

# VetSkill Level 2 Award in Principles of First Aid for Cats and Dogs Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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

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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 statement best describes metabolic bone disease?**
  - A. It results from not enough vitamin D or calcium**
  - B. It results from overuse of calcium**
  - C. It is caused by lack of exercise**
  - D. It affects only pets with no access to sunlight**
  
- 2. When managing a seizure in a dog or cat while awaiting veterinary help, which action is recommended?**
  - A. Keep the animal safe from injury, do not restrain movement, time the seizure, and call for veterinary assistance**
  - B. Restrain the movement**
  - C. Place an object in the mouth**
  - D. Allow the animal to run around**
  
- 3. How should you perform compressions on flat-chested dogs?**
  - A. Compress along the spine**
  - B. Roll them on their back and compress the center of the chest**
  - C. Roll them on their side and compress the outer ribs**
  - D. Compress only with the head raised**
  
- 4. After removing a tick, what should you do with the ticks?**
  - A. Keep ticks for identification later**
  - B. Release ticks into the environment**
  - C. Kill ticks**
  - D. Store ticks for later**
  
- 5. Which common plant is poisonous to cats?**
  - A. Aloe Vera**
  - B. Lillies**
  - C. Daisies**
  - D. Tulips**

- 6. If you are unsure about giving a medicine to a pet, what should you do?**
- A. Seek veterinary guidance before giving any medicine.**
  - B. Do not administer; consult a veterinarian.**
  - C. Guess dosing using owner intuition.**
  - D. Administer vitamins.**
- 7. Which action is most appropriate when a suspected spinal injury is present?**
- A. Move the animal gently to a more comfortable position without stabilizing the head.**
  - B. Minimize movement, stabilize the head and neck, and transport with rigid support.**
  - C. Massage the spine to check mobility.**
  - D. Allow the animal to lie where it is and do nothing.**
- 8. What should you do if you are unsure whether a pet is breathing?**
- A. Check for breathing for no more than 10 seconds; if unsure, assume not breathing and begin CPR per guidelines.**
  - B. Check for breathing for 60 seconds before deciding.**
  - C. Wait for the animal to show obvious breathing again before acting.**
  - D. Listen for breaths with a stethoscope for 20 seconds.**
- 9. Which color indicates carbon monoxide poisoning?**
- A. Pink**
  - B. Blue**
  - C. Cherry red**
  - D. Yellow**
- 10. Why is it important to store and label first aid supplies properly?**
- A. To protect the supplies from pets.**
  - B. To make inventory easier for staff only.**
  - C. To ensure equipment is sterile, readily available, and suitable for use in an emergency.**
  - D. To reduce the cost of supplies.**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which statement best describes metabolic bone disease?**

- A. It results from not enough vitamin D or calcium**
- B. It results from overuse of calcium**
- C. It is caused by lack of exercise**
- D. It affects only pets with no access to sunlight**

Metabolic bone disease in cats and dogs is a nutritional problem where bones don't mineralize properly because the body doesn't have enough calcium or the vitamin D needed to absorb it. Vitamin D helps the gut take up calcium, and calcium is the mineral bones need to harden and stay strong. When either is insufficient, bones remain soft and weak, leading to deformities and fractures. That's why the description that it results from not enough vitamin D or calcium is the best fit. This isn't caused by taking in too much calcium, and it isn't simply due to not exercising. It also isn't limited to pets with no sunlight— vitamin D can come from the diet as well, and indoor pets can still develop MBD if their diet is deficient or imbalanced.

**2. When managing a seizure in a dog or cat while awaiting veterinary help, which action is recommended?**

- A. Keep the animal safe from injury, do not restrain movement, time the seizure, and call for veterinary assistance**
- B. Restrain the movement**
- C. Place an object in the mouth**
- D. Allow the animal to run around**

During a seizure, the priority is safety and getting professional help. Keep the dog or cat away from hard objects and sharp edges, and cushion the head if you can, but do not try to restrain their movements—the thrashing can injure both you and them. Timing the seizure is important because the duration helps the vet assess severity and decide what to do next. Call for veterinary assistance right away so they can guide you and provide necessary care on arrival. Avoid placing anything in the mouth and don't let the animal wander into dangerous areas. After the seizure ends, check their breathing and airway, and bring them to a safe, quiet place.

**3. How should you perform compressions on flat-chested dogs?**

- A. Compress along the spine**
- B. Roll them on their back and compress the center of the chest**
- C. Roll them on their side and compress the outer ribs**
- D. Compress only with the head raised**

The essential idea is to pump blood by squeezing the chest so the heart is compressed effectively. For flat-chested dogs, roll the dog onto its side and press the chest wall over the widest part of the chest, which corresponds to the area near the ribs. This side-lying position gives access to the chest wall so you can compress the heart between the sternum and the spine. Press the chest wall firmly and evenly, not along the spine, and avoid keeping the dog on its back or changing head position as a substitute for proper chest compressions. The goal is continuous, steady compressions that compress the heart through the chest wall.

#### 4. After removing a tick, what should you do with the ticks?

- A. Keep ticks for identification later
- B. Release ticks into the environment
- C. Kill ticks**
- D. Store ticks for later

After a tick is removed, the next step is to dispose of it in a way that prevents any risk of infection. Ticks can carry diseases, so leaving the tick around or letting it go back into the environment could allow another bite or the spread of pathogens. The safest approach is to kill the tick and dispose of it—e.g., drop it into a small container of rubbing alcohol or flush it down the toilet—so it cannot bite again. Avoid crushing the tick on the skin, and wash your hands afterward.

#### 5. Which common plant is poisonous to cats?

- A. Aloe Vera
- B. Lillies**
- C. Daisies
- D. Tulips

Lilies are highly toxic to cats. Ingesting any part of a lily—petals, leaves, stem, pollen, or even water from a vase—can trigger acute kidney injury. Cats can seem normal at first, but symptoms like vomiting, drooling, lack of appetite, and then reduced or no urine production can develop quickly as kidneys fail. Because the damage can escalate rapidly, urgent veterinary care is essential, ideally soon after exposure. Treatment focuses on removing the toxin if possible and starting aggressive IV fluids to flush the kidneys and support function, often for several days. The sooner this starts, the better the chance of recovery. Other common plants listed may cause mild GI upset or discomfort, but they do not carry the same severe, rapid risk to a cat's kidneys as lilies.

#### 6. If you are unsure about giving a medicine to a pet, what should you do?

- A. Seek veterinary guidance before giving any medicine.**
- B. Do not administer; consult a veterinarian.
- C. Guess dosing using owner intuition.
- D. Administer vitamins.

When you're unsure about giving any medicine to a pet, seek veterinary guidance before proceeding. This is crucial because drugs don't affect animals the same way they do humans, and the correct dose depends on factors like species, weight, age, and health. Giving the wrong medicine or the wrong dose can be harmful or life-threatening. A veterinarian can confirm whether a medicine is appropriate, provide the exact dose and how to administer it, check for interactions with other medications or conditions, and tell you what to monitor. If in doubt or if the situation is urgent, contact a veterinarian rather than guessing or using vitamins or other non-prescribed substances.

**7. Which action is most appropriate when a suspected spinal injury is present?**

- A. Move the animal gently to a more comfortable position without stabilizing the head.**
- B. Minimize movement, stabilize the head and neck, and transport with rigid support.**
- C. Massage the spine to check mobility.**
- D. Allow the animal to lie where it is and do nothing.**

When a spinal injury is suspected, the priority is to prevent any movement of the spine to avoid further damage to the spinal cord. The best action is to minimize movement, keep the head and neck in a stable, straight line, and transport the animal with rigid support so the spine remains aligned and does not bend or twist during movement. Stabilizing the head and neck helps prevent additional injury to the spinal cord, while moving the animal without this stabilization can worsen damage. Massaging the spine is not appropriate and could cause harm, and simply leaving the animal where it lies allows continued movement and potential deterioration.

**8. What should you do if you are unsure whether a pet is breathing?**

- A. Check for breathing for no more than 10 seconds; if unsure, assume not breathing and begin CPR per guidelines.**
- B. Check for breathing for 60 seconds before deciding.**
- C. Wait for the animal to show obvious breathing again before acting.**
- D. Listen for breaths with a stethoscope for 20 seconds.**

In an emergency, treat uncertainty about breathing as a potential sign of arrest and act quickly. Do a rapid breathing check for no more than 10 seconds—look for chest movements, listen for breath, and feel for air if you can. If you're unsure whether the pet is breathing, begin CPR right away according to your training. Delaying to confirm breathing can waste crucial seconds and lower the chances of survival. If you determine the animal is breathing, monitor and call for help instead of continuing CPR. The other options require longer checks, waiting for obvious breathing, or using equipment that's not practical in an emergency, all of which can delay life-saving action.

## 9. Which color indicates carbon monoxide poisoning?

- A. Pink
- B. Blue
- C. Cherry red**
- D. Yellow

Cherry red is the telltale color in carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide binds tightly to hemoglobin to form carboxyhemoglobin, which gives blood a bright red color. This reddening can be seen on the skin and mucous membranes (like gums and lips) and is classically described as cherry red. Blue would indicate cyanosis from inadequate oxygen delivery, which isn't the typical color sign for CO poisoning, and yellow isn't associated with this condition. Pink can be related to a lighter red hue, but cherry red is the classic indicator clinicians look for. If you suspect CO poisoning, it's an emergency and requires removing the animal from exposure and seeking veterinary care promptly.

## 10. Why is it important to store and label first aid supplies properly?

- A. To protect the supplies from pets.
- B. To make inventory easier for staff only.
- C. To ensure equipment is sterile, readily available, and suitable for use in an emergency.**
- D. To reduce the cost of supplies.

Having well-stored and clearly labeled first aid supplies keeps them sterile, ready to grab, and appropriate for emergencies. When items are kept in their proper containers, with current dates and contents visible, you can quickly identify what you need, avoid using expired or compromised materials, and use them correctly in a stressful situation. Clear labeling also reduces delays—staff or pet owners can locate dressings, antiseptics, or protective gear at a glance and follow any storage instructions, which helps maintain sterility and effectiveness. Regular checks for expiry and damage become easier, so the kit stays reliable over time. While keeping supplies away from pets or making inventory easier can be useful, the primary safety and effectiveness benefit comes from having sterile, accessible, and suitable equipment ready for immediate use in an emergency.

## 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://vetskillvl2awardfirstaidforcatsdogs.examzify.com>**

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

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