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. Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology
2. Cunningham's Textbook of Veterinary Physiology
3. Large Animal Neurology
4. Rebhun's Diseases of Dairy Cattle (Peek and Divers)
5. Equine Internal Medicine (Reed, Bayly, & Sellon)
6. Equine Neonatal Medicine (Wong and Wilkins)
7. Large Animal Internal Medicine (Smith, Van Metre, and Pusterla)
8. Llama and Alpaca Care: Medicine, Surgery, Reproduction, Nutrition and Herd Health (Cebra, Anderson, Tibary, Van Saun, and Johnson)
9. Sheep, Goat, and Cervid Medicine (Pugh, Baird, Edmondson and Passler)
10. Veterinary Clinical Epidemiology: From Patient to Population (Smith)
11. Veterinary Immunology (Tizard)
12. Veterinary Medicine (Constable, Hinchcliff, Done & Gruenberg)

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. Equine Infectious Diseases (Sellon and Long)

Journals

Articles Published between February 2021 – January 2026

The journal article dates listed in the study guidelines are based on the official publication date as it appears in the journal volume, not the early online (epub) release date.

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

1. Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
2. Equine Veterinary Journal
3. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
4. American Journal of Veterinary Research
5. Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care
6. Veterinary Clinics of North America (Equine and Food Animal)
7. Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation
8. Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics

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. Equine Veterinary Education

ACVIM Consensus Statements

All published ACVIM Consensus Statements.

Seminal Articles

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

1. Equine Endocrinology Group
    a. Recommendations on the diagnosis and management of pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID)
    b. Recommendations on the diagnosis and management of thyroid disease and the use of thyroxine in horses.
    c. Recommendations on diagnosis and management of equine metabolic syndrome (EMS), including assessment of insulin status.

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