

ACVIM Candidate Study Guidelines

Suggested Study Materials

The list of suggested reference materials is meant to guide Candidates in preparing for the Examination and represent a body of knowledge that a Candidate would know. While the most up to date publications may not be present on this list, as a best practice residents should have exposure to current literature as an ongoing part of their residency training programs. Specific recommendations for exam preparation cannot be made beyond the clinical training gained from participation in a residency program.

Textbooks

When more than one edition is available, reference the most current published edition / version of the textbook, available immediately following the most recent relevant ACVIM examination administration date.

Core textbooks are those in which the entire textbook contributes to a comprehensive knowledge base of the relevant Specialty or the General Examination.

1. A Practical Guide to Cardiac Pacing 6th edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, 2007.
2. Boon JA. Manual of Veterinary Echocardiography. 2nd edition, Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore, 2011.
3. Braunwald's Heart Disease - A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine, 12th edition, Elsevier, 2022.
4. Cardiac Electrophysiology: From Cell to Bedside 8th edition, Elsevier, 2021.
5. Cardiology of the Horse 2nd edition, Saunders Ltd., 2011.
6. Opie's Cardiovascular Drugs: A Companion to Braunwald's Heart Disease. 9th edition. Elsevier, 2020.
7. Electrocardiography of the Dog and Cat 2nd edition (2018), Edra S.p.A., Milan, Italy. Santilli R et al.
8. Feline Cardiology. Cote E, MacDonald KA, Meurs, KM, Sleeper MM, 1st edition. Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.
9. Grossman and Baim's Cardiac Catheterization, Angiography, and Intervention 9th edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2020.
10. Marriott's Practical Electrocardiography 13th edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2021.
11. Moss and Adams' Heart Disease in Infants, Children, and Adolescents including the fetus and young adult. 10th edition, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2021.

12. Physiology of the Heart 5th edition. Katz AM., Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, 2010. (Kindle 2011)
13. Small Animal Cardiovascular Medicine. 2nd edition VIN online, 2005. [1st edition is also on VIN]
14. Feigenbaum's Echocardiography. 8th edition, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, 2009.
15. Kern's Cardiac Catheterization Handbook, 7th edition, Elsevier, 2019.
16. Veterinary Image-guided interventions 1st edition, Wiley-Blackwell 2015. (Kindle edition available)
17. Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Riviere, JE and MG Papich, editors; 10th edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2018

Supplemental textbooks are those that include select chapters, sections, or portions that contribute to an expanded understanding of the relevant Specialty or the General Examination.

1. Clinical Arrhythmology and Electrophysiology; a companion to Braunwald's heart disease. 4th edition. Elsevier, 2023.
2. Equine Internal Medicine. 4th edition. Reed SM, Bayly WM, Sellon DC (editors.), Saunders, 2016. Cardiovascular Diseases, Bonagura JD, Reef VB, Schwarzwald CC.
3. Jubb, Kennedy and Palmers Pathology of Domestic Animals 6th edition, Elsevier and Saunders, St. Louis, 2015.
4. Textbook of veterinary diagnostic radiology 7th edition, Elsevier and Saunders, St. Louis, 2018.
5. Textbook of Clinical Echocardiography 6th edition, Elsevier and Saunders, St. Louis Philadelphia, 2018
6. Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine - Diseases of the Dog and Cat. 8th edition, Elsevier, St. Louis, 2017.
7. Pulmonary Hypertension: Basic Science to Clinical Medicine, 1st edition Maron, Zamanian, Waxman, Springer, 2016.
8. Cardiovascular Disease in Companion Animals Dog Cat and Horse. 2nd edition, CRC Press, Boca Raton, 2021
9. Textbook of Clinical Hemodynamics. 2nd edition, Elsevier, Philadelphia, 2018.
10. Statistics in Medicine. 4th edition, Academic Press, 2020.
11. Atlas of Small Animal CT and MRI. Wisner E, Zwingenberger A. Wiley-Blackwell. 2015.

Journals

Articles Published between July 2020 – June 2025

Core journals are veterinary journals containing articles contributing to a comprehensive knowledge base relating to the relevant Specialty.

1. American Journal of Veterinary Research
2. Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
3. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
4. Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics
5. Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound
6. Journal of Veterinary Cardiology
7. Circulation (Human)
8. Journal of the American College of Cardiology (Human)
9. American Heart Journal (Human)
10. American Journal of Cardiology (Human)
11. Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography (Human)
12. Circulation Research (Human)
13. New England Journal of Medicine (Human)

Supplemental journals may include both veterinary and/or non-veterinary journals that contain articles contributing to a more detailed understanding of, and/or different perspective on, important pathophysiologic, pharmacologic, diagnostic, management and/or therapeutic topics of significance to the relevant Specialty, which is not available elsewhere, and/or is complementary to information covered by the “core” journals and textbooks.

1. Journal of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care
2. Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association
3. Veterinary Pathology
4. Journal of Small Animal Practice
5. Veterinary Clinics of North America
6. Frontiers in Veterinary Science
7. Vet Record Case Reports
8. CASE : Cardiovascular Imaging Case Reports
9. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery
10. Research in Veterinary Science
11. PLOS One
12. British Heart Journal (Human)
13. European Heart Journal (Human)

ACVIM Consensus Statements

All published ACVIM Consensus Statements.

Note: ACVIM Forum Proceedings are no longer considered appropriate allowable literature resources for the ACVIM General or Specialty Examinations.

Seminal Articles

Seminal articles and additional ACVIM Consensus Statements drawn from outside the aforementioned publication date limits.

1. American Heartworm Society: Canine and Feline guidelines. 2024.
2. Boswood A, et al. Effect of Pimobendan in Dogs with Preclinical Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease and Cardiomegaly: The EPIC Study-A Randomized Clinical Trial. J Vet Intern Med. 2016 Nov;30(6):1765-1779.
3. Boswood A, et al. Longitudinal Analysis of Quality of Life, Clinical, Radiographic, Echocardiographic, and Laboratory Variables in Dogs with Preclinical Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease Receiving Pimobendan or Placebo: The EPIC Study. J Vet Intern Med. 2018 Jan;32(1):72-85.
4. Fox PR. Pathology of myxomatous mitral valve disease in the dog. J Vet Cardiol. 2012 Mar;14(1):103-26.
5. Gelzer AR, et al. Combination therapy with mexiletine and sotalol suppresses inherited ventricular arrhythmias in German shepherd dogs better than mexiletine or sotalol monotherapy: a randomized cross-over study. J Vet Cardiol. 2010 Aug;12(2):93-106.
6. Häggström J, et al. Effect of pimobendan or benazepril hydrochloride on survival times in dogs with congestive heart failure caused by naturally occurring myxomatous mitral valve disease: the QUEST study. J Vet Intern Med. 2008 Sep-Oct;22(5):1124-35.
7. Journal of Veterinary Cardiology Special Issue: Cardiac Pacing. April 2019
8. Moise NS, Estrada A. Noise Reversion in Paced Dogs. Journal of Veterinary Cardiology 2002 November Volume 4 Issue 2: 13-21.
9. Scansen BA. Coronary Artery Anomalies in Animals. Vet Sci. 2017 Apr 12;4(2):20
10. Schober KE and Chetboul V. Echocardiographic evaluation of left ventricular diastolic function in cats: hemodynamic determinants and apttern recognition. Journal of Veterinary Cardiology. 2015 December Volume 17, Supplement 1: S201-S133.
11. Summerfield NJ, et al. Efficacy of pimobendan in the prevention of congestive heart failure or sudden death in Doberman Pinschers with preclinical dilated

- cardiomyopathy (the PROTECT Study). J Vet Intern Med. 2012 Nov-Dec;26(6):1337-49.
12. Veterinary Clinics of North America: Exotic Animal practice. Special Issue: Cardiology. January 2009