infection or the presence of viral RNA. Thus, RT PCR**

## 4. Which of the following statements is true regarding rabies reservoirs?

**A. Feral cats are the primary reservoirs**

**B. Wild mammals are the most important reservoirs**

**C. Domestic pets are responsible for most transmissions**

**D. Humans can be reservoirs if infected**

**Wild mammals are considered the most important reservoirs for rabies due to their essential role in the transmission cycle of the virus. This group primarily includes species such as bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes, which can carry the virus without showing symptoms and can effectively transmit it to other animals or humans through bites or scratches. Their ecological behaviors, such as wide-ranging territories and interaction with various environments, facilitate the spread of rabies in natural settings. While domestic pets may contribute to the transmission of the virus—especially if they are not vaccinated—wild mammals remain the key players in the rabies epidemiology. This is especially significant in areas where wildlife interactions are common, as they can lead to outbreaks that affect both animal and human populations. In contrast, feral cats do not encompass the broader impact and importance of wild mammals as reservoirs, and though domestic pets can be involved in rabies transmission, they do not serve as primary reservoirs. Humans, while susceptible to rabies if infected, cannot act as reservoirs due to their limited role in the transmission cycle of the virus. Thus, recognizing wild mammals as the primary reservoirs emphasizes the importance of wildlife in rabies prevention and control strategies.**

## 5. What is the focus of the NCAHS?

**A. Surveillance and disease eradication in animal health**

**B. Regulating organic farming practices**

**C. Funding veterinary research only**

**D. Managing environmental health risks**

**The focus of the NCAHS, or the National Center for Animal Health Surveillance, is primarily on surveillance and disease eradication in animal health. This involves monitoring animal populations to track the occurrence and spread of diseases that could affect public health, agricultural productivity, and animal well-being. Effective surveillance systems are crucial for early detection of diseases, which can help prevent outbreaks and facilitate timely responses. By concentrating on disease eradication, the NCAHS strives to improve overall animal health, which is integral not just to the veterinary field, but also to ensuring a safe food supply and protecting human health from zoonotic diseases. In contrast, the other options highlight different areas of focus that do not align with the primary mission of the NCAHS. While regulating organic farming practices or managing environmental health risks are important, they fall outside the specific focus of animal health surveillance. Additionally, funding veterinary research, although vital for advancing knowledge in the field, is just one aspect of broader national health efforts and does not encapsulate the key surveillance role that NCAHS plays in securing animal health.**

## 6. What is a veterinarian's responsibility when suspecting a foreign animal disease?

**A. Diagnose the disease independently**

**B. Report it to the Area-Veterinarian-in-Charge or State Animal Health Official**

**C. Ignore it if symptoms are mild**

**D. Only inform the animal owner**

**When a veterinarian suspects a foreign animal disease, their responsibility is to report it to the Area-Veterinarian-in-Charge or State Animal Health Official. This action is critical because foreign animal diseases can have significant implications for animal health, public health, and agricultural economies. Prompt reporting allows for necessary measures to be taken to control the spread of the disease, implement biosecurity measures, and protect livestock and wildlife populations. Veterinarians are not trained to diagnose foreign animal diseases independently, as these diseases often require specialized knowledge and laboratory confirmation. Ignoring symptoms, especially those of foreign animal diseases, is not an option, regardless of the severity of the symptoms, as early intervention is crucial in disease control. Additionally, while informing the animal owner is important, it is the responsibility of the veterinarian to escalate the issue to the appropriate authorities who have the resources and authority to manage potential outbreaks effectively. This structured response ensures that the health risks are addressed comprehensively and in alignment with public health policies.**

## 7. Who is primarily responsible for protection against foreign animal diseases in the U.S.?

**A. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**B. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

**C. The United States Department of Agriculture-APHIS**

**D. The Food and Drug Administration**

**The primary responsibility for protection against foreign animal diseases in the U.S. falls to the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS). This agency plays a critical role in safeguarding the agricultural health of the country by monitoring, preventing, and controlling foreign animal diseases that could adversely affect livestock and wildlife populations. USDA-APHIS implements various disease surveillance programs, response protocols, and regulatory measures to prevent the introduction and spread of infectious animal diseases. This includes coordinating with states, industry, and other federal agencies to ensure effective disease management strategies are in place. By focusing on biosecurity and rapid response action, USDA-APHIS protects both animal health and public health, ultimately supporting the nation's food security and agricultural economy. The other agencies, while integral to health-related aspects, have different primary responsibilities. For instance, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focuses on human health threats, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is primarily concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats, and the Food and Drug Administration oversees food safety within human consumption standards, but does not primarily focus on foreign animal disease control.**

## 8. Which of the following diseases can be classified as reportable?

**A. Only endemic diseases**

**B. Diseases like rabies and foot-and-mouth disease**

**C. Only those regulated by state authorities**

**D. Diseases only affecting livestock**

**Reportable diseases are those that are required by law to be reported to government authorities when diagnosed or suspected. This process helps in tracking and controlling public health threats. The correct answer includes diseases like rabies and foot-and-mouth disease because they pose significant health risks to both humans and animals. Rabies, for instance, is a zoonotic disease that can be fatal to humans if not treated promptly and is therefore closely monitored. Foot-and-mouth disease is critical in veterinary health due to its potential to devastate livestock populations, impacting food supply and economy. In contrast, not all diseases are classified as reportable, which explains why endemic diseases alone, those regulated specifically by only state authorities, or diseases that only affect livestock do not capture the full spectrum of reportable conditions. Many reportable diseases include both zoonotic infections and those affecting animal health, emphasizing the importance of public health surveillance across different species. Hence, option B accurately reflects the nature of reportable diseases, which encompass significant zoonotic and economic health concerns.**

## 9. What is a fomite?

**A. A living organism that transmits diseases**

**B. An inanimate object that can become contaminated**

**C. A type of infectious virus**

**D. A method of disease transmission between animals**

**A fomite is specifically defined as an inanimate object or surface that can become contaminated with infectious agents and subsequently transmit these agents to a new host. This concept is crucial in understanding how diseases can spread, particularly in settings where hygiene may be compromised. For instance, commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, and medical equipment can serve as fomites, harboring pathogens that an individual might come into contact with, thus facilitating transmission. Understanding fomites is essential in infectious disease control and prevention strategies. By recognizing which surfaces pose a risk, appropriate disinfection protocols can be implemented to reduce the chance of transmission. This also emphasizes the importance of hand hygiene in preventing infections, particularly in healthcare and community settings. The other options do not accurately represent the definition of a fomite. Living organisms that transmit diseases refer to vectors like mosquitoes or ticks, while a type of infectious virus refers to specific pathogens. A method of disease transmission between animals typically speaks to zoonotic transmission rather than inanimate objects.**

## 10. What characterizes the structure of OIE?

**A. It operates solely through regional offices in various countries.**

**B. It has a World Assembly of Delegates as its highest authority.**

**C. It is governed by a single central committee in Paris.**

**D. It has no appointed director and is run by volunteers.**

**The structure of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is characterized by having a World Assembly of Delegates as its highest authority. This assembly comprises delegates from member countries and plays a crucial role in setting policies, approving budgets, and making decisions regarding animal health and welfare issues on a global scale. This governing body is instrumental in ensuring that the OIE fulfills its mission to improve animal health worldwide, thereby contributing to global food security and public health. The assembly serves as a democratic forum for member states to voice their concerns and collaborate on international standards for animal health and zoonoses. The other options do not accurately describe the governance structure of the OIE. While the organization does have regional offices, it operates on a more complex framework that includes the World Assembly as the primary decision-making body. It's not governed solely by a central committee nor is it entirely volunteer-operated; the OIE has appointed leadership and staff that work alongside member states to implement its programs and policies effectively.**