American College of Veterinary Behaviorists
Outline for ACVB Examination
2014

Day 1

PART I. 150 Points

The purpose of this part is to assess the candidate’s knowledge of areas relating to the practice of veterinary behavior. For example, questions on general medicine will pertain to disease processes that are particularly significant in behavioral practice. The sections of this part of the exam will consist of multiple-choice questions. Candidates should be prepared to begin PART I at 8:00 AM. There will be four hours allotted for completion of PART I.

A. Learning and Motivation; General and Comparative Cognition – 45 points
B. Neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurology – 20 points
C. Behavioral Pharmacology – 35 points
D. Behavioral Physiology/Endocrinology – 25 points
E. General Medicine and Diagnostic Techniques – 25 points

PART II. 150 Points

The purpose of this part is to assess the candidate’s clinical knowledge and clinical problem-solving ability. This part of the exam will consist of questions in essay, short answer questions, and multiple-choice formats. Six question sets will be offered, divided into the following major animal categories: cat, dog, horse, food animal, laboratory animal, and psittacine. Each animal category consists of 2 problems/cases with accompanying questions. Prior to taking the exam, each candidate will choose 3 preferred animal categories from the available 6. At the beginning of Part II of the exam, the candidate will receive all 3 sets of questions. A computer with word processing software will be provided for the candidate to compose his/her responses for this section. 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. 150 Points

The purpose of this part is to assess the candidate’s knowledge of species-specific behavior. Questions will pertain to species-specific normal behaviors, abnormal behaviors, and behaviors that are problems as perceived by owners, caregivers, or society. This part of the exam will consist of multiple-choice questions with emphasis on factual knowledge. Candidates should be prepared to being PART III at 8:00 AM. There will be four hours allotted for completion of PART III.

A. Dogs – 25 points
   Abnormal Behavior and Behavior Problems
   Behavioral Development
   Parental Behavior
   Reproductive Behavior
Social Structure and Communication
Other: eliminative, ingestive, comfort, care of body surfaces, and other maintenance behaviors

B. Cats – 25 points
Abnormal Behavior and Behavior Problems
Behavioral Development
Parental Behavior
Reproductive Behavior
Social Structure and Communication
Other: eliminative, ingestive, comfort, care of body surfaces, and other maintenance behaviors

C. Horses – 20 points
Abnormal Behavior and Behavior Problems
Behavioral Development
Parental Behavior
Reproductive Behavior
Social Structure and Communication
Other: eliminative, ingestive, comfort, care of body surfaces, and other maintenance behaviors

D. Domestic Ruminants (cattle, sheep, and goats) – 20 points
Abnormal Behavior and Behavior Problems
Behavioral Development
Parental Behavior
Reproductive Behavior
Social Structure and Communication
Other: eliminative, ingestive, comfort, care of body surfaces, and other maintenance behaviors

E. Llamas – 3 points

F. Pigs – 10 points
Abnormal Behavior and Behavior Problems
Behavioral Development
Parental Behavior
Reproductive Behavior
Social Structure and Communication
Other: eliminative, ingestive, comfort, care of body surfaces, and other maintenance behaviors

G. (INACTIVE CATEGORY) ***

H. Pet Birds – 12 points

I. Zoo Animals and Exotics – 10 points
   a. This section will contain questions on large and small animals, including species such as: bears, lions, antelope, reptiles, and hedgehogs.

J. Non-human primates – 10 points
K. Rodents – 5 points
   a. This section will include questions on species such as: rats, mice, guinea pigs, hamsters, and gerbils.

L. Rabbits – 5 points

M. Ferrets – 5 points

N. (INACTIVE CATEGORY) ***

PART IV. 150 Points

The purpose of this part of the examination is to assess each candidate’s knowledge of basic principles and concepts of animal behavior science AND to assess his/her 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 should be prepared to compose his/her written answers for the scientific literature evaluation on a computer, which will be provided. This part of the exam will be multiple-choice and short answer questions. Candidates should be prepared to begin PART IV at 1:00 PM. There will be four hours allotted for completion of PART IV.

A. Ethology, Sociobiology and Behavioral Ecology – 35 points
B. Behavioral Genetics – 10 points
C. Clinical Behavior Problems – 25 points
   a. This section focuses on clinical animal behavior, with an emphasis on behavior literature published over the past 10 years.
D. (INACTIVE CATEGORY) ***
E. Observational Methods and Basic Statistics – 15 points
F. Animal Welfare, management and housing – 30 points
   a. This section includes general concepts of animal welfare, as well as more specific questions regarding topics such as shelter animal behavior and poultry welfare.
G. Wild relatives of domestic animals and process of domestication – 5 points
H. Evaluation of Scientific Literature – 30 points
I. (INACTIVE CATEGORY) ***

SCORING: In order to pass the examination, each candidate must receive a score of 70% on all four parts of the examination and an overall score of 70% or more.

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.

*** The “inactive categories” are included in this outline because they correspond to groups of questions within our examination question database. These categories are not included in the point totals per section and should be disregarded by examinees.