IV. READING LIST

The ACVB has developed the Suggested Reading List for individuals applying for membership to serve as a general reading list of behavioral information. Suggested readings are indicated by an asterisk (*). The intent of this more specific list is to help guide Candidates towards the more pertinent books that will assist them in preparing for the examination. This list is not intended to suggest that the Candidate should read **every** book on ethology or **every** book on learning theory, but rather to demonstrate the breadth and scope of Veterinary Behavior. Neither list should be construed as a commitment regarding specific examination material. For the purposes of studying for the ACVB examination, it is suggested that a Candidate review texts pertaining to general principles of behavior as well as species specific material, then use other books to fill in clinical information. Current texts in the fields of internal medicine, neurology, and neuroscience should also be reviewed with emphasis on Veterinary Behavior. More timely material, available in periodicals listed below, should be consulted as well. Refer to the general reading list for additional references. (Revised August 2025)

Learning Theory, Cognition

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Reisberg D	*Cognition: Exploring the Science of the Mind (8th edition)*	2021	
Schwartz B, Robbins SJ	*Psychology of Learning and Behavior (5th edition*)	2001	
Mazur J	*Learning and Behavior (9th edition)*	2023	*
Wasserman EA, Zentall TR (eds)	*Comparative Cognition: Experimental Explorations of Animal Intelligence*	2006	
McSweeney FK, Murphy ES ed.	*Handbook of Operant and Classical Conditioning*	2014	

Neurology/Neuroscience/Physiology/Endocrinology

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Bear MF, Connors B, Paradiso M, *et al*	*Neuroscience-Exploring the Brain (4th edition)*	2020	*
Carlson NR	*Physiology of Behavior (13th edition)*	2021	*
Kandel ER, Schwartz JH, Jessell TM	*Principles of Neural Science (6th edition)*	2021	
Lorenz MD, Kornegay JN	*Handbook of Veterinary Neurology (5th edition)*	2011	

Nelson, Kriegsfeld	*An Introduction to Behavioral Endocrinology(6th edition)*	2022	*
Nelson RJ	*Biology of Aggression*	2005	

Pharmacology

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Crowell-Davis SL, Murray T	*Veterinary Psychopharmacology (2nd edition)*	2019	*
Sadock, Kaplan HI, Sadock BJ	*Pocket Handbook of Psychiatric Drug Treatment (8th edition)*	2023	
Schatzberg AF, Nemeroff CB	*The American Psychiatric Publishing Textbook of Psychopharmacology (5th edition)*	2017	
Stahl SM	*Stahl's Essential Psychopharmacology: Neuroscientific Basis and Practical Applications (5th edition)*	2021	*
Stahl SM	*The Prescriber's Guide (7th edition) (8th edition publishing April 2024)*	2020	

Clinical Texts

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Horwitz D, Mills D, Heath S	*BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine (2nd edition)*	2010	
Horwitz D, Neilson J	*Blackwell's Five Minute Behavior Consult: Canine and Feline Behavior (2nd edition)*	2018	
Landsberg GM, Radosta, L, Ackerman L	*Behavior Problems of the Dog and Cat (4th edition)*	2024	
Overall KL	*Manual of Clinical Behavioral Medicine for Dogs and Cats*	2013	
Beaver BV	Equine behavioral medicine (1st edition)	2019	

Domestic Species-Specific Behavior

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Appleby M, Mench J, Hughes B	*Poultry Behaviour and Welfare*	2004	
Albright JL, Arave CW	*The Behaviour of Cattle*	1997	
Bradshaw JW	*The Behaviour of the Domestic Cat (2nd edition)*	2013	*
Coppinger R, Coppinger L	*Dogs: a Startling New Understanding of Canine Origin, Behavior and Evolution*	2002	
Broom DM, Fraser AF	*Domestic Animal Behaviour and Welfare (6th edition)*	2022	*
Houpt KA	*Domestic Animal Behavior for Veterinarians and Animal Scientists (6th edition)*	2018	*
Lindsay SR	*Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training; Volumes 1-3*	2000-2005	
McDonnell S	*The Equid Ethogram, a Practical Field Guide to Horse Behavior*	2003	*

SECTION IV. READING LIST

McGreevy P	*Equine Behavior: A Guide for Veterinarians and Equine Scientists (2nd edition)*	2012	*
Miklosi A	*Dog Behaviour, Evolution, and Cognition (2nd edition)*	2016	*
Scott FP, Fuller JL	*Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog*	1998 (Reprint of 1965)	
Serpell J	*The Domestic Dog: its Evolution, Behaviour, and Interactions with People (2nd edition)*	2017	*
Turner DC, Bateson P (eds)	*The Domestic Cat: The Biology of Its Behaviour (3rd edition)*	2014	*
Waring, George	*Horse Behavior (2nd edition)*	2007	

Lab/Zoo Animals/Exotic/Wild Animals

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Estes RD	*The Behavior Guide to African Mammals, Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, Primates, 20th Anniversary edition*	2012	*
Hosey G, Melfi V, and Pankhurst S	*Zoo Animals: behaviour, management, and welfare (2nd edition)*	2013	
Kleiman DG, Allen ME, Thompson KV, *et al* (eds)	*Wild Mammals in Captivity: Principles and Techniques (2nd edition)*	2012	
Luescher AU (ed)	*Manual of Parrot Behavior*	2006	*
Quesenberry K, Carpenter JW	*Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents: Clinical Medicine and Surgery (4th edition)*	2020	
Tynes V (ed)	*Behavior of Exotic Pets*	2010	*
Wolfensohn S, Honess P	*Handbook of Primate Husbandry and Welfare*	2008	

Ethology/Genetics

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Rubenstein (previously Alcock)	*Animal Behavior: An Evolutionary Approach (12th edition)*	2022	*
Grandin T	*Genetics and the Behavior of Domestic Animals (3rd edition)*	2022	
Wilson EO	*Sociobiology*: *The New Synthesis (25th anniversary edition)*	2000 (1975 reprint)	*

Statistics/Quantification of Behavior

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Bateson M, Martin P	*Measuring Behaviour: An Introductory Guide (4th edition)*	2021	
Dawkins MS	*Observing Animal Behaviour: Design and Analysis of Quantitative Data*	2007	
Montelpare WJ, Read E, McComber T, Mahar A, Ritchie K	*Applied Statistics in Healthcare Research*	2020	*

Animal Welfare

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Appleby MC, Hughes BO, Elson	*Animal Welfare (3rd edition)*	2018	
Broom DM, Fraser AF	*Domestic Animal Behavior and Welfare (6th edition)*	2022	*
Fraser D	*Understanding Animal Welfare: The Science in its Cultural Context*	2008	
Grandin T	*Improving Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach (3rd edition)*	2020	
Mason G, Rushen J (eds)	*Stereotypic Animal Behavior: Fundamentals and Applications to Welfare (2nd edition)*	2008	*
Mellor D, Patterson-Kane E, Stafford KJ	*The Sciences of Animal Welfare*	2009	
Moberg G, Mench JA	*The Biology of Animal Stress: Basic Principles and Implications for Animal Welfare*	2000	
Liss, Litwak, Tilford and Reinhardt	*Comfortable Quarters for Laboratory Animals (10th edition)*	2015	*

Reinhardt V	*Taking Better Care of Monkeys and Apes*	2008	*
Rochlitz I, Keyserlingk AG, Weary DM	*The Welfare of Cats*	2007	
Rodan I, Heath S	*Feline Behavioral Health and Welfare (1st edition)*	2015	*
Young RJ	*Environmental enrichment for captive animals*	2003	
Miller L, Zawistowski S, Editors	*Shelter Medicine for Veterinarians and Staff (2nd edition)*	2021	

Human-Animal Bond

AUTHOR/EDITOR	TITLE	YEAR	*
Fine AH, Mueller MK, Ng ZY, Beck AM, Peralta JM	*The Routledge International Handbook of Human-Animal Interactions and Anthrozoology*	2024	*

Other Suggested Readings

Candidates are expected to be familiar with the classic and current behavior literature from various journal sources. The list should not be considered all-inclusive. Candidates are encouraged to search other journals for current behavioral studies.

Animals
Animal Behaviour
Animal Cognition
Animal Welfare
Anthrozoos
Applied Animal Behaviour Science
BMC Veterinary research
Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science
Journal of Comparative Psychology
Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery
Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research
PlosOne
Veterinary Clinics of North America (recent behavior editions)
Veterinary Record