

OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

WRITING SUB-TEST: VETERINARY SCIENCE

TIME ALLOWED: READING TIME: 5 MINUTES

WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes and complete the writing task which follows.

Notes:

Date: 23 July 2010

Owner: Mrs Martina Schmidt

Patient: 'Lulu' – 18-year-old poodle cross, spayed female

Care unpredictable behaviour – anxious & can bite when frightened

DOB: April 1991

History:

- 18/6/03 Vaccination given (C5).
Owner reports dog 'slowing down', sleeping more, with moderate cough (getting worse & more frequent), less energy during walks than before (now have to be shorter).
Clinical examination – cardiac auscultation suggests provisional diagnosis: congestive heart failure (CHF). Recommended tests to confirm: haemogram, biochemical profile, urinalysis (U/A), thoracic X-rays, ECG.
- 23/6/03 Haemogram, biochemical profile, U/A, thoracic X-rays, ECG. Test results confirm provisional diagnosis: ++CHF.
Treatment: medication – benazepril hydrochloride (½ tab daily).
Also regular walks, good diet, maintain healthy weight.
- 25/8/04 Dog well, bright & alert. Coat glossy. Body weight (BW): 10kg. Vaccination given (C5). CHF treatment continuing.
- 3/8/05 Bright & alert. BW: 9.5kg. Heart rate: 90bpm. Managing 1-hour walk daily. Good muscle tone. Vaccination (C5). Continue CHF treatment regime.
- 10/7/06 Dog well, responsive. BW 9.5kg. CHF treatment ongoing. Vaccination (C5). Heart rate: 88bpm.
- 26/5/07 Check-up. Bright & responsive. Heart rate: 85bpm. Lungs clear. Muscle tone good. Heartworm prevention. Vaccination (C5).
- 24/6/09 Bright & alert. BW: 9.0kg. Vaccination (C5). Heart rate 80bpm. Lungs clear.

- 10/7/10 Owner reports Lulu seems depressed, sleeping more, slow sitting down & reluctant to get up, reduced interaction with family & other dogs, 'shivering', periodic retching, urinary incontinence. Coat dull. BW: 8.5kg. Heart rate: 81bpm. Vaccination (C5). Provisional diagnosis: chronic renal insufficiency/chronic renal failure. Recommended tests: U/A, haemogram, biochemical profile. Owner doesn't want dog euthanased.
- 17/7/10 Tests: U/A, haemogram, biochemical profile; observation.
Clinical findings: provisional diagnosis confirmed: ++chronic renal insufficiency (CRI); ++CHF; osteoarthritis (OA).

Care Notes

For CRI – low protein diet (commercial or homemade – recipes available) to reduce load on kidneys. Fresh water daily.

For CHF – daily walk, adequate (varied) diet.

For OA – warm bedding & sleeping place, ? dog coat (for warmth), daily exercise (not too long/difficult).

Medications

For CHF: benazepril hydrochloride – ½ tab daily (ongoing).

For OA: carprofen injection – 1x wkly for 4 wks, then mthly (ongoing); chondroitin sulfate (Cosequin DS) – one capsule daily, sprinkled over food.

For urinary incontinence: phenylpropanolamine (Propalin Syrup) – 0.25ml 2x daily on food (calibrated syringe provided to measure dosage).

Writing task:

Write a letter to the dog's owner outlining your diagnosis of Lulu's illnesses and appropriate instructions for care at home. Address your letter to: Mrs M Schmidt, 21 High Street, Newtown.

In your answer:

- expand the relevant notes into complete sentences
- do not use note form
- use letter format

The body of the letter should be approximately 180-200 words.

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SAMPLE RESPONSE: LETTER

Mrs M Schmidt
21 High Street
Newtown

(Today's date)

Dear Mrs Schmidt,

Re: Lulu – female poodle cross, aged 19

The results of the tests performed on Lulu yesterday confirm that she has chronic renal insufficiency. This is in addition to the heart condition first diagnosed six years ago. Lulu is also suffering from osteoarthritis.

Lulu should have access to fresh water every day, and should be given a diet low in protein to reduce the load on her kidneys. We can recommend suitable commercial food for Lulu or provide recipes for appropriate homemade food. Her urinary incontinence can be treated with phenylpropanolamine (0.25ml twice a day on food).

You should continue to give Lulu benazepril hydrochloride for her heart (half a tablet each day), maintain a varied diet and keep up the daily walks, as this is good for Lulu's heart. Note, however, that the exercise should not be too long or difficult for her because of the arthritis. Lulu needs a warm place to sleep, appropriate bedding, and possibly a dog coat to help her feel more comfortable, given this condition. A series of carprofen injections (starting weekly for four weeks and thereafter monthly) would help; you could also give chondroitin sulfate (Cosequin DS) for this – one capsule daily sprinkled over food.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Veterinarian