



2026

Veterinary Science Scenario

Resource Guide

Disclaimer: The material presented is provided as an additional resource for the 2026 event and should be used in addition to those provided in the 2026 Veterinary Science handbook.

ANNUAL FOCUS AREAS — 2026

The Veterinary Science Career Development Event (CDE) focuses on two case-based scenarios that integrate general knowledge, clinical practice, handling/restraint skills, team activities and identification including anatomical structures of clinical relevance including canine and feline skeletal and urogenital systems" and "digestive system of monogastrics. The two scenarios for 2026 will focus on:

- Emergent care in the canine and feline patient
- Enrichment, behavior, and welfare of animals in a laboratory/research setting

Along with the references provided in the Veterinary Science CDE Handbook, the resources below contain helpful information regarding these topics:

- National Research Council, 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/12910>
- American Dairy Science Association® (ADSA®), American Society of Animal Science (ASAS), and Poultry Science Association (PSA). Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching. 4th ed., 2020.
https://www.asas.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/agguide_4th.pdf

PRACTICUMS

The practicums are specific to the 2026 event and may be used in addition to those provided in the [2026 Veterinary Science CDE handbook](#).

PRACTICUM LIST

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Clinical Procedures Practicum

ADMINISTER INHALANT TO CAT

The participant must talk through the practicum steps with the judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Select the inhaler that matches the veterinarian's prescription for the patient. Verify that the inhaler selected is not empty and has remaining doses.	10	
Remove the safety cap from the asthma medication inhaler. Shake the inhaler well for 5 to 10 seconds, then insert it into the correct end of the aerosol chamber.	7	
Place the feline patient on your lap, a towel, or a soft surface.	4	
Place the aerosol chamber mask around the feline patient's nose and mouth. Ensure a good seal has formed between the mask and the patient's face.	7	
Deliver the prescribed number of puffs of medication into the chamber and hold the inhaler mask in place for five to six breaths.	10	
Reward your cat with praise and a treat after dosing.	7	
Communicative ability, professionalism, articulation and customer relations.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

Resource: <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/treatment-instructions-for-asthma-and-bronchitis-in-cats>

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Clinical Procedures Practicum

PREPARATION OF A BLOOD SMEAR

The participant must talk through the practicum steps with the judge. The student will wear gloves for this procedure.

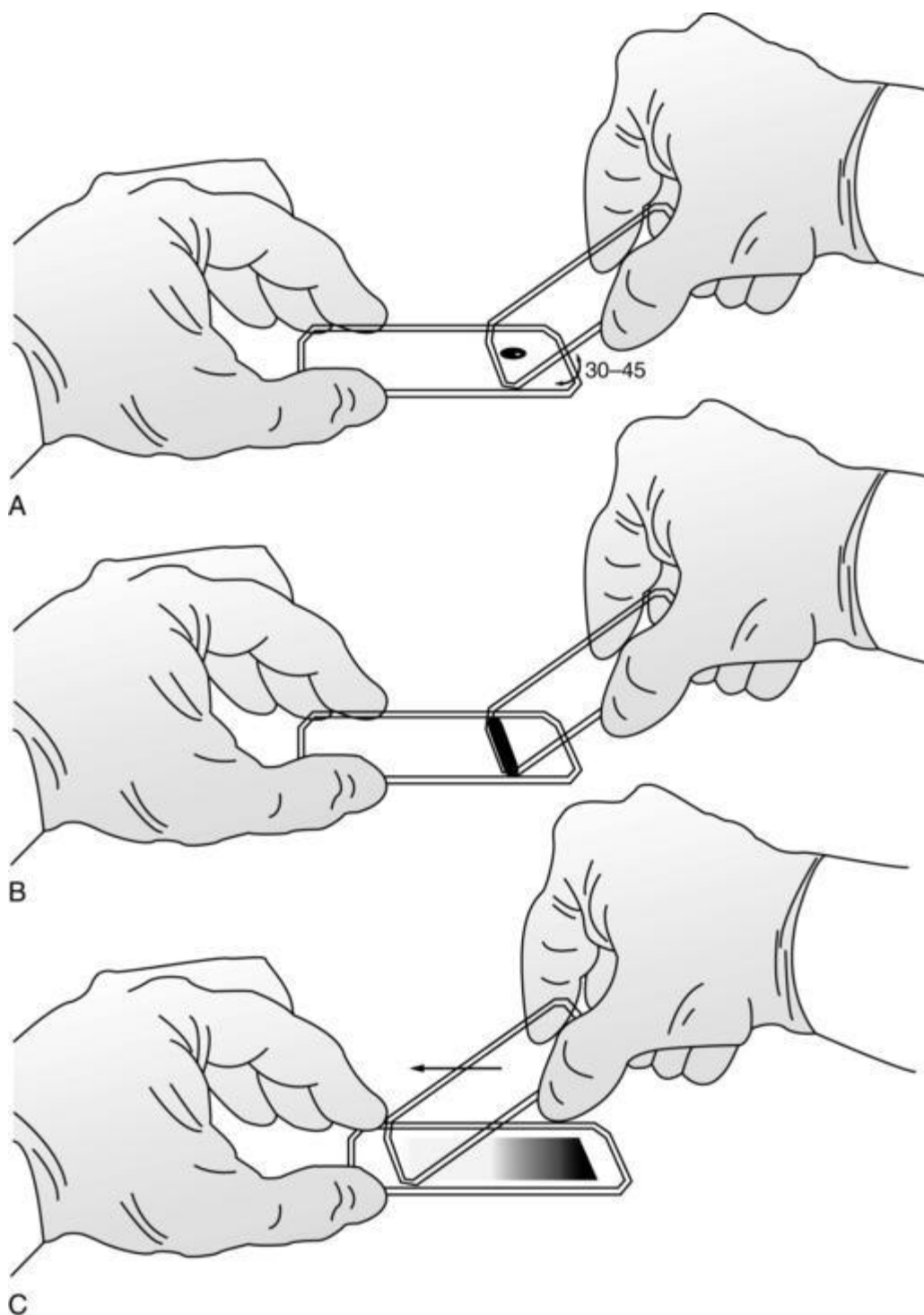
Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student gently inverts the vial of blood to mix the sample.	5	
The student holds the vial at an angle, introduces the capillary tube, and allows blood to move up the capillary tube. The student removes the tube from the vial, then places their index finger over the capillary tube before removing it.	5	
The student places a drop of blood onto one end of a clean slide, about ½ centimeter from the frosted edge, then discards the capillary tube into a sharps bin.	5	
The student takes a second slide and lays the edge flat against the smear slide at a 30–45-degree angle. The student then pulls the second slide back until it contacts the drop of blood, allowing the blood to spread along the edge of the slide.	5	
Once blood has spread along the edge of the second slide, the student firmly and swiftly pushes that slide away from the drop of blood.	10	
The smear should be fully contained on the slide (i.e., not off the edge). It should not be too thick or too thin, or it will leave scratch marks. If held up to the light, the tail (feathered edge) of the smear should contain a rainbow effect.	10	
The student disposes of any glass in the appropriate sharps bin. The student disposes of any other items contaminated with blood in a clinical waste bin.	5	
Communicative ability, professionalism, articulation and customer relations.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

Sources/References: **McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians and Nurses, 11th edition, Chapter 11, Pg. 343**

<https://youtu.be/rqXy45sRJKw?si=JPelocNaGwhpPet>

<https://youtu.be/5sftXMZi98Q?si=LsPqgEem9JqGMTdm>

PREPARATION OF A BLOOD SMEAR *cont.*



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Clinical Procedures Practicum

DONNING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The participant must talk through the practicum steps with the judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student performs hand hygiene prior to donning PPE.	5	
The student puts the isolation gown on so that it covers the front torso from neck to knees and wraps around the back.**	5	
The student fastens the gown behind the neck and waist.	5	
The student puts on the mask by securing the elastic bands behind the ears, fitting the flexible band to the nose bridge, and fitting the mask below the chin.	10	
The student puts on gloves so that they cover the wrists of the isolation gown.	5	
The student performs these steps in the correct order.	5	
The student enters the “hot zone” without returning to the “cool zone”.	10	
Communicative ability, professionalism, articulation and customer relations.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Toolkits-PPE-Sequence-P.pdf> *with special focus on “Sequence for Putting On PPE” and “How to Safely Remove PPE Example 2”

<https://www.aaha.org/resources/2018-aaha-infection-control-prevention-and-biosecurity-guidelines/personal-protective-equipment/>

**Students are expected to wear the articles of PPE.

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Clinical Procedures Practicum

DOFFING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The participant must talk through the practicum steps with the judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student acknowledges that their sleeves, the front of the gown, and the outside of the gloves are contaminated. The student grasps the gown at the front and pulls away from their body so that the ties break, touching only the outside of the gown with gloved hands.	10	
While removing the gown, the student rolls it inside-out into a bundle. As the gown is removed, the student peels off the gloves at the same time. Only the inside of the gloves and gown should be touched with bare hands.	10	
The student places the gown into a waste container.	5	
The student acknowledges that the front of the mask is contaminated and grasps the mask's elastics to remove it without touching the front of the mask.	5	
The student discards the mask into a waste container and performs hand hygiene immediately after removing all PPE.	5	
The student performs these steps in the correct order	5	
The student enters the "cool zone" without returning to the "hot zone".	5	
Communicative ability, professionalism, articulation and customer relations.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/infection-control/media/pdfs/Toolkits-PPE-Sequence-P.pdf> *with special focus on "Sequence for Putting On PPE" and "How to Safely Remove PPE Example 2"

<https://www.aaha.org/resources/2018-aaha-infection-control-prevention-and-biosecurity-guidelines/personal-protective-equipment/>

**Students are expected to wear the articles of PPE.

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Clinical Procedures Practicum

RAT VENIPUNCTURE-TAIL VEIN

The participant must talk through the practicum steps with the judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Restrain the animal using the mechanical restraint device with the tail protruding.	10	
Cleanse collection site with antiseptic solution; do not rub back and forth to prevent sample quality degradation.	8	
Restrain the tail while occluding the vein with your non-dominant hand and rotate $\frac{1}{4}$ turn to access the lateral tail vein	10	
With the bevel of the needle facing upward and the needle almost parallel to the vein, slide the needle into the tail vein. Collect sample and withdraw needle.	10	
Apply gentle pressure with gauze 15 to 30 seconds until bleeding has stopped. Clotting agents may be used to facilitate the stop of blood flow.	4	
Dispose of the needle into the approved sharps container.	3	
Communicative ability, professionalism, articulation and customer relations.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

Resources: American Association of Laboratory Animal Science. Laboratory Animal Technician Training Manual. (Memphis, TN: Drumwright and Co, 2007)

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Handling and Restraining Practicum

RESTRAINT OF GUINEA PIG

The participant must talk through the practicum steps with the judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Approach the animal in a calm and quiet manner	5	
With the index finger and thumb of one hand, grasp the guinea pig at the shoulders behind the forelimbs.	5	
Take the other hand and gently cup the hind limbs.	5	
Shift the hand holding the shoulders to the ventral chest and cup the chest to secure the animal.	5	
Lift the animal and hold it close to one's body, supporting the animal's back at all times.	5	
Communicative ability, professionalism, articulation and customer relations.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	30	

Resource: Bassert, Joanna M., and John Thomas. McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians, Elsevier, 2021. ProQuest Ebook Central. <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/purdue/detail.action?docID=2072315>. Created from Purdue on 2024-12-29 19:25:17.

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