

## Fish Practice RVS Exam Study Guide – 2026

This guide will help you prepare for your ABVP Recognized Veterinary Specialty (RVS) examination this November. The 350 item Fish RVS Exam is given in two parts on the same day. The exam is exclusively multiple-choice. The exam includes questions pertinent to fishes (Agnatha, Chondrichthyes, and Osteichthyes) and includes pet fish (e.g. personal aquaria and pond species like koi), aquaculture production (e.g. ornamental, food, bait, and restoration), public aquarium, lab animal, and natural resource and wild fisheries. Aquatic invertebrates, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals are **not included**.

The examination items align with a Job Task Analysis (JTA) of the RVS Organizing committee and other recognized experts in the field. The results of the JTA informed the Exam Blueprint, shown below, and the exam structure will follow this blueprint. Most exam items will come from the Essential Resources on the Reading List below. 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 the previous 5 years 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 freely available. The exception to this is Veterinary Clinics of North America (if applicable), where the exam taker is responsible for the whole article.

### Exam Blueprint

Topic domain	% on exam
Aquatic Environment and Life Support Systems	12%
Diagnostics, Treatments and Prophylactic Methods of Fish Diseases	21%
Fish Husbandry and Industries	8%
Legislation, Regulations, and Policies	7%
Pathobiology and Epidemiology of Fish Diseases	28%
Principles of Fish Welfare	4%
Public Health, Zoonoses, and Seafood Safety	2%
Taxonomy, Anatomy, and Physiology	18%

### Study Material

#### Essential Textbooks/References

1. **\*Cartner S, Eisen JS, Farmer SC, Guillemain KJ, Kent ML, and Sanders GE. 2020.** The Zebrafish in Biomedical Research: Biology, Husbandry, Diseases, and Research Applications (American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine Series) 1st Edition. Academic Press (Elsevier), Cambridge, MA. 718 pp.  
***ONLY THESE SPECIFIC SECTIONS for Cartner et al 2020 (see below in italics):***  
*Ch 1 pg 11*  
*Ch 2 pg 19-20*  
*Ch 26 pg 284*



Ch 26 pg 286  
Ch 27 pg 200  
Ch 27 pg 304  
Ch 29 pg 322-324  
Ch 29 pg 333, table 29.2  
Ch 30 pg 343-344, table 30.1  
Ch 30 pg 352-354  
Ch 31 pg 357-359  
Ch 32 pg 366-369  
Ch 34, pg 412  
Ch 35, pg 419-424  
Ch 38 pg 451-452  
Ch 38, pg 455  
Pages 463-556  
Ch 43 pg 531  
Ch 45 pg 560-561  
Ch 50 pg 649-650

2. Hadfield CA, Clayton LA (Eds). 2021. Clinical Guide to Fish Medicine. Wiley-Blackwell, Hoboken, NJ. 624 pp.
3. Lucas JS, Southgate PC, Tucker CS. (Eds). 2019. Aquaculture: Farming Aquatic Animals and Plants 3rd Edition. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Hoboken, NJ. 633 pp.
4. Noga EJ (Ed). 2010. Fish Disease Diagnosis and Treatment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Mosby-Yearbook, St. Louis, MO. 378 pp.
5. Smith SA (Ed). 2019. Fish Diseases and Medicine. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 397 pp.
6. Smith M, Warmolts D, Thoney D, Hueter R. (Ed). 2004. The Elasmobranch Husbandry Manual: Captive Care of Sharks, Rays and their Relatives Editors. Special Publication of the Ohio Biological Survey.  
*All chapters except: Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Chapter 12, Chapters 31- 32, Chapter 36, Chapters 37-38 (FREE ONLINE)*  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/268339849\\_The\\_Elasmobranch\\_Husbandry\\_Manual\\_Captive\\_Care\\_of\\_Sharks\\_Rays\\_and\\_their\\_Relatives\\_Editors](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/268339849_The_Elasmobranch_Husbandry_Manual_Captive_Care_of_Sharks_Rays_and_their_Relatives_Editors)
7. Smith M, Warmolts D, Thoney D, Hueter R. (Ed). 2017. The Elasmobranch Husbandry Manual II - Recent Advances in the Care of Sharks, Rays and their Relatives  
*All chapters except: Chapters 1-10, Chapters 15-16, Chapter 19, Chapters 22-24, Chapters 40-41 (FREE ONLINE)*  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319762551\\_The\\_Elasmobranch\\_Husbandry\\_Manual\\_II\\_-\\_Recent\\_Advances\\_in\\_the\\_Care\\_of\\_Sharks\\_Rays\\_and\\_their\\_Relatives](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/319762551_The_Elasmobranch_Husbandry_Manual_II_-_Recent_Advances_in_the_Care_of_Sharks_Rays_and_their_Relatives)
8. The AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals, 2020 Edition (fish-specific articles)  
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/avma-guidelines-euthanasia-animals>
9. The AVMA Guidelines for the Humane Slaughter of Animals, 2024 Edition (fish-specific articles)  
<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/guidelines-humane-slaughter-animals>



10. The AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals, 2026 Edition (fish-specific articles)

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/avma-guidelines-depopulation-animals>

### **Primary Journals (Articles within the past 5 years)**

1. Diseases of Aquatic Organisms (Fish-specific articles)
2. Journal of Aquatic Animal Health
3. Journal of Fish Diseases
4. Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine (Fish-specific articles)
5. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (Fish-specific articles)

### **Supplemental Textbooks**

1. Lewbart GA (Ed.) 2017. Ornamental Fishes and Aquatic Invertebrates: Self-Assessment Color Review, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, FL. 234 pp.
2. Lewbart GA (Ed.) 1998. Self-Assessment Color Review of Ornamental Fish. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa. 192 pp.
3. Roberts HE (Ed). 2009. Fundamentals of Ornamental Fish Health. Wiley-Blackwell, Ames, IA. 255 pp.
4. Stoskopf MK (Ed). 1993. Fish Medicine. Saunders, Philadelphia, PA. 882 pp.
5. Wildgoose W (Ed). 2001. British Small Animal Veterinary Association Manual of Ornamental Fish, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. BSAVA, Gloucester, UK. 304 pp.
6. Urdes L, Walster C, Tepper J (Eds). 2022. Fundamentals of Aquatic Veterinary Medicine, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. Wiley-Blackwell, Hoboken, NJ.
7. Woo PTK (Ed). 2006. Fish Diseases and Disorders, Vol 1: Protozoan and Metazoan Infections. CABI Publishing, New York, NY. 416 pp.
8. Leatherland JF, Woo PTK (Eds). 2010. Fish Diseases and Disorders, Vol 2: Non-infectious Disorders. CABI Publishing, New York, NY. 416 pp.
9. Woo PTK, Bruno DW (Eds). 2010. Fish Diseases and Disorders, Vol 3: Viral, Bacterial, and Fungal Infections. CABI Publishing, New York, NY. 896 pp.

### **Supplemental Journals (Articles within the past 5 years; for all, fish-specific articles only)**

1. Veterinary Clinics of North America, Exotic Animal Practice
2. Journal of Zoo and Aquarium Research
3. Journal of Exotic Pet Medicine
4. American Journal of Veterinary Research
5. Aquaculture (Elsevier)
6. Fish and Shellfish Immunology

