CVMA VETERINARY ASSISTING ACT PRACTICE EXAM (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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. Which cat breed is typically known for lacking a tail?

A. Maine Coon

B. Manx

C. Abyssinian

D. Scottish Fold

2. What foods are recommended when hiding oral medication?

A. Canned food, cheese, and peanut butter.

B. Canned food, peanut butter and deli ham.

C. Peanut butter, cheese and chocolate.

D. None of the above.

3. Which terrier breed is noted for not making a good swimmer due to short legs?

A. Fox Terrier

B. Jack Russell Terrier

C. Scottish Terrier

D. Bull Terrier

4. Which cat breed is known for lacking a tail?

A. Abyssinian

B. Scottish Fold

C. Manx

D. Maine Coon

5. Which device measures blood oxygenation?

A. Pulse oximeter

B. Sphygmomanometer

C. Thermometer

D. Stethoscope

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6. When using the microscope, we need to look for eggs in the feces rather than the adults.

A. Eggs

B. Adults

C. Larvae

D. Oocysts

7. Which of the following is monitored to assess readiness for endotracheal tube removal?

A. Watch for jaw tone and swallowing

B. Leave the animal in lateral recumbency

C. Partially deflate the cuff and untie the tube

D. All of the above

8. Which of the following is an example of a word terminal?

A. Suffix

B. -ology

C. Pre- or Post-

D. -ic or -ia

9. In the alert position, the ears are pulled forward, causing the skin on the head to wrinkle. Which positional term is this?

A. Calm

B. Neutral

C. Alert

D. Aggressive

10. Which term describes a short, broad skull shape seen in some dogs?

A. Dolichocephalic

B. Mesaticephalic

C. Xenarthic

D. Brachycephalic

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which cat breed is typically known for lacking a tail?

A. Maine Coon

B. Manx

C. Abyssinian

D. Scottish Fold

Tail variation in cats reflects genetics, and the trait most people associate with a specific breed is taillessness. The Manx is famous for lacking a tail due to a mutation that alters tail development, resulting in either no tail or a very short stump. This distinctive feature defines the breed and is the trait you'd most expect to see when asked about a tailless cat. Other breeds listed have tails: the Maine Coon with a long, bushy tail; the Abyssinian with a normal tail; and the Scottish Fold, while known for its folded ears, typically has a normal tail length. So the tailless Manx is the best answer.

2. What foods are recommended when hiding oral medication?

A. Canned food, cheese, and peanut butter.

B. Canned food, peanut butter and deli ham.

C. Peanut butter, cheese and chocolate.

D. None of the above.

When giving oral meds, the goal is to mask the taste and provide a texture that makes the pill easy to swallow. Canned food, cheese, and peanut butter are commonly recommended because they're tasty and sticky, which helps trap or coat the pill so the pet swallows it rather than spitting it out. Canned food gives a moist, soft base to cradle the pill; cheese adds a strong flavor and another sticky layer; peanut butter is especially effective due to its thick, sticky texture and palatability, helping the medication disappear from the taste buds. Just be sure the peanut butter does not contain xylitol, and always ensure the entire dose is eaten. Avoid chocolate, which is toxic to dogs, and deli ham, which is high in salt and fat and not ideal for medicating.

3. Which terrier breed is noted for not making a good swimmer due to short legs?

A. Fox Terrier

B. Jack Russell Terrier

C. Scottish Terrier

D. Bull Terrier

In swimming, the length of the limbs and the body's proportions influence how effectively a dog can propel itself. Longer legs allow longer, more efficient strokes, helping a dog stay afloat and move through water with less effort. A Scottish Terrier has very short legs relative to its long body, which means shorter propulsive strokes and more effort required to move in water. Add a dense, wiry coat that can become heavy when wet, and that drag plus extra weight makes swimming even more challenging. That combination makes them less able swimmers compared to breeds with longer legs. The other terrier breeds listed typically have longer, more athletic legs that enable stronger propulsion in water, so they're generally less suited to being singled out as poor swimmers for this particular reason.

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4. Which cat breed is known for lacking a tail?

A. Abyssinian

B. Scottish Fold

C. Manx

D. Maine Coon

Taillessness in cats is most famously associated with the Manx, a breed from the Isle of Man. This trait comes from a natural genetic mutation that disrupts tail development, so many Manx cats are born without a tail or with only a small stump. There are variations within the breed, such as rumpy (no tail), stumpy (short tail), or longer tails, but none have a full-length tail like the others listed. Abyssinians and Maine Coons have long, full tails, and Scottish Fold cats may have folded ears but typically retain a tail. So the breed known for lacking a tail is the Manx.

5. Which device measures blood oxygenation?

A. Pulse oximeter

B. Sphygmomanometer

C. Thermometer

D. Stethoscope

Measuring how much oxygen is binding to hemoglobin in the blood is done with a pulse oximeter. This small, noninvasive device uses light—typically red and infrared—passed through tissue such as a paw or ear to estimate the proportion of hemoglobin carrying oxygen. By comparing how much light is absorbed by oxygenated versus deoxygenated hemoglobin, it provides an oxygen saturation percentage (SpO2) and often a pulse rate. This quick reading makes it ideal for continuous monitoring during anesthesia, respiratory distress, or any situation where oxygenation needs to be tracked. Other tools have different roles: a sphygmomanometer checks blood pressure, a thermometer measures body temperature, and a stethoscope is used to listen to heart and lung sounds. None of these directly quantify how well blood is oxygenated.

6. When using the microscope, we need to look for eggs in the feces rather than the adults.

A. Eggs

B. Adults

C. Larvae

D. Oocysts

In fecal parasite exams, the stage you look for in the sample is the egg because many intestinal parasites shed eggs into the feces, while adults stay in the GI tract and aren't typically present in the stool. Eggs are excreted in large numbers and can be concentrated and visualized with standard techniques like flotation, making them the most reliable indicator of infection on routine microscope slides. Some parasites may shed larvae or oocysts instead, but those require different methods or specific stains, whereas eggs are the common target for ordinary fecal microscopy.

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7. Which of the following is monitored to assess readiness for endotracheal tube removal?

A. Watch for jaw tone and swallowing

B. Leave the animal in lateral recumbency

C. Partially deflate the cuff and untie the tube

D. All of the above

Assessing readiness for extubation centers on confirming the patient can protect the airway, breathe adequately, and remain patent after the tube is removed. Watching jaw tone and swallowing shows that the animal has regained consciousness and protective reflexes, which are essential to prevent aspiration once the tube is out. Seeing the patient in the recovery position, such as lateral recumbency, helps you verify that airway patency and breathing are stable in a practical post-anesthesia posture. Partially deflating the cuff and loosening the securing ties allows you to assess for a safe air leak around the tube and ensures the tube can be removed smoothly without forcing ventilation. Taken together, these steps provide a comprehensive assessment of whether extubation can be done safely, so all of these monitoring actions are appropriate.

8. Which of the following is an example of a word terminal?

A. Suffix

B. -ology

C. Pre- or Post-

D. -ic or -ia

A word terminal is the ending that sits at the end of a word, a suffix that closes the base and changes its meaning or part of speech. The ending -ic or -ia is a clear, general example: these terminations consistently appear at the end of many terms to form adjectives or nouns (for instance, hepatic means pertaining to the liver, or a term like dermatitis that ends with -itis rather than -ia, but many others end in -ic or -ia). This makes them true, concrete word endings you can recognize across many vocabulary items. In contrast, prefixes like pre- or post- attach to the beginning, not the end, and -ology, while also a suffix, typically denotes a specific field of study rather than illustrating the basic idea of a common word-ending.

9. In the alert position, the ears are pulled forward, causing the skin on the head to wrinkle. Which positional term is this?

A. Calm

B. Neutral

C. Alert

D. Aggressive

When an animal is alert, its sensory attention is sharpened and it is ready to respond to what it hears or sees. Ears pulled forward help collect sounds from in front, and the skin on the head may wrinkle as the brow tightens during focus. This combination communicates readiness and attentiveness without necessarily preparing for a threat. It's different from calm, where the body is relaxed with soft facial features and ears in a neutral position; and from neutral, which shows steadiness without heightened focus. Aggressive behavior would bring a different set of cues—more overt threat signals such as a stiff, ready stance with potential growling or showing of teeth—rather than the focused, attentive pose described here.

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10. Which term describes a short, broad skull shape seen in some dogs?

A. Dolichocephalic

B. Mesaticephalic

C. Xenarthic

D. Brachycephalic

A short, broad skull in dogs is described as brachycephalic. This term classifies breeds whose skulls are compact and wide from side to side, often with a shortened muzzle. It's the opposite of dolichocephalic, which refers to long, narrow skulls like those of greyhounds, and mesaticephalic, which describes average, medium proportions as seen in many mixed-breed and non-extreme purebreds. Xenarthic isn't used to describe canine skull shape. Brachycephalic breeds include bulldogs, pugs, Pekingese, and similar dogs, which helps explain why this option is correct.

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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:

https://cvmavetassistingact.examzify.com

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

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