



American College of Veterinary Behaviorists
Outline for ACVB Examination
2024

The purpose of the ACVB Board Examination is to assess the Candidate's knowledge of areas related to the practice of Veterinary Behavior. It consists of multiple-choice questions (300 points), evaluation of a scientific article (25 points), species-based case evaluations (25 points per case; 4 cases) and short answer/essay questions (50 points), for a total of 475 points. The Examination is conducted over a one-and-a-half-day period (Saturday AM and PM; Sunday PM).

Point distribution of the examination *roughly* follows the Role Delineation Document (RDD) Tasks (see below). The RDD should be taken as an *approximation* of the point distribution on the examination only. Also remember that the points allocated for the scientific article, case reports and short answer questions will also be based on the percentages from the RDD so that the total percentages of the RDD will be based on all points comprising the exam.

- Task 1 History and ethology = 7%
- Task 2 Behavioral biology = 8%
- Task 3 Pharmacology = 14%
- Task 4 Learning and cognition = 12%
- Task 5 General medicine and diagnostic evaluation = 10%
- Task 6 Clinical animal behavior problems = 19%
- Task 7 Research and statistics = 7%
- Task 8 Animal welfare = 7%
- Task 9 ACVB Diplomate's role in the veterinary profession = 4%
- Task 10 Species-specific topics = 7%
- Task 11 Emerging topics in animal behavior = 5%

Day 1

PART I. 150 Points

This section consists of **four, species-based cases (canine, feline, equine, avian/psittacine) each worth 25 points** and a series of **short answer/essay questions worth a total of 50 points**.

- The purpose of the species-based cases is to assess the Candidate's clinical knowledge and clinical problem-solving ability. ALL candidates will be presented with four cases with associated question sets, one for each of the following species: canine, feline, equine, avian/psittacine. The total value of this section is 100 points.
- The goals of the short answer/essay questions include assessing the Candidate's clinical knowledge of and allowing the Candidate to express his or her thought process on a variety of topics that are best evaluated through a short answer/essay format. Questions in this section vary in point value from 1 to 5 points. The total value of this section is 50 points. Examples for the types of short answer questions that may be included in this section *include, but are not limited to*:
 - Body language evaluation
 - Welfare assessment

- Clinical case assessments for other species including, but not eliminated to production animal, laboratory animal, exotic pets, etc.

Candidates should be prepared to begin PART I at 8:00 AM. There will be four hours allotted for completion of PART I.

PART II. 200 Points

This section consists of **200 multiple choice questions (1 point per question; 200 points)**. **These questions may cover any or all of the topics listed above on the RDD.**

Candidates should be prepared to begin PART II at 1:00 PM. There will be four hours allotted for completion of PART II.

Day 2

PART III. 125 Points

This section consists of **100 multiple choice questions (1 point per question; 100 points)** and a **scientific article evaluation worth 25 points**.

- The multiple choice questions may cover any or all of the topics listed above on the RDD. The total value of the multiple-choice questions are 100 points.
- The scientific article evaluation assesses the Candidate's ability to critically evaluate one article from the scientific literature. A scientific article will be provided for evaluation requiring knowledge of the scientific method and basic statistics. The Candidate will be asked a series of short answer/essay questions pertaining to the article. The point value of the questions may vary with the total equaling 25 points.

Candidates should be prepared to begin PART III at 8:00 AM. There will be four hours allotted for completion of PART III.

SCORING: In order to pass the examination, the exam will be scored as one single exam rather than sections, and each candidate must receive a minimum score, defined by the Exam committee and Board of Regents, in order to pass. The passing score is based on previously determined difficulty ratings of the questions included in the Exam for a given year. Thus, the passing score may vary from year to year. Candidates that do not receive a passing score will be required to retake the entire examination.

Note: For the benefit of candidates whose first language is not English, the use of a proctor-approved English TRANSLATION dictionary (e.g., Spanish-English, English-Spanish) is permitted during the exam.