CHAPTER 9

Dentistry Questions

**Overview**

##### Preparing for dentistry questions

##### Tips for answering dentistry questions

##### Practice questions

##### answer key and explanations

##### summing it up

**PreParing fOr denTisTry qUesTiOns**

Dentistry questions are another type of question on the VTNE. This group of questions makes up 8 percent (16 items) of the exam. These questions are designed to test your ability to prepare and maintain the various instru- ments, equipment, and supplies used in veterinary dentistry. To answer the questions, you also have to know how to assist with a variety of basic dental procedures, how to maintain patients’ dental health, and how to assist in the treatment of dental conditions and diseases. These questions also test your ability to educate your clients about their pets’ dental health, including about preventative care and post-treatment care.

Dental questions may ask you to correctly identify a piece of equipment or a dental condition based on a given defi- nition or scenario. You may also find questions that ask you to select the correct statement from a series of incorrect statements, or choose the incorrect statement from a series of correct statements. The multiple-choice items are generally formatted as questions, incomplete statements, or scenarios.

Veterinary technicians aid in veterinary dentistry by preparing and maintaining the environment, tools, and sup- plies used in dental procedures. When you are preparing for dental questions, be sure to study the various types of instruments used in the dental office. You should be able to identify each instrument and list its uses. Be sure that you are familiar with instruments such as manual and mechanical scalers, curettes, periodontal probes, shepherd’s hooks, dental and periosteal elevators, and other dental tools. You should also understand the proper methods for sterilizing these tools and the office itself.

Questions that deal with dental procedures will require an understanding of dental anatomy and common dental conditions. You should carefully study basic oral anatomy and tooth anatomy. Try to develop a firm understanding of the parts of the tooth, the various kinds of teeth, their specific functions, tooth-numbering systems, and other anatomical information.

**tyPes of teeth**

* *Incisors:* Used for cutting and nibbling
* *Canines:* Used for holding and tearing
* *Premolars:* Used for cutting, shearing, and holding
* *Molars:* Used for grinding
* *Carnassials:* Used for cutting; larger than premolars

Of course, you will also need to know how various basic procedures, like cleaning, dental radiography, or thera- peutic procedures are performed. For these questions, you should familiarize yourself with basic oral hygiene methods, the proper procedures for dental cleaning, techniques for dental radiography, treatments for various basic dental conditions or diseases, and general safety protocols. You should also be familiar with common dental problems like malocclusions, oral lesions, caries, abscessed teeth, gingivitis, periodontitis, resorptive lesions, and others.

* Misdirected teeth
* Oral tumors
* Oronasal fistulas
* Periodontitis
* Resorptive lesions
* Retained deciduous teeth
* Stomatitis
* Tetracycline staining
* Trauma
* Worn teeth

**Common Dental Problems**

* Abscessed teeth
* Caries (cavities)
* Enamel hypoplasia
* Fusion
* Gemini
* Gingival hyperplasia
* Gingivitis
* Impaction
* Lymphocytic/plasmacytic stomatitis
* Malocclusions

Finally, you will also have to demonstrate your ability to educate clients about their pet’s dental health, including preventative care and post-treatment care. Again, you will need to have a solid understanding of basic dental pro- cedures and the general principles of veterinary dental health. You will also need to be familiar with the suggested methods and protocols for home dental care, including tips for brushing, dietary information, the use of chew toys, and more. You may also want to review the basic principles of proper client communication.

Dental questions on the VTNE are based on many different topics including:

Anatomy Pathophysiology Common animal diseases

Sterilization techniques and quality assurance for equipment and supplies

Patient positioning techniques Dentistry procedures

Dental equipment, instruments, and supplies

### TiPs fOr answering denTisTry qUesTiOns

Remember the following tips when answering dentistry questions:

1. **Different animals have different needs.** Although most dental questions on the VTNE will likely focus on cats and dogs, you may encounter some questions that involve other species. Remember that different species have different dental anatomy and specific needs. As you answer questions on the VTNE, pay close attention to the species and breeds of animals in the scenarios and questions. These details could change which answers are correct.
2. **Remember what you have learned.** The basic information you have learned in preparing for other types of questions on the VTNE may be helpful for answering dental questions. This is especially true for questions that deal with dental radiography. Veterinary radiography is a significant part of the VTNE in the diagnostic imaging domain and the information you learn while studying for that domain can be very helpful when you encounter a dental radiography question. Use what you have already learned to help you make the right choices.

### PraCTiCe qUesTiOns

**1 .** While conducting a dental exam on a canine patient, you discover an infection between the gum and one of the patient’s molars. Which of the following would be the most likely diagnosis?

* 1. Stomatitis
  2. Abscess
  3. Caries
  4. Epulis

**2 .** Which dental instrument measures the depth of the gingival sulcus?

1. Shepherd’s hook
2. Sickle scaler
3. Periodontal probe
4. Curette

**3 .** While examining a canine patient, you find that one half of its jaw is noticeably larger than the other half. This condition is known as:

1. Oligodonta.
2. Rostro caudal mandibular.
3. Anodontia.
4. Level bite.

**4 .** A ruby sharpening stone should be used with:

1. either dry or water lubricant.
2. only water lubricant.
3. only dry lubricant.
4. neither dry nor wet lubricant.

**5 .** What size of intraoral film is commonly used for radiography of canines or incisors in dogs?

1. Size 0 (zero)
2. Size 2
3. Size 3
4. Size 4

**6 .** When applying fluoride, for how long should you leave the substance on the patient’s teeth?

1. 1–4 minutes
2. 5–9 minutes
3. 10–14 minutes
4. 15–18 minutes

**7 .** You areexamining afelinepatient, andyoudiscover some inflammation of the soft tissue of the oral cavity. This condition is known as:

1. gingival hyperplasia.
2. gemini.
3. stomatitis.
4. enamel hyperplasia.

**8 .** Which of the following refers to the surface of the tooth facing the animal’s nose?

1. Mesial
2. Buccal
3. Occlusal
4. Rostral

**9 .** Mandibular mesioclusion is considered normal for which canine breed?

1. German shepherd
2. Cocker spaniel
3. Pug
4. Dalmatian

**10 .** Which of the following dental instruments is used for root planing?

1. Curette
2. Sickle scaler
3. Shepherd’s hook
4. Periodontal probe

### answer key and exPLanaTiOns

3. 2

1. 2

2. 3

4. 2

7. 3

8. 4

9. 3

10. 1

5. 4

6. 1

**1 . The correct answer is 2 .** An abscess is described as an infection between the gum and the tooth. Abscesses may also occur at the root of a tooth. Stomatitis (choice 1) presents as an inflammation of the soft tissue in the oral cavity. Caries (choice 3) is another term for a cavity, or tooth decay. Epulis (choice 4) is a nonmalignant oral tumor.

**2 . The correct answer is 3 .** A periodontal probe measures the depth of the gingival sulcus. A shepherd’s hook (choice 1) detects subgingival calculus, cavities, tooth mobility, and broken teeth. A sickle scaler (choice 2) removes supragingival calculus and calculus from other locations. A curette (choice 4) removes subgingival calculus and root planing.

**3 . Thecorrectansweris 2 .** Rostrocaudalmandibular refers to a condition in which the size of one part of the jaw is out of proportion with the other. Oligodonta (choice 1) refers to having fewer teeth than normal. Anodontia (choice 3) refers to having missing teeth. Level bite (choice 4) refers to an end-to-end bite of the incisors.

**4 . The correct answer is 2 .** A ruby sharpening stone should be used with water lubricant. Choices 1 and 4 are incorrect because a wet lubricant should be used. Choice 3 is incorrect because a dry lubricant should not be used.

**5 . The correct answer is 4 .** Size 4 intraoral film is used for radiography of canines or incisors in dogs. Size 0 (zero) intraoral film (choice 1) is most commonly used in cats. Size 2 intraoral film (choice 2) is used for many dental X-rays in both cats and dogs. Size 3 intraoral film (choice 3) is not commonly used in veterinary dental radiography.

**6 . The correct answer is 1 .** Fluoride should be applied to the teeth for about 1–4 minutes. Choices 1, 2, are 4 are incorrect because the times indicated in these choices are too long.

**7 . The correct answer is 3 .** Inflammation of the soft tissue of the oral cavity is known as stomatitis. Gingival hyperplasia (choice 1) refers to a thickened gingival that occurs as a result of chronic inflammation. Gemini (choice 2) refers to a root that has two crowns. Enamel hyperplasia (choice

4) refers to reduced or missing portions of the enamel.

**8 . The correct answer is 4 .** Rostral refers to the surface of the tooth facing the animal’s nose. Mesial (choice 1) refers to the tooth surface facing the front of the mouth. Buccal (choice 2) refers to the tooth surface facing the cheek. Occlusal (choice

3) refers to the chewing surface of the tooth.

**9 . The correct answer is 3 .** Mandibular mesioclusion is considered normal for a pug. Pugs are an example of a brachycephalic breed. Brachycephalic dogs have an unusually wide skull and a short maxilla. Mandibular mesioclusion would be considered abnormal in German shepherds, cocker spaniels, and dalmatians (choices 1, 2, and 4) because these breeds are not brachycephalic.

**10 . The correct answer is 1 .** A curette is used for root planing. A sickle scaler (choice 2) is used for removing calculus. A shepherd’s hook (choice

3) is used for detecting calculus, tooth mobility, cavities, broken teeth, and more. A periodontal probe (choice 4) is used to measure the depth of the gingival sulcus.

### sUmming iT UP

* Veterinary technicians often perform duties associated with veterinary dentistry. These duties may include steril- izing and maintaining dental equipment, assisting with dental procedures, performing dental radiography, and educating clients about their pets’ dental health.
* Dental questions on the VTNE may cover such topics as dental anatomy, dental instruments, dental procedures, oral hygiene, dental radiography, sterilization and maintenance of dental equipment, dental conditions and treat- ments, home care, and client education.
* When taking the VTNE, remember that different animal species may have different dental anatomy and dental needs. Also remember that information you have learned for other domains, particularly the diagnostic imaging domain, may be helpful when answering dental questions.