Writing sub-test
Veterinary Science
Sample Test

Please print in BLOCK LETTERS

Candidate number

Family name

Other name(s)

City

Date of test

Candidate’s signature

YOU MUST NOT REMOVE OET MATERIAL FROM THE TEST ROOM

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

Notes:

You are a veterinarian at a private veterinary clinic that is open on Saturdays. Mrs Stella Alma has brought her dog, ‘Grainger’, to you for treatment because it is Saturday and her normal veterinary clinic is closed.

Patient: ‘Grainger’
Owner: Mrs Stella Alma
Breed: Dachshund
Sex: Female
DOB: 22/05/06
Weight: 5.5kg

History:
- Dry dog-food in morning, canned at night
- 1 other dog in household (female dachshund)
- Worming
- Spay 23/03/10
- No known allergies/conditions

Vaccinations:
- Canine Adenovirus-2
- Canine Parvovirus
- Distemper
- Kennel cough

10/02/14
Reason for presenting:
- Dog seems depressed
- Anorexia 5 days
- Drinking and urinating a lot
- Vomiting+++ 
- Diarrhoea++
- Lethargy
- Weakness

On presentation:
- Very depressed
- Approx 10% dehydrated
- Slow deep respiration
- Acetone breath
- Lung sounds normal
- Heart rate 110/min
- Abdominal palpation negative
Clinical Pathology: Available blood chemistry and urinalyses

Results:
- PCV(%) 58 (37-55%)
- Urea nitrogen 28mg/dL (10-28dL)
- Glucose 360mg/dL (65-118mg/dL)
- Protein 9.5g/dL (5.4-7.1g/dL)

Urinalysis:
- SpG: 1.035;
- Protein ++++
- Glucose ++++
- Ketones +++

Diagnosis:
- Diabetic ketoacidosis
- Possibility of electrolyte abnormalities
- Possibility of hypokalaemia

Treatment:
- To stabilise prior to move to another hospital for intensive care.
- IV cephalic catheter. IV Fluids – sodium chloride 500ml in 1 hour.
- Regular insulin 2.5 units, subcutaneously (SC) at 10.30am.

Discussed with owner re:
- long-term daily insulin treatment
- management requirements
- cost (owner says price not an issue)

Referral:
- Refer the animal for intensive care
- Request further blood electrolyte and blood gas analysis
- Attach blood chemistry and urinalysis results to referral

Writing Task:

Using the information in the case notes, write a letter of referral to Dr Barron at the Emergency Centre for intensive care. Address the letter to Dr Barron, Animal Emergency Centre, 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.
Dr Barron  
Animal Emergency Centre  
Newtown  
10 February 2014

Dear Dr Barron,

Re: ‘Grainger’, female dachshund

Mrs Alma’s dachshund Grainger, a 7-year-old female (5.5kg) presented today at my clinic. She was severely depressed, had slow deep respiration, was approximately 10% dehydrated and had acetone breath. Her symptoms are consistent with diabetic ketoacidosis. Grainger has a history of depression, anorexia (5 days), vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy and weakness. She has also been drinking and urinating excessively. I have attached the urinalyses and available blood chemistry tests to this letter. Blood chemistry shows abnormally high PCV, glucose and protein levels and urinalysis shows elevated protein (4+), glucose (4+) and ketones (3+).

In order to stabilise Grainger, I placed an IV cephalic catheter and began rapid administration of sodium chloride an hour later. In addition, 2.5 units of regular insulin were administered subcutaneously at 10:30am today.

I am sending Grainger onto the Emergency Centre for intensive care of her diabetic ketoacidosis. I discussed with the owner the requirement for long-term daily insulin treatment of the dog, the management requirements and the costs she can expect. Mrs Alma does not believe price to be an issue. Grainger also requires further blood electrolyte and blood gas analysis. I suspect electrolyte abnormalities and possible hypokalaemia.

Thank you for accepting this case.

Yours sincerely,

Veterinarian