

CANDIDATE PREPARATION INFORMATION **2017 ACVIM GENERAL EXAMINATION**

This information is to help you prepare for the General Examination. Included are:

- Examination Schedule (date, time, location)
- Examination Check-in Information
- Examination Content
- Examination Scoring
- Use of Foreign Language (Translational) Dictionaries
- ADA Request for Special Accommodation
- Examination Preparation (including suggested reading list & question distribution)

SCHEDULE OF THE EXAMINATION: *All room assignment's are subject to change.*

| DAY | SECTION | ROOM/LOCATION | TIME |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Tuesday, June 6, 2017 | General - General | Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center National Harbor, MD Room: Riverview Ballroom | 8:30 am - 12:15 pm (3.5 hours duration) |
| | General – Small Animal | Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center National Harbor, MD Room: Riverview Ballroom | 1:30 pm - 5:15 pm (3.5 hours duration) |
| | General – Large Animal | Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center National Harbor, MD Room: Riverview Ballroom | 1:30 pm - 5:15 pm (3.5 hours duration) |

NOTE: *Due to the nature of this examination, each section will be administered at the posted time and place ONLY. The examination administrators will do everything possible to ensure that a candidate is taking the correct section(s) of the exam, but ultimately it is the candidate's responsibility to report to the appropriate session(s) to take this examination. No make-up examinations or examinations at other sites will be considered.*

EXAMINATION CHECK-IN INFORMATION:

Cell phones and cameras will not be allowed in the examination rooms. If you do bring them in, they must be turned off and placed at designated location away from the exam tables, as directed by the College staff and/or examination proctors. Such storage will be done at your own risk.

There are three mandatory requirements in place for candidates sitting any ACVIM examination:

- 1). All candidates must show a **picture ID** during check in
- 2). All candidates must show **proof of payment in the form of an ACVIM receipt** during check in. *(If you have lost or misplaced your receipt, please visit your candidate dashboard, click the transaction history link then reprint the applicable receipt (paid invoice))*
- 3). All candidates must bring your **own computer or prearrange a rental** (See FAQ document for details on rentals).



Check-in will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 am and the exam will start at 8:30 am. The check in process will be different in the past allow additional time to find your seat and set up your computer and connect to a power source.

- ✓ Have your picture ID, proof of payment (receipt) and computer easily accessible once you find your assigned seat.
- ✓ Your ID and receipt will be verified at your seat by ACVIM staff or an exam proctor.
- ✓ Once you are set up and have checked in you are free to leave the exam room until closer to the start of the exam at 8:30 am.
- ✓ The confidentiality statement will be at your seat when you arrive and will need to be given to an exam proctor while checking out after you complete the first section of the exam you are taking.
- ✓ With the new exam process you are HIGHLY encouraged to provide feedback by using the provided comment sheet
- ✓ Be prepared to store your personal belonging (i.e. bags/backpacks) along the walls of the room. ALL NECESSARY SUPPLIES (i.e. pencils, scratch paper, requested dictionaries, etc) WILL BE SUPPLIED

***NOTE: you will be required to show your signed receipt to reenter the room for the afternoon sessions, so please keep it with you when breaking for lunch ***

EXAMINATION CONTENT:

The General Examination consists of two sections: general and species-specific. A total of 3.5 hours has been allotted for the completion of EACH section, each containing 100 questions in multiple choice format with one correct answer and three incorrect distractors. The general section covers information common to all species including physiology, pharmacology and disease-related information (e.g. pathophysiology, clinical pathology, diagnosis and treatment). The species-specific section consists of questions, which pertain specifically to information covered during your residency training program (either small or large animal focus). Please see the enclosed examination blueprint, which details the question distribution. The attached reference list is meant to guide you, not restrict you, in selecting your study materials. Examination questions are referenced from this list.

Candidates taking the examination for the first time are expected to take both sections (general and species-specific). Candidates who have successfully completed one section of the examination are required to re-take only the section they still need to pass. Candidates who have not successfully completed either section of the examination must take both sections (general and species-specific).

EXAMINATION SCORING:

Candidates must pass both sections (general and species-specific) of the General Examination. Pass points are determined based on the minimal level of competence, as determined by a committee of ACVIM Diplomates rating the examination, not on the basis of the curve of the candidates' performance.



USE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE (TRANSLATIONAL) DICTIONARIES:

Candidates with English as a second language are permitted to use a foreign language (translational) dictionary during the examination provided that they request this by filling out the dictionary request form at the time that they submit their exam registration documents (February 1). They will then be contacted by the ACVIM staff to arrange for an appropriate dictionary to be purchased for use in the examination on their behalf. The dictionary will be made available for them to use during the examination in June, and must be returned to the examination proctors at the conclusion of each test subsection. Candidates must refrain from writing in these dictionaries; hand-written notes may be considered as evidence of cheating and may be grounds for dismissal from the remaining sections of the examination.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS FOR THE ACVIM GENERAL EXAMINATION

The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment Act of 2008 (the “ADA”). You must complete the ADA Request form and return it with your examination registration form by the registration deadline. If accommodation(s) is (are) not requested in advance, ACVIM cannot guarantee the availability of accommodation(s) on-site. It is critical that the contact information you provide is current and, if there are any changes in contact information after registering for the examination, that you make ACVIM aware of those changes.

EXAMINATION PREPARATION:

The examination committee has the prerogative to change the examination to any degree that is appropriate, from no changes to a complete replacement of the examination. In a typical year the examination will change by approximately 25 - 30%.

The examination is based upon information taken from medical/veterinary physiology texts and current veterinary literature. Candidates are advised to prepare by a systematic review of recent textbooks and selected journals (please note the attached reference list). **We cannot define conclusively the body of knowledge necessary to pass this examination.** The following list is **only a guideline** of sources we believe will be most beneficial. Examination questions are referenced from this list. Please also note that the information in these sources may overlap.

Suggested Reference List for the 2017 ACVIM General Examination

**This list is complete and updated. There have been changes made from previous years so please read this list in its entirety.*

Sources for all candidates:

Textbook of Medical Physiology: Guyton and Hall, 13th ed (2016)
Textbook of Veterinary Immunology: Tizard, 9th edition (2013)
Veterinary Drug Handbook: Plumb, 8th ed (2015)
Respiratory Physiology: The Essentials: West, 10th edition (2015)

Veterinary Clinical Epidemiology: Smith, 3rd edition (2005)
 Duncan and Prasse's Veterinary Laboratory Medicine: Clinical Pathology: Latimer, 5th edition (2011)
 Small Animal Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics: Boothe, 2nd edition (2012) Chapter One
 ONLY: Principles of Drug Therapy (although this is a small animal text, chapter one covers
 basic pharmacological principals with which all candidates should be familiar)
 Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine Review Articles and ACVIM Consensus statements ONLY:
 2011-2016

Sources for Small Animal Candidates:

Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine: Ettinger and Feldman, 7th edition (2010)
 Canine and Feline Infectious Diseases: Sykes, 1st edition (2014)
 Small Animal Clinical Oncology: Vail and Withrow, 5th edition (2013) Chapters eleven and eighteen
 through thirty-three ONLY

Sources for Large Animal Internal Medicine Candidates:

Veterinary Medicine: A textbook of the diseases of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, and goats: Radostits,
 Gay, Hinchcliff, and Constable, 10th edition (2007)
 Large Animal Internal Medicine: Smith, 5th edition (2015)
 Equine Internal Medicine: Reed, Bayly and Sellon, 3rd edition (2010)

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTION TOPIC DISTRIBUTION (APPROXIMATE);
 percentage of items across the major content domains

Every effort will be made to ensure the following percentages remain accurate, however, due to item
 performance, some slight fluctuation may be necessary in the final scoring of the exam.

Percentage of Questions/Exam Portion

| | General | Small Animal | Large Animal |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cardiology | 7-9% | 7-9% | 3-5% |
| Clinical Pathology | 5-7% | 2-4% | 3-5% |
| Dermatology | 0-2% | 1-3% | 1-3% |
| Endocrine | 5-7% | 9-11% | 3-5% |
| Epidemiology/Biostatistics | 2-4% | 0-2% | 1-3% |
| Gastrointestinal | 9-11% | 9-11% | 9-11% |
| Hematology | 6-8% | 5-7% | 5-7% |
| Immunology | 7-9% | 7-9% | 3-5% |
| Infectious Disease | 9-11% | 7-9% | 13-15% |
| Nephrology | 7-9% | 7-9% | 5-7% |
| Neurology | 7-9% | 7-9% | 9-11% |
| Nutrition/Metabolism | 7-9% | 5-7% | 7-9% |
| Oncology | 1-3% | 7-9% | 1-3% |
| Pharmacology | 4-6% | 3-5% | 3-5% |



| | | | |
|--------------|------|------|--------|
| Reproduction | 0-2% | 0-2% | 1-3% |
| Respiratory | 7-9% | 5-7% | 11-13% |
| Toxicology | 2-4% | 3-5% | 5-7% |

Estimated percentage of questions per system/sphere of knowledge

2016/2017 GENERAL EXAM COMMITTEE:

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Dr. Susan White

~ Good Luck! See you in June.