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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

International Council For Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)

NAVLE

North American Veterinary Licensing Exam

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for International Council For Veterinary Assessment (ICVA) NAVLE , each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, NAVLE
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

A 6-year-old female spayed Labrador Retriever is presented for a 2-day history of vomiting and anorexia. Physical examination reveals tachycardia, weak peripheral pulses, and a painful, distended abdomen. A right lateral abdominal radiograph shows a markedly distended, gas-filled loop of small intestine with a characteristic 'double bubble' or 'two distinct populations of bowel' sign. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- ☒ **A** Linear foreign body obstruction
- ☐ **B** Gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV)
- ☐ **C** Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis
- ☐ **D** Mesenteric volvulus

ANSWER A

WHY The radiographic finding of two distinct populations of small bowel (one gas-filled and dilated proximally, the other gas- and fluid-filled distally) is the classic 'double bubble' sign of a linear foreign body obstruction in dogs. The plication and bunching of small intestine seen with linear foreign bodies (e.g., string, thread) creates this characteristic appearance. GDV would show a large, distended stomach with compartmentalization. Hemorrhagic gastroenteritis typically does not produce an obstructive pattern on radiographs. Mesenteric volvulus would show diffuse, severe small intestinal distension without the double bubble pattern.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

An 8-year-old male castrated Miniature Schnauzer is presented for evaluation of a new heart murmur. Auscultation reveals a grade 3/6 systolic murmur heard best over the left apical region. Thoracic radiographs show left atrial enlargement, pulmonary venous distension, and mild pulmonary edema. Which of the following is the most likely underlying cause of this dog's signs?

- ☐ A Pulmonic stenosis
- ☐ B Patent ductus arteriosus
- ☒ C Degenerative (myxomatous) mitral valve disease
- ☐ D Dilated cardiomyopathy

ANSWER C

WHY A left apical systolic murmur in a small-breed, middle-aged to older dog is the hallmark of degenerative mitral valve disease (DMVD), the most common acquired heart disease in dogs. Left apical murmurs localize to the mitral valve area (5th intercostal space, at the costochondral junction). The Miniature Schnauzer is a predisposed breed. The radiographic findings of left atrial enlargement, pulmonary venous distension, and pulmonary edema are consistent with the development of congestive heart failure secondary to DMVD. Pulmonic stenosis (a left basilar murmur) and patent ductus arteriosus (a continuous left cranial murmur, typically in young dogs) are congenital and do not match this presentation. Dilated cardiomyopathy is more common in large-breed dogs and typically presents with a soft systolic murmur, often with biventricular failure and generalized cardiomegaly.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

A 7-year-old Quarter Horse gelding used for barrel racing is presented for acute, severe lameness of the left forelimb after a workout. The horse is reluctant to bear weight, and physical examination reveals increased digital pulse amplitude, warmth over the dorsal hoof wall, and pain on hoof tester pressure over the toe. Perineural analgesia of the palmar digital nerves at the level of the proximal sesamoid bones resolves the lameness. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- ☐ A Navicular disease
- ☐ B Sole abscess
- ☒ C Laminitis
- ☐ D Fracture of the third metacarpal bone

ANSWER C

WHY The combination of acute severe lameness, increased digital pulses, hoof warmth, and pain on hoof tester pressure over the toe is classic for laminitis. Laminitis is common in barrel horses and other equids subjected to high-impact work, and it may occur idiopathically, secondarily to contralateral limb lameness (supporting-limb laminitis), or in association with systemic disease. Pain localized to the toe region and abolished by palmar digital nerve analgesia indicates pain within the hoof capsule, consistent with laminitis. A sole abscess would typically be more focal and often produce black or purulent material at the white line. Navicular disease usually produces chronic, gradually progressive lameness that improves with palmar digital analgesia but has a more insidious onset. A third metacarpal fracture would localize above the hoof and generally not be abolished by palmar digital nerve blocks alone.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

A 5-year-old female spayed domestic shorthair cat is presented for a 3-day history of stranguria, hematuria, and frequent small-volume urination. The cat is obese and strictly indoor. Abdominal palpation reveals a small, firm, thickened bladder. Urinalysis shows hematuria, pyuria, proteinuria, and a urine pH of 7.5, but no bacteria are seen on sediment examination. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- ☐ A Bacterial cystitis
- ☒ B Feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC)
- ☐ C Urolithiasis (struvite)
- ☐ D Bladder neoplasia (transitional cell carcinoma)

ANSWER B

WHY Feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC) is the most common cause of lower urinary tract signs in young to middle-aged cats. Clinical findings include hematuria, dysuria, stranguria, and pollakiuria with sterile inflammatory sediment. Obesity, indoor confinement, and stress are recognized risk factors. The absence of bacteriuria in the presence of inflammatory sediment is consistent with FIC rather than bacterial cystitis. Struvite urolithiasis would typically produce crystals on sediment and possibly visible stones on imaging, and urine pH in FIC is variable. Transitional cell carcinoma is uncommon in cats and usually occurs in older animals.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

A 10-year-old female spayed Poodle is presented for polyuria, polydipsia, polyphagia, and weight loss. Physical examination reveals a dull, unkempt haircoat and a palpable thyroid nodule. Serum biochemistry shows elevated alkaline phosphatase and mildly elevated alanine aminotransferase. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- ☐ A Hypothyroidism
- ☒ B Hyperthyroidism
- ☐ C Diabetes mellitus
- ☐ D Hypoadrenocorticism

ANSWER B

WHY While hyperthyroidism is far more common in cats than dogs, it does occur in dogs and is usually caused by a thyroid carcinoma. The classic clinical signs of hyperthyroidism (PU/PD, polyphagia, weight loss) combined with a palpable thyroid nodule (uncommon in feline hyperthyroidism where the glands are typically not palpable) are characteristic of canine hyperthyroidism due to thyroid neoplasia. Elevated liver enzymes are consistent with hyperthyroidism. Hypothyroidism in dogs causes lethargy, weight gain, alopecia, and bradycardia, the opposite of this presentation. Diabetes mellitus typically does not cause a palpable thyroid nodule. Hypoadrenocorticism would not present with these signs.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

A 2-year-old Holstein dairy cow is presented 6 hours after calving with a retained placenta. The cow is febrile (40.1°C/104.2°F), inappetent, and has a fetid, reddish-brown vulvar discharge. The veterinarian diagnoses acute postpartum metritis. Which of the following is the most appropriate antimicrobial choice for initial therapy in this case, considering both efficacy and food-safety regulatory considerations?

- ☐ A Enrofloxacin
- ☒ B Ceftiofur
- ☐ C Chloramphenicol
- ☐ D Gentamicin

ANSWER B

WHY Ceftiofur, a third-generation cephalosporin, is FDA-approved for treatment of acute postpartum metritis in dairy cattle and has a zero-day milk withdrawal when used according to label. It has excellent efficacy against the common uterine pathogens (*Escherichia coli*, *Trueperella pyogenes*, *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, anaerobic bacteria). Enrofloxacin is not FDA-approved for use in dairy cattle (extralabel use is prohibited in lactating dairy cows). Chloramphenicol is prohibited in food-producing animals. Gentamicin is not labeled for metritis and has prolonged tissue residues.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

An 11-year-old male castrated Yorkshire Terrier is presented for evaluation of a chronic, dry, honking cough that has worsened over the past 2 months. The dog is otherwise bright and alert, with normal appetite. Thoracic radiographs show a normal cardiac silhouette, no pulmonary infiltrates, and a mild bronchointerstitial pattern in the right middle lung lobe. The cough is easily elicited on tracheal palpation. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- ☐ A Congestive heart failure
- ☒ B Chronic bronchitis
- ☐ C Pneumonia
- ☐ D Pulmonary neoplasia

ANSWER B

WHY Chronic bronchitis in dogs is characterized by a chronic, non-productive cough lasting more than 2 months without an identifiable underlying cause. The honking or dry cough, inducibility on tracheal palpation, mild bronchointerstitial radiographic pattern, and absence of cardiac enlargement or pulmonary infiltrates support this diagnosis. Toy and small breeds such as the Yorkshire Terrier are commonly affected. Congestive heart failure would show cardiomegaly and pulmonary edema. Pneumonia would produce a more severe clinical picture with infiltrates and systemic signs. Pulmonary neoplasia usually occurs in older animals and shows a discrete mass on imaging.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

A 5-year-old male castrated German Shepherd Dog is presented for evaluation of progressive ataxia and weakness of all four limbs over the past 6 weeks. Neurologic examination reveals ambulatory tetraparesis with decreased proprioception in all limbs, normal cranial nerve function, and hyperreflexia in all limbs. There is no apparent pain on spinal palpation. Which of the following is the most likely anatomic diagnosis?

- ☒ **A** C1-C5 cervical myelopathy
- ☐ **B** C6-T2 cervical myelopathy
- ☐ **C** T3-L3 myelopathy
- ☐ **D** L4-S1 myelopathy

ANSWER A

WHY The neurologic findings of tetraparesis with decreased proprioception and hyperreflexia in all four limbs localize the lesion to the C1-C5 spinal cord segments (upper motor neuron signs to all limbs). The German Shepherd Dog is predisposed to degenerative conditions affecting this region, including cervical vertebral stenosis (wobbler syndrome) and degenerative myelopathy (which typically begins in the T3-L3 region). The absence of pain makes neoplasia or discospondylitis less likely as primary differentials. A C6-T2 lesion would produce lower motor neuron signs to the thoracic limbs and upper motor neuron signs to the pelvic limbs. T3-L3 and L4-S1 lesions would not produce tetraparesis.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

A 9-year-old female spayed beagle is evaluated for a 3-month history of progressive exercise intolerance and a dry, non-productive cough that worsens at night. Thoracic radiographs reveal generalized cardiomegaly with left atrial enlargement, dorsal displacement of the mainstem bronchi, and pulmonary venous distension. Which of the following is the most likely underlying cause of the cough?

- ☐ A Stenotic nares
- ☐ B Tracheal collapse secondary to a hypoplastic trachea
- ☒ C Left mainstem bronchial compression by an enlarged left atrium
- ☐ D Pulmonary neoplasia with bronchial obstruction

ANSWER C

WHY The classic radiographic pattern of generalized cardiomegaly with left atrial enlargement in an older small-breed dog is consistent with myxomatous mitral valve disease. Enlargement of the left atrium compresses the dorsal aspect of the left mainstem bronchus, producing a dry cough that is most evident at night or with excitement. Stenotic nares and tracheal collapse from a hypoplastic trachea are typically seen in young, brachycephalic or chondrodystrophic breeds and would not produce left atrial enlargement. Pulmonary neoplasia would more typically produce focal or multifocal pulmonary masses rather than the described cardiac silhouette changes.