

Equine RVS Exam Study Guide - 2026

This guide will help you prepare for your ABVP Recognized Veterinary Specialty (RVS) examination this November.

The 350 item RVS Exam is given in two parts on the same day. The exams are mostly to exclusively multiple-choice. There is the possibility of fill in the blank, short answer, essay, or matching for some exam items. The AVMA best practice is that the examination items align with a Job Task Analysis (JTA) of current RVS Diplomates. The 2018 JTA identified tasks, diseases, etc. that Diplomates either saw frequently or expected a Specialist to have immediate knowledge of the subject.

Additionally, it has been decided that some exam items can come from current journals and a small percentage can be at your Exam Committee's discretion. Please note that items drawn from current journals (with a 5 year look back period) are 1) from a journal on the RVS Reading List, 2) the question is drawn from the abstract only, and 3) the journal abstract must be inexpensively obtained. The exception to this is Veterinary Clinics of North America (if applicable), where the exam taker is responsible for the whole article.

Exam Blueprint

For topics that are systems (such as Cardiovascular, etc.), questions can include anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, diseases (Including neoplasia), etiologies, diagnosis, and therapy.

Behavioral B	Up to 1%
Cardiovascular CV	2%
Endocrine E	2%
Gastrointestinal GI	11%
Genetic G	up to 1%
Hemolymphatic HL	1%
Immunologic I	1%
Infectious IN	13%
Integument/Mammary IM	8%
Management/Environment ME	4%
Metabolic M	3%
Musculoskeletal MS	18%
Nervous NV	4%
Nutritional N	1%
Oral/Dentition/Beak O	1%
Neoplasia - concepts, multisystem NP	2%
Pharmacologic RX	up to 1%
Regulatory RG	up to 1%
Reproductive RP	7%
Respiratory RS	9%



Special senses SS	7%
Toxicologic T	1%
Urogenital UG	4%
Zoonotic Z	up to 1%
	100.00%

Specific conditions

Certain conditions were identified as important to Diplomates in your RVS. This list is meant to help guide your study and not meant to be an all-inclusive list. Conditions not on this list may be present on the exam.

abscesses
acute colitis/diarrhea
analgesia
anesthesia and recovery
arthritis (septic and nonseptic)
athletic training injuries
bacterial pneumonia
bacterial sepsis
colic
conjunctivitis
corneal ulcer
cryptorchidism
degenerative joint disease
dehydration
dental disorders
desmitis of suspensory ligament
developmental orthopedic disease
endoparasites
esophageal obstruction
exuberant granulation tissue
gastric ulcers
hyperadrenocorticism
inflammatory airway disease
influenza
intestinal obstruction
keratoconjunctivitis
lameness
laminitis



melanoma
metabolic syndrome
navicular disease
neonatal disorders
ocular trauma
osteochondritis dissecans
pituitary disorders
rectal tears
recurrent airway obstruction
retained placenta
rupture of tendon or ligament
Sarcoid
squamous cell carcinoma
Streptococcus spp
subsolar abscess
tendonitis/desmitis
thrush
trauma
uveitis

Equine Reading List

Referred Journals:

- *American Journal of Veterinary Research*
- *Equine Veterinary Journal*
- *Equine Veterinary Education*
- *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*
- *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*
- *Veterinary Surgery*

Texts:

- Baxter GM: *Adams and Stashak's Lameness in Horses*, 7th ed., John Wiley and Sons Inc, 2020
- Sprayberry KA and Robinson NE: *Current Therapy in Equine Medicine*, 7th ed., Elsevier, 2015
- Reed SM, et al: *Equine Internal Medicine*, 4th ed., Elsevier, 2018
- Gilger BC. *Equine Ophthalmology*, 4th ed., John Wiley and Sons Inc, 2022
- Mckinnon AO, et al: *Equine Reproduction*, 2nd ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2011
- Auer J and Stick J: *Equine Surgery*, 5th ed., Elsevier, 2018
- Hall JE and Hall ME: *Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology*, 14th ed., Elsevier, 2020
- Latimer KS: *Duncan and Prasse's Veterinary Laboratory Medicine: Clinical Pathology*, 5th ed., Wiley-Blackwell 2011
- Tizard I: *Veterinary Immunology*, 10th ed., Elsevier, 2016

