



European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine Behavioural Medicine (Companion Animals)

Examination Procedures and Policies

The examination aims to evaluate the clinical behavioural and basic ethological knowledge of the candidates obtained during the residency training or alternative training programme. Prior to being allowed to sit the examination, candidates must complete an accredited residency or an alternative programme accepted by the Education and Residency Committee. **All Candidates must have their credentials accepted by the Credentials Committee, together with a case log and evidence of 2 accepted peer reviewed scientific publications**, one of which has to be an original research paper, one may be a case report.

The examination consists of **5 parts**:

Part 1 - 150 multiple-choice questions. The duration will be 4 hours. This part will be divided into 2 sections:

Section 1: 75 questions that consist of a question stem and five possible answers, of which only one is correct. These questions are worth one point.

Section 2: 75 questions may consist of a question stem and five possible answers, of which only one is incorrect. These questions are worth one point.

This part includes questions of: General issues of ethology, communication skills and statistical analysis.

Part 2 - 150 multiple-choice questions. The duration will be 4 hours. This part will be divided into 2 sections:

Section 1: 75 questions that consist of a question stem and five possible answers, of which only one is correct. These questions are worth one point.

Section 2: 75 questions may consist of a question stem and five possible answers, of which only one is incorrect. These questions are worth one point.

This part includes questions of: Species typical behaviour and behaviour problems.

Part 3 - Written case based paper. The duration will be 4 hours. This part will be divided into 5 clinical cases of different species:

- 2 cases of dogs.
- 2 cases of cats.

- 1 case of following species. The applicant has to choose between the following species: Pet birds, horses, rabbits, pocket pets, reptiles/amphibians, other (to be approved by the exam committee).

There will be 5 questions of each case about taking history, differential diagnoses and treatment. These questions are worth two points (10 points per case).

Part 4 - Critique of a peer review study, relating to up to 2 years prior to the year of the examination. This part includes 5 short questions that are worth two points each one. The duration will be 3 hours.

Part 5 - Clinical consultations. The candidate will perform a behaviour consultation on two different species of their choice. At least one of these must be related to dogs or cats. The other one could be related to pet birds, small mammals, horses, and others as deemed appropriate by the examination committee.

These consultations must be recorded under supervision of a Diplomate (that has to be present during all the consultation). The video recordings must be presented the day of the exam. Each consult may last at the most 2 hours; **all the videos that exceed this time, will be directly discarded.** Both video recordings have to be delivered in a pendrive. It allows the following video formats: .mpeg, .mpeg2, .avi, .mov.

Issues such as interview structure, differential diagnosis, treatment, communication skills, risk assessment (in case of aggression problems) and animal welfare will be evaluated by the exam committee. This part is worth 20 points (10 points each clinical consultation).

If the exam committee had some doubts about video recordings, it could be required to the candidate some explanations.

The average score of the candidate, for the whole exam, must 70%, assuming that there is no part of the exam with a score inferior to 50%. For the final score each part (multiple-choice questions, written case based paper, critique of peer review study and clinical consultations) is worth 25% each one.