

Veterinary Eligibility and Education in Japan



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Veterinarians' Act (excerpt)



Chapter I - Article 1 (General Provisions)

Veterinarians shall contribute to the improvement and promotion of **animals' hygiene and health, and public health** through the administration of **medical care and health guidance** of **rearing animals** (cattle, horse, sheep, goat, pig, dog, cat, chicken...).

Veterinarians in Japan

- ❖ Clinicians: 19,600 (50.3%)
 - Farm animals: 4,270 (11%)
 - Small animals: 15,330 (39.3%)
- ❖ Public officials: 9,456 (23.9%)
 - Agriculture and forestry field: 3,409 (8.7%)
 - Public health field: 5,430 (13.9%)
 - Education and other fields: 511 (1.3%)
- ❖ Private organizations and corporations: 5,586 (14.3%)
- ❖ Others (non-active): 4,449 (11.4%)



TOTAL: 38,985 (active; 34,536)

Veterinarians' Act (excerpt)



Chapter II - Article 3 (Licensing)

A person who wishes to become a veterinarian shall **pass the National Examination for Veterinarians and receive a license** from the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Chapter IV - Article 17 (Administrative Affairs)

No person except a veterinarian shall engage in veterinary practice for rearing animals.

Exam Eligibility Requirements



Chapter 2 - Article 11

- (i) a person who has studied in and graduated from a formal program in veterinary science at a university under the School Education Act (Act No. 26 of 1947).
- (ii) a person who has graduated from a veterinary school in a foreign state, or who has acquired a veterinary practitioner's license in a foreign state, who possesses at least the same level of knowledge and skills as the persons described in the one items above and whom the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has approved as eligible to take the National Examination for Veterinary Practitioners.

The road to becoming a veterinarian

National Examination for Veterinarians



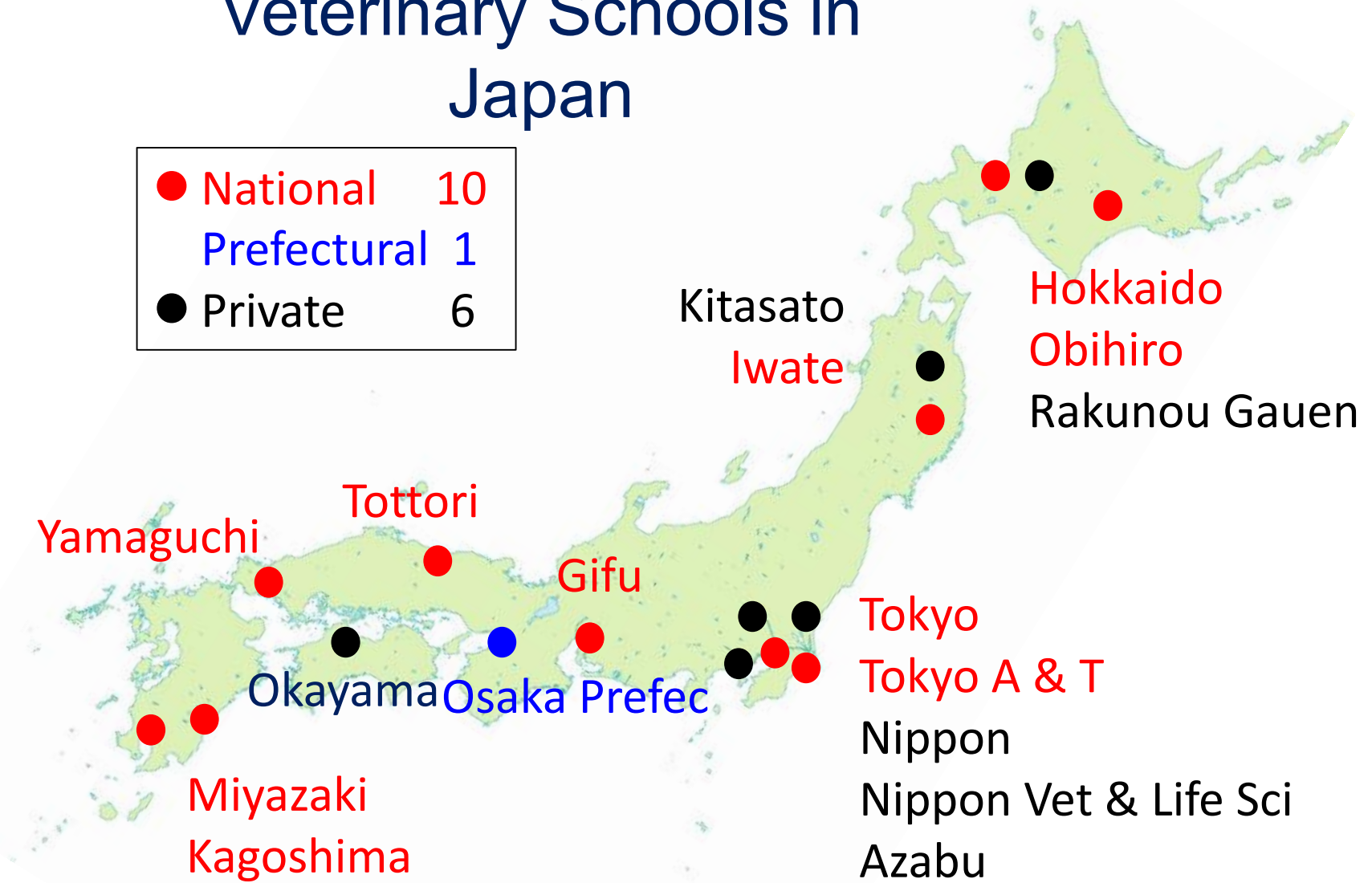
Veterinarian!



6-year-formal program in
veterinary science at a university

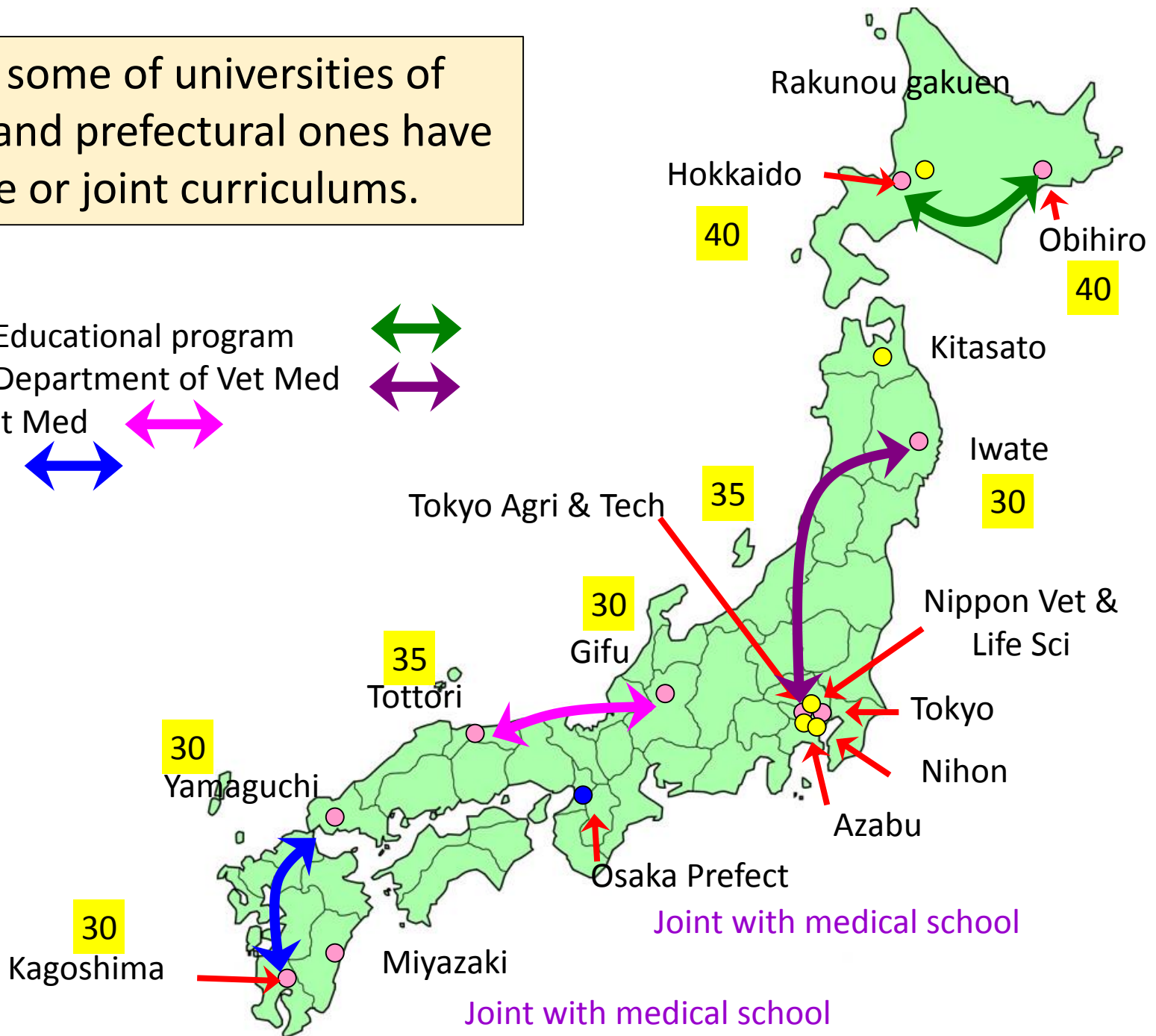
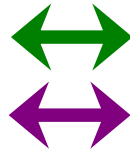
Veterinary Schools in Japan

● National	10
● Prefectural	1
● Private	6

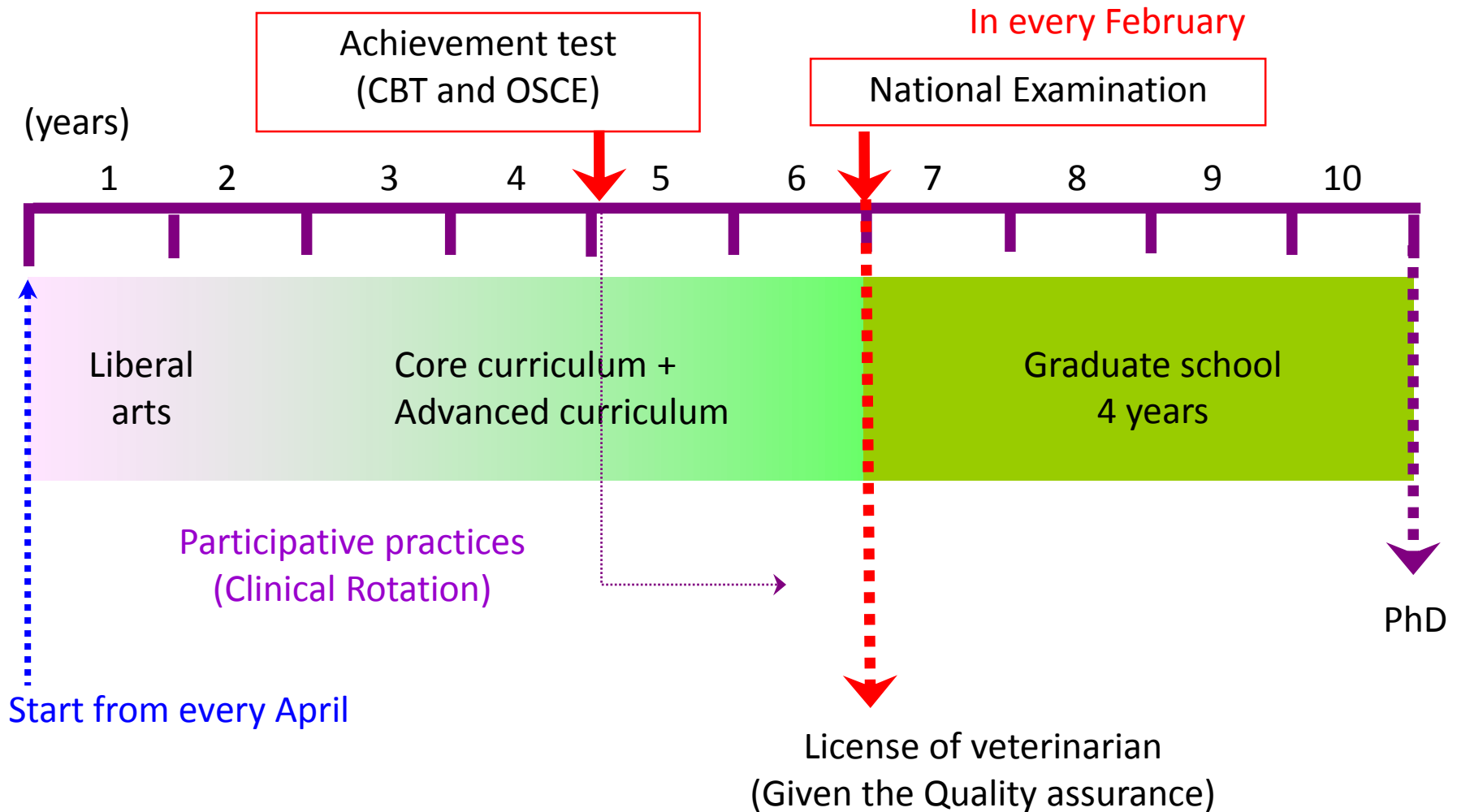


Recently, some of universities of national and prefectural ones have cooperate or joint curriculums.

Cooperative Educational program
Cooperative Department of Vet Med
Joint Dept Vet Med
Joint faculty



Veterinary Education System in Japan



Core curriculum

(subject name recommended: approx. 2550hrs)

Introduction and Vet Basic Subjects
Introduction to Veterinary Medicine
Veterinary Ethics and Animal Welfare
Veterinary Legislation
Anatomy
Histology
Embryology
Physiology
Biochemistry
Pharmacology
Veterinary Molecular Genetics and Breeding
Animal Ethology
Laboratory Animal Science
Biological Radiology

Subjects related to Pathological analysis and infection
Pathology
Immunology
Bacteriology and Virology
Poultry Disease
Fish diseases
Epizootiology
Parasitology

Clinical Subjects
General Internal Medicine
Clinical Pathology
Clinical Pharmacology
Respiratory/Cardiovascular Diseases
Gastroenterology
Urogenital Disease
Endocrinology and Metabolism
Clinical Nutrition
Neurological Disease
Hematology/Immunity disease
Dermatology
Clinical Animal Behavior
General Surgery
Operation Science (General)
Anesthesiology
Soft Tissue Surgery
Musculoskeletal Disease
Clinical Oncology
Ophthalmology
Image Diagnosis
Domestic/farm animal disease
Equine disease
Clinical Theriogenology

Applied Subjects
Animal Hygiene
General Public Health
Food Hygiene
Environmental Hygiene
Toxicology
Zoonosis
Epidemiology
Wildlife Medicine

Practice
Practice of Anatomy
Practice of Histology
Practice of physiology
Practice of Biochemistry
Practice of Pharmacology
Practice of Laboratory Animal
Practice of Pathology
Practice of Bacteriology and Virology
Practice of Parasitology
Practice of Animal Hygiene
Practice of Public Health
Practice of Food Hygiene
Practice of Toxicology
Practice of Small Animal Internal Medicine
Practice of Small Animal surgery
Practice of Image diagnosis
Practice of Domestic/farm Animal Medicine
Practice of Theriogenology
Participative Practices ((Clinical Rotation)

51 subjects and 19 practices + Graduate Thesis
(119 credits and 60 credits + 6 credits)

Example of Advanced curriculums (approx. 1000hrs)

<In each University>

Emergency medicine, Dentistry, Hospital management,
Exotic Animal Disease, Practice of Epidemiology, etc....

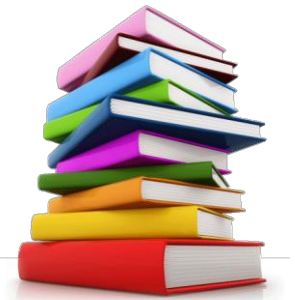
<Internships>

Clinical

Livestock Experiment Station, Pet Clinic, Farm,
Gricultural Mutual Aid, etc

Applied Veterinary Medicine

Institute of Public Health, Quarantine,
Slaughter House (carcass inspection),
Infectious Disease Surveillance Center, etc....



Achievement test



CBT: Computer-based Testing

To evaluate the minimum vet knowledge of a student

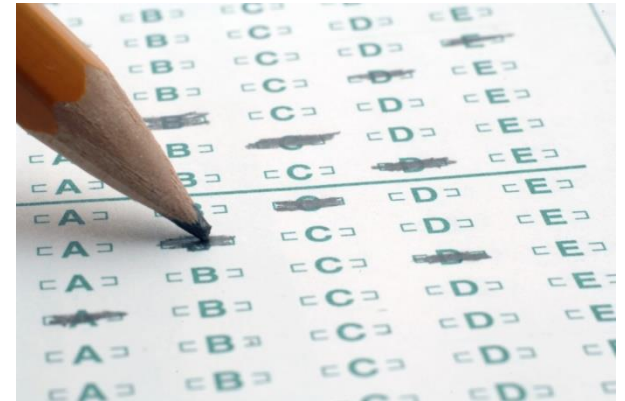
- Introduction and Vet Basic Subjects
- Subjects related to Pathological analysis and infection
- Applied Subjects (minimum without special/detail)
- Clinical Subjects (minimum without special/detail)

OSCE: Objective Structured Clinical Examination

To evaluate the ability of a student for minimum veterinary clinical and communication techniques

Responsible Body of CBT and OSCE is NPO Veterinary Education Support Organization (vetESO))

The National Examination



- A paper-based test with 330 multiple-choice questions
- Covering basic medicine, clinical medicine and hygienics
 - 50 essential questions covering essential veterinary medical knowledge, ethics and animal welfare
 - 140 questions for basic medicine
 - 140 questions for clinical medicine

The Japanese National Examination for Veterinarians

- once a year
- at 3 sites (Tokyo, Sapporo and Fukuoka)
- for two days in mid to late February
- by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



The standard of national examination

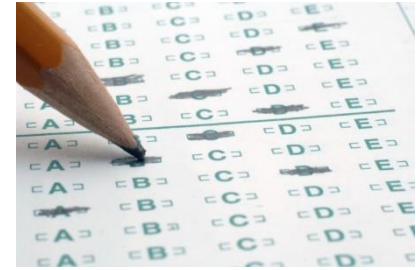
- is published and available for all candidates to view before taking the examination
- Includes 51 subjects
 - anatomy, physiology, pathology, surgery, gastroenterology...

獣医師国家試験
出題基準
(平成26年改正)

平成26年 9 月 4 日

獣医事審議会

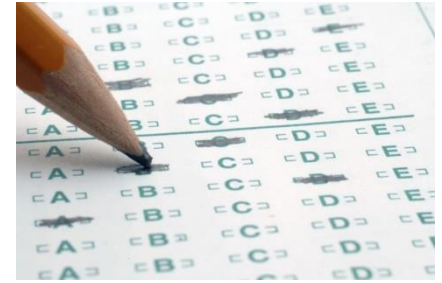
Exam preparer's



- Exam questions are created by the members of the examination committee
 - 51 members
 - Faculty of veterinary schools and teaching hospitals
 - Researchers in veterinary science related institutes
 - Veterinary clinicians

- Used questions will not be publicized

Exam questions creation schedule



- 18 to 23 questions by each member ~mid-August
(about 3 times of 330 questions used in the exam)
- Selection and correction of the questions created by
other 8 committee members ~mid-January
(22 whole day committee meetings)
- Printing
- National exam mid-February

Time schedule of the national exam

1st day

9:30 – 11:30 category A

13:00 – 13:50 essential Q

14:50 – 16:50 category B

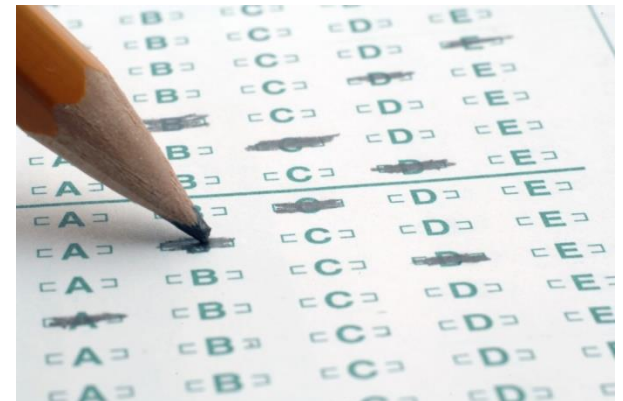
2nd day

9:30 – 11:30 category C

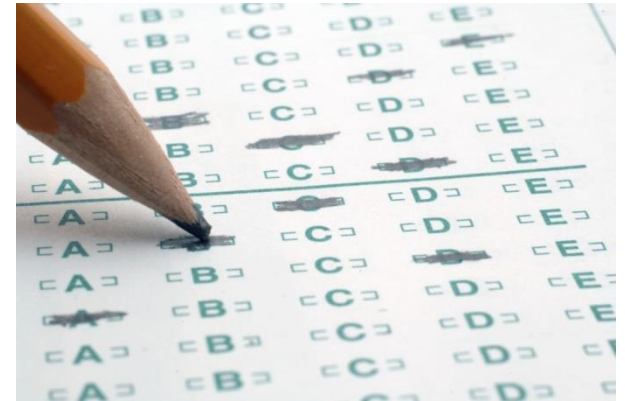
13:00 – 15:00 category D

Category A, B: theory test
(general, particulars)

Category C, D: practical test
(pictures, figures, tables)



The passing level



- A paper-based test with 330 multiple-choice questions

- Covering basic medicine, clinical medicine and animal hygiene

70% or more correct answers

- 50 essential questions covering essential veterinary medical knowledge, ethics and animal welfare

- 140 questions for basic medicine

- 140 questions for clinical medicine

60% or more correct answers

Applicants, successful candidates and pass rate

#: includes persons graduated from foreign vet schools

	Applicants			Successful candidates			Pass rate (%)		
year	new	former	#total	new	former	#total	new	former	#total
2012	1064	197	1266	968	91	1060	91.0	46.2	83.7
2013	1058	188	1250	956	64	1023	90.4	34.0	81.8
2014	1022	208	1237	922	84	1011	90.2	40.5	81.7
2015	1009	220	1241	856	77	938	84.8	35.0	75.6
2016	1009	282	1299	888	135	1024	88.0	47.9	78.8
2017	1028	258	1296	889	98	1000	87.5	38.0	77.2
2018	966	291	1277	936	181	1128	96.9	62.5	88.3
Ave.	1022	235	1267	916	104	1026	89.8	43.4	81.0

Thank you for your attention!

