

LIST OF PRACTICAL PROCEDURES SAVC REGISTRATION EXAMINATION - 2026 VETERINARY NURSES

[NOTE: This is not a complete list of common procedures. It is a list of procedures designed to test the candidate's competence. Candidates must be able to complete / explain / demonstrate any one or more of the following procedures / actions.]

THEATRE PRACTICE

Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified

- Apply a surgical head cover for staff
- Apply shoe covers
- Apply a face mask
- Aseptically gown
- Aseptically glove – open and closed gloving
- Surgical scrub
- Position small animals in dorsal recumbency
- Position small animals in sternal recumbency
- Position small animal in lateral recumbency
- Place a fenestrated drape
- Use four corner draping
- Drape a patient for ovariohysterectomy
- Drape a production animal for a rumenotomy
- Maintain a sterile surgical field
- Maintain an orderly trolley
- Open a wrapped sterile pack
- Open sterile aseptic packets
- Open sterile peel back packets
- Organise an instrument trolley
- Do an instrument count
- Do a swab count
- Pass instruments in the correct manner
- Swab an operation field
- Cut sutures during suturing process
- Apply surgical haemostasis
- Apply topical haemostatic agents
- Apply a tourniquet to control diffuse bleeding during surgery of extremities
- Dispose of surgical waste
- Prepare items for steam sterilisation
- Use, maintain and care for circulating water blankets and electric blankets
- Operate, maintain and care for suction apparatus
- Operate, maintain and care for Diathermy and/or Hyfrecators
- Identify surgical instruments and know their functions
- Care for and handle surgical instruments in a correct manner
- Store surgical instruments
- Inspect and test surgical instruments
- Identify needles according to shape, size, and type of point
- Identify suture material according to colour coding
- Identify size of suture material according to suture diameter
- Select appropriate size suture material for different tissue types

- Handle suture material correctly
- Place simple interrupted sutures with the correct knotting technique
- Remove skin sutures
- Identify the different suture patterns
- Place a ground plate for an electro-surgical unit
- Inspect all electrical equipment before use
- Select the disinfectant of choice for different types of materials

SURGICAL NURSING

Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified

- Wound lavage and management
- Physiotherapy
- Apply bandages
- Place an endotracheal tube (small animals)
- Pre-operative preparation of the surgical patient
- Position a patient correctly for surgery
- Post-operative patient care of all surgical patients
- Pre-operative nursing of fracture cases
- Post-operative nursing of fracture cases
- Perform 2% Fluorescein stain
- Perform Schirmer tear test
- Prepare a cytological sample of the eye
- Take conjunctival swabs
- Administer eye medication
- Prepare a patient for periodontal therapy (small animals)
- Perform a basic scale and polish (small animals)
- Perform a basic oral examination on a horse
- Develop a dental radiograph
- Position a patient correctly for the different radiographic views of the skull and mandible

MEDICAL NURSING

Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified

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- Skin scrape
- Hair pluck
- Woods lamp examination
- Blood smear
- Faecal float
- Faecal analysis
- Wet prep
- Faecal smear
- Collection of faecal material
- Collection of urine free flow method (small animals)
- Urinalysis
- Cardiac auscultation - normal heart sounds
- Place an over the needle (Jelco or Bardicath) catheter
- Pass a stomach tube (small animals)

- Place naso-oesophageal tube (small animals)
- Work out tube feeding regimens
- Set up and monitor i/v infusions
- Work out drip rates
- Spike a drip
- Work out revised drip rates when spiked
- Physiotherapy (coupage, passive muscle movement, hydrotherapy)
- Examine rumen motility (production animals)
- Rumen fluid examination (production animals)
- CMT (California mastitis test) (production animals)
- Set up and monitor i/v fluid administration
- Restrain patients

RADIOGRAPHY

- Assist with small animal and equine radiography sessions
- Have knowledge of routine equine and small animal radiographic techniques
- Have knowledge of routine equine radiographic positioning
- Perform routine radiographic procedures on small animal cases
- Observe and assist in exotic pet radiography cases
- Prepare patient for contrast study procedure
- Clean radiographic screens
- Identify films permanently in the emulsion by means other than the actinic marker system
- Process a latent image into a permanent visible image
- Produce a full set of radiographs of good quality from a presented case
- Evaluate radiographic images by applying an effective critique method
- Give instructions on positioning and handling of cases
- Evaluate the quality of X-ray images

ANAESTHESIA

Small animals

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- Care of anaesthetic machine
- Induction of anaesthesia
- Intubation
- Inhalation maintenance
- Monitoring of anaesthesia
- Local anaesthetic blocks
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Post anaesthetic care
- Pre-operative care
- Administer analgesia
- Anaesthetic records

REPRODUCTIVE NURSING

Small animals, production animals and horses unless specified

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- Place a progestagen sponge in an ewe
- Remove a progestagen sponge from an ewe

- Monitor female animals during parturition
- Care of neonates
- Feeding of neonates
- Collect and store colostrum
- Thaw frozen semen straws and load the AI pistollette
- Manage a nitrogen flask
- Sheath wash bull
- Prepare vaginal smears of a bitch
- Evaluate vaginal smears of a bitch
- Vaginoscopic monitoring of the oestrous cycle in a bitch
- Identify and use obstetric instruments
- Correct simple abnormal posture with dystocia ewe
- Correct simple abnormal posture with dystocia cow

GENERAL NURSING

- Evaluate temperature (small animals, production animals and horses)
- Evaluate pulse (small animals, production animals and horses)
- Evaluate respiration (small animals, production animals and horses)
- Examine ocular mucous membranes small animals, production animals and horses)
- Examine nasal mucous membranes
- Pass a stomach tube small animals
- Blood collection cephalic vein small animals
- Blood collection jugular vein horse
- Blood collection middle coccygeal vein cattle
- Blood collection cephalic vein small stock
- Blood collection jugular vein small stock
- Administer an enema small animals
- Tablets and capsules per os small animals
- Fluids per os small animals
- Subcutaneous injection small animals
- Subcutaneous injection horses
- Intra-muscular injection small animals
- Intra-muscular injection production animals
- Intra-muscular injection horses
- Intra-venous injection small animals
- Intra-venous injection production animals
- Intra-venous injection horses
- Apply topical creams and ointments
- Apply eye and ear medication
- Administer oxygen
- Bandage trunk small animals
- Bandage inguinal region small animals
- Bandage pendulous ear small animals
- Bandage erect ear small animals
- Bandage foot small animals
- Bandage neck small animals
- Bandage short tail small animals
- Bandage long tail small animals