

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. Ettinger, Feldman, and Cote: *Ettinger's Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, 9th Edition
2. Feldman and Nelson: *Canine and Feline Endocrinology*, 4th Edition
3. DiBartola: *Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid-Base Disorders in Small Animal Practice*, 4th Edition
4. Nelson and Couto: *Small Animal Internal Medicine*, 6th Edition
5. Sykes: *Greene's Infectious Diseases of the Dog and Cat*, 5th Edition *OR* *Canine and Feline Infectious Diseases*
6. Withrow and MacEwan's *Small Animal Clinical Oncology*, 5th or 6th Edition
7. Guyton and Hall *Textbook of Medical Physiology*, 14th or 15th Edition
8. Bonagura and Twedt: *Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy*. XV.

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. West and Luks: *West's Respiratory Physiology: The Essentials*, 11th Edition
2. Tizard, Ian R. *Veterinary Immunology: An Introduction*. 7th ed. Philadelphia: Saunders, 2004.
3. Bartges and Polzin: *Nephrology and Urology of Small Animals*, 1st Edition
4. Schalm's *Veterinary Hematology*, 7th Edition

5. Willard and Tvedten: Small Animal Clinical Diagnosis by Laboratory Methods, 5th Edition
6. Plumbs: <https://app.plumbs.com/>
7. eClinPath (<http://www.eclinpath.com>)

Journals

July 2020 – June 2025

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

1. Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine (JVIM)
2. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery (JFMS)
3. Frontiers in Veterinary Science
4. Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association (JAAHA)

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 and Critical Care (JVECC)
2. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA)
3. Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Internal Medicine Volumes (VCNA)

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 drawn from outside the aforementioned publications and journal date limits.

1. Dittmer & Pemberton. "A holistic approach to bone tumors in dogs and cats: radiographic and histologic correlation." *Vet Path*, 2021; 58(5):841-857
2. Friedrichs, K.R., Harr, K.E., Freeman, K.P., Szladovits, B., Walton, R.M., Barnhart, K.F. and Blanco-Chavez, J. (2012), ASVCP reference interval guidelines: determination of de novo reference intervals in veterinary species and other related topics. *Vet Clin Pathol*, 41: 441-453.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/vcp.12006>.
3. Garraway, et al. "Relationship of the mucosal microbiota to gastrointestinal inflammation and small cell intestinal lymphoma in cats" *J Vet Internal Med*. 2018 Sep;32(5):1692-1702. doi: 10.1111/jvim.15291. Epub 2018 Aug 7. PMID: 30084202 PMCID: PMC6189339
4. Giaretta et al. "Comparison of intestinal expression of the apical sodium-dependent bile acid transporter between dogs with and without chronic inflammatory enteropathy" *J Vet Intern Med*. 2018 Nov;32(6):1918-1926. doi: 10.1111/jvim.15332. Epub 2018 Oct 12. PMID: 30315593 PMCID: PMC6271328
5. Hisey, E.A., Galor, A., Leonard, B.C "A comparative review of evaporative dry eye disease and meibomian gland dysfunction in dogs and humans." *Veterinary Ophthalmology* , 26(S1), 2023
6. Knight, B.J., Wood, G.A., Foster, R.A., Coomber, B.L. "Beclin-1 is a novel predictive biomarker for canine cutaneous and subcutaneous mast cell tumors." *Vet Pathol*. 2022 Jan;59(1):46-56.
7. Lappin MR et al., "Antimicrobial use Guidelines for Treatment of Respiratory Tract Disease in Dogs and Cats: Antimicrobial Guidelines Working Group of the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases." *JVIM* 2017
8. Mealey, K.L., Owens, J.G., Freeman, E. "Canine and feline P-glycoprotein deficiency: What we know and where we need to go." *Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*,46(1), 2023
9. Summers et al. "The fecal microbiome and serum concentrations of indoxyl sulfate and p-cresol sulfate in cats with chronic kidney disease" *J Vet Intern Med*. 2019 Mar;33(2):662-669. doi: 10.1111/jvim.15389. Epub 2018 Dec 18. PMID: 30561098 PMCID: PMC6430892