

Statutory Membership Examination Guidance

You are advised to read this guidance carefully and to refer to it as necessary at the different stages of the exam process. It describes the exam application process, the format and content of the exam and gives some advice about preparing yourself to sit the exam.

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1. Introduction

Only veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses registered with the RCVS can practise veterinary medicine in the United Kingdom. The entitlement to be registered as a member of the RCVS is determined by the **Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966**.

If you would like to register to practise in the UK as a veterinary surgeon but your veterinary degree is not recognised by the RCVS, you must pass the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination.

Membership of the RCVS is not a substitute for a work permit or for meeting UK immigration regulations.

This guidance outlines the process of applying to sit the Statutory Membership Examination. It describes the exam application process, the format and content of the examination and gives some advice about preparing yourself to sit the examination.

You are advised to read this guidance carefully and to refer to it as necessary at the different stages of the exam process

If after reading the guidance, you have questions or require further information, please contact the Examinations Manager on 020 7965 1104 or rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. Please note that office hours are 9.15am - 5pm. We aim to respond to emails within three working days of their receipt.

1.1. Legislative framework

The Statutory Membership Examination is held under the provisions of Section 6 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, and in accordance with the Regulations made under sub-section (4) of that section. The examination is designed for veterinarians who qualified overseas and who wish to obtain the right to practise in the UK. The examination tests whether a candidate has the knowledge and skills for practising veterinary surgery in the UK. The standard of knowledge and skill required to be shown by candidates in order to satisfy the examiners in the statutory examination shall be not less than the standard required to qualify as a veterinary surgeon under section 3(1) of the Act.

Success in the examination leads to the right to register and to practise in the UK. However, candidates must be aware that the UK is a member state of the European Union (EU). The UK is therefore subject to EU as well as national (UK) Legislation. This means that veterinary surgeons who work in the UK must be aware of both UK and EU legislation as it relates to their veterinary activities in the UK. Candidates should also be aware of any changes in legislation between the devolved regions within the UK. The UK is in the process of leaving the EU. Any implications this has for the statutory membership examination will be published on the RCVS website.

1.2. RCVS Day One Competences

The Statutory Membership Examination is set to the standards outlined in the RCVS Day One Competences. These are the minimum essential competences that the RCVS expects all veterinary students to have met when they graduate. Further information on the Day One Competences can be found in section 6.1.

1.3. Format of the Examination

The Statutory Membership Examination will normally be held once a year. It will cover the underpinning knowledge and understanding, and practical and professional competences required to practise as a veterinary surgeon in the United Kingdom. This includes coverage of veterinary public

health, medicine, surgery and the husbandry associated with companion animals, production animals and horses.

The Statutory Membership Examination consists of the following components:

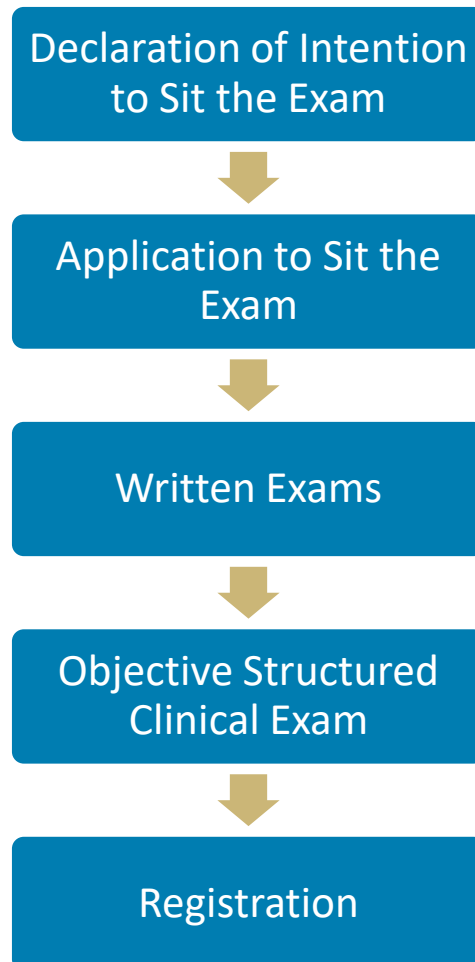
- Written examinations consisting of Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs) testing the candidate's clinical knowledge across three clinical domains (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine), and their knowledge of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct.
- An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) across three clinical domains (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine).

Candidates must pass the written component before being allowed to proceed to the OSCE.

Further information about the content and format of the examination can be found in sections 6.7 and 6.8.

1.4. Pathway to RCVS membership

There are five stages that potential registrants must complete before they can practise veterinary medicine in the United Kingdom:



These stages are described below:

Stage 1 – Declaration of your Intention to Sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination.

Submit a declaration of intention to sit form and provide proof of your veterinary degree, identity and a completed self-assessment skills list. If you wish to request a reasonable adjustment due to a disability or particular need (see section 2.6) or apply for an exemption for the English-language test (see section 2.7) then this is the stage at which to do so. This information will be checked by the Examinations Manager and if you meet our requirements, your name will be added to our active list of individuals preparing for the examination and you will be given permission to 'see practice'. The process is covered in section 2 of this guidance.

Stage 2 – Application to Sit the Examination

If you are eligible to sit the examination, you will be sent the examination application form. This form must be returned to us by **14 February** in the year in which you wish to sit the examination, along with the entry cost of £2,500 and proof of your International English Language Test System (IELTS) or Occupational English Test (OET) score and letter(s) or Certificate(s) confirming your good standing. The exam application process is covered in section 4 of this guidance.

Stage 3 – Written Examinations

The written examinations will be held in April/May. They will be administered via secure computer delivery at a test centre in the UK. You must pass all three domains of the clinical paper (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine) as well as the Code of Professional Conduct paper before you can proceed to the OSCE. See section 6.7 for more information.

Stage 4 – Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

The final part of the examination is the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). This is a practical examination and will be held in July at a veterinary school in the UK. As with the clinical written examination, you must pass all three domains (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine) in order to pass the OSCE. See section 6.8 for further information.

Stage 5 – Registration

Examination results will be sent via email 4 weeks after the final part of each section (written examinations or OSCE). Successful candidates will be invited to attend the RCVS offices in person in order to register and be admitted to membership (it is not possible to do this remotely). The RCVS holds a short ceremony for candidates who have passed the examination. This normally takes place in late August or early September a few weeks after the results have been issued.

1.5. Working as a Veterinary Nurse

All veterinary nurses in the UK have to be registered with the RCVS. Veterinary surgeons who do not also hold an appropriate veterinary nursing qualification may not apply for registration as a veterinary nurse. This is because the required competences and skills (and their education and training) have significant differences from those of veterinary surgeons. If you wish to 'see practice' at a UK veterinary surgery, information about how to do so can be found in section 3.3.

2. Declaring your intention to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination

The declaration of intention to sit form can be found on the RCVS website here:

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/statutory-membership-exam>. If

you hold a veterinary degree and intend to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination, you must:

- a. Declare your intention by completing the 'declaration of intention to sit' form
- b. Provide proof of your primary veterinary degree or diploma (see section 2.1)
- c. If available, provide university issued transcripts of your studies (see section 2.2)
- d. Provide your registration certificate or veterinary licence if you have one (see section 2.3)
- e. Provide proof of your identity (see section 2.4)
- f. Confirm your belief that you have the relevant knowledge and skills by completing the self-assessment skills list (see section 2.5)
- g. Submit an application for exemption from IELTS/OET, if applicable. **Exemptions must be submitted no later than 1 December of the year preceding the exam** (see section 2.5)
- h. Complete a reasonable adjustment application, if required (see section 2.6).

2.1. Proof of primary veterinary degree

The examination regulations require you to provide proof of your primary veterinary qualification (normally a copy of the certificate or diploma that you received upon graduation from your university).

You must send us a copy (photocopy or electronic scan) of your veterinary degree certificate and transcripts (with translations if the documents are not written in English) when you send us your declaration of intention to sit form. Please **do not** send your original veterinary degree certificate, as we cannot be held responsible for any loss if you ignore this instruction.

Please keep your original certificate safe and ensure that it is available for you to bring to your registration appointment after you pass the examination. If we need to see your original veterinary degree certificate beforehand, we will contact you to make an appointment.

The RCVS normally accepts applications from veterinary surgeons who hold a degree or diploma awarded after at least 5 years of full-time study from institutions listed on the World List of Universities or the AVMA-Listed Veterinary Colleges of the World. Where this is not the case the RCVS may require further information to allow us to establish that the national government in the country which awarded the qualification allows you to practise veterinary medicine in that country.

2.2. Transcripts

If your university issued transcripts of your studies, you must send these to the RCVS as part of your declaration of intention to sit the examination. As with your degree, if your transcripts are not in English then you must provide a professionally translated version alongside a copy of the original.

2.3. Registration certificate or veterinary licence

If you are currently, or have at any time, been on a register of persons qualified to practise veterinary surgery in any country or state you must provide details including the registration certificate or licence if this has been issued. This must also be professionally translated into English with a copy of the original also provided.

2.4. Proof of your Identity

You are required to provide a copy of your passport photo page. If your name differs from that on your degree or diploma you must also send a copy of the relevant legal document linking both names e.g. marriage/divorce certificate. If your name differs between documents for another reason, please contact the Examinations Manager for further instruction at rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. Please **do not** send your original passport, as we cannot be held responsible for any loss if you ignore this instruction.

2.5. Self-assessment skills list

Applicants must complete a self-assessment of their skills and knowledge to demonstrate that they have previously acquired knowledge and experience of the clinical activities featured in the RCVS Day One Competences document. Candidates must meet a minimum required standard in the companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine domains in order to pass the examination. The self-assessment skills list form provides the opportunity for applicants to reflect on the skills they have and make an informed decision about their likelihood of passing the examination. If there are a few areas on the list which need to be covered the applicant should complete an action plan identifying how they will address these areas prior to the examination. This may include undertaking additional training, seeing practice, CPD or other suitable activity.

2.6. Candidates with special requirements or requests for reasonable adjustment

If you need reasonable adjustment or special provision to be made for you in the examination because of a disability or other particular need, you should submit a completed reasonable adjustment form, available on the RCVS website, **as early as possible** in the examination application process. We must be notified no later than the examination entry closing date, otherwise it may not be possible to make the necessary arrangements for you in time.

The RCVS will discuss what arrangements can be made, with you, the Chair of the Statutory Membership Examination Board and medical advisers as appropriate. Applications made for medical reasons must be accompanied by a current medical letter or certificate (translated into English).

Assessments for special educational needs must have been made after your sixteenth birthday.

In some exceptional cases, you may be asked to contribute towards any additional costs incurred depending on the circumstances.

If you are pregnant, and your due date is after the OSCE, please inform us as soon as possible as additional health and safety precautions may have to be arranged for you.

2.7. English language test exemption

All RCVS registrants must be able to communicate effectively in English at an appropriate level. This can be demonstrated by passing either the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Occupational English Test (OET) at the minimum required standard. Further information about these assessments can be found in section 4.2.

If you can demonstrate that your first, native language is English **and** that your veterinary degree was taught and assessed entirely in English then you may apply for an exemption from the language test as part of your declaration of intention to sit the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination. In addition to providing evidence that your degree was taught and assessed entirely in English, you must provide supporting evidence from one of the following categories:

- Documentary evidence (e.g. a letter from your school/college or qualification certificates obtained through a recognised awarding body) that you have been educated in English at primary and/or secondary level in, for example, Australia, Canada (except Quebec), Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, or the UK for at least 5 years
- Certificates of secondary school or further education qualifications examined in the medium of English and awarded by an accredited UK awarding body, such as GCSEs, A levels, Scottish Standard Grades or Highers, the International Baccalaureate
- Certification of a course of higher education in the UK of at least 3 years duration leading to a degree awarded by a recognised UK university.

If you wish to apply for the exemption, then this must be done **no later than 1 December the year prior to the exam**. If we do not accept your exemption then this will allow you enough time to sit one of the English-language tests.

You must arrange for your university to write a letter to the RCVS to formally confirm that your whole veterinary degree was obtained at an English-speaking University where the whole course was taught and assessed solely in the medium of English. This letter must be written in English and be sent directly from the University to the RCVS at rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk.

We will treat each application on its individual merit. If you are unable to provide this evidence, you will need to take the IELTS or OET test.

2.8. Translations of documents

If any documents submitted as part of the declaration of intention to sit or examination application are not written in English, you must provide an English translation alongside the photocopy of the original document.

All translations must be made by a professional translator and certified by the translator or a university or regulatory body.

2.9. Recent graduates

If you have recently completed your studies and know that you have passed your degree, but your certificate has not yet been issued you are advised to contact the Examinations Manager on 020 7965 1104 to discuss the likelihood of you being able to enter the examination. You should be prepared to provide specific information such as the date that your certificate will be available.

2.10. Submitting your application

You may submit your declaration all year round. If you intend to enter the next examination, we must receive completed declarations and supporting documents by **31 January** otherwise we cannot guarantee that we will have sufficient time to carry out the necessary checks before the examination closing date of 14 February. We recommend starting the declaration process around 5 months before the exam.

You should aim to send all the documents together. Once all the evidence has been submitted your declaration will be reviewed to establish if you meet our requirements. You will normally receive a written response from us outlining the outcome of your declaration within two weeks of receiving a completed submission. Please note that if we have to ask for additional documentation from you then it may take even longer to process your submission. If you are eligible to apply to sit the examination, you will be sent an examination application form and a letter confirming that you may “see practice” (see section 3.3). You will also be added to our active list of individuals preparing for the examination.

The evidence you provide will be kept on file as long as you confirm that you are intending to sit the examination. If we believe that you are no longer intending to sit the examination (i.e. five years after last communication) your documents will be destroyed, and you will be required to submit a fresh declaration.

2.11. Renewal of your Declaration of intention to sit

Accepted declarations of intention to sit expire on 31 September each year. Once your declaration expires, you will be removed from our active list and will no longer be eligible to see practice. If you submitted an initial declaration of intention to sit and did not enter the examination but wish to do so in the next diet, please submit a renewal of intention to sit form between 14 February and 31 September. This also applies to candidates who failed the examination but wish to re-enter in the next diet.

You will not be eligible to see practice unless you have an in-date confirmation of intention to sit letter from the RCVS. If you wish to continue seeing practice after the 31 September, please ensure you submit your renewal of intention to sit in good time to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. Please allow up to two weeks for your renewal of intention to sit to be processed and for a new letter to be generated for you.

3. Preparing yourself for the examination

You are responsible for preparing yourself to sit the examination. We provide information about the examination to assist candidates in their preparation as well as the following support:

- Access to an online formative written assessment for candidates who submit a completed application. This contains a number of questions in the same MCQ format and to the same standard as those that will feature in the written examinations.
- An extensive suggested reading list in appendix 2 of this document
- A familiarisation session for candidates who pass the written component and proceed to the OSCE. This will feature models and equipment commonly used in UK veterinary OSCEs. This is an optional session, and will not contain any information about the content of the OSCE stations. This will normally be held on the day before the OSCE.

The examination is set to the standard of the RCVS Day One Competences. It is therefore recommended that candidates familiarise themselves with the RCVS Day One Competences documents available on our website here: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/day-one-competences/>.

3.1. Courses of study

There are currently no courses specifically designed to prepare candidates for the examination. If we receive details of a course aimed at preparing candidates for the examination, we will pass on this information to candidates. The RCVS does not offer or endorse any course of this type and it would be up to you to decide whether it would be useful to you to attend a course, or not. Please direct any enquiries to the provider of the course you are interested in.

3.2. Studying and access to libraries

Once you have met the examination entry requirements and have been accepted as a candidate to sit the next examination you will be able to obtain membership of the RCVS Knowledge Library.

Examination candidates are offered a special library membership category which allows them to borrow books. There is a fee of £25 for 6 months' membership and an additional fee for sending books in the post. The Knowledge Library is open Monday to Friday, 9.15am - 5pm. Please contact the RCVS Knowledge Library by email at library@rcvsknowledge.org or telephone 020 7202 0752 in advance to arrange an appointment and let us know the material you would like to use. Membership forms are available on request.

You may be eligible to apply for a reader's pass to the British Library's science collections. For information about the British Library's admission arrangements please contact them directly or visit their website.

3.3. Practical and clinical experience – Seeing Practice

As well as studying, spending time at UK veterinary practices will help you to gain practical and clinical experience in preparation for the examination. This is referred to as "seeing practice". You may see practice under the Veterinary Surgeons (Practice by Students) (Amendment) Regulations 1993. The regulations described below allow you to attend veterinary practices in the UK for the purpose of seeing practice.

You may not see practice without a valid, in-date letter from the RCVS confirming that you have submitted a completed declaration of intention to sit.

These Regulations permit overseas veterinarians to gain clinical experience in UK veterinary procedures by attendance at a UK veterinary practice for the purpose of entering for the examination. The supervising veterinary surgeon is responsible for what a veterinary student or a candidate for this examination does and, therefore, has discretion to decide what procedures you may carry out. The Regulations set down different degrees of supervision for different procedures.

The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 provides, subject to a number of exceptions, that only registered members of the RCVS may practise veterinary surgery and the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons states that 'Veterinary surgeons must ensure that tasks are delegated only to those who have the appropriate competence and registration'.

Exceptions to this rule are described in the Code's supporting guidance under the heading, 'Treatment of animals by unqualified persons'. The exception at 19.6 enables a registered vet, at his or her discretion, to supervise your seeing practice in the same way that he or she would supervise a veterinary student as part of their clinical training, and the levels of supervision that apply are described in paragraph 19.7. Both paragraphs are set out below:

19.6 "The Veterinary Surgeons (Practice by Students) (Amendment) Regulations 1993 identify two categories of student, full time undergraduate students in the clinical part of their course and overseas veterinary surgeons whose declared intention is to sit the MRCVS examination within a reasonable time. The Regulations provide that students may examine animals, carry out diagnostic tests under the direction of a registered veterinary surgeon, administer treatment under the supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon and perform surgical operations under the direct and continuous supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon.

19.7 The RCVS has interpreted these as follows:

- (a) 'direction' means that the veterinary surgeon instructs the student as to the tests to be administered but is not necessarily present
- (b) 'supervision' means that the veterinary surgeon is present on the premises and able to respond to a request for assistance if needed
- (c) 'direct and continuous supervision' means that the veterinary surgeon is present and giving the student his/her undivided personal attention"

If you see practice under these Regulations you must notify the RCVS of your arrangements using a "seeing practice" form and provide updates as appropriate. This form is available on the RCVS website at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/registration/applications-veterinary-surgeons/statutory-membership-exam/>.

The RCVS cannot help you find a veterinary practice or recommend any establishments and so you must make your own arrangements. The RCVS Find a Vet database allows you to search for veterinary practices by geographical location and is available on the RCVS website at <https://findavet.rcvs.org.uk/find-a-vet-surgeon/>

It is for you to decide how much time you need to spend “seeing practice” based on your assessment of your abilities and knowledge of UK veterinary practice. You may need to arrange to spend time at several different veterinary practices and/or one or more of the animal charities to gain practical experience with horses, production and companion animals and veterinary public health.

4. Applying to sit the examination

Application forms will be sent out to all of those on the active list prior to the opening of the application window (normally 1 October). Anyone who submits a declaration/renewal of intention to sit during the application window will be sent an application form once their declaration/renewal is accepted by the RCVS.

When you submit the application, you must provide the following:

- a. A completed examination application form (see section 4.1)
- b. An English language test report confirming you have achieved the minimum standard (see section 4.2) or confirmation of your exemption
- c. Evidence (certificate/letter) of your good professional standing (see section 4.3)
- d. One recent passport-style photograph (see section 4.4)
- e. Examination fee (see section 4.5)

You will be accepted as an examination candidate only after we have received all the items that make up a complete application. Upon completion of all entry requirements, you will receive written confirmation from the RCVS that you have been accepted as a candidate to sit the next examination.

In addition to meeting the RCVS examination entry requirements, you may also need to obtain entry clearance from the British Embassy or High Commission in the country you are living in, or a national of, in order to enter the UK to take the examination. The RCVS is unable to offer advice with regard to your visa status or work permit status. For such advice, please contact the Home Office.

4.1. Examination application form

The closing date for entry for the examination is **14 February** each year. It is your responsibility to complete and submit your application by the closing date. We recommend sending your application form via email to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk. If you send your application by post, you should obtain proof of posting. Applications will be accepted if they reach the RCVS after 14 February provided you can provide proof of posting dated on or before 13 February (UK first class post only).

4.2. English language test report

If you did not apply for an exemption then you must provide proof that you meet the minimum required standards in the English language. This can be demonstrated via either of the following assessments:

International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Achieving a score of at least **7.0** in the listening, reading, writing and speaking components of the **academic** version of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS): <https://www.ielts.org/>

Occupational English Test (OET): Achieving at least a **grade B** in the listening, reading, writing and speaking sub-tests of the **veterinary** version of the Occupational English Test (OET): <https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/test-information/healthcare-professions/veterinary-science/>

Once you have achieved the required standard in one of these assessments you must arrange for the results to be provided to us. This will be a **Test Report Form** if you took the IELTS or a **Statement of Results** if you took the OET. You can send your test results to us by post or provide a good quality scanned copy by email (we cannot accept photocopies). Alternatively, you can arrange for your test centre to post them directly to us.

Test scores must be in date on all days you intend to sit all examinations i.e. April to July. They are valid for **two years** from the date of your test. We do not accept scores from any English tests other than IELTS or OET.

If you pass some sub-tests of the OET but fall below the required standard in others then you may re-sit those failed sub-tests. Please note that all of the sub-tests must be in date for the duration of the examination period. IELTS do not allow candidate to re-sit individual components, therefore if you fall below the required standard in any component of the IELTS test you will need to retake it in its entirety.

We will confirm that we have received the test report once we have verified your scores through the IELTS/OET verification service. For OET users, please ensure that you add the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to the list of verifier institutions permitted to access your results.

IELTS test results are normally available to collect from the test centre 13 days after taking the test, whilst the OET results are normally available 17 days after the test. **We strongly advise you aim to take your test as far in advance of submitting your application as possible.** Failure to meet this requirement on the closing date of the examination will result in your application being denied.

4.3. Evidence of your good professional standing

Before an examination entry is accepted, the RCVS must be satisfied that:

- you are of good standing, i.e. that there is no charge of, or ongoing investigation of, crime or unprofessional conduct outstanding against you;
- you are of good character in general terms;
- the information provided relates to your most recent period of veterinary employment and registration or student activity;
- the evidence provided is current and up-to-date. We accept letters dated within the examination entry period (1 October – 14 February). We do not accept letters dated or received outside this time (15 February - 30 September).

You must provide the RCVS with up-to-date evidence of your good standing each time you apply to sit our examination. Letter(s)/certificates/other documents must be posted directly to the RCVS registration department by the originator to:

Registrations
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62-64 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AF

If a letter is sent by email, the original, signed, letter must also be posted to the RCVS before we can confirm that you have met our requirement.

4.3.1. Who may provide evidence of your good standing?

We require a letter or certificate from the veterinary licensing authority of the country in which you are currently registered or were last registered. This must be accompanied by a notarised English translation where necessary. It should be noted that in some cases, the RCVS may require additional evidence of good character, especially if your registration is not current or you have not practised within the last 3 months. If a letter provided on your behalf does not meet RCVS requirements, we will inform you as soon as possible and the RCVS Registration department will discuss provision of additional suitable documentation with you.

If you are a recent graduate and have not previously been registered, you should obtain a letter or certificate of good professional standing from the Dean or Principal of the university or college at which you obtained/will obtain your primary veterinary qualification.

The RCVS will not normally accept evidence which is presented by the candidate. However, if your veterinary licensing authority or university cannot provide a letter or certificate written in English, a copy of the letter or certificate may be sent to you, so that you can get it translated. You must then send the original notarised translation to the RCVS. The original copy must still be sent directly from the originator.

It is our experience that some organisations take several months to provide the evidence of good professional standing. You should therefore request the document at the earliest opportunity.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the RCVS receives your letter or certificate of good professional standing. The RCVS is not responsible for chasing up these letters. If the evidence is not provided by the examination entry closing date, then it is possible that you will not be able to enter the examination.

If you cannot provide a letter as described above, you will have to arrange for the RCVS to receive evidence of your good standing from other sources. Please send an email to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk outlining your query. If necessary, you will be sent a form to complete which will allow the registration team to consider your circumstances and advise you how to meet our requirement.

4.4. One recent passport-style photograph

You must provide a recent passport-style photograph with your full name, date of birth and signature on the back which was taken within the 12 months prior to your application.

4.5. Number of examination attempts

Candidates may attempt the examination as many times as they wish. For each attempt, you will be required to pay the full examination fee. The RCVS Education Committee may, if it sees fit, withdraw the right to sit the examination from a candidate. If the committee decides to use their power to do this, that decision will override their rule allowing unlimited attempts at the whole examination.

4.6. Examination fees

The cost of the examination is £2,500. This is made up of the examination fee of £2,200 and a non-refundable administration charge of £300. The examination fees are reviewed on an annual basis.

Each fee allows one attempt at the examination. If you are not successful and decide to sit the examination again a separate application form must be completed, and another fee and administration charge paid.

Payment by bank transfer is preferred. Details are provided on the examination application form. Please note, all international bank charges are incurred by the person paying the fee, including those levied by our bank, which is approximately £7.00.

Cheques must be drawn in pounds sterling only and made payable to the 'Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons'.

4.7. Withdrawal and refunds

If you wish to withdraw from the examination, you must notify the RCVS in writing. If notification is sent by email, a letter, signed by the candidate who has withdrawn, must follow by post. Any refund of an examination fee will be made payable to the person who paid the fee. The administration fee will not be refunded.

The size of the refund you will be eligible for is dependent on when you choose to withdraw:

Time of Withdrawal	Eligible Refund
Before the closing date of 14 February	The examination fee of £2,200, not including the non-refundable £300 administration charge
More than 28 days before examination	Half the examination fee: £1,100
28 days or fewer before the examination	No refund
Failure to attend the examination	No refund

Discretionary refunds on medical or compassionate grounds

If you have to withdraw from the examination for medical or compassionate reasons, you may be eligible for a discretionary refund of some or the whole examination fee.

You must submit your request in writing with documentary evidence to support the medical or compassionate grounds cited no later than 28 days after the part of the examination that you missed. You may have to wait several months for a decision because the RCVS committees which have discretion to grant refunds meet at fixed times during the year and it may not be possible to reach a decision outside the meetings.

4.8. Reapplications following failure or withdrawal

Each time you apply to enter the examination you must

- complete a new application form
- pay the appropriate examination fee
- arrange for the RCVS to receive up-to-date evidence of your good professional standing
- meet any other entry requirements. You will have to sit another academic IELTS or OET test if your previous report is out of date (more than two years old)

5. Admission to the Register

Candidates who pass the whole of the Statutory Membership Examination are eligible for admission to the Register of the RCVS. It is a legal requirement under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 that you register and are admitted to membership of the RCVS before engaging in any type of veterinary work in the UK or using the letters MRCVS after your name.

Some successful candidates will also have to meet UK Home Office immigration criteria to work in the UK and may require a work permit. These requirements are separate from the requirement to be registered with the RCVS. Further information on work permits can be found on the Home Office website. Any queries must be directed to the Home Office.

Successful candidates must attend the RCVS offices in person in order to register and be admitted to membership. You must bring your passport or identity card with you and also your original veterinary degree certificate or diploma. Registration fees must be paid before you attend to register. Full details will be sent with your examination results.

5.1. Admissions ceremony

The RCVS holds a short ceremony for candidates who have passed the examination. This takes place in late August or early September a few weeks after the examination results are issued.

If you cannot attend this ceremony, you can register at one of the RCVS' regular routine registration sessions. Dates are available from the RCVS Registration department. Please note appointments are provided on a first come first served basis. If you need to attend a registration appointment because you have been offered a veterinary position in the UK, and there are no available dates listed ahead of your start date, please submit a copy of the job offer letter you received from your new employer (ensuring it includes your start date) with your Registration Form. Please note this will usually be dependent on the cancellation of an existing appointment, so we are not able to guarantee you an earlier appointment, but we will do our very best.

Registration fees and retention fees are reviewed annually and are increased from 1 April. Please look at the RCVS website for details of current fees <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/about-us/fees/>. If you do not pay your annual retention fee, your name will be removed from the Register and you will not be able to practise as a veterinary surgeon in the UK.

6. About the examination

This section of the guidance provides information about the scope, standard, format and content of the written examinations and the Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE).

The examination is conducted in English and all communication with candidates, before, during and after the examination will be conducted in English.

6.1. General information

The RCVS Day One Competences are the minimum essential competences that the RCVS expects all veterinary students to have met when they graduate, to ensure that they are safe to practise on day one, in whichever area of the profession they start to work. Veterinarians who qualified overseas are also expected to meet these minimum standards and therefore the examination is designed to provide candidates the opportunity to demonstrate that they meet or exceed this minimum standard. You are advised to read the RCVS Day One Competences document carefully and refer to it throughout your exam preparation. The document can be downloaded from the RCVS website.

The clinical written papers and the OSCE are split into three domains: companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine. Candidates **must** meet a minimum required standard in each of the three domains, and **will not be able to compensate across them**. If a candidate falls below the standard in one domain then they will not pass the examination, regardless of how well they performed in the other domains. This applies to both the written and OSCE components of the examination.

The examination will cover the underpinning knowledge and understanding, clinical reasoning, and practical and professional competences required to practise as a veterinary surgeon in the UK including coverage of veterinary public health, medicine, surgery and the husbandry associated with companion animals, production animals and horses.

Only veterinary surgeons who have submitted an examination application form and supporting documents, paid the examination fee and had their application accepted may attend the examination.

If your application to sit the exam is accepted, you will receive confirmation of the date and time of your written examinations by 28 February.

Candidates who pass the written component will receive the location and date(s) on which their OSCE takes place along with their written examination results.

Candidates **must achieve a pass in all three domains of the clinical paper as well as the Code of Professional Conduct paper before they can proceed to the OSCE**. All components of the exam must be sat in the same year.

The examination should not be taken without thorough preparation.

6.2. Venues

All parts of the examination are held in the UK. It is not possible to sit any part of the examination outside the UK.

The clinical and Code of Professional Conduct written examinations take place under strict supervision at a secure computer delivery test centre in the UK. The Code of Professional Conduct re-sit will take place at the RCVS offices in London.

Candidates who pass the written component will proceed to the OSCE. This will take place at a UK veterinary school in July.

Candidates are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

It should be noted that the examination is designed and delivered by the RCVS and therefore all correspondence should be directed to us. Candidates must not contact the test centre or the vet school directly as they will not be able to offer assistance.

6.3. Emergency evacuation procedures

If you are instructed to evacuate the examination room you should follow instructions provided by the invigilator, examiner or other test centre personnel. You should leave the examination area in an orderly way, without taking anything with you. You must assemble at the designated area and not leave this area. If you are permitted to return to the examination room, you should do so immediately when you are instructed. Candidates who are absent once the examination has re-started will not be readmitted.

6.4. Identification

You must bring identification to the examination. We accept an in-date/unexpired passport or identification card. If your name on your identification document differs from that on the booking confirmation for the RCVS, you must contact us to discuss what additional documentation you need to bring.

6.5. Prohibited items

You are not permitted to take any of the following items into either the written examinations or the OSCE.

- Any educational, test preparation or study materials
- Personal items, including mobile phones, hand-held computers, pagers, smartwatches or other electronic devices (clocks will be provided where required)
- Bags, purses, wallets
- Coats and outdoor wear not required for the examination
- Bracelets or jewellery which bang or scratch on the table must be removed to prevent disturbance to other candidates
- Pencil cases or stationery (these will be provided for you).

Secure space will be provided at the venue for you to store your personal belongings.

6.6. Fit to sit the examination

By presenting yourself at the examination centre, you are indicating that you are fit to sit the examination. If you become unwell at any point during the examination, you should inform one of the test administrators or examiners immediately.

6.7. Written examinations

The written examination consists of three clinical domains (companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine) as well as an examination testing your knowledge of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct. You must pass all of these components in order to be eligible to proceed to the OSCE. The written examination will take place across three consecutive days at a test centre in the UK.

6.7.1 Clinical exam

This examination consists of 350 clinically relevant Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ) that test both knowledge and clinical reasoning. These will cover three domains:

- Companion animals – approximately 50% of total questions
- Production animals (including veterinary public health) – approximately 30% of total questions
- Equine – approximately 20% of total questions

The questions typically consist of a clinical vignette (a clinical scenario which you might come across in your day-to-day practice), with five answer options. Candidates are required to select the **single best answer**. With this type of question, several of the options are potentially correct but one is a better match to the question than the others by a clear margin.

You must meet a minimum required standard in each of the three domains. There will be **no compensation across domains** i.e. if you fall below the required standard in one domain, then you will fail the examination regardless of how well you did in either of the other domains.

You will have a total of 8 hours over two days to complete the clinical exam. Each day will involve a 4-hour exam session starting at 10:00am, with an hour break from 12:00-1:00pm, and will conclude at 3:00pm. The first day will cover the companion animal domain, with equine and production animal assessed on the second day.

Please arrive at the centre at least 30 minutes before the beginning of the exam.

Negative marking will not be applied.

6.7.2. Code of Professional Conduct exam

This is an open book MCQ examination designed to test your knowledge of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and its application to veterinary scenarios. It will also test knowledge of key organisations and standards relevant to a veterinary surgeon practising in the UK. You will be provided with access to an on-screen, searchable copy of the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and Supporting Guidance which you can refer to during the examination (you may not bring in your own copy). The delivery time is 2 hours 15 minutes. The exam will be delivered in a single session on the third examination day.

We strongly recommend that you familiarise yourself with the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and Supporting Guidance when preparing for the exam.

Please arrive at the centre at least 30 minutes before the beginning of the exam.

Negative marking will not be applied.

6.7.3. Candidate examination conduct (written examinations)

When you arrive at the test centre, your ID will be checked. Your personal belongings must be placed in the locker or secure area indicated by the test centre staff. Mobile phones, pagers and electronic devices must be turned off before being placed in the secure storage area. Neither the test centre nor the RCVS will be held responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced items.

Friends, relatives or children are not allowed to wait in the test centre.

You will receive a summary briefing before the examination begins.

When you enter the examination room you will be told where to sit. You must use the computer, keyboard and mouse provided to you. You will be given time to adjust your chair and make yourself comfortable.

The following equipment will be provided for you:

- A desk with a computer on which you will take the exam
- Small whiteboard and pen to make notes
- Calculator
- Ear plugs

You must not tamper with or attempt to tamper with the computer or use it for anything other than taking the examination.

The invigilator will provide you with instructions for logging onto the computer and starting the examination.

If you need to attract the invigilator's attention for any reason during the exam, raise your hand.

Toilet breaks can be requested by notifying the invigilator. You will be escorted to the facilities by an invigilator. You will not be granted extra time for any toilet breaks you take during the examination.

If you experience any problems with the computer during the examination, notify the invigilator immediately. All questions you have previously answered will be saved and any lost time caused by a computer fault will be added back on at the end of the session.

If you wish to leave the venue before the end of the exam then notify the invigilator. When the examination is over you must leave quietly. Do not talk to other candidates until you are outside the building. Once you have left the exam hall you will not be permitted to re-enter while the current session is still ongoing.

Communication of any kind with other candidates during the examination is strictly forbidden.

6.7.4. Sample questions

We have provided a small sample of clinical MCQ questions in Appendix 1 so that you can see what format of questions will be included in the examination.

Once your examination application is accepted you will be provided with access to a formative assessment with 110 MCQ questions to aid your exam preparation (100 clinical MCQs and 10 relating to the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct). These questions reflect the breadth and scope of the questions that you can expect to see in the paper and will provide you with an opportunity to

experience the style of questions contained within the actual examination. Feedback will be provided for all questions to aid your learning. This formative assessment will be in the same computer-based test format as the actual examination to help familiarise you with the software you will be using on the day.

6.8. Objective Structured Clinical Examination

The clinical, practical examination will be in the form of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). The RCVS has decided to use OSCEs as this is in line with current best practice in veterinary medical assessment. OSCEs are a fair, valid and reliable assessment method; all candidates will be assessed on identical practical tasks, asked the same questions and be scored with a standardised methodology.

The OSCE is a multi-station circuit of practical scenarios which candidates have a fixed period of time to complete. Each station within the OSCE assesses a range of skills, which may include animal handling, clinical examination, technical skills (e.g. surgical skills, injection techniques), communication, professionalism, clinical reasoning and other RCVS Day One Competences. These skills will be assessed across companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine domains. Candidates must meet a minimum required standard in each of these three domains in order to pass the examination. There will be **no compensation across domains** i.e. if you fall below the required standard in one domain, then you will fail the examination regardless of how well you did in either of the other domains.

The OSCE will normally take place over two days, however this may be liable to change depending on the number of candidates who enter the examination. Your schedule will be provided to you, along with your written examination results letter, no later than four weeks after the date of the written examination.

The OSCE consists of thirteen stations in separate circuits, such as a clinical skills lab, equine centre or production animal centre.

There will be two examiners per OSCE station. They will mark you against a standardised scoring rubric. This will describe to the examiners the performance (skills, behaviours) they need to see you demonstrate before you can achieve the allocated marks. All candidates will be marked against the same scoring rubric. The scenarios which feature in these OSCE stations are based on common and/or important clinical scenario you might encounter in veterinary practice. They will be at the level of the RCVS Day One Competences.

The examiners record their marks independently. During the examination no examiner knows the marks you have scored at any other station. They will not provide you with any feedback on your performance whilst the exam is in session.

The content of the examination reflects the minimum essential competences that the RCVS expects all new registrants to have met. These may differ from other countries and therefore you should ensure that you are familiar with the methodology you are required to follow.

Please note that the format of this OSCE differs to those that feature in final-year examinations at UK veterinary schools. Whilst they both assess the same standard (Day One Competence), the statutory

membership examination OSCE aims, as far as possible, to mimic scenarios that candidates would come across in their day-to-day practice.

6.8.1. Examiners

The examiners are appointed by the RCVS. There will be two examiners per OSCE station. They will observe you during the examination. The examiners will be experienced veterinary surgeons who have received training and standardisation to ensure that the assessment is valid and reliable.

6.8.2. Candidate examination conduct (OSCE)

When you arrive at the examination centre you will be shown to a waiting room and your identity will be checked. You will be given a badge that displays your candidate number. This badge must be visible for the duration of the OSCE so that the examiners can identify you. You will also receive a briefing about the examination process.

Your personal belongings must be placed in the locker or secure area indicated by the test centre staff. Mobile phones, pagers and electronic devices must be turned off before being placed in the secure storage area. Neither the test centre nor the RCVS will be held responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced items.

Friends, relatives or children are not allowed to wait in the test centre.

Examination administrators will ensure that you are at the correct circuit and have plenty of time to change into the correct clothing before the exam start time.

At the allocated start time, you will be taken to the examination area where you will be shown to your first OSCE station. You will be given 5 minutes to read the instructions outside the station. This will include a brief background related to the clinical scenario and instructions for completing the task(s). These instructions contain all of the information required for you to complete the station so ensure you take the time to read them very carefully. Once the 5-minute reading time has elapsed, you will enter the station and begin the task(s). A copy of the station instructions will be available inside for your reference.

You will have 20 minutes to complete each station. **You are responsible for managing your own time in the station.** Each station will include a mechanism by which you can monitor your time for the duration of the scenario. Note that some stations may contain more than one practical task; therefore, you are advised to plan your time carefully. If you are unable to carry out a particular task, you may bypass it and forgo its marks in order to focus on other tasks within the station. Once the station's time has elapsed, you will move on to the next station.

Stations that assess communication skills may include an actor playing the role of the client or other relevant party. Other stations may involve clinical models/simulators and some may involve the use of cadavers. Some stations may have a live animal and a model and/or cadaver in separate areas. In all cases, you will be expected to perform tasks as if you were treating a live animal, and behave as you would when working in a practice in the UK. Other than as directed in the candidate instructions, you should refrain from initiating conversation with the examiner or any other personnel present during a station.

You are advised to check carefully that you have completed all the tasks before leaving the station as once you leave you will not be permitted to re-enter. When you finish each station, you may leave and

sit on the chair indicated by the invigilator and wait until the audio announcement tells you to move to the next station. You are not permitted to communicate with other candidates while waiting.

Scheduled breaks will be provided as appropriate. If you need to use the toilet during the OSCE an invigilator will escort you. You will not be given additional time to complete the examination if you do take an unscheduled break. When you have completed all stations in the circuit, you will be taken back to the waiting area.

You will not be permitted to take any equipment into the examination (except for the items detailed in section 6.11). Everything else you require will be provided.

6.8.3. Health and safety

Working with animals carries with it an element of risk which you are consenting to by entering this examination. In the process of running the examination, the RCVS and the venue will take appropriate steps to mitigate any such risks as far as possible. Neither the RCVS nor the venue may be held responsible for any injuries sustained by a candidate as a result of his/her negligence either through their actions during the examination or their failure to wear adequate protective gear (see section 6.8.4).

As the examination involves the use of live animals, the examiner may stop you at any time during the examination if it appears that your level of competence is such as to jeopardise the safety and/or welfare of the animal or examination personnel.

6.8.4. Dress code, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and equipment

Candidates are required to follow the dress code outlined in this section. Clothing and footwear are not provided by the RCVS or the examination centre, therefore candidates are required to bring their own. It is important that these have been thoroughly cleaned to prevent cross contamination.

You will be expected to bring the following equipment with you:

- Stethoscope
- Fob watch or wristwatch (smart watches are prohibited)

Jewellery including piercings must be removed and hair should be tied back out of the face.

Clothing requirements for each section of the OSCE are as follows:

Component	Clothing Requirements
Companion Animal	Clean scrubs and suitable footwear (no open toe shoes)
Production Animal and Veterinary Public Health	Clean overalls or boiler suit and clean wellington boots. Waterproofs may be worn if preferred but are not mandatory. After the exam, candidates must carry out a complete hand and boot wash, remove any waterproofs and change into regular shoes.
Equine	Clean overalls and sturdy boots (preferably steel toe-capped). No waterproofs or wellington boots are allowed in the stables. Protective headgear will be provided by the RCVS.

6.9. Notification of examination results

Examination results will be sent via email no longer than 4 weeks after the final part of the section (written exams or OSCE). Please note that no results are given by telephone.

6.10. Examination Outcomes and Re-sit Policy

The pass mark for each examination you will have to achieve in order to pass is determined using a recognised standard setting methodology. This evidence-based approach takes into account the relative difficulty of each of the questions in the exam in order to determine a fair pass mark in line with the standard expected. Candidates will be notified whether they have achieved the pass mark or not – pass marks will not be published.

If you fail the clinical written examination, you will not be permitted to proceed to the OSCE. If you pass all three domains in the clinical written examination but fail the Code of Professional Conduct examination, you will be invited to re-sit the Code of Professional Conduct exam. If you pass this re-sit exam, you will be eligible to proceed to the OSCE. Please see the website for the re-sit date and location.¹

If you pass the written examinations and the OSCE you will be invited to apply to register.

Please note that you are not able to carry marks over from previous sittings.

6.11. Examination appeals

The RCVS has an examination appeals procedure carried out in accordance with Examination Appeals Rules made by the Council. An appeal may be made only in respect of the conduct of the

¹ Please note that the Code of Professional Conduct re-sit policy is currently under review. If a decision is made that there should be no resit option for the COPC, then this will be communicated early 2020 via the RCVS website and implemented from 2021. The 2020 diet will not be affected.

examination and not against the academic judgment of the examiners. Appeals must be made using an appeal form obtainable from the RCVS and submitted to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk within 28 days of the date of the letter advising you of the examination result.

6.12. Mitigating circumstances

If you feel there are serious mitigating circumstances (such as a sudden onset of illness) affecting your performance at the examinations you must report these to rcvsexam@rcvs.org.uk at the earliest opportunity. If you become ill during the exam session you must notify an invigilator immediately.

If you cannot attend the examination because of serious illness or another overwhelming problem, you should notify us that you will not be attending as soon as possible. After the examination you will be required to complete a mitigating circumstances form providing the circumstances and evidence.

A mitigating circumstances form will be available from the RCVS on request. Completed forms along with supporting information must be supplied within six days of the examination (written or OSCE). Each application will be considered on an individual basis.

6.13. Confidentiality and test security

The results of the examination must be an accurate reflection of the candidate's knowledge and skills as a veterinary surgeon. Any cheating or misconduct before, during or after the examination may raise doubts about your fitness to practise.

All examination material remains the property of the RCVS and you are not permitted to reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through memorisation or other means. You must not share information about the questions or cases used in the examination. You must not provide information relating to the examination content that may give unfair advantage to individuals who may be taking the examination, including, without limitation, posting information regarding the examination content on the internet, on social media or providing it to anyone involved in the preparation of candidates.

If you become aware of or witness any attempt to compromise the examination, please report it to the RCVS.

6.14. Misconduct

If you engage in unacceptable or improper behaviour before, during or after the examination in order to attain success then your results will be annulled and you may be barred from entry to future examinations.

Misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Failure to comply with reasonable instruction of an examination official.
- Disruptive behaviour during the examination or during break times.
- Copying or attempting to copy the work of another candidate.
- Disclosing content from an examination to a third party.
- Removing examination materials from the examination that you have not previously been authorised to remove. This includes removing materials by using recording devices and taking photographs.
- Bringing items into the examination other than those you have been permitted to use.

- Communication either verbally or via signals with other candidates whilst under examination conditions.
- Impersonation of a candidate or allowing yourself to be impersonated.
- Bribery, or attempted bribery of any personnel involved in the design, development, delivery of the examination.

Allegations of misconduct will be referred to the Examination Board and the Registrar, who will review all reports of the alleged misconduct and consider if there is sufficient evidence for the allegation to be pursued. Candidates accused of misconduct will have the opportunity to provide a defence. We may withhold candidate results while we investigate an allegation of misconduct.

Appendix 1

Example Clinical MCQ questions

The single best answer is highlighted

1. You are called to see an 8 year old horse with anorexia, signs of depression and weight loss. Your clinical examination reveals no obvious abnormalities with the exception of poor body condition and icterus of the sclera. In light of the history and clinical findings, what are the most relevant plants or trees to look for in the horse's grazing environment?
 - Alfalfa
 - Foxglove
 - Oak trees
 - Ragwort
 - Yew
2. You are at a routine fertility visit at a dairy farm and are presented with a cow listed as 'oestrus not observed'. On trans-rectal ultrasound the cow has a large thick walled ovarian cyst. The cow's blood progesterone is raised (5ng/ml). What would be the most appropriate treatment?
 - Insert an intravaginal progesterone device for 10-12 days
 - Manual rupture of the cystic structure
 - Single injection of pregnant mare serum gonadotrophin (PMSG)
 - Single injection of gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH)
 - Single injection of prostaglandin
3. You detect a grade V/VI pansystolic left apical murmur in a 10 year old Toy Poodle. The heart rate is 140 beats per minute. The owner reports that the dog has recently started coughing at night. What is the most appropriate method of investigation to determine whether treatment for congestive heart failure is required?
 - 2D echocardiography
 - Auscultation
 - Chest radiography
 - Electrocardiography
 - Serum pro-BNP assay

Appendix 2

Suggested Reading list

The reading list is divided into the three clinical domains: companion animal, production animal (including veterinary public health) and equine. This is followed by a general list containing texts which are relevant to more than one species. Websites that give information about current UK and EU legislation of relevance to veterinary surgeons are listed, as well as some recommended veterinary journals and publications. You should read widely and be familiar with current issues and UK-specific problems. The reading list should act as a guide to the depth of knowledge required and should not be considered as a complete summary of the required knowledge.

You are also recommended to review the Day One Competences published by the RCVS (link below). This sets out the minimum essential competences (comprising knowledge, skills and attitudes) required to register with the RCVS.

Equine

Auer, J.A. and Stick, J.A. (eds) (2018) *Equine Surgery* 5th ed Philadelphia: Saunders

Reed, S.M. et al (2017) *Equine Internal Medicine*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Elsevier. ISBN 9780323443296

Munroe, G.A. and Weese, J.S. (2011) *Equine Clinical Medicine, Surgery and Reproduction* London: CRC Press

Knottenbelt, D.C. and Pascoe, R.R. (2013) *The Colour Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of the Horse*. London: Wolfe. ISBN 9780723436607.

Mair, T. et al (eds) (2012) *Equine Medicine, Surgery and Reproduction*. 2nd ed London: CRC Press

Baxter, G.M. (ed) (2011) *Adams and Stashaks Lameness in Horses*. 6th ed Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Companion animal

Books covering general medicine and surgery:

Nelson, R. and Couto, C.G. (eds) (2013) *Small Animal Internal Medicine*. 5th ed. St Louis: Elsevier. ISBN 9780323086820

Fossum, T.W. (ed) (2018) *Small Animal Surgery*. 5th ed. St Louis: Mosby

Schaer, M. and Gaschen, F.P. (2016) *Clinical Medicine of the Dog and Cat*. 3rd ed. London: CRC Press

Johnson, A. and Tobias, K.M. (eds) (2018) *Veterinary Surgery: Small Animal*. Philadelphia: Saunders

Hill, P.B. et al (2011) *100 Top Consultations in Small Animal General Practice*. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Maddison, J. et al (2015) Clinical Reasoning in Small Animal Practice. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Books covering more specific disciplines

DeCamp, C.E. et al (eds) 2015) Brinker, Piermattei and Flo's Handbook of small animal orthopedics and fracture repair. 5th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders

Miller, W.H. et al (2013) Muller and Kirk's small animal dermatology. 7th ed. Missouri : Elsevier Mosby

BSAVA produce a series of books and manuals which provide comprehensive coverage of a wide range of small animal disciplines. The following are some examples which you may find useful. Further information can be found on their website: www.bsava.com.

Hutchinson, T. and Robinson, K. (2015) Manual of Canine Practice: a Foundation Manual. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Harvey, A. and Tasker, S. (2013) Manual of Feline Practice: a Foundation Manual. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Holloway, A. and McConnell, J.F. (2013) Manual of Canine and Feline Radiography and Radiology: a Foundation Manual. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Bains, S.J. et al (eds) (2012) Manual of Canine and Feline Surgical Principles: a Foundation Manual BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Duke-Novakovski, T., de Vries, M. and Seymour, C. (2016) Manual of Canine and Feline Anaesthesia and Analgesia. 3rd ed. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

King, L.G. and Boag, A. (2018) Manual of Canine and Feline Emergency and Critical Care. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Gould, D. and McLellan, G.J. (2014) Manual of Canine and Feline Ophthalmology. 3rd ed. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Harcourt-Brown, F. and Chitty, J. (2013) Manual of Rabbit Surgery, Dentistry and Imaging. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Meredith, A. and Lord, B. (2014) Manual of Rabbit Medicine. BSAVA Quedgeley: Gloucester

Meredith, A. and Johnson Delaney, C. (2010) Manual of Exotic Pets. 5th ed. Quedgeley: Gloucester

Production animals

General

Constable, P.D. (2016) *Veterinary medicine: a textbook of the diseases of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs and goats*.

Bovine

Ball, P.J. H. and Peters, A.R. (2004) *Reproduction in cattle*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Wiley

Cockcroft, P. (ed) (2015) *Bovine Medicine*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Wiley

Weaver, A.D. et al (eds) (2018) *Bovine Surgery and Lameness*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Wiley

Blowey, R.W. and Weaver, A.D. (2011) *A Colour Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of Cattle*. 3rd ed. St Louis: Mosby

Sheep

Scott, P.R. (2015) *Sheep Medicine*. 2nd ed. London: CRC Press

Winter, A.C. and Clarkson, M.J. (2012) *A Handbook for the Sheep Clinician*. 7th ed. Wallingford: CABI

Pigs

Taylor, D.J. (2013) *Pig Diseases*. 9th ed London: 5M Publishing

Poultry

Greenacre, C.B. and Morishita, T.Y. (eds) (2015) *Backyard Poultry Medicine and Surgery A Guide for Veterinary Practitioners*. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell

Sainsbury, D. (2000) *Poultry Health and Managements*. 4th ed. Oxford: Blackwell

Veterinary public health

Brown, M. (2000) *HACCP in the Meat Industry*. Boca Raton : CRC Press

Buncic, S. (2006) *Integrated Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health*. Wallingford: CABI

Colville, J. and Berryhill, D. L. (2007) *Handbook of Zoonoses* St Louis: Mosby

Collins, D.S. and Huey, R.J. (2015) *Gracey's Meat Hygiene*. 11th ed. London: Saunders

General reading list

This list contains texts which are relevant to more than one species.

Clarke, K.W., Trim, C.M. and Hall, L.W. (2013) *Veterinary anaesthesia*. 11th ed. London: Saunders

Cockcroft, P.D. (2003) *Handbook of Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine*. Oxford: Wiley

Constable, P.D. et al (2016) *Veterinary Medicine*. 11th ed. London: Saunders

Coombes, N. and Silva-Fletcher, A. (2018) Veterinary Clinical Skills Manual. Wallingford: CABI

McDonald, P. et al (2011) Animal Nutrition. 7th ed. Harlow: Pearson

Gray, C. and Moffet, J (2010) Handbook of Veterinary Communication Skills Oxford: Blackwell

Latimer, K.S. and Robert, D.J. (2011) Duncan and Prasse's Veterinary Laboratory Medicine: Clinical Pathology. 5th ed. Oxford: Wiley

Noakes, D.E., Parkinson, T.J. and England, G.C.W. (2018) Veterinary Reproduction and Obstetrics. 10th ed. London: Saunders

Taylor, R.L. et al (2015) Veterinary Parasitology. 4th ed. Oxford: Wiley

Zachary, J.F. (ed) (2017) Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease St Louis: Mosby

Legislation

You should familiarise yourself with UK and EU legislation that may be relevant to veterinary practice in the UK, including the following areas:

- Animal health
- Animal welfare and the health and safety of humans
- Food including milk
- Medicines and residues
- Pet passports
- Slaughterhouses, meat hygiene and meat inspection
- Transport and marketing of animals
- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, available on the RCVS website at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/veterinary-surgeons-act-1966/>

You should always check that any legislation you refer to is the current legislation. You can check by referring to www.legislation.gov.uk which contains up to date information.

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the UK government department responsible for policy and regulation on the environment, food and rural affairs. The website contains information covering food, farming, wildlife and pets. Website: www.defra.gov.uk

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is an executive agency of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government and Welsh Government. Its role is to safeguard animal and plant health. Website: www.apha.gov.uk

The Food Standards Agency – website: www.food.gov.uk

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe website – www.fve.org – contains a section on Veterinary EU Legislation

Information about medicines legislation, control of drug usage, good practice and the cascade can be found in the publications section of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's website – www.vmd.defra.gov.uk

Animal husbandry

You need to be familiar with the animal husbandry of all species commonly kept as pets in the UK and farmed in British agricultural systems. Books are not listed here. You should seek assistance from a librarian if you have difficulty finding appropriate books. For production animals the following publications are recommended: Livestock Farming, Dairy Farmer, Pig Farming, The Sheep Farmer, What's New in Farming and Farmers Weekly.

Veterinary Publications and Journals

You are advised to read the following journals and publications:

- The Veterinary Record
- In Practice
- Journal of Small Animal Practice
- Equine Veterinary Education
- UK Vet
- Publications from the British Equine Veterinary Association – www.beva.org.uk
- Publications from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association – www.bsava.com

Summary of useful websites

RCVS Knowledge Library - <https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/library-and-information-services/>

RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Surgeons – available on the RCVS website at www.rcvs.org.uk/vetcode

RCVS Day One Competencies – available on the RCVS website at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/day-one-competences/>

www.beva.org.uk – British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA)

www.bsava.com – British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA)

www.bva.co.uk – British Veterinary Association (BVA)

www.defra.gov.uk – Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

www.apha.gov.uk - The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

www.food.gov.uk – Food Standards Agency (FSA)

www.fve.org – Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)

www.legislation.gov.uk – managed by the National Archives, publishes all UK legislation on behalf of Her Majesty's government

www.rcvs.org.uk – Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

www.vmd.defra.gov.uk – Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)

www.oie.int – World Organisation for Animal Health

Other support which you might be interested in

The RCVS periodically runs an event aimed at veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses educated outside the UK. The 'Introduction to the UK veterinary profession – a key CPD course for overseas vets and VNs' provides overseas vets and vet nurses with the necessary information and support needed to practise in the UK. Further details can be found online:

www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/events/introduction-to-the-uk-veterinary-profession--a-key-cpd/

VetAbroad is a company with many years of experience helping non-UK vets understand what the UK veterinary profession, employers and society require of them. This makes for an easier transition into UK practice life and enables individuals to develop successful professional careers. Managing Director Luis Sainz-Pardo can be contacted by email at luis@vetabroad.com. Please mention that you heard about VetAbroad from the RCVS so he can explain the services that can most benefit you. More information is available at www.vetabroad.com.