

Scope of the ACVP Certifying Examination (Phase II) – Clinical Pathology

“What a board-certified clinical pathologist should know, recognize and be able to do”

1. Identify, describe and interpret microscopic lesions in domestic and non-domestic animals
 - Includes inflammatory, neoplastic and other disorders that cause abnormalities in blood, bone marrow, fluid and tissue (cytology and histology) specimens.
2. Recognize and interpret visual test results pertinent to veterinary clinical pathology
 - Includes hematology cytograms, flow cytometry plots, coagulation tracings, macroscopic hematology test results (eg. Coombs tests), special and immunochemical stains, electron micrographs, method comparison charts, quality assurance and quality control data.
3. Interpret clinic-pathologic data from domestic and non-domestic animals
 - Know the cause(s) of laboratory abnormalities
 - Integrate laboratory abnormalities into a diagnosis (or differential diagnoses)
 - Know appropriate ancillary tests to further refine definitive or differential diagnoses
4. Understand the pathophysiology, behavior and diagnosis of disease in animals
 - Includes inflammatory, neoplastic and metabolic disorders that can be recognized and diagnosed with clinico-pathologic testing
 - Requires familiarity with core concepts and current literature
 - Requires the ability to integrate test results (microscopic, hematologic, biochemical, etc.) and clinical information as appropriate
5. Understand the principles of commonly used laboratory equipment and methods
 - Sample types and collection methods
 - Analyzer and test methodologies
 - Microscope principles and operation
 - Routine, special and immunochemical stains
6. Understand fundamental principles of laboratory medicine
 - Test properties (sensitivity, specificity, predictive values, ROC...) and selection
 - Quality assurance and quality control
 - Reference interval determination
 - Errors and interferences (including pre-analytical, analytic and post-analytical errors)

Reference

The 2008 ACVP Role Delineation Survey and Initial Data Analysis, *Vet Pathol* 2009;46:567-575

Feb. 16, 2016 – Certifying Examination Redesign Committee