The information below is provided to help you prepare for the Specialty Examination in Cardiology in June 2019. Included in this document is general information regarding:

- The structure of the examination
- The examination schedule (date, time, and location)
- Examination scoring
- Use of foreign language (translational) dictionaries
- Category Study Outline (i.e., the question blueprint)
- Examination Preparation (i.e., reference/suggested reading list)

**STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION**
The Specialty Examination in Cardiology is a six part examination taken over two (2) days. It consists of:

Multiple choice questions (20%), covering all aspects of basic and clinical sciences relevant to cardiovascular medicine.

Essay questions (16%), also covering both basic and clinical sciences related to cardiovascular medicine.

Case studies (20%), consisting of clinical patient studies including radiographs and other non-invasive and invasive examinations (ECG, echocardiography, hemodynamics, angiograms, etc.).

Cardiac Anatomy/Pathology (10%), covering gross anatomy, histology, cytology, radiographs, static angiograms, and computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging.

Physiologic recordings (19%), consisting of electrocardiograms, EP studies, phonocardiograms, static spectral and color flow Doppler echocardiograms, hemodynamic studies, special studies, and audio-recordings (heart sounds, etc.).

Video (10%), consisting of real-time recordings of patient examinations. It may include both non-invasive (M-mode, 2 dimensional, Doppler echocardiograms, transesophageal echocardiograms, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, etc.) and invasive studies (angiograms, etc.).

*Note the candidate’s credentials packet score provides the remaining 5% of the final examination score.

**SCHEDULE OF THE EXAMINATION**
Cell phones, PDAs, cameras, or any other electronic devices will not be allowed in the examination rooms. If you do bring them in, they must be turned off and placed at a designated location away from the exam tables, as directed by the College staff and/or examination proctors. Such storage will be done at your own risk.
There are two mandatory requirements in place for candidates sitting any ACVIM Examinations in 2019:
1). All candidates must show a picture ID when signing-in at the exam.
2). All candidates must show **proof of payment in the form of an ACVIM receipt** when signing-in at the exam.

*Please be in the exam room 15 minutes prior to the start of the exam*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>SECTION</th>
<th>ROOM/LOCATION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>Time/Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, June 2, 2019</strong></td>
<td>Physiologic Recordings</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>8:00 to 11:45 (3 hr 45 min)</td>
<td>6.25 min</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td>11:45 to 12:45 (1 hr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>12:45 to 3:00 (2 hr 15 min)</td>
<td>33.8 min</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td>3:00 to 3:15 (15 min)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Videos</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>3:15 to 6:00 (2 hr 45 min)</td>
<td>8.25 min</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case Studies</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>8:00 to 12:00 (4 hr)</td>
<td>30 min</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, June 3, 2019</strong></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 to 1:00 (1 hr)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anatomy/Pathology</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>1:00 to 3:30 (2 hr 30 min)</td>
<td>3 min</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td>3:30 to 3:45 (15 min)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple Choice</td>
<td>Sheraton Grand Phoenix Phoenix, AZ Room: TBD</td>
<td>3:45 to 6:30 (2 hr 45 min)</td>
<td>1.65 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Due to the nature of this examination, each section will be administered at the posted time and place **ONLY**. The examination administrators will do everything possible to ensure that a candidate is taking the correct section(s) of the exam, but ultimately it is the candidate’s responsibility to report to the appropriate session(s) to take this examination. No make-up examinations or examinations at other sites will be considered.
EXAMINATION SCORING

In order to pass the examination, candidates must attain a total score that equals or exceeds 70%; there is no requirement to obtain any specific score on individual sections of the examination. The examination is evaluated and rated by current Diplomates of the specialty.

USE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE (TRANSLATIONAL) DICTIONARIES

Candidates with English as a second language are permitted to use a foreign language (translational) dictionary during the examination provided that they request this by filling out the “dictionary request form” at the time that they submit their exam registration documents (February 1). They will then be contacted by the ACVIM staff to arrange for an appropriate dictionary to be purchased for use in the examination on their behalf. The dictionary will be made available for them to use during the examination in June, and must be returned to the examination proctors at the conclusion of each test subsection. Candidates must refrain from writing in these dictionaries; hand-written notes may be considered grounds for dismissal from the remaining sections of the examination as evidence of cheating. Candidates are not allowed to bring their own dictionaries for use during the examination.

CATEGORY STUDY OUTLINE

A subject category outline is posted on the Cardiology Credentials page of the ACVIM website.

EXAMINATION PREPARATION

Pencils, scratch paper, calculators, and computers will be provided. You are welcome to bring ECG calipers.
READING LIST

This reading list is provided to aid candidates in preparation for the Cardiology Specialty Examination. It is NOT a complete listing of all texts/journals from which questions may be drawn but represents a body of knowledge that a qualified candidate should know.

Textbooks

Listed books represent current resources that may cover similar content and thus may be redundant to each other. The candidate should be familiar with the relevant concepts covered in these books. Not all books in each subject area are necessary to adequately cover all concepts as outlined in the document formally known as the GIG (GIG replacement-Certification Manual for Residents Mentors and Training Programs-CMRMT). In addition this list is not meant to exclude other resources that adequately address concepts as outlined in the GIG.

Note: When more than one edition is available then the most current edition is listed but earlier editions are often current enough with respect to core concepts.

- Equine Internal Medicine. Reed SM, Bayly WM, Sellon DC (editors.), Saunders, St. Louis, 2010. Cardiovascular Diseases, Bonagura JD, Reef VB, Schwarzwald CC.
Journals and Serial Textbooks

Veterinary cardiac literature from the last 5 years should receive the most attention (inclusive of dates up to Sept 1st of the year before the exam). In addition some relevant veterinary studies published in the human literature may be cited. Veterinary cardiac literature older than 5 years may also be referenced if more current publications have not addressed the topic.

Serial Textbooks

- Current Veterinary Therapy
- Vet Clinics of North America
- Proceedings of the Heartworm Symposium, American Heartworm Society: last 3 issues

Veterinary medical journals include:

- American Journal of Veterinary Research
- Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
- Journal of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care
Human medical journals that maybe cited include:

- Circulation
- Journal of the American College of Cardiology
- American Heart Journal
- American Journal of Cardiology
- Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography
- British Heart Journal
- European Heart Journal
- Circulation Research
- New England Journal of Medicine
2018/2019 CARDIOLOGY EXAM COMMITTEE

- Chair: Dr. Sara Bordelon, CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets
- Co-Chair: Dr. Katherine Scollan, Oregon State University
- Dr. Marisa Ames, Colorado State University
- Dr. Whit Church, Desert Veterinary Medical Specialists
- Dr. Jordan Vitt, University of Illinois
- Dr. Jerry Woodfield, Northwest Cardiology Consultants

Please don’t hesitate to contact the Chair by email (Sara.Bordelon@cvcavets.com) with any questions or comments.

Best of luck to all of you, we look forward to seeing you in June.