

Veterinary Assistant 1

Exam Information	Description
Exam number 124 Items 48 National Career Cluster Agriculture Certification available Yes	The Veterinary Assistant 1 industry certification exam assesses learners' exploration of different avenues of the veterinary profession. The exam assesses learners' understanding of veterinary science and principles, including anatomy, physiology, chemistry, animal health and disease, dentistry, and laboratory procedures. Learners demonstrate knowledge of their hands-on care skills in surgical assisting, bandaging, wound care, oral care, and general nursing care.

Exam Blueprint and Performance Skills

Standard	Percentage of exam score
1. Leadership Development*	2%
2. Work-Based Learning*	0%
3. Medical Terminology	15%
4. Animal Anatomy and Physiology*	19%
5. Health Management and Disease	17%
6. Animal Behavior and Handling*	9%
7. Veterinary Medicine Fundamentals*	9%
8. Medication Administration*	7%
9. Office Procedures*	3%
10. Surgical Procedures*	9%
11. Laboratory Procedures*	6%
12. Exotic and Laboratory Animals	4%

*Includes performance skill evaluation

Standard 1 - Leadership Development (2% of exam score)

Candidates will participate in personal and leadership development activities through the FFA.

Objective 1 Candidates will use communication skills to effectively communicate with others.

1. Understand when it is appropriate to listen and to speak.
2. Understand and follow verbal and written instructions for classroom and laboratory activities.
3. Will practice communication skills through public speaking using one or more of the following activities: memorized speech, prepared speech, extemporaneous speech, parliamentary practice, group presentation, or serving in a leadership capacity.

Objective 2 Candidates will effectively use teamwork to respectfully work with others.

1. Identify and understand different roles in working with a team.
2. Lead a group discussion or serve in a leadership capacity.

Objective 3 Candidates will use critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

1. Analyze the cause of the problem.
2. Develop a solution to address the problem.
3. Implement the plan.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of the plan.

Objective 4 Candidates will be dependable, reliable, steady, trustworthy and consistent in performance and behavior.

1. Set and meet goals on attendance and punctuality.
2. Prioritize, plan and manage work to complete assignments and projects on time.

Objective 5 Candidates will be accountable for results.

1. Use an achievement chart for activities and behaviors in class that encourages a personal evaluation of classroom performance.
2. Use reflection to describe what was learned, what went well, what could have been improved, and what are the implications to the learning process.
3. Track and communicate progress toward completion of assignments and projects.

Objective 6 Be familiar with the legal requirements and expectations of the course

1. Be familiar with the course disclosure statement and all requirements for successful completion of the course.
2. Demonstrate workplace ethics, e.g. fair, honest, disciplined.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 2 - Work-Based Learning (0%)

Candidate will participate in work-based learning activities through the Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Program.

Objective 1 Candidates will demonstrate employability skills.

1. Use a career search network to find career choices.
2. Identify the appropriate CTE Pathway for selected career choice.
3. Prepare for entry into the workforce by completing one of the following: list of required skills needed for a career choice, a resume including a list of demonstrated skills, a cover letter or letter of application, a job application, or participating in an actual or simulated job interview.

Objective 2 Candidates will participate in a work-based learning experience outside the classroom.

1. Candidate will plan and implement a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program:
 - a. Foundational SAE: Career exploration and planning, employability skills for college and career readiness, personal financial management and planning, workplace safety, and agricultural literacy.
 - b. Immersion SAE: Ownership/entrepreneurship, placement/internship, research, school-based enterprise, and/or service-learning experiences.

Objective 3 Candidates will develop a job portfolio specific to their selected SAE/WBL experience.

1. Candidates will keep a personal record/journal/log of their SAE/WBL experience; including pictures, financial records, or log of their hours, skills learned, goals, reflection, etc.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 3 - Medical Terminology (15%)

Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of medical terminology, to be able to appropriately read and discuss medical information.

Objective 1 Candidates will be able to identify prefixes, suffixes, and root words, to be able to define medical terms.

Objective 2 Candidates will be able to interpret and extract information from realistic medical documents.

Objective 3 Candidates will interpret and apply medical abbreviations and symbols.

Standard 4 - Animal Anatomy and Physiology (19%)

Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of animal anatomy and physiology.

Objective 1 Candidates will be able to define medical terms related to each body system and directional anatomy.

Objective 2 Candidates will dissect preserved cats, or other appropriate animals, to gain an understanding of animal anatomy and physiology.

Objective 3 Candidates will be able to correctly identify superficial muscles that are involved in the movement of an animal.

Objective 4 Candidates will learn the bones in the body and be able to identify them on skeletal models.

Objective 5 Candidates will be able to identify various body parts and organs

Objective 6 Candidates will be able to compare the anatomy of different species of animals, including small animals, large animals, laboratory animals, and exotic animals.

Objective 7 Candidates will be able to describe the basic physiology involved in the functioning of 2 each body system.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 5 - Health Management and Disease (17%)

Candidates will explore concepts in health management and disease.

Objective 1 Candidates will know the common vaccines, how to administer the vaccines, and when to give them.

Objective 2 Candidates will identify and describe common animal diseases and how they are

transmitted.

Objective 3 Candidates will understand the purposes of basic treatments for common animal diseases.

Objective 4 Candidates will know the common zoonotic diseases and the precautions needed to prevent these diseases.

Standard 6 - Animal Behavior and Handling (9%)

Candidates will explore concepts in animal behavior and proper animal handling and restraint.

Objective 1 Candidates will study and develop an understanding of animal behavior.

Objective 2 Candidates will understand the principles of restraint/handling techniques and be able to demonstrate safe restraint/handling practices on small, exotic, and large animals.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 7 - Veterinary Medicine Fundamentals (9%)

Candidates will express an understanding of the fundamental principles of veterinary medicine and be able to demonstrate proficiency in each area.

Objective 1 Candidates will be able to correctly perform breed identification.

Objective 2 Candidates will be able to accurately take a preliminary history from a client and perform a basic physical examination, including vital signs and other necessary assessments.

Objective 3 Candidates will know the basic nutritional requirements for each species of animal.

Objective 4 Candidates will be able to accurately assess wounds and provide appropriate wound care and management.

Objective 5 Candidates will know the materials needed and how to apply common splints, casts, and bandages on animals.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 8 - Medication Administration (7%)

Candidates will develop a basic understanding of medication administration.

Objective 1 Candidates will be able to name common medications used in veterinary practice.

Objective 2 Candidates will be able to demonstrate appropriate administration of oral, topical, and injectable medications.

Objective 3 Candidates will be able to demonstrate how to correctly determine appropriate medication dosages.

Objective 4 Candidates will be able to recognize the adverse effects of medications.

Objective 5 Candidates will be able to identify contraindications for administering certain medications.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 9 - Office Procedures (4%)

Candidates will demonstrate proficiency in the office procedures related to veterinary practice.

Objective 1 Candidates will correctly demonstrate infection control practices, such as hand washing, gowning, gloving, and masking.

Objective 2 Candidates will always follow OSHA Standards/safe practices to avoid injury to themselves or others including the handling and disposal of biohazardous waste and sharps.

Objective 3 Candidates will appropriately demonstrate communication skills and client education.

Objective 4 Candidates will demonstrate the ability to accurately complete and file health certificates and medical forms. (e.g., SOAP Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan)

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 10 - Surgical Procedures (9%)

Candidates will study and demonstrate the ability to perform surgical procedures while maintaining sterile technique.

Objective 1 Candidates will verbalize understanding of surgical and aseptic principles.

Objective 2 Candidates will be able to accurately identify surgical instruments.

Objective 3 Candidates will correctly demonstrate preparation for surgical procedures, including preparing and sterilizing equipment and preparing the patient for surgery. Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of how to maintain a sterile zone during surgery.

Objective 4 Candidates will demonstrate the ability to assist with common surgical procedures, e.g., spaying, neutering, castration, dehorning, and disbudding.

Objective 5 Candidates will be able to perform basic suture patterns.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 11 - Laboratory Procedures (6%)

Candidates will study and demonstrate an ability to perform laboratory procedures.

Objective 1 Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of concepts and the ability to perform skills related to microbiology and mycology.

Objective 2 Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of concepts and the ability to perform skills related to hematology.

Objective 3 Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of concepts and the ability to perform skills related to parasitology.

Objective 4 Candidates will demonstrate an understanding of concepts and the ability to perform skills related to urinalyses and other animal laboratory tests.

Optional: Standard performance evaluations on the final page of this document

Standard 12 - Exotic and Laboratory Animals (4%)

Candidates will demonstrate an ability to identify, treat, and manage exotic and laboratory animals.

Objective 1 Candidates will correctly identify exotic and laboratory animals.

Objective 2 Candidates will be able to identify the care required by various exotic and laboratory animals.

Objective 3 Candidates will know the husbandry requirements for common exotic and laboratory animals.

Objective 4 Candidates will be able to identify common problems seen in the exotic and laboratory species.

Performance Skills Evaluation

Exam name: **Veterinary Assistant 1**

Candidate Name: _____

Performance assessments may be completed and evaluated any time before the certification is issued. The following performance skills can be used in connection with the associated standards and exam. The evaluator will function as the subject matter expert to determine if the candidate meets the skills requirements with a Yes/No for passing.

Standard 1 - Leadership Development The candidate will practice communication skills through public speaking using one or more of the following activities: memorized speech, prepared speech, extemporaneous speech, parliamentary practice, group presentation, or serving in a leadership capacity.	Pass:
Standard 2 - Work-Based Learning The candidate will keep a personal record/journal/log of their SAE/WBL experience; including pictures, financial records or log of their hours, skills learned, goals, reflection, etc.	Pass:
Standard 4 - Animal Anatomy Physiology Dissect preserved cats, or other appropriate animals.	Pass:
Standard 6 - Animal Behavior and Handling The candidate will demonstrate animal restraint/handling techniques on small, exotic, and large animals.	Pass:
Standard 7 - Fundamentals of Veterinary Medicine The candidate will demonstrate the ability to apply common bandages and splints.	Pass:
Standard 8 - Medication Administration The candidate will be able to demonstrate appropriate administration of oral, topical, and injectable medications.	Pass:
Standard 9 - Office Procedures Demonstrate appropriate use and disposal of needles and other sharps	Pass:
Standard 10 - Surgical Procedures The candidate will demonstrate aseptic techniques.	Pass:

Standard 11 - Laboratory Procedures

- Demonstrate the ability perform skills related to laboratory tests, including:
 - Urinalyses
 - Microbiology
 - Mycology
 - Hematology
 - Parasitology

Pass:**Evaluator Name:****Date:**