



**AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND  
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS  
MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES**

*Surgery of Horses*

## INTRODUCTION

These Membership Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the *Membership Candidate Handbook*.

## ELIGIBILITY

Refer to the *Membership Candidate Handbook*.

## OBJECTIVES

Candidates attempting the membership examination will be expected to have a sound understanding of the principles of surgery and therapeutics and a sound working knowledge of the management and diseases of horses with surgical treatment options. Success indicates that the person has demonstrated competence superior to colleagues in this field.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. The candidate will have a **sound<sup>1</sup> knowledge** of:

1.1. equine anatomy and physiology

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<sup>1</sup> **Knowledge levels:**

**Detailed knowledge** — candidates must be able to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the topic including differing points of view and published literature. The highest level of knowledge.

**Sound knowledge** — candidate must know all of the principles of the topic including some of the finer detail and be able to identify areas where opinions may diverge. A middle level of knowledge.

**Basic knowledge** — candidate must know the main points of the topic and the major literature.

- 1.2. basic underlying principles of surgery, such as wound healing, wound infection, biomechanics, the pathophysiology of shock, fluid therapy, haemostasis, antimicrobial therapy, and biomaterials and sutures
  - 1.3. the aetiology, pathogenesis, and pathophysiology of surgical diseases in the horse
  - 1.4. the diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of surgical diseases in the horse
  - 1.5. diagnostic imaging including radiology, ultrasound, scintigraphy, anaesthesia and intensive care, and chemotherapeutics, as they apply to the diagnosis and treatment of equine surgical diseases
  - 1.6. aseptic techniques and sterilising procedures.
2. The candidate will have a **basic knowledge** of:
    - 2.1. pathology of surgical conditions
    - 2.2. tumour biology and the effectiveness of different treatment protocols
    - 2.3. the ability to critically evaluate the current veterinary literature and concepts in equine surgery.

## EXAMINATIONS

For information on the standard and format of both the Written and Oral examinations, candidates are referred to the Membership Candidates Handbook. The Membership examination has two separate, autonomous components:

1. **Written Examination** (*Component 1*)  
**Written Paper 1** (two hours): Principles of the Subject  
**Written Paper 2** (two hours): Applied aspects of the Subject
2. **Oral Examination** (*Component 2*)  
**Oral** (approximately one hour)

The written examination will comprise of two separate two-hour written papers taken on the same day. There will be an additional 15 minutes perusal time for each paper, during which no typing is permitted. Each paper is worth 120 marks. There is no choice of questions. Questions may be long essay type, a series of shorter answer sub-questions, or multiple-choice questions. Marks allocated to each question and to each subsection of questions will be clearly indicated on the written paper.

**Written paper 1:**

This paper is designed to test the candidate's knowledge of the principles of Surgery of Horses as described in the Learning Outcomes. Answers may cite specific examples in which general principles apply, but should primarily address the theoretical basis underlying each example.

**Written paper 2:**

This paper is designed to (a) test the candidate's ability to apply the principles of Surgery of Horses and awareness of current important issues within the discipline of Surgery of Horses in Australia and New Zealand.

**Oral Examination**

This examination requires the candidate to demonstrate achievement of the above-mentioned Learning Outcomes. The exam may include images, radiographs and other clinically relevant material to assess the candidate's diagnostic skills, problem solving skills and ability to apply surgical principles to clinical problems. The duration of this examination is approximately one (1) hour. Case based scenarios (usually 4) with related sub-questions will be used with a total of 60 marks. The Oral examination will be held via Zoom.

**RECOMMENDED READING LISTS**

The candidate is expected to read widely within the discipline, from editions listed or later, paying particular attention to areas not part of their normal work experiences. This list of books and journals is intended to guide the candidate to some core references and other source material. Candidates also should be guided by their mentors. *The list is not comprehensive and is not intended as an indicator of the content of the examination.*

**Textbooks**

Auer JA & Stick JA, editors. *Equine surgery*. 5th edn. Elsevier, St Louis, 2019.

McIlwraith CW et al., editors. *Diagnostic and surgical arthroscopy in the horse*. 4th edn. Mosby Elsevier, Philadelphia, 2014.

Fossum TH. *Small Animal Surgery*. 5th edn. Elsevier Health Sciences, Philadelphia, 2018 (Chapters 1-9)

Nixon AJ, editor. *Equine fracture repair*. John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ, 2nd edn, 2019.

Ross MW & Dyson SJ, editors. *Diagnosis and management of lameness in the horse*. 2nd edn. WB Saunders, St Louis, 2010.

## **Journals**

**For membership examination the candidate should use the comprehensive *Equine Surgery* textbook (published 2019), and read and review key relevant journal articles published since.**

*American Journal of Veterinary Research*

*Australian Veterinary Journal*

*Equine Veterinary Education*

*Equine Veterinary Journal*

*Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*

*Veterinary Clinics of North America (Equine Practice)*

*Veterinary Surgery*

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information contact the College Office

Telephone: International +61 (07) 3423 2016

Email: [examinations@anzcvcs.org.au](mailto:examinations@anzcvcs.org.au)

Web: [www.anzcvcs.org.au](http://www.anzcvcs.org.au)

Postal Address: Building 3, Garden City Office Park, 2404 Logan Road

EIGHT MILE PLAINS QLD 4113 Australia

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