



VTNE CONTENT OUTLINE

Veterinary Technician National Examination
Reference Guide for the ISVMA VTNE Masterclass Series

Prepared by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association

Exam Overview

The VTNE evaluates entry-level veterinary technician competency across 10 major content domains. The exam consists of 150 scored multiple-choice questions plus 20 unscored pilot items used for future exam development, for a total of 170 questions. Candidates are given three hours to complete the examination.

Domain	Approx. Questions	Exam Weight
1. Pharmacy & Pharmacology	20	13%
2. Surgical Nursing	20	13%
3. Dentistry	10	7%
4. Laboratory Procedures	14	9%
5. Animal Care & Nursing	30	20%
6. Diagnostic Imaging	9	6%
7. Anesthesia	20	13%
8. Emergency Medicine & Critical Care	10	7%
9. Pain Management & Analgesia	10	7%
10. Communication & Veterinary Professional Support Services	7	5%
Total	150 Questions	100%

Domain 1: Pharmacy & Pharmacology

Exam Weight: 13% (Approximately 20 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Dispense, administer, and calculate medications
- Prepare pharmaceuticals and biologics
- Monitor for medication effects and adverse reactions
- Maintain controlled substance records
- Follow medication safety and handling procedures

Knowledge Areas

- Drug classifications
- Mechanisms of action
- Drug calculations and dose conversions
- Routes of administration
- Controlled substances and regulations
- Fluid therapy
- Drug contraindications and interactions
- Vaccine handling and storage
- Label interpretation
- Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics

Domain 2: Surgical Nursing

Exam Weight: 13% (Approximately 20 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Prepare patients and surgical suites
- Maintain aseptic technique
- Assist during surgery
- Prepare and maintain instruments
- Monitor sterile field
- Perform post-operative patient care

Knowledge Areas

- Surgical instrumentation
- Sterile technique
- Surgical positioning
- Gowning and gloving
- Surgical pack preparation
- Tissue handling
- Suture materials and patterns
- Wound healing
- Post-operative complications
- Infection prevention

Domain 3: Dentistry

Exam Weight: 7% (Approximately 10 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Perform dental prophylaxis
- Assist with dental procedures
- Obtain dental radiographs
- Identify dental abnormalities
- Maintain dental equipment

Knowledge Areas

- Oral anatomy
- Dental charting
- Periodontal disease
- Dental instruments
- Tooth identification
- Dental radiography
- Oral pathology
- Preventive dentistry
- Anesthesia considerations for dental patients

Domain 4: Laboratory Procedures

Exam Weight: 9% (Approximately 14 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Collect and process laboratory samples
- Perform laboratory testing
- Maintain quality control
- Interpret laboratory results
- Follow laboratory safety protocols

Knowledge Areas

- Hematology
- Cytology
- Clinical chemistry
- Urinalysis
- Parasitology
- Microbiology
- Sample collection and handling
- Reference ranges
- Diagnostic test interpretation
- Quality assurance and control

Domain 5: Animal Care & Nursing

Exam Weight: 20% (Approximately 30 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Perform patient assessment
- Provide nursing care
- Monitor hospitalized patients
- Restrain and handle patients safely
- Educate clients
- Support preventative care

Knowledge Areas

- Species-specific husbandry
- Patient restraint
- Physical examination parameters
- Nutrition
- Nursing care plans
- Preventative medicine
- Infectious disease prevention
- Behavior and stress reduction
- Hospital sanitation
- Medical terminology
- Patient monitoring and documentation

Domain 6: Diagnostic Imaging

Exam Weight: 6% (Approximately 9 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Obtain diagnostic images
- Prepare patients for imaging
- Practice radiation safety
- Process and evaluate image quality
- Assist with advanced imaging procedures

Knowledge Areas

- Radiographic positioning
- Radiation safety
- Imaging equipment
- Contrast studies
- Ultrasound basics
- Image artifacts
- Anatomy recognition
- Film quality evaluation
- Sedation and restraint for imaging

Domain 7: Anesthesia

Exam Weight: 13% (Approximately 20 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Prepare anesthesia equipment
- Administer and monitor anesthesia
- Assist with induction and recovery
- Troubleshoot anesthetic complications
- Maintain anesthesia records

Knowledge Areas

- Anesthetic drugs
- Monitoring equipment
- Anesthetic stages and planes
- Intubation
- Oxygen delivery systems
- Ventilation
- Fluid support
- Patient monitoring parameters
- Emergency response during anesthesia
- Species-specific anesthetic concerns
- Pain management integration

Domain 8: Emergency Medicine & Critical Care

Exam Weight: 7% (Approximately 10 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Triage emergency patients
- Provide CPR and stabilization support
- Monitor critical patients
- Assist during emergencies
- Prepare emergency equipment and medications

Knowledge Areas

- CPR
- Shock
- Trauma care
- Toxicology basics
- Fluid resuscitation
- Emergency drugs
- Critical monitoring
- Oxygen therapy
- Wound management
- Emergency patient assessment

Domain 9: Pain Management & Analgesia

Exam Weight: 7% (Approximately 10 Questions)

Major Tasks

- Assess pain
- Administer analgesics
- Monitor pain control effectiveness
- Educate clients on pain management
- Implement multimodal pain plans

Knowledge Areas

- Pain scales
- Analgesic drug classes
- Multimodal pain management
- Non-pharmacologic pain management
- Acute vs chronic pain
- Species-specific pain recognition
- Adverse drug reactions
- Patient comfort assessment

Domain 10: Communication & Veterinary Professional Support Services

Exam Weight: 5% (Approximately 7 Questions)

Communication is an essential skill for every veterinary technician and directly impacts patient care, client satisfaction, team effectiveness, and workplace safety. The VTNE assesses the ability to communicate professionally, educate clients, gather accurate patient information, and compassionately support clients through difficult situations, including euthanasia.

Appendix: Practice Quizzes & Answer Keys

The following pages contain a printable version of all ten VTNE Masterclass practice quizzes for students who prefer to self-study offline, along with an answer key and brief rationale for each question. These mirror the interactive quizzes available online.

Domain 1: Pharmacy & Pharmacology

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. A dog weighs 22 lb and requires a medication dosed at 5 mg/kg PO q12h. What dose should the technician administer?

- A. 25 mg
- B. 50 mg
- C. 75 mg
- D. 100 mg

2. Which route of administration bypasses first-pass metabolism by the liver?

- A. Oral (PO)
- B. Rectal (PR)
- C. Intravenous (IV)
- D. Subcutaneous (SQ)

3. A veterinary technician notices respiratory depression after opioid administration. Which adverse effect is most likely occurring?

- A. Hypertension
- B. CNS stimulation
- C. Respiratory suppression
- D. Increased GI motility

4. Which medication classification is commonly used to reduce inflammation and pain?

- A. Antibiotic
- B. NSAID
- C. Anticonvulsant
- D. Antifungal

5. A controlled substance logbook must include:

- A. Technician payroll information
- B. Patient body condition score
- C. Drug amount dispensed and remaining balance
- D. Vaccine expiration dates

6. Which of the following is the best site for administering a vaccine in a cat according to feline vaccination guidelines?

- A. Between the shoulder blades
- B. Distal limb
- C. Lumbar region
- D. Neck

7. Which statement best describes pharmacokinetics?

- A. How drugs affect the body
- B. How the body absorbs, distributes, metabolizes, and eliminates drugs
- C. Drug interactions at receptor sites
- D. Mechanism of antimicrobial resistance

8. A veterinarian prescribes 250 mL over 5 hours. What is the fluid rate in mL/hr?

- A. 25 mL/hr
- B. 40 mL/hr
- C. 50 mL/hr
- D. 60 mL/hr

9. A medication label reads “Give 1 tablet BID for 14 days.” What does BID mean?

- A. Once daily
- B. Twice daily
- C. Every other day
- D. Every 12 minutes

10. Which route is most appropriate for emergency drug administration during CPR?

- A. Oral
- B. Topical
- C. Intravenous
- D. Intramuscular

11. Which of the following medications would most likely require careful monitoring of kidney function?

- A. NSAIDs
- B. Antacids
- C. Antihistamines
- D. Topical shampoos

12. Vaccines should generally be stored at which temperature?

- A. Frozen at 0°F
- B. Room temperature
- C. Refrigerated at 35–46°F (2–8°C)
- D. Heated before administration

13. A 44-lb dog requires 2 mg/kg of a medication. The medication concentration is 20 mg/mL. How many milliliters should be administered?

- A. 1 mL
- B. 2 mL
- C. 4 mL
- D. 8 mL

- 14. Which term describes the effect of a drug on the body?**
- A. Pharmacokinetics
 - B. Pharmacodynamics
 - C. Bioavailability
 - D. Half-life
- 15. A veterinary technician should question a prescription if:**
- A. The drug label includes the expiration date
 - B. A known contraindication exists with the patient's condition
 - C. The medication is flavored
 - D. The veterinarian wrote the order clearly
- 16. Which of the following routes is considered parenteral?**
- A. Oral
 - B. Intravenous
 - C. Rectal
 - D. Sublingual
- 17. Which medication schedule classification has the highest abuse potential?**
- A. Schedule II
 - B. Schedule III
 - C. Schedule IV
 - D. Schedule V
- 18. A drug with a short half-life will:**
- A. Remain in the body longer
 - B. Require less frequent dosing
 - C. Be eliminated more quickly
 - D. Never reach therapeutic levels
- 19. Which patient should receive the most caution when administering NSAIDs?**
- A. Young healthy dog
 - B. Patient with renal disease
 - C. Vaccinated puppy
 - D. Healthy cat after nail trim
- 20. A medication order states “administer SQ.” What route should the technician use?**
- A. Into the vein
 - B. Under the skin
 - C. Into the muscle
 - D. By mouth

Answer Key — Domain 1: Pharmacy & Pharmacology

1. **B** — $22 \text{ lb} = 10 \text{ kg} \times 5 \text{ mg/kg} = 50 \text{ mg}$
2. **C** — IV bypasses first-pass metabolism
3. **C** — Respiratory suppression is common with opioids
4. **B** — NSAIDs reduce inflammation and pain
5. **C** — Controlled substances require tracking dispensed and remaining amounts
6. **B** — Distal limbs are recommended in cats
7. **B** — Pharmacokinetics = what the body does to the drug
8. **C** — $250 / 5 = 50 \text{ mL/hr}$
9. **B** — BID = twice daily
10. **C** — IV route provides fastest systemic access
11. **A** — NSAIDs can impact renal function
12. **C** — Refrigerated at $35\text{--}46^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($2\text{--}8^{\circ}\text{C}$)
13. **B** — $44 \text{ lb} = 20 \text{ kg} \times 2 \text{ mg/kg} = 40 \text{ mg} / 20 \text{ mg/mL} = 2 \text{ mL}$
14. **B** — Pharmacodynamics = what the drug does to the body
15. **B** — Contraindications should always be questioned
16. **B** — IV is parenteral
17. **A** — Schedule II has highest abuse potential among listed choices
18. **C** — Short half-life = quicker elimination
19. **B** — NSAIDs require caution in renal disease
20. **B** — SQ = subcutaneous (under the skin)

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 2: Surgical Nursing

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which action is most appropriate when preparing a patient for aseptic surgery?

- A. Clip fur after scrubbing
- B. Clip fur widely around the surgical site before scrubbing
- C. Scrub before clipping
- D. Use alcohol only for preparation

2. Which surgical instrument is primarily used to grasp tissue atraumatically?

- A. Mayo scissors
- B. Hemostat
- C. Adson-Brown forceps
- D. Needle holder

3. Which of the following is considered a break in sterility?

- A. Hands kept above the waist
- B. Touching the outside of a sterile gown with sterile gloves
- C. Turning your back to a sterile field
- D. Using sterile instruments inside the drape field

4. A technician accidentally touches a sterile instrument to a non-sterile surface. What should occur next?

- A. Continue using the instrument
- B. Wipe it with alcohol and proceed
- C. Replace the contaminated instrument
- D. Place it back in the sterile pack

5. Which suture material is absorbable?

- A. Nylon
- B. Polypropylene
- C. Polydioxanone (PDS)
- D. Stainless steel

6. What is the primary purpose of a surgical count?

- A. Measure anesthesia time
- B. Prevent retained surgical items
- C. Reduce surgery cost
- D. Organize medications

7. During sterile gowning, hands should remain:

- A. Below the waist

- B. At the sides
- C. Above waist level and in view
- D. In pockets to maintain warmth

8. Which patient position is commonly used for abdominal surgery?

- A. Lateral recumbency
- B. Dorsal recumbency
- C. Sternal recumbency
- D. Standing restraint

9. Which instrument is most appropriate for holding a suture needle?

- A. Thumb forceps
- B. Hemostat
- C. Needle holder
- D. Towel clamp

10. Which statement about sterile fields is TRUE?

- A. Moisture contamination is acceptable
- B. The edges of sterile drapes are considered contaminated
- C. Sterile fields may be left unattended indefinitely
- D. Sterility can be assumed if unsure

11. Which phase of wound healing involves collagen deposition and granulation tissue formation?

- A. Hemostasis
- B. Inflammatory phase
- C. Proliferative phase
- D. Maturation phase

12. What is the most appropriate action if sterility is uncertain?

- A. Continue if surgery has already started
- B. Assume it is sterile
- C. Treat the item or field as contaminated
- D. Spray disinfectant and proceed

13. Which instrument is commonly used to clamp blood vessels?

- A. Metzenbaum scissors
- B. Hemostat
- C. Scalpel handle
- D. Thumb forceps

14. Which factor most increases the risk of surgical site infection?

- A. Proper hand scrubbing
- B. Break in aseptic technique

- C. Appropriate clipping technique
- D. Correct sterilization methods

15. What is the purpose of a spay hook?

- A. Remove skin sutures
- B. Locate uterine horns during ovariohysterectomy
- C. Clamp blood vessels
- D. Hold drapes in place

16. Which postoperative finding requires immediate veterinary attention?

- A. Mild sleepiness after anesthesia
- B. Small amount of bruising at IV site
- C. Pale mucous membranes and prolonged CRT
- D. Mild decrease in appetite for one meal

17. Which suture pattern is commonly used to close skin?

- A. Cruciate interrupted
- B. Purse-string
- C. Ford interlocking only
- D. Horizontal mattress exclusively

18. Which statement about surgical instrument care is TRUE?

- A. Instruments should be stored wet
- B. Hinged instruments should remain closed during sterilization
- C. Blood and debris should be removed promptly after use
- D. Rusted instruments are acceptable if sterilized

19. What is the purpose of autoclaving?

- A. Dry surgical drapes
- B. Chemically disinfect surgical packs
- C. Sterilize equipment using steam under pressure
- D. Remove fur from instruments

20. Which postoperative complication is most consistent with redness, swelling, heat, and discharge from an incision?

- A. Seroma
- B. Normal healing
- C. Surgical site infection
- D. Dehydration

Answer Key — Domain 2: Surgical Nursing

1. **B** — Fur should be clipped widely before scrubbing
2. **C** — Adson-Brown forceps minimize tissue trauma
3. **C** — Turning your back compromises sterile awareness
4. **C** — Contaminated instruments must be replaced
5. **C** — PDS is absorbable
6. **B** — Surgical counts prevent retained materials
7. **C** — Hands remain above waist and visible
8. **B** — Dorsal recumbency is typical for abdominal surgery
9. **C** — Needle holders secure suture needles
10. **B** — Edges of drapes are considered contaminated
11. **C** — Granulation tissue forms in the proliferative phase
12. **C** — If in doubt, consider contaminated
13. **B** — Hemostats clamp vessels
14. **B** — Breaks in aseptic technique greatly increase infection risk
15. **B** — Spay hooks help locate uterine horns
16. **C** — Pale MM and prolonged CRT suggest shock or hemorrhage
17. **A** — Cruciate interrupted is common for skin closure
18. **C** — Debris should be removed immediately to preserve instruments
19. **C** — Autoclaves sterilize via steam under pressure
20. **C** — Classic signs of infection

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 3: Dentistry

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the most important reason dental radiographs are obtained during a prophylaxis?

- A. To determine patient age only
- B. Most dental disease occurs below the gumline
- C. To avoid anesthesia
- D. To measure jaw strength

2. Which instrument is used to remove supragingival calculus?

- A. Curette
- B. Periosteal elevator
- C. Scaler
- D. Extraction forceps

3. Which teeth are classified as carnassial teeth in the dog?

- A. Maxillary canine and mandibular canine
- B. Maxillary fourth premolar and mandibular first molar
- C. Maxillary first incisor and mandibular fourth premolar
- D. Maxillary molars only

4. Which statement about anesthesia for dental procedures is TRUE?

- A. Dentistry can safely be performed without anesthesia
- B. Intubation is unnecessary during dental cleanings
- C. Endotracheal intubation helps protect the airway
- D. Sedation alone is always sufficient

5. Which stage of periodontal disease includes bone loss?

- A. Stage 1
- B. Stage 2
- C. Stage 3 or higher
- D. Gingivitis only

6. A periodontal probe is used to:

- A. Polish teeth
- B. Evaluate gingival pocket depth
- C. Remove tartar
- D. Extract loose teeth

7. Which structure anchors the tooth to the alveolar bone?

- A. Enamel

- B. Gingiva
- C. Periodontal ligament
- D. Cementum only

8. What is the best method for polishing teeth after scaling?

- A. Aggressive polishing for several minutes per tooth
- B. No polishing is needed
- C. Brief polishing using light pressure
- D. Scrubbing vigorously to remove remaining tartar

9. Which dental abnormality occurs when the crown pulp cavity becomes exposed?

- A. Attrition
- B. Tooth resorption
- C. Fractured tooth with pulp exposure
- D. Malocclusion

10. Which dental instrument is used to remove subgingival plaque and calculus?

- A. Curette
- B. Scaler only
- C. Hemostat
- D. Luxator

11. Which patient finding is most consistent with advanced periodontal disease?

- A. White teeth only
- B. Halitosis and gingival recession
- C. Increased appetite only
- D. Dry nose

12. Which teeth are labeled 104 and 204 in canine dental nomenclature?

- A. Canine teeth
- B. Fourth premolars
- C. Maxillary incisors
- D. Maxillary canine teeth

13. During dental radiography, what is the purpose of the bisecting angle technique?

- A. Prevent anesthesia complications
- B. Produce diagnostic images without distortion
- C. Speed up tooth extraction
- D. Avoid using film

14. What is the primary cause of periodontal disease?

- A. Viral infection
- B. Plaque accumulation
- C. Excess fluoride

D. Trauma

15. Which of the following should be used to prevent overheating and pulp damage during polishing?

- A. Dry polishing cup only
- B. Continuous heavy pressure
- C. Light pressure with intermittent contact
- D. Steel polishing brush

16. A technician notices gingival bleeding and inflammation without attachment loss. What condition is most likely present?

- A. Gingivitis
- B. Stage 4 periodontal disease
- C. Tooth fracture
- D. Oral neoplasia

17. Which dental instrument is specifically used to loosen the periodontal ligament during extractions?

- A. Luxator
- B. Curette
- C. Probe
- D. Scaler

18. Which oral pathology finding should be reported immediately to the veterinarian?

- A. Mild plaque
- B. Small amount of tartar
- C. Oral mass or non-healing lesion
- D. Slight staining of enamel

19. Why are chlorhexidine oral rinses sometimes used before dental procedures?

- A. To whiten teeth
- B. To reduce bacterial contamination
- C. To remove tartar completely
- D. To avoid intubation

20. Which statement about preventive dentistry is TRUE?

- A. Dental disease only affects teeth
- B. Home dental care can help slow periodontal disease progression
- C. Brushing damages enamel
- D. Dental chews replace professional cleanings completely

Answer Key — Domain 3: Dentistry

1. **B** — Most disease occurs below the gumline
2. **C** — Scalers remove supragingival calculus
3. **B** — Maxillary 4th premolar and mandibular 1st molar are carnassials
4. **C** — Intubation protects the airway during dentistry
5. **C** — Stage 3+ includes bone loss
6. **B** — Probes measure gingival pocket depth
7. **C** — Periodontal ligament anchors the tooth
8. **C** — Brief, light polishing prevents damage
9. **C** — Pulp exposure is significant and painful
10. **A** — Curettes are used subgingivally
11. **B** — Halitosis and recession suggest advanced disease
12. **D** — 104/204 = maxillary canine teeth
13. **B** — Bisecting angle improves image accuracy
14. **B** — Plaque is the underlying cause
15. **C** — Light intermittent pressure reduces heat generation
16. **A** — Gingivitis involves inflammation without attachment loss
17. **A** — Luxators loosen the periodontal ligament
18. **C** — Masses/non-healing lesions warrant immediate evaluation
19. **B** — Chlorhexidine reduces bacterial load
20. **B** — Home care helps slow disease progression

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 4: Laboratory Procedures

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. A blood smear should ideally be prepared:

- A. After refrigeration for 24 hours
- B. Immediately after blood collection
- C. After centrifugation
- D. Only if anemia is suspected

2. Which anticoagulant tube is most appropriate for a CBC?

- A. Red top tube
- B. Serum separator tube
- C. EDTA (purple top) tube
- D. Sodium citrate tube

3. Which urinalysis finding is most concerning for a urinary tract infection?

- A. Specific gravity of 1.040
- B. Glucose negative
- C. Bacteria and white blood cells present
- D. Pale yellow color

4. Which fecal test is commonly used to identify intestinal parasite ova?

- A. Direct smear only
- B. Fecal flotation
- C. Blood smear
- D. Cytology slide preparation

5. Which of the following is considered a laboratory quality control measure?

- A. Using expired reagents
- B. Running control samples on analyzers
- C. Storing samples at room temperature indefinitely
- D. Skipping calibration

6. A 6-year-old Labrador presents for lethargy and pale mucous membranes. CBC results show low RBC, low HCT, low HGB. What abnormality is MOST likely present?

- A. Polycythemia
- B. Anemia
- C. Leukocytosis
- D. Thrombocytosis

7. A veterinary technician collects blood for chemistry analysis but leaves the sample on the counter for several hours before centrifuging. Which result may be negatively

impacted?

- A. Fur color
- B. Serum quality and chemistry accuracy
- C. Dental health
- D. Fecal flotation findings

8. Which urine collection method provides the least contamination for culture?

- A. Free catch
- B. Catheterization
- C. Cystocentesis
- D. Litter box collection

9. During microscope evaluation of an ear cytology, the technician observes numerous budding yeast organisms. What organism is MOST likely present?

- A. Giardia
- B. Malassezia
- C. Hookworms
- D. Coccidia

10. A chemistry analyzer control sample falls outside the expected range. What is the BEST next step?

- A. Continue running patient samples
- B. Recalibrate or troubleshoot before proceeding
- C. Ignore the result
- D. Repeat patient samples only

11. A patient's urine specific gravity is 1.010. What does this MOST likely suggest?

- A. Highly concentrated urine
- B. Normal feline urine
- C. Poor concentrating ability or isosthenuria
- D. Sample contamination only

12. A dog presents with vomiting and diarrhea. Fecal flotation reveals oval eggs consistent with hookworms. What zoonotic concern exists?

- A. Rabies transmission
- B. Cutaneous larva migrans
- C. Ringworm only
- D. No zoonotic risk

13. Which white blood cell is MOST associated with parasitic infection or allergies?

- A. Neutrophil
- B. Lymphocyte
- C. Eosinophil

D. Monocyte

14. A cat presents for PU/PD. Urinalysis: Glucose Positive, Ketones Negative, SG 1.020. Which disease process is MOST suspected?

- A. Renal failure only
- B. Diabetes mellitus
- C. Liver disease
- D. Intestinal parasitism

15. Which stain is commonly used for cytology evaluation?

- A. Wright-Giemsa or Diff-Quik
- B. Chlorhexidine
- C. Gram stain only
- D. Alcohol prep

16. A blood smear reveals toxic neutrophils and elevated WBC count. What process is MOST likely occurring?

- A. Viral suppression
- B. Significant inflammation or infection
- C. Dehydration only
- D. Hypoglycemia

17. A technician accidentally submits a hemolyzed blood sample for chemistry testing. Which analyte is MOST likely to be affected?

- A. Potassium
- B. Hair growth
- C. Platelet estimate only
- D. Urine pH

18. Which laboratory practice BEST supports biosafety?

- A. Eating in the laboratory
- B. Wearing gloves and proper PPE
- C. Recapping needles by hand
- D. Reusing contaminated slides

19. During fecal evaluation, motile trophozoites are identified on a direct smear. Which parasite is MOST likely?

- A. Giardia
- B. Tapeworm
- C. Hookworm
- D. Roundworm

20. A hospitalized dog suddenly develops petechiae and bruising. CBC results reveal severe thrombocytopenia. Which blood component is decreased?

- A. Red blood cells
- B. White blood cells
- C. Platelets
- D. Plasma proteins

Answer Key — Domain 4: Laboratory Procedures

1. **B** — Smears should be prepared immediately
2. **C** — EDTA preserves cellular morphology for CBCs
3. **C** — WBCs + bacteria suggest infection
4. **B** — Fecal flotation identifies ova
5. **B** — Controls verify analyzer accuracy
6. **B** — Low RBC/HCT/HGB = anemia
7. **B** — Delayed processing affects chemistry values
8. **C** — Cystocentesis minimizes contamination
9. **B** — Malassezia appears as budding yeast
10. **B** — QC failures require troubleshooting first
11. **C** — 1.010 suggests isosthenuria
12. **B** — Hookworms can cause cutaneous larva migrans
13. **C** — Eosinophils increase with parasites/allergies
14. **B** — Glucosuria strongly suggests diabetes mellitus
15. **A** — Diff-Quik/Wright-Giemsa commonly used
16. **B** — Toxic neutrophils indicate inflammation/infection
17. **A** — Hemolysis falsely elevates potassium
18. **B** — PPE protects staff and patients
19. **A** — Giardia trophozoites are motile
20. **C** — Thrombocytopenia = low platelets

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 5: Animal Care & Nursing

20 Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. Which parameter is considered part of a standard TPR assessment?**
 - A. Blood glucose
 - B. Temperature, pulse, and respiration
 - C. ECG rhythm
 - D. Blood pressure only
- 2. What is the BEST restraint technique for a fearful cat?**
 - A. Scruff aggressively immediately
 - B. Minimal restraint using towels and low-stress handling
 - C. Hold tightly against the table
 - D. Place in dorsal recumbency
- 3. Which isolation protocol is MOST appropriate for a dog suspected of parvovirus?**
 - A. Standard handling only
 - B. Reverse isolation
 - C. Contact isolation with dedicated PPE
 - D. No precautions necessary
- 4. A hospitalized dog recovering from surgery has HR 160, RR 40, pale mucous membranes, and CRT 3 seconds. What is the technician's best next action?**
 - A. Recheck tomorrow
 - B. Immediately notify the veterinarian
 - C. Offer food and water only
 - D. Walk the patient
- 5. Which hospitalized patient is MOST at risk for pressure sores?**
 - A. Young healthy puppy
 - B. Ambulatory patient
 - C. Recumbent patient unable to reposition
 - D. Outpatient vaccine visit
- 6. Which nursing intervention helps reduce stress in hospitalized feline patients?**
 - A. Housing cats near barking dogs
 - B. Frequent unnecessary handling
 - C. Quiet housing with hiding spaces
 - D. Bright lights continuously
- 7. A hospitalized cat receiving IV fluids suddenly develops increased respiratory effort, serous nasal discharge, and restlessness. What complication should be MOST suspected?**

- A. Dehydration
- B. Fluid overload
- C. Hyperglycemia
- D. GI upset

8. Which physical exam parameter would MOST concern the technician?

- A. Pink mucous membranes
- B. CRT of 1–2 seconds
- C. Cyanotic mucous membranes
- D. Bright alert mentation

9. What is the primary purpose of patient nursing care plans?

- A. Replace veterinary orders
- B. Ensure consistent patient care and monitoring
- C. Reduce technician workload only
- D. Eliminate documentation

10. A dog hospitalized for pancreatitis has not eaten for 48 hours and is becoming weak. What nursing consideration is MOST appropriate?

- A. Discontinue monitoring
- B. Evaluate nutritional support options with the veterinarian
- C. Force-feed immediately
- D. Ignore appetite changes

11. Which statement about patient documentation is TRUE?

- A. Documentation can be completed at the end of the week
- B. Accurate records support continuity of care
- C. Estimates are acceptable for medication times
- D. Verbal communication replaces records

12. Which cleaning method is MOST appropriate to prevent hospital-acquired infections?

- A. Using water only
- B. Cleaning visible debris before disinfecting
- C. Mixing disinfectants together
- D. Reusing dirty cages

13. A hospitalized rabbit stops eating and producing feces. What is the technician's MOST immediate concern?

- A. Normal rabbit behavior
- B. GI stasis requiring prompt attention
- C. Improved appetite
- D. Mild boredom

14. Which patient should be monitored MOST closely for hypothermia?

- A. Large healthy adult dog
- B. Anesthetized small patient
- C. Healthy horse outdoors
- D. Excited puppy

15. Which behavior MOST commonly indicates fear in cats?

- A. Relaxed posture
- B. Purring only
- C. Dilated pupils, crouching, and hiding
- D. Tail wagging

16. A hospitalized dog being treated for diabetes mellitus becomes weak and tremors develop shortly after insulin administration. What complication should the technician suspect?

- A. Hyperthermia
- B. Hypoglycemia
- C. Hypertension
- D. Hypercalcemia

17. Which term describes a patient that is not eating?

- A. Dyspnea
- B. Polyuria
- C. Anorexia
- D. Tachycardia

18. Which preventative care recommendation is MOST appropriate for puppies?

- A. Vaccines are unnecessary indoors
- B. Regular vaccination and parasite prevention
- C. Heartworm prevention after age 10 only
- D. No fecal testing needed

19. A hospitalized dog's urine output suddenly decreases and mucous membranes become tacky. What should the technician suspect?

- A. Overhydration
- B. Dehydration or poor perfusion
- C. Improved hydration
- D. Anxiety only

20. A patient in isolation for a contagious disease should ideally:

- A. Share supplies with healthy patients
- B. Be cared for after healthy animals if possible
- C. Be walked in common areas
- D. Receive reduced sanitation

Answer Key — Domain 5: Animal Care & Nursing

1. **B** — TPR = temperature, pulse, respiration
2. **B** — Low-stress feline restraint is preferred
3. **C** — Parvovirus requires contact isolation
4. **B** — Signs suggest shock or hemorrhage
5. **C** — Recumbent patients are at highest risk
6. **C** — Quiet spaces reduce feline stress
7. **B** — Fluid overload can cause respiratory changes
8. **C** — Cyanosis indicates inadequate oxygenation
9. **B** — Nursing plans improve consistency of care
10. **B** — Nutritional intervention should be discussed
11. **B** — Accurate records are essential
12. **B** — Organic debris must be removed first
13. **B** — Rabbits not eating = emergency concern
14. **B** — Small anesthetized patients lose heat quickly
15. **C** — These are classic feline fear behaviors
16. **B** — Weakness/tremors after insulin = hypoglycemia
17. **C** — Anorexia = not eating
18. **B** — Preventative care includes vaccines and parasite control
19. **B** — Decreased output + tacky MM suggest dehydration/perfusion issues
20. **B** — Isolation patients should be handled after healthy patients when possible

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 6: Diagnostic Imaging

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. **What is the primary reason sedation is commonly used for radiographs?**
 - A. To reduce costs
 - B. To minimize patient motion and improve image quality
 - C. To shorten appointment time only
 - D. To avoid positioning aids
2. **Which view is considered orthogonal to a ventrodorsal (VD) radiograph?**
 - A. Dorsoventral (DV)
 - B. Lateral view
 - C. Skyline view
 - D. Oblique view
3. **Which radiation safety principle helps minimize exposure?**
 - A. Stay close to the beam
 - B. Increase exposure time
 - C. Time, distance, and shielding
 - D. Repeat films unnecessarily
4. **A dog becomes highly anxious during thoracic radiographs and repeatedly moves despite restraint. What is the BEST next step?**
 - A. Continue taking repeated images
 - B. Use excessive physical restraint
 - C. Discuss sedation with the veterinarian
 - D. Skip imaging entirely
5. **Which PPE is required during radiography?**
 - A. Surgical gown only
 - B. Lead apron and thyroid shield
 - C. Cloth gloves
 - D. No PPE if exposure is brief
6. **Which positioning is MOST commonly used for abdominal radiographs?**
 - A. Dorsal recumbency and lateral views
 - B. Standing restraint only
 - C. Sternal recumbency exclusively
 - D. Flexed limb view only
7. **Which statement regarding radiation exposure is TRUE?**
 - A. Radiation exposure is cumulative over time

- B. Exposure only matters during long procedures
- C. Lead aprons eliminate all radiation
- D. Distance from the beam is unimportant

8. A radiograph appears blurry, making anatomy difficult to evaluate. What is the MOST likely cause?

- A. Excess contrast
- B. Motion artifact
- C. Under sedation
- D. Proper positioning

9. Which imaging modality uses sound waves instead of ionizing radiation?

- A. CT
- B. MRI
- C. Ultrasound
- D. Radiography

10. Which contrast study may be used to evaluate the gastrointestinal tract?

- A. Barium study
- B. CBC
- C. Cytology
- D. Urinalysis

11. Which anatomy landmark is commonly centered for thoracic radiographs?

- A. Pelvis
- B. Caudal abdomen
- C. Caudal scapula/heart region
- D. Tail base

12. A patient undergoing contrast radiography begins coughing immediately after administration of oral contrast material. What complication should the technician suspect?

- A. Aspiration risk
- B. Hyperthermia
- C. Dehydration
- D. Motion artifact

13. Which of the following is considered an image artifact?

- A. Proper contrast and exposure
- B. Fingerprints or debris on the detector
- C. Clear anatomy visualization
- D. Correct positioning

14. During radiographic positioning, limbs should generally be:

- A. Positioned naturally regardless of anatomy

- B. Superimposed if possible
- C. Extended to reduce rotation and improve visualization
- D. Held only by hand

15. A technician reviews an abdominal radiograph and notices the patient appears rotated. Which finding MOST suggests rotation?

- A. Symmetrical anatomy
- B. Uneven appearance of paired structures
- C. Sharp image quality
- D. Correct exposure

16. Which patient should receive extra caution regarding radiation exposure?

- A. Healthy adult dog
- B. Pregnant staff member
- C. Adult male technician
- D. Sedated patient

17. What is the purpose of a positioning aid (foam wedges, sandbags)?

- A. Replace proper positioning
- B. Improve restraint while minimizing staff exposure
- C. Eliminate the need for PPE
- D. Prevent sedation

18. A veterinarian requests thoracic radiographs for suspected pleural effusion. The patient is dyspneic and stressed. What is the BEST technician consideration?

- A. Force the patient into dorsal recumbency immediately
- B. Minimize stress and handle gently to avoid respiratory compromise
- C. Delay imaging for several days
- D. Perform imaging without monitoring

19. Which statement about ultrasound is TRUE?

- A. It uses ionizing radiation
- B. Bone and air-filled structures are difficult to evaluate
- C. It replaces radiography entirely
- D. Sedation is always required

20. A radiograph is excessively dark, obscuring detail. What is the MOST likely issue?

- A. Underexposure
- B. Overexposure
- C. Motion artifact
- D. Proper exposure

Answer Key — Domain 6: Diagnostic Imaging

1. **B** — Sedation minimizes motion and improves quality
2. **B** — Orthogonal views are typically lateral + VD/DV
3. **C** — Radiation safety = time, distance, shielding
4. **C** — Sedation discussion improves safety and diagnostics
5. **B** — Lead PPE is standard
6. **A** — Abdomen typically includes lateral + VD views
7. **A** — Radiation accumulates over time
8. **B** — Motion commonly causes blur
9. **C** — Ultrasound uses sound waves
10. **A** — Barium is used for GI contrast studies
11. **C** — Thorax centered around heart/caudal scapula region
12. **A** — Aspiration is a concern
13. **B** — Debris or fingerprints create artifacts
14. **C** — Limb extension reduces rotation
15. **B** — Rotation creates asymmetry
16. **B** — Pregnant staff require additional protection
17. **B** — Positioning aids reduce manual restraint exposure
18. **B** — Dyspneic patients require gentle handling
19. **B** — Bone and gas limit ultrasound evaluation
20. **B** — Excessively dark = overexposed

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 7: Anesthesia

20 Multiple Choice Questions

- 1. What is the MOST important step before anesthetizing a patient?**
 - A. Clipping the surgical site
 - B. Performing an anesthesia machine leak test
 - C. Cleaning the cage
 - D. Taking radiographs
- 2. Which monitoring parameter is the BEST indicator of tissue oxygenation?**
 - A. Blood glucose
 - B. Pulse oximetry (SpO₂)
 - C. Body condition score
 - D. Urine output
- 3. A dog under anesthesia suddenly develops HR 50 bpm, low blood pressure, and pale mucous membranes. What complication should the technician MOST suspect?**
 - A. Hypertension
 - B. Bradycardia with poor perfusion
 - C. Hyperglycemia
 - D. Recovery excitement
- 4. Which structure should the endotracheal tube pass through during intubation?**
 - A. Esophagus
 - B. Nasopharynx only
 - C. Trachea
 - D. Oral cavity only
- 5. What is the purpose of the cuff on an endotracheal tube?**
 - A. Secure IV access
 - B. Deliver fluids
 - C. Create a seal to reduce aspiration and gas leakage
 - D. Monitor blood pressure
- 6. A cat recovering from anesthesia becomes agitated, vocal, and paddles its limbs. What anesthetic phase is MOST likely occurring?**
 - A. Surgical plane
 - B. Recovery excitement/emergence delirium
 - C. Deep anesthesia
 - D. Cardiac arrest
- 7. Which anesthetic monitor evaluates end-tidal CO₂?**

- A. Doppler
- B. Pulse oximeter
- C. Capnograph
- D. ECG

8. What is considered a normal SpO₂ reading in an anesthetized patient?

- A. 70–75%
- B. 80–85%
- C. 95–100%
- D. 50–60%

9. A dog under anesthesia suddenly stops breathing but still has a heartbeat. What should the technician do FIRST?

- A. Continue monitoring only
- B. Turn off oxygen
- C. Begin manual ventilation and notify the veterinarian
- D. Extubate immediately

10. Which breathing system is commonly used for small patients under approximately 7 kg?

- A. Rebreathing system
- B. Non-rebreathing system
- C. Open drop anesthesia only
- D. No oxygen support needed

11. Which anesthetic depth sign is MOST consistent with a surgical plane of anesthesia?

- A. Strong jaw tone and swallowing reflex
- B. Purposeful movement
- C. Relaxed jaw tone with absent palpebral reflex
- D. Conscious vocalization

12. During anesthesia, blood pressure decreases to 55 mmHg MAP. What is the technician's BEST immediate concern?

- A. Hypertension
- B. Inadequate tissue perfusion
- C. Hyperactivity
- D. Excess hydration only

13. Which patient is at HIGHEST anesthetic risk?

- A. Healthy 2-year-old elective spay patient
- B. Stable vaccinated puppy
- C. Geriatric patient with heart disease
- D. Young healthy cat

- 14. Which parameter should be recorded routinely on the anesthesia log?**
- A. Technician lunch break
 - B. Monitoring parameters and anesthetic events
 - C. Fur color changes
 - D. Cage location only
- 15. An anesthetized patient's temperature drops to 96°F. What complication is occurring?**
- A. Hyperthermia
 - B. Hypothermia
 - C. Hyperglycemia
 - D. Hypertension
- 16. Which drug class is MOST commonly used for pain management during anesthesia?**
- A. Antibiotics only
 - B. Analgesics/opioids
 - C. Antifungals
 - D. Vaccines
- 17. A brachycephalic dog recovering from anesthesia begins struggling to breathe and becomes cyanotic. What is the technician's MOST immediate concern?**
- A. GI upset
 - B. Airway obstruction
 - C. Hyperactivity
 - D. Normal recovery
- 18. What is the purpose of a rebreathing bag?**
- A. Store IV fluids
 - B. Assist ventilation and monitor respiratory movement
 - C. Prevent intubation
 - D. Measure blood glucose
- 19. A patient under anesthesia develops increasing HR, increasing BP, and increased jaw tone. What should the technician suspect?**
- A. Excessive anesthetic depth
 - B. Patient becoming too light under anesthesia
 - C. Cardiac arrest
 - D. Severe hypothermia
- 20. During recovery, when should an endotracheal tube generally be removed from a dog?**
- A. Immediately after vaporizer is turned off
 - B. Once swallowing reflex returns and airway can be protected
 - C. Before monitoring ends
 - D. Only after standing

Answer Key — Domain 7: Anesthesia

1. **B** — Leak tests are critical before anesthesia
2. **B** — Pulse oximetry measures oxygen saturation
3. **B** — Bradycardia + hypotension = poor perfusion concern
4. **C** — ET tubes must enter the trachea
5. **C** — Cuff protects airway and minimizes gas leaks
6. **B** — Vocalizing/paddling = recovery excitement
7. **C** — Capnographs measure ETCO₂
8. **C** — 95–100% is ideal
9. **C** — Manual ventilation is critical for apnea
10. **B** — Small patients often use non-rebreathing circuits
11. **C** — Surgical plane = relaxed tone, minimal reflexes
12. **B** — Low MAP compromises organ perfusion
13. **C** — Geriatric cardiac patients carry higher risk
14. **B** — Accurate monitoring documentation is essential
15. **B** — Low body temperature = hypothermia
16. **B** — Opioids/analgesics are common perioperative pain medications
17. **B** — Brachycephalics are high risk for airway obstruction
18. **B** — Rebreathing bags assist ventilation assessment
19. **B** — Increased HR/BP/jaw tone suggest lighter anesthesia
20. **B** — Remove tube when airway reflexes return

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 8: Emergency Medicine & Critical Care

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which patient should be triaged FIRST?

- A. Dog with a chronic ear infection
- B. Cat with mild vomiting for 2 days
- C. Dog in respiratory distress with cyanotic mucous membranes
- D. Healthy puppy vaccine visit

2. A dog hit by a car presents with pale mucous membranes, HR 180, weak pulses, and prolonged CRT. What type of shock is MOST suspected?

- A. Cardiogenic shock
- B. Hypovolemic shock
- C. Septic shock only
- D. Neurogenic shock

3. What is the MOST important first step during veterinary CPR?

- A. Place IV catheter
- B. Begin chest compressions immediately
- C. Take radiographs
- D. Administer antibiotics

4. A client rushes in carrying a dog that is actively seizing and yelling, "Please help him!" What is the technician's BEST response?

- A. "Please calm down first."
- B. "You need to wait until the doctor is available."
- C. "We are taking him now—tell me his name and any medications while we help him."
- D. "Fill out these forms first."

5. Which shock parameter is MOST concerning?

- A. Pink mucous membranes
- B. Strong pulses
- C. Prolonged CRT and weak pulses
- D. Normal mentation

6. A patient receives opioid medication and becomes bradycardic with respiratory depression. What should the technician anticipate?

- A. Vaccination
- B. Reversal medication may be needed
- C. Exercise
- D. Discharge instructions only

7. Which emergency drug is commonly used during CPR to support cardiac activity?

- A. Diphenhydramine
- B. Epinephrine
- C. Meloxicam
- D. Metronidazole

8. A client says, "My dog ate rat poison, but he seems fine." What is the technician's BEST response?

- A. "He is probably okay."
- B. "You can monitor him at home."
- C. "This can be very serious. We need to assess him right away and determine what type and how much was ingested."
- D. "Wait to see if symptoms develop."

9. Which oxygen delivery method provides the HIGHEST oxygen concentration?

- A. Flow-by oxygen
- B. Oxygen cage
- C. Endotracheal intubation with oxygen support
- D. Nasal cannula

10. A cat arrives open-mouth breathing and highly stressed. What is the BEST technician action?

- A. Immediately restrain heavily for vitals
- B. Minimize handling and provide oxygen support
- C. Carry to radiology first
- D. Place in dorsal recumbency

11. Which ECG rhythm requires immediate CPR if the patient is unresponsive and pulseless?

- A. Sinus rhythm
- B. Ventricular fibrillation
- C. Mild sinus arrhythmia
- D. Normal tachycardia

12. A client becomes upset after hearing their pet is critical and says, "Why didn't someone call me sooner?" What is the technician's BEST response?

- A. "There was nothing we could do."
- B. "You are overreacting."
- C. "I can see this is upsetting. Let me update the veterinarian immediately so we can answer your questions."
- D. "We have been busy."

13. A dog presents after possible chocolate ingestion. What information is MOST important to obtain?

- A. Favorite toy
- B. Exact type and approximate amount ingested
- C. Grooming history
- D. Last nail trim

14. Which parameter is MOST useful for evaluating perfusion in emergency patients?

- A. Fur quality
- B. Capillary refill time (CRT)
- C. Eye color only
- D. Weight only

15. A patient hospitalized for trauma develops increasing HR, pale mucous membranes, and falling blood pressure. What should the technician suspect?

- A. Improvement
- B. Continued hemorrhage or shock progression
- C. Normal recovery
- D. Excitement only

16. Which fluid type is MOST commonly used initially for shock resuscitation?

- A. Hypertonic saline only
- B. Crystalloids (e.g., isotonic fluids)
- C. Tap water
- D. Dextrose only

17. A client calls and says, “My dog was just hit by a car—what do I do?” What is the BEST technician response?

- A. “Monitor him overnight.”
- B. “Please come in immediately. Keep him as still as possible during transport and let us know when you arrive.”
- C. “Give food and water.”
- D. “Wait for swelling.”

18. What is the MOST important goal of triage?

- A. Reduce paperwork
- B. Prioritize patients based on urgency and stability
- C. Discharge patients faster
- D. Avoid treatment

19. A dog with gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV) presents with distended abdomen, weak pulses, and tachycardia. What should the technician recognize?

- A. Stable outpatient condition

- B. Surgical emergency requiring rapid stabilization
- C. Mild indigestion only
- D. Behavioral issue

20. A technician must explain oxygen therapy to a worried owner. Which statement is BEST?

- A. "Your pet is very sick."
- B. "We are providing oxygen support to help your pet breathe more comfortably while the doctor continues treatment and monitoring."
- C. "We are not sure what is happening."
- D. "This probably won't help."

Answer Key — Domain 8: Emergency Medicine & Critical Care

1. **C** — Respiratory distress is highest triage priority
2. **B** — Pale MM + tachycardia + weak pulses = hypovolemic shock
3. **B** — Chest compressions begin immediately
4. **C** — Prioritize patient while gathering critical info
5. **C** — Poor perfusion signs are concerning
6. **B** — Opioid reversal may be necessary
7. **B** — Epinephrine is used in CPR
8. **C** — Toxicity should be treated urgently
9. **C** — Intubation provides highest oxygen concentration
10. **B** — Stress reduction and oxygen are critical for dyspneic cats
11. **B** — Ventricular fibrillation requires CPR
12. **C** — Validate concern and escalate communication
13. **B** — Type and amount determine toxicity risk
14. **B** — CRT helps assess perfusion
15. **B** — Worsening vitals suggest ongoing shock/bleeding
16. **B** — Isotonic crystalloids are commonly first-line
17. **B** — Immediate transport with minimal movement
18. **B** — Triage prioritizes care by urgency
19. **B** — GDV is a life-threatening emergency
20. **B** — Clear, reassuring communication is appropriate

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 9: Pain Management & Analgesia

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which behavior is MOST commonly associated with pain in cats?
 - A. Increased vocalization only
 - B. Hiding, decreased grooming, and reduced appetite
 - C. Tail wagging
 - D. Hyperactivity only
2. What is the BEST method to assess pain in veterinary patients?
 - A. Owner opinion only
 - B. Pain scoring system combined with patient assessment
 - C. Appetite alone
 - D. Temperature only
3. A dog recovering from surgery is panting, restless, whining, and guarding the incision site. What is the MOST likely concern?
 - A. Normal recovery only
 - B. Inadequate pain control
 - C. Improved comfort
 - D. Hunger only
4. Which drug class is commonly used for moderate to severe pain?
 - A. Antibiotics
 - B. Opioids
 - C. Antifungals
 - D. Vaccines
5. Which statement BEST describes multimodal pain management?
 - A. Using one drug only
 - B. Combining therapies to target pain through different mechanisms
 - C. Avoiding analgesics
 - D. Treating pain after surgery only
6. A client says, "My pet seems painful, but I don't want him sedated." What is the BEST technician response?
 - A. "Pain medication always causes sedation."
 - B. "Pain management is important for healing, and many options help keep pets comfortable without excessive sedation."
 - C. "He will be fine without medication."
 - D. "You should ignore mild pain."

7. Which patient sign MOST suggests pain?

- A. Relaxed posture
- B. Normal appetite
- C. Increased heart rate and guarding behavior
- D. Sleeping comfortably

8. A hospitalized cat after surgery refuses food, hides in the back of the cage, and becomes aggressive when touched. What should the technician suspect?

- A. Normal feline personality only
- B. Poor pain control or fear-related stress
- C. Improved recovery
- D. Hyperactivity

9. Which medication class reduces inflammation and pain?

- A. NSAIDs
- B. Antibiotics
- C. Antiparasitics
- D. Antifungals

10. Which adverse effect should be monitored with opioid administration?

- A. Increased appetite only
- B. Respiratory depression
- C. Hair loss
- D. Increased urination only

11. A dog with osteoarthritis has chronic stiffness and difficulty rising. What pain type is MOST likely present?

- A. Acute pain only
- B. Chronic pain
- C. Surgical pain
- D. No pain

12. Which non-pharmacologic pain management strategy can improve comfort?

- A. Cold metal cage only
- B. Comfortable bedding and quiet housing
- C. Increased stress exposure
- D. Excess restraint

13. A client asks, "Why does my pet need pain medication if he isn't crying?" What is the BEST response?

- A. "Animals always cry when painful."
- B. "Many animals hide pain, and controlling discomfort helps healing and recovery."
- C. "Pain medications are optional."

D. "We are required to give it."

14. A patient receiving NSAIDs develops vomiting and decreased appetite. What should the technician recognize?

- A. Improved pain control
- B. Potential adverse drug reaction
- C. Normal expected behavior
- D. Increased energy

15. Which pain scale finding indicates worsening pain?

- A. Relaxed body posture
- B. Normal appetite
- C. Increased tension, vocalization, and guarding
- D. Sleeping quietly

16. A cat hospitalized for trauma begins crouching, has dilated pupils, and resists handling. What should the technician suspect?

- A. Improved comfort
- B. Fear, pain, or both
- C. Normal relaxation
- D. Sedation only

17. Which statement about acute pain is TRUE?

- A. It lasts for years only
- B. It is commonly associated with surgery or injury
- C. It should not be treated aggressively
- D. It is always behavioral

18. A client says, "My dog seems sleepy after pain medication." What is the BEST technician response?

- A. "Stop the medication immediately."
- B. "Mild drowsiness can occur with some medications, but let's discuss what you are seeing to ensure it is within normal expectations."
- C. "That is unrelated."
- D. "Increase the dose."

19. A post-operative dog receiving multimodal analgesia appears relaxed, eating, and resting comfortably. What does this MOST suggest?

- A. Poor pain control
- B. Effective pain management
- C. Severe anxiety
- D. Drug overdose

20. Which patient should receive the MOST proactive pain assessment?

- A. Healthy outpatient vaccine patient
- B. Post-operative orthopedic surgery patient
- C. Grooming appointment only
- D. Routine nail trim

Answer Key — Domain 9: Pain Management & Analgesia

1. **B** — Cats often hide pain through behavioral changes
2. **B** — Pain scales + assessment are best practice
3. **B** — Panting, guarding, whining suggest pain
4. **B** — Opioids treat moderate to severe pain
5. **B** — Multimodal = multiple mechanisms of pain control
6. **B** — Educates while addressing concern
7. **C** — Increased HR + guarding are pain indicators
8. **B** — Pain and stress commonly overlap in cats
9. **A** — NSAIDs reduce inflammation and pain
10. **B** — Respiratory depression is a concern with opioids
11. **B** — Osteoarthritis causes chronic pain
12. **B** — Comfort measures reduce pain and stress
13. **B** — Animals often hide pain signs
14. **B** — GI signs may indicate NSAID adverse effects
15. **C** — These are pain indicators
16. **B** — Trauma cats may show pain and fear simultaneously
17. **B** — Acute pain follows injury or surgery
18. **B** — Mild sedation may occur and should be assessed
19. **B** — Comfortable behavior suggests good analgesia
20. **B** — Orthopedic patients require intensive pain monitoring

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended

Domain 10: Communication & Veterinary Professional Support Services

20 Multiple Choice Questions

1. A veterinary technician is documenting a patient's medical record. Which entry is MOST appropriate?

- A. "Owner was difficult and overreacting."
- B. "Patient was being dramatic."
- C. "Patient vocalized during abdominal palpation; veterinarian notified."
- D. "Patient seemed unhappy."

2. Which communication technique BEST demonstrates active listening?

- A. Interrupting to provide a solution
- B. Maintaining eye contact, listening without interrupting, and summarizing what the client said
- C. Looking at the computer while the client speaks
- D. Immediately correcting the client's misunderstanding

3. A client arrives with an elderly Labrador that suddenly cannot stand. The client is crying and repeatedly asks, "Is he going to die?" What is the technician's BEST response?

- A. "I'm sure he'll be fine."
- B. "I don't know."
- C. "We're going to have the doctor assess him immediately. I know this is frightening, and we'll keep you updated every step of the way."
- D. "Please wait until the doctor is available."

4. A veterinary technician notices an incorrect medication dose written on a treatment sheet. What should they do FIRST?

- A. Give the medication as written.
- B. Correct the treatment sheet without telling anyone.
- C. Verify the order with the veterinarian before administering the medication.
- D. Ask another technician to decide.

5. Which statement regarding medical records is TRUE?

- A. Only abnormal findings should be documented.
- B. Medical records should contain objective, factual information.
- C. Personal opinions are acceptable if accurate.
- D. Documentation can be completed at the end of the week.

6. A hospitalized patient's respiratory rate increases significantly, and the mucous membranes become pale. What is the technician's BEST action?

- A. Wait until rounds.
- B. Continue monitoring.

- C. Notify the veterinarian immediately and document the changes.
- D. Call the owner first.

7. Which example BEST demonstrates patient advocacy?

- A. Ignoring an equipment malfunction.
- B. Questioning a medication dose that appears unusually high before administration.
- C. Waiting until the end of the shift to mention a concern.
- D. Allowing a break in sterility to continue.

8. A client asks a technician whether their pet has cancer before the veterinarian has spoken with them. The BEST response is:

- A. "Yes, it definitely looks like cancer."
- B. "I don't think it's serious."
- C. "The veterinarian will discuss the test results with you as soon as they are available."
- D. "Search online while you wait."

9. A client calls and says their dog is having difficulty breathing. What information is MOST important?

- A. Last grooming appointment
- B. Favorite food
- C. Whether the dog is currently in respiratory distress and how soon they can arrive
- D. Vaccination history only

10. Which of the following is considered appropriate client education?

- A. Explaining how to administer medications at home.
- B. Diagnosing a disease.
- C. Changing the veterinarian's treatment plan.
- D. Prescribing a new medication.

11. A technician notices a coworker becoming frustrated with a client. What is the BEST response?

- A. Ignore the situation.
- B. Join the argument.
- C. Offer assistance while maintaining professionalism and supporting both the client and coworker.
- D. Tell the client they are wrong.

12. During discharge, a client says, "I don't understand how to give these medications." The technician should:

- A. Hand them the medications and leave.
- B. Explain the instructions using simple language and confirm the client's understanding.
- C. Tell them to read the label later.
- D. Ask them to search online.

13. Which statement is an example of objective documentation?

- A. "Owner was rude."
- B. "Patient appears lazy."
- C. "Patient vomited twice after receiving medication."
- D. "Patient was acting weird."

14. Which action falls within a veterinary technician's scope of practice?

- A. Diagnosing diabetes.
- B. Prescribing antibiotics.
- C. Educating a client on medication administration prescribed by the veterinarian.
- D. Performing surgery independently.

15. A client becomes angry because they have been waiting longer than expected. What is the BEST technician response?

- A. "We're busy."
- B. "You'll have to wait."
- C. "I understand your frustration. Thank you for your patience. I'll check on your pet's status and provide an update."
- D. Ignore the client.

16. Which of the following is considered confidential information?

- A. A hospitalized patient's medical record
- B. Hospital hours
- C. General vaccine recommendations
- D. Staff lunch schedule

17. A technician receives a phone call from someone claiming to be the owner requesting laboratory results. What should the technician do FIRST?

- A. Immediately release the information.
- B. Verify the caller's identity according to hospital policy before discussing the patient's record.
- C. Tell them everything.
- D. Send a text message with the results.

18. Which communication strategy helps reduce medical errors?

- A. Assuming everyone understands.
- B. Repeating and confirming critical information during handoffs.
- C. Avoiding documentation.
- D. Waiting until the end of the shift to communicate changes.

19. During surgery, the technician notices contamination of the sterile field. The BEST action is to:

- A. Continue because the surgery has already started.
- B. Ignore the contamination.
- C. Immediately notify the veterinarian and replace contaminated items.

D. Wait until surgery is complete.

20. Which statement BEST reflects professionalism?

- A. Discussing patient cases on social media.
- B. Maintaining confidentiality, communicating respectfully, and acting with integrity.
- C. Sharing client information with friends.
- D. Documenting only when convenient.

Answer Key — Domain 10: Communication & Veterinary Professional Support Services

1. **C** — Documentation should be factual and objective
2. **B** — Active listening builds trust and improves communication
3. **C** — Provide empathy while prioritizing patient care
4. **C** — Verify questionable medication orders before administration
5. **B** — Medical records should be objective and complete
6. **C** — Significant patient changes require immediate communication
7. **B** — Patient advocacy includes speaking up about safety concerns
8. **C** — Stay within scope of practice
9. **C** — Assess the emergency and facilitate rapid care
10. **A** — Client education is a technician responsibility
11. **C** — Support professionalism and de-escalation
12. **B** — Confirm understanding using clear communication
13. **C** — Objective observations belong in the medical record
14. **C** — Technicians educate clients but do not diagnose or prescribe
15. **C** — Acknowledge emotions and provide an update
16. **A** — Medical records are confidential
17. **B** — Verify identity before releasing patient information
18. **B** — Closed-loop communication reduces errors
19. **C** — Patient safety and sterility come first
20. **B** — Professionalism includes integrity, respect, and confidentiality

Scoring Guide

18–20 Correct: VTNE Ready | 15–17 Correct: Strong Understanding | 12–14 Correct: Review Needed in Key Areas | Below 12: Focused Study Recommended