

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

INTRODUCTION TO RCVS DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS

DIPLOMA EXAMINATION IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE

Enrolment for this Diploma is no longer available. The following information is for reference for currently enrolled candidates who have not yet passed the examination.

1. This introduction and enclosures are intended to be helpful to you in understanding what will be involved in working towards an RCVS Diploma qualification.
2. Candidates may gain experience for a Diploma at:
 - a. **an approved practice** for their subject, or
 - b. **an approved centre**

These are defined in the **Specific Guidance Notes for the chosen subject in Document B2**

STAGES INVOLVED, CLOSING DATES AND FEES

3. **Initial approval of experience.** There is one annual enrolment date of **1 November**. Forms **E1 and E1A** should be used. There is a fee payable at this stage.
4. **Final approval of experience.** This application should also be made **by 1 November**. Final approval grants permission to submit an examination entry. Form **E2** should be used. There is no fee payable at this stage. Photocopies of CPD Record Cards covering the period of experience being offered should accompany this form. Copies of the card may be downloaded from the RCVS website: <http://www.rcvs.org.uk>
5. Some Subjects also require evidence of experience, in the form of case logs or case exposures to be submitted at this stage of application (please refer to B2 Specific Guidance Notes for details).
6. **Examination entry.** An examination entry must be submitted on Form **E3 by 1 March** prior to the examination, which is held once annually in the Summer. There is a fee payable at this stage.
7. **Submitted work.** One Case Report and one principle author paper are required for the Diploma in Small Animal Medicine this forms Section (a) of the examination and these must be submitted **UNDER SEPARATE COVER** by **1 March**. You will be notified **by 1 June** whether or not they have gained sufficient marks and you are permitted to proceed to Sections (b) and (c) of the examination.
8. **It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that all application Forms and fees, and work required to be submitted for the examination reach the RCVS by the relevant closing date. No late applications will be accepted. Use of the Post Office's 'Special Delivery' service is recommended. The RCVS cannot accept responsibility for applications or submitted work lost or delayed in the post and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.**

9. Reminders of closing dates are placed in RCVS News – the Newsletter of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – which is published three times a year and sent to all members of the College. No other specific reminders are sent.
10. Fees are reviewed annually and are normally increased from 1 January.

Current fees from 1 January 2008 are:

Examination Entry Fee: £927.00

OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

11. Those veterinary surgeons who feel they are already sufficiently experienced may combine an enrolment application with an application for final approval of experience if they wish to sit the next examination. However, it is important that sufficient time is allowed in which to produce the submitted work, which forms part of the examination. You are urged to allow adequate time to study the syllabus, with the aid of the reading list and in consultation with your Adviser.
12. Each Diploma is overseen by a Board normally consisting of four veterinary surgeons whose Chairman sits on the RCVS' Specialisation and Further Education Committee (SFEC) which reports to RCVS Council.
13. With the exception of the Certificate in Equine Practice, there is a Diploma for all other subjects which the usual route of entry is success in the Certificate examination. Applications for exemption are granted only in exceptional circumstances.
14. All applications are considered by Board members either at the annual meeting or by correspondence as appropriate. New and existing candidates will be advised of the outcome of their E1A and/or E2 applications, **in writing**, no later than mid-January. Candidates must **NOT** contact the Board secretary by telephone for this information.
15. The information pack for this subject is updated following the annual Board meeting, which normally takes place some 4 weeks after the closing date for enrolment. Updated information packs are available after 1 April in paper form or on the RCVS website: <http://www.rcvs.org.uk>

Diploma in Small Animal Medicine

Please view the general documents to obtain copies of:

- The stages of enrolment document.
- Timetable
- B.1:** Guidance Notes for candidates on general requirements.
- H:** Role of Advisers to Certificate Candidates.

The following papers are enclosed:

- B.2:** Specific Guidance Notes for the Diploma. These notes explain what is required in terms of experience and in terms of the content of the Diploma examinations.
- C:** Syllabus and Commentary for the Diploma.
- Ci:** Techniques and Procedures List
- D:** Reading list.
- E:** Application Forms E.1A, E.2.
 - E.1A** - for specific details of practice
 - E.2** - for final approval of experience and for permission to submit an entry to the examination
- G:** List of Advisers

A copy of the most recent Examination Question Paper is enclosed for your information.

April 2008

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

THE DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE

SPECIFIC GUIDANCE NOTES FOR CANDIDATES

[These notes must be read in conjunction with the B1 General Guidance Notes to Candidates]

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

1. It is a requirement of the Small Animal Surgery Board that ALL Candidates entering for the Diploma are Members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS).

SPECIFIC EXPERIENCE

2. Forms E1, E1A and E2 seek information on the experience which is being or has been gained by the applicant.
3. If you are working in a practice which is not solely or mainly specialist small animal medicine you are advised to obtain periods of experience in centres or practices other than your own, to supplement the experience you gain in your normal working situation - rather in the nature of short clinical attachments. In a similar vein, if you are working in referral or teaching centres without access to the rigours and demands of unsupported first opinion practice you are advised to obtain experience in such a situation. You should expect that a longer period of experience than the minimum of 4 years could well be specified by the Board in such cases. Experience would, therefore, not necessarily be approved in the first instance.
4. Normally, candidates may gain experience for the Diploma (a) at an approved centre for their subject or (b) at an approved practice.

APPROVED PRACTICE ROUTE

5. If you are following the approved practice route you will not be permitted to enter for the examination until you have been a Member of the College or held an approved veterinary qualification for **at least five years** and are required to offer experience in the subject over **at least five years** which must include **200 days** at an approved centre.
6. You must ensure that the Centre where you are proposing to spend 200 days has been approved by the Board. Centres currently approved are listed below. Please note it is up to the Centre to apply for "Approved" status.
7. There is no separate application form other than the candidate applications forms included with this Information Pack. Practices are approved for each individual candidate.

APPROVED CENTRE ROUTE

8. If you are following the approved training programme at an approved centre you will not be permitted to enter for the examination until you have been a Member of the College or held an approved veterinary qualification for **at least four years**. You are required to offer experience in the subject over **at least four years**.
9. The Board has discretion to increase the requirements for experience for any candidate above the minimum specified if it is considered to benefit the candidate.
10. Centres currently approved for this Diploma are listed below:
 - Great Western Referrals
 - University of Bristol
 - University of Cambridge
 - University of Edinburgh
 - University of Glasgow
 - University of Liverpool
 - University of Liege
 - The Royal Veterinary College, University of London
11. Candidates would normally be holders of the Certificate in Small Animal Medicine. At the Board's discretion, experience gained for the Certificate may count towards the experience required for this Diploma.

ADVISERS

12. You should approach an adviser and obtain an agreement that you can work with them on a daily basis for the necessary period to complete the training programme. Advisers must be asked to sign all application forms before these are submitted to RCVS, thereby indicating that you have made contact with them and that they are willing to act as your adviser.

FORMAT OF THE EXAMINATION

13. The examination consists of three sections:
 - a) Submitted work: a published paper and a case report
 - b) TWO x 3 hour written examinations
 - c) A clinical, oral and practical examination.

SUBMITTED WORK

14. By 1 March, you are required to submit:
 - **One principle author paper involving relevant original work, published in a refereed journal**, which has not previously been submitted for any other RCVS qualification. Please note that reprints from the journal are preferred, but if the paper is "in press", a letter from the Editor confirming unconditional acceptance (i.e. no further amendments of any sort) must be supplied. You are advised

when submitting papers for publication, to allow time to receive and incorporate scrutineers' comments and amendments.

- Candidates should note that short communications will **not** be accepted as a published work for the purposes of Section (a).
- **Candidates MUST submit a supporting introduction, with all published papers submitted for the examination, stating the relevance of the paper in relation to other published papers on the subject and its clinical relevance to the speciality.**
- Candidates are expected to submit **good quality** reproductions of published papers, so that all photographs and diagrams are clearly shown.
- **One case report in a form suitable for publication in which you are the principal author:** although it is acceptable for the case report to have been published, that case should demonstrate your ability to assess and discuss a case critically. The subject matter of the submitted work must receive the approval of the Board prior to submission of the papers; this takes place with the application for final approval of experience (E2). The case report should be sufficiently complex, but not necessarily rare. The work should not be a straightforward case and must discuss the case critically, including a problem orientated approach. Case reports must be between 1000 – 1500 words.
- Candidates who are submitting a published case report are advised to re-write the case report to demonstrate their own view of the case.

15. It is important to realise that work which has already been submitted for another postgraduate qualification, including the Diploma of Fellowship by Thesis, cannot be used towards an RCVS Diploma. However, publications in peer reviewed journals arising from any postgraduate degree, for example, a PhD or Masters thesis, can sometimes be used towards a subsequent Diploma if publications of this type form part of the Diploma requirements and are appropriate to the discipline – this decision to be made by the relevant Subject Board.

16. You must submit **THREE collated sets** of your work for Section (a) in a secure cover. If you do not gain sufficient marks in Section (a), you will not be permitted to proceed to the other parts of the examination. If you are successful in the examination as a whole, one copy of your submitted work will be retained in the RCVS Library.

FORMAT

17. The case report must be typed/word processed in double-spacing on A4 size paper.

18. Candidates are asked to submit an electronic version of their submitted work together with their hard copy. This will be retained at RCVS unless requested by the examiners for purposes such as checking the word count. The electronic version should be Microsoft Office 2000 or XP compatible and should be submitted on either CD or floppy disc/s. Please ensure that the disks are easily identifiable by placing them in an envelope with your name, and 'Electronic version of submitted work for the Diploma in Small Animal Medicine' marked clearly on the front.

GRADING SCHEME

19. The submitted work will be graded "Good Pass"; "Pass" or "Fail":

- **Good Pass** - (60% or over) - the submitted work will be lodged in the RCVS Library as a suitable example for future candidates.
- **Pass** (defined as 50%) – The submitted work is acceptable to allow the candidate to proceed to the remaining sections of the examination, but the work may need to be revised by the date of the clinical, oral and practical in order that it can be lodged in the RCVS Library if the candidate is successful in the examination as a whole.
- **Fail (below 50%)** – The submitted work is judged to be of an inadequate standard for the Diploma, and the candidate will not be allowed to proceed to the remaining sections of the examination in the year in question.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

20. The format of the written papers will be as follows:

Paper I - (3 hours) comprising 18 compulsory short-answer questions designed to assess knowledge across the range of the syllabus.

Paper II – (3 hours) 4 out of 5 essay type questions, with some choice, designed to assess deeper understanding and problem solving ability.

21. You will need to make sure that your handwriting in the examination is legible - you may be penalised if it is not.

CLINICAL, ORAL AND PRACTICAL

22. The clinical, oral and practical examination will extend over approximately four hours for each candidate.

23. This section of the examination will include a 'steeplechase' consisting of questions based on diagnostic images, specimens, clinical pathological data etc..

24. You will have a clinical and oral examination at which questions may be asked in relation to your submitted work. You are reminded that good communication skills are important, whether in institutions or in practice.
25. White coats should be taken to the clinical, oral, practical examinations.
26. Candidates should be aware that they may be questioned on their knowledge of current information at any stage of the examination.
27. Candidates are warned that the oral part of this stage of the examination will be recorded.
28. Candidates are advised to allow adequate time before the examination to visit their Advisers, in order to prepare for this stage of the examination.

ATTENDANCE AT SHORT COURSES

29. Although there is provision in the byelaws to make attendance at particular courses or the acquisition of credits compulsory for those wishing to take the Diploma examination, the Board has not introduced such compulsory requirements. However, the Board wishes to encourage you to attend any appropriate short courses and any other events, such as congresses, symposia and meeting which are relevant to small animal medicine and would be of benefit to your studies.
30. Such attendance is taken into account by the Board when considering your application for final approval of experience.

ABBREVIATION FOR QUALIFICATION

31. Successful candidates for the **Diploma in Small Animal Medicine** are permitted to use the abbreviation "**DSAM**" after their names in the RCVS Register of Members, and on practice plate, stationery, etc.

Originated 1994,

Revised July 1996/Aug 1997/Dec 1997/June 1998/June 1999/July 2000/Nov 2001/Nov 2002/Feb 2003/Feb
2004/January 2005/March 2006/March 2008

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS
DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE - COMMENTARY AND SYLLABUS

Commentary

1. The Diploma training programme is designed so that knowledge, skill and understanding in small animal medicine to the level expected of an expert can be acquired through exposure to a wide variety of diseases under the close supervision and guidance of Diplomates, or approved experts with equivalent training and experience, in small animal medicine. The subject area of the Diploma consists of all of the topics covered in the Certificate. The depth of knowledge, level of expertise and breadth of training expected of a Diploma candidate is however considerably more than that of a Certificate candidate. Diploma candidates should be able to demonstrate an up-to-date understanding of scientific principles and literature pertaining to the practice of small animal medicine. Welfare and ethical considerations in treatment of small animal cases – candidates are reminded of their commitment as registered members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to pay attention to the welfare of animals under their care.

Syllabus

- 1 Candidates should be familiar with the basic science of medical diseases (anatomy, biochemistry, physiology, pharmacology, pathology and pathophysiology).
- 2 The training programme will allow candidates to assume total responsibility for initial consultation, planning, execution and interpretation of diagnostic procedures, and daily management of hospitalised animals. (Note: Candidates must be able to produce documentation to demonstrate that they have participated in a training programme at an Approved centre for the appropriate period of time.)
- 3 The training programme will include participation in a small animal critical care unit
- 4 Training at an advanced level will include the same areas of small animal medicine described for the Certificate (see Certificate syllabus attached).
- 5 Establish indications for, perform and interpret diagnostic procedures including ECG, bronchoscopy, upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy and biopsy, bone marrow biopsy, fine needle aspiration biopsy, thoracocentesis, pericardiocentesis, abdominocentesis, cystocentesis, cisternal puncture and blood pressure monitoring.
- 6 Establish indications for and interpret results of investigations including routine clinical pathology, organ function and endocrine tests, cytology and histological examination of biopsy specimens, immunological tests, blood gas analysis.
- 7 Establish indications for and interpret results of diagnostic imaging examinations including cystography, excretory urography, gastrointestinal contrast studies, angiography, myelography, thoracic and abdominal ultrasound and echocardiography.
- 8 Understand the general principles and some knowledge of CT, MRI, Scintigraphy, EMG, BAER, and ECG.
- 9 Therapeutic measures in routine case management including pharmacotherapy, fluid therapy and blood transfusions. Understanding of the principles involved in dietary management of disease, and competence in enteral nutrition. Management and monitoring of critical patients. Appreciation of indications for surgical intervention.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE

THE ADVISER MUST SIGN BELOW THAT THE CANDIDATE HAS CARRIED OUT AND IS PROFICIENT IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES.

TECHNIQUE OR PROCEDURE	SIGNATURE OF ADVISER
Electrocardiogram	
Bronchoscopy	
Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and biopsy	
Lower gastrointestinal endoscopy and biopsy	
Bone marrow biopsy	
Fine needle aspiration biopsy	
Needle biopsy techniques	
Thoracocentesis and management of a thoracic drain	
Pericardiocentesis	
Abdominocentesis	
Cystocentesis	
Cisternal puncture and CSF collection	
Blood pressure monitoring	
Arterial blood sampling	
Management of enteral nutrition	

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS**SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE - RECOMMENDED READING LIST FOR THE DIPLOMA**

Candidates should note that the reading list for the Diploma in Small Animal Medicine was frozen in 2002 and has now been withdrawn. Candidates are expected to research the literature for themselves and are recommended to make use of the RCVS Library and Information Service for this purpose (<http://www.rcvslibrary.org.uk/>, e-mail - library@rcvs.org.uk or telephone 020 7222 2021). Candidates should also seek advice on suitable reading matter from their advisers.

January 2004

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU COMPLETE A FORM E1 (TO BE FOUND IN THE COMMON DOCUMENTS) AND ATTACH IT TO THIS FORM

**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS
SPECIALISATION AND FURTHER EDUCATION**

DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE / DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE - FELINE
(Please delete as appropriate)

Details of the establishment in which experience is being gained to meet the requirements of the byelaws for the Diploma in Small Animal Medicine
(If more than one practice/establishment, please photocopy this form and complete in respect of each such establishment)

1. Place of employment and address _____

2. Date of commencement of employment _____

3. Experience: Please tick the route by which experience is being gained (see paper B2, paras. 6-9)

i) **Approved practice route with 200 days experience gained at an approved centre***

Period of experience being offered (from/to) at:

- Approved practice _____
- Approved centre _____
- Name of approved centre: _____

ii) **Approved centre route***
(Do not fill in Question 7)
Period of experience being offered (from/to): _____

- Name of approved centre: _____

*N.B. Applications for approval as an approved centre must be made by the centre directly to RCVS and not by the candidate. An application form can be obtained from RCVS.

4. Number of veterinary surgeons usually working in small animals _____
in your place of employment

5. Percentage of practice case load which you personally undertake:

Total cases _____% Small animal cases _____%

Small animal medical cases _____%

of which _____% are dogs and of which _____% are cats

6 Percentage and number of hours spent on work related _____%

to the Diploma syllabus during practice hours _____ hours

7. **Main items of equipment and facilities** available for the examination and treatment of small animal medical cases are as follows:

Diagnostic Facilities	Type of Equipment	Type of examinations Performed	Approximate number of cases per year
Radiology			
Ultrasonography			
Endoscopy			
Haematology*			
Clinical			
Biochemistry*			
Cytology*			
Other			

* If commercial laboratories are used, please indicate the approximate number of samples submitted per year and the range of tests requested (on a separate sheet, if necessary)

Please indicate the facilities and equipment available for managing the critically ill patient (on a separate sheet, if necessary)

8. **Library Facilities**

Do you have regular use of a University/College/Institute library with a veterinary section?

Where? _____

PLEASE RETURN ORIGINAL FORM PLUS FOUR COPIES

THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY YOUR ADVISER

I have agreed that this candidate will be advised by me and that it is the candidate's responsibility to approach me as necessary.

Name _____
(Block capitals)

Signature _____ Date _____

Important Notes

- Please ensure you have enclosed the correct fee, completed (original) forms E1 and E1A plus four collated photocopies that are clear and of a good quality.
- Please ensure that your Adviser has signed these forms BEFORE you return them to RCVS
- Candidates will be advised of the outcome of their application no later than mid-January and are requested not to telephone or write for this information in the interim.
- If you require an acknowledgement, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

**THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS
SPECIALISATION AND FURTHER EDUCATION**

DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE / DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE - FELINE
(Please delete as appropriate)

Application for FINAL approval of experience and permission to submit an entry to the next examination

This form must be completed and returned to the RCVS, Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF by 1 November prior to the year in which you wish to enter the examination. Your application should be accompanied by five collated photocopies of the completed form. The photocopies should be clear and of a good standard. N.B. No late applications will be accepted.

1. **NAME** in full (block letters)

2. **DEGREES/DIPLOMAS/CERTIFICATES**
(in abbrev. form) **and date obtained**

3. **ADDRESS** for all correspondence (block letters)

4. (a) **TELEPHONE No(s)** (for

(b) **FAX No.** (for contact during day)

5. **DATE OF ENROLMENT**

(MONTH/YEAR)

If application for enrolment is being submitted concurrently with this application please state 'concurrent'.

6. **QUALIFICATION FOR ENTRY**

Are you a Member of the RCVS? YES/NO

If Yes, please state veterinary degree obtained, name of awarding University, and date of graduation and date of obtaining Membership:

Continued over leaf

If **No**, please give details of the veterinary qualification which you hold which entitles you to practise veterinary surgery in your home country (i.e. full title, recognised abbreviation, awarding University or other examining body, date obtained, length of the course):

7. **EXPERIENCE:** Please tick the route by which experience has been gained.(see paper B2, paras. 6-9)

i) Approved practice route - 200 days experience gained at an approved centre*

ii) Approved centre route*

*N.B. Applications for approval as an approved centre must be made by the centre directly to the RCVS and not by the candidate. An application form can be obtained from RCVS.

8. **PERIODS OF EXPERIENCE BEING OFFERED** to meet the requirements of the byelaws

Name and address of Veterinary Practice and/or Approved Centre	Period of employment (from/to)	<i>Certified by Principal</i>

If there has been any change in the work-load of the establishment, or in your personal work-load, since you applied for enrolment, please give details below:

9. ATTENDANCE AT RELEVANT SHORT COURSES

Candidates must attach six photocopies of their RCVS CPD Record Card for each year for which they are applying for Final Approval of Experience. Details of all relevant short courses, conferences and meetings attended should be recorded on the Record Card. Candidates must comply with the annual recommended minimum hours of CPD otherwise final approval of experience and permission to sit the next examination will not be granted.

10. OTHER INVOLVEMENT IN RELATION TO SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE

List below any other relevant courses, conferences, congresses, meetings, symposia etc. which are not detailed on your RCVS Record Card.

Attendance at relevant congresses, conferences, meetings, symposia, etc	<i>Date and Venue</i>

11. PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES/PAPERS/LECTURES

Give details below (including any involvement in the instruction of others):

12. OTHER POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

During the period of experience being offered, have you been or are you studying for any other postgraduate qualification? YES/NO

If yes, please give brief details:

13. TITLES OF PUBLISHED PAPER/CASE REPORT

Please **CONFIRM** the titles of your submitted work

Paper 1 _____

Case Report _____

14. I HEREBY APPLY FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF EXPERIENCE AND FOR PERMISSION TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY TO THE NEXT DIPLOMA EXAMINATION IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE.

I certify that the period of experience being offered has not been/is not being offered to meet the requirements of the byelaws for any other RCVS Certificate or Diploma.

Delete section 15 if you do not intend to sit next year's examination.

15. CONFIRMATION OF INTENT TO SIT THE EXAMINATION

If approval of experience is granted, I do/do not (delete as appropriate) intend to submit an entry to the next examination (closing date for receipt of entries: 1 March).

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE RETURN ORIGINAL FORM PLUS FOUR COPIES

THE FOLLOWING SECTION SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY YOUR ADVISER

I confirm that I am acting as this candidate's Adviser.

Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Important Notes

- Please ensure you have enclosed four collated photocopies that are clear and of a good quality.
- Please ensure that your Adviser has signed this form BEFORE you return it to RCVS
- Candidates will be advised of the outcome of their application no later than mid-January and are requested not to telephone or write for this information in the interim.
- If you require an acknowledgement of receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.
- No late applications will be accepted.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE.

Candidates should refer to the lists of Specialists and Diploma holders published in Section 3 of the RCVS Register of Members

April 2006

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE

MONDAY 9 JULY 2007

PAPER I

(3 hours)

Candidates are required to answer **ALL EIGHTEEN** questions.

Allow 10 minutes per question.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet; failure to do so could lose you marks.

Illegible handwriting or failure to answer the questions in the form requested may result in examiners being unable to award marks for information which candidates intended to convey.

-
1. **Outline THREE** medical problems that may occur with the use of trilostane in the dog and **briefly** discuss your solutions to these problems.
 2. Describe the clinical signs, diagnosis and significance of *Bartonella henselae* infection in the cat.
 3. Medical diagnostic methods include pattern recognition and problem-oriented approaches. Describe these **TWO** methods with particular emphasis on their relative advantages and disadvantages.
 4. **Outline** the information that can be gained from a blood glucose curve and how it may be used to adjust the treatment of a diabetic dog. **A diagram may be used.**
 5. Write **short notes** on the treatment of hepatic fibrosis in the dog.
 6. **LIST** the differential diagnoses of hypernatraemia in the cat and dog.
 7. Write **short notes** on **FIVE** drugs which could be used in the management of feline idiopathic cystitis.
 8. Write **short notes** on renal tubular acidosis in dogs.

P.T.O. FOR QUESTIONS 9 - 18

9. **Briefly** describe the *life cycle*, clinical presentation and diagnosis of *Angiostrongylus vasorum* infections in the dog.
 10. Write **short notes** on the pathogenesis, diagnosis and management of canine eosinophilic bronchopneumopathy.
 11. Discuss additional therapeutic options for the management of idiopathic epilepsy in the dog when phenobarbitone and/or potassium bromide have not effectively controlled the seizures.
 12. Describe the diagnosis and management of myasthenia gravis in the dog.
 13. **Briefly** describe the cellular steps of the spontaneous formation of a cancerous metastatic lesion.
 14. Describe the gastric mucosal barrier and how it decreases the risk of gastric erosion/ulceration.
 15. **Briefly** describe the indications, goal, monitoring and potential complications for parenteral nutrition.
 16. **Briefly** describe the method of action of the following treatment as used in the treatment of immune mediated haemolytic anaemia and thrombocytopenia ("Evans syndrome") in the dog:
 - a. Prednisolone.
 - b. Vincristine.
 - c. Pooled human immunoglobulins.
 - d. Splenectomy.
 17. Describe how you would diagnose pancreatitis in the cat.
 18. **LIST** the differential diagnoses for causes of constipation or faecal tenesmus in the cat.
-

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

DIPLOMA IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE

MONDAY 9 JULY 2007

PAPER II

(3 hours)

Candidates are required to answer **FOUR** of the following **five** questions.

Allow 45 minutes per question.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet; failure to do so could lose you marks.

Illegible handwriting or failure to answer the questions in the form requested may result in examiners being unable to award marks for information which candidates intended to convey.

1. Write an essay comparing the various forms of adrenal neoplasia in cats and dogs, including comparisons of their presenting signs, diagnoses, and medical management.
 2. Write an essay on the use of polymerase chain reaction in small animal medicine, including a description of the technique and its potential benefits and problems. Illustrate with relevant examples. **Annotated diagrams may be used.**
 3. Discuss the pathogenesis of hepatic encephalopathy in the dog.
 4. Discuss the therapeutic options for the management of congestive heart failure in the dog.
 5. Discuss the potential aetiologies of non-regenerative anaemia in cat.
-