

VTNE Self Study: Domain 8

Emergency Medicine & Critical Care — 20 Practice 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 & Explanations

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