

Feline RVS Exam Study Guide – 2026

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

The 350 item Combined RVS Exam given in two parts on the same day. The exam is typically multiple-choice. For some RVS there is the possibility of fill in the blank, short answer, essay, or matching for some exam items.

The AVMA best practices 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	1%
Cardiovascular CV	5%
Endocrine E	5%
Gastrointestinal GI	14%
Genetic G	Up to 1%
Hemolymphatic HL	4%
Immunologic I	2%
Infectious IN	14%
Integument/Mammary IM	7%
Management/Environment ME	Up to 1%
Metabolic M	2%
Musculoskeletal MS	6%
Neoplasia NP	5%
Nervous NV	4%
Nutritional N	1%
Oral/Dentition/Beak O	4%
Pathology - Miscellaneous	4%
Pharmacologic RX	Up to 1%



Regulatory RG	Up to 1%
Reproductive RP	1%
Respiratory RS	6%
Special senses SS	5%
Toxicologic T	1%
Urogenital GU	9%
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.

acute blood loss
acute colitis/diarrhea
acute pancreatitis
anaphylaxis
arthritis (septic and nonseptic)
asthma
atopy
behavior disorder
cerebellar hypoplasia
chronic interstitial nephritis
chronic renal disease
coccidiosis
congestive heart failure
conjunctivitis
cryptorchidism
cystitis
degenerative joint disease
dehydration
dental disorders
dermatomycosis
dermatopathy
diabetic neuropathy
ectoparasites
endoparasites
enteritis



flea allergy dermatitis
foreign body obstruction
gingivostomatitis
heart failure
heartworm
hepatic lipidosis
herpesvirus
Horner's syndrome
hypercalcemia
hyperesthesia syndrome
hyperkalemia
hypertension
hyperthyroidism
hypoglycemia
hypokalemic myopathy
inappropriate elimination
inflammation
inflammatory bowel disease
injection site fibrosarcoma
intestinal obstruction
ketoacidosis
luxating patella
mammary gland tumors
megacolon
metritis-pyometra
neoplasia
odontoclastic resorptive lesions
otitis externa
ovarian remnant syndrome
pain recognition
pancreatitis
panleukopenia
polycystic kidney
renal failure
rhinotracheitis
saddle thrombus
shock
sinusitis
squamous cell carcinoma
Toxoplasma spp
trichobezoars



urinary tract disease
vestibular disease

Feline Reading List

Primary Comprehensive Reference Texts

- The Cat: Clinical Medicine and Management, 2nd ed. Little, S.; Elsevier, 2024
- The Feline Patient, 6th ed. Norsworthy G.; Wiley-Blackwell, 2026
- August's Consultations in Feline Internal Medicine. Little, S.; Elsevier, 2016
- Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine, 9th ed. Ettinger, S.J.; Feldman E.C.; Côté, E. Elsevier, 2024.
- Veterinary Clinics of North America: Small Animal Practice. Elsevier
- Clinical Veterinary Advisor: Dogs and Cats. Cote, E.; Elsevier, 2015
- Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook. Plumb, D.; Wiley-Blackwell, 2018
- Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology. Hall, J. Elsevier, 2020
- Ganong's Review of Medical Physiology, 26th ed. Barrett, K. and Barman, S.; McGraw Hill, 2019

Primary Journal References

- *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Classic*
- *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Clinical Practice*
- *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery Open Reports*
- *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*
- *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*
- *Journal of American Animal Hospital Association*

Supplemental Reference Texts

- Small Animal Internal Medicine, 6th ed. Nelson, R. and Couto, G.; Elsevier, 2019.
- Kirk's Current Veterinary Therapy XV. Bonagura, J. and Twedt, D.; Elsevier, 2014
- Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult: Canine and Feline. Tilley, L. And Smith, F.; Wiley-Blackwell, 2021
- Manual of Clinical Behavior Medicine for Dogs and Cats. Overall, K. ; Elsevier, 2013
- Feline Endocrinology. Feldman, E.C.; Fracassi, F.; Peterson, M.E. Edra, 2019.
- Practical Guide to Canine and Feline Neurology. Dewey, C. and da Costa, R. ; Wiley-Blackwell, 2015
- Feline Anesthesia and Pain Management. Steagall, P.; Robertson, S.; Taylor, P. Wiley-Blackwell, 2018.
- Canine and Feline Anesthesia and Co-Existing Disease. Snyder, L. and Johnson, R.; Wiley-Blackwell, 2014



- Feline Gastroenterology. Procoli, F.; Allenspach, K.; Scgimitz, S.S. Edra, 2021
- Feline Cardiology. Côté, E.; MacDonald, K.A.; Meurs, K.M.; Sleeper, M.M. Wiley Blackwell, 2011.
- Canine and Feline Infectious Diseases. Sykes, J. Elsevier, 2013
- Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Procedures. Hackett, T. and Mazzaferro, E.; Wiley-Blackwell, 2012
- Feline Emergency and Critical Care Medicine. Byers, C.G.; Giunti, M. Edra, 2021.
- BSAVA Manual of Feline Practice. Harvey, A.; Tasker, S. BSAVA, 2013
- Feline Dermatology. Noli, C.; Colombo, S. Springer, 2020.
- Feline Diagnostic Imaging. Holland, M.; Hudson, J. Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.
- Essentials of Veterinary Ophthalmology. Gelatt, K.; Wiley-Blackwell, 2014
- Small Animal Surgery, 5th ed. Fossum, T.; Elsevier, 2018
- BSAVA Guide to Pain Management in Small Animal Practice. Self, I. BSAVA, 2019
- Feline Soft Tissue Surgery and General Surgery. Langley-Hobbs, S.J.; Demetriou, J.L.; Ladlow, J.F. Saunders-Elsevier, 2014.
- Manual of Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery 2nd ed. Tobias, K. Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.

