



Examination Procedures and Policies

The examination aims to evaluate the clinical behavioural and basic ethological knowledge of the candidates obtained during the residency training or alternative training programme. Prior to being allowed to sit the examination, candidates must complete an accredited residency or an alternative programme accepted by the Education and Residency Committee. All Candidates must have their credentials accepted by the Credentials Committee, together with a case log and evidence of 2 accepted peer reviewed scientific publications, one of which has to be an original research paper, one may be a case report.

The examination consists of 4 parts: three written portions and an oral part.

1. Two multiple choice sections

Paper duration for the two sections is 4 hours for 150 questions each.

Questions may consist of a question stem and five possible answers, of which only one is correct or wrong; with few exceptions, these questions are worth one point. We may occasionally use questions with 4 possible answers, any of which may be correct, extended matching questions and assertion reason questions. These questions are typically worth 2 points. Areas examined in the two multiple choice sections include (section 1) Ontogenic, phylogenetic adaptive and mechanistic basis to behaviour, and (section 2) Species typical behaviour and behaviour problems.

2. Written case-based paper

Paper duration is 4 hours for questions worth 150 points.

This section consists of case histories, followed by questions related to (1) history taking, differential diagnosis and diagnostic plan and (2) treatment of these cases.

3. Critique of a study or published paper and discussion of current issues. Duration is 4 hours and worth 150 points.

The candidate has to achieve a minimum of 70% on each of the four sections. If the candidate fails one section but has an overall score of 70%, the failed section alone can be rewritten in the next year's examination. The candidate must pass the written portion of the examination before the clinical portion can be taken.

4. Two clinical/oral examinations

This section of the exam may be taken at a different location at a time to be determined by the examination committee. The candidate will perform and record behaviour consults on two different species of their choice (cats, dogs, pet birds small mammals, horses, and others as deemed appropriate by the examination committee) under the supervision of a Diplomate, including the candidate's mentor or other professional appointed by the exam committee. The performance of the candidate will be evaluated off the recording independently by three different diplomates. Although a consultation in English is preferred, for this section of the examination, the behaviour consultation can take place in the native

language of the candidate and behaviour client. The candidate will be required to answer questions about the consultation, using written resources only. Each consult needs to receive a passing grade from the three diplomates. If the candidate does not pass one or both of the clinical consults, they will have to resubmit the failed cases to pass the exam, but will not have to repeat the written portion of the exam.

Please note that the videotape recordings must be brought by the candidate and submitted on the date of the written examination. If the candidate does not pass the examination the recordings will not be evaluated and can be used by the candidate when rewriting the examination (or new videotapes can be provided if the candidate prefers).