

AVTCP Exotic Companion Animal Skills List

A minimum of 80% of the skills must be mastered. Skills must be cross referenced in your case logs.

Mastery is defined as to be able to perform a task consistently and competently without being coached or directed no less than 4 times.

Mastery requires having performed the task in a wide variety of patients and situations.

Husbandry Requirements

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
1.	Ability to recognize and identify different species of both common and rare avian and exotic pets		
2.	Mastery of husbandry requirements for the most common avian and exotic species including, but not limited to nutritional requirements, caging/housing, substrate, temperatures, humidity, lighting, grooming, bathing, foraging, enrichment, etc.		
3.	Expertise in the application of husbandry requirements in the hospital setting to maximize patient care and comfort		
4.	Proficiency in the education of clients and coworkers in the proper care of individual species of avian and exotic pets		

General Nursing

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
5.	Perform a comprehensive physical exam: identify normal/abnormal eyes, ears, nares, oral, vent, choana, heart/ and lung sounds, pain assessment, body condition score, hydration status		
6.	Recognize signs of respiratory failure, shock		
7.	Accurately and efficiently triage patients presenting for emergent conditions		
8.	In association with other medical team members, administer CPR, evaluate effectiveness, and troubleshoot therapy		
9.	Thorough knowledge of substances that, when ingested, result in toxicity		
10.	Efficient and accurate calculation of drug doses, solutions, and IV fluid rates		
11.	Demonstrate thorough knowledge of metric conversions		
12.	Mastery of venipuncture in healthy, sick, and/or debilitated animals.		
13.	Mastery of jugular and peripheral IV catheter placement in a variety of sites in healthy sick, and/or debilitated animals		

14.	Mastery of intraosseous catheterization in a variety of sites in healthy, sick, and/or debilitated animals		
15.	Set up and maintain an IV fluid pump and syringe pump and be able to troubleshoot equipment malfunction		
16.	Mastery of various methods of centesis (cysto, percutaneous, and abdominal/coelomic)		
17.	Proficiency in placement and maintenance of a urinary catheter in ferrets, rabbits, and guinea pigs (male and female)		
18.	Proper placement and/or maintenance of at least two (2) of the following types of enteral feeding tubes: nasogastric, esophageal, gastric, jejunal, crop/proventricular		
19.	Properly administer blood products, including obtaining donor blood and monitoring techniques throughout the transfusion		
20.	Set up and perform non-invasive blood pressure monitoring, evaluate blood pressure status, and troubleshoot equipment malfunction		
21.	Set up and monitor heart rate and rhythm with ECG monitoring, recognize normal and abnormal tracings, and troubleshoot equipment malfunction		
22.	Set up a pulse oximeter, evaluate oxygen status, and troubleshoot equipment malfunction		
23.	Administration of fluids and medications via various parenteral administration sites (IM, SC, ICe, IV, IO)		

Anesthesia/Analgesia

	SKILL	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
24.	Assign appropriate ASA status after reviewing patient history, PE, and diagnostic results in collaboration with a veterinarian		
25.	In collaboration with a veterinarian, determine appropriate anesthetic and peri-anesthetic protocols to provide effective pain management and maximum anesthetic safety and effectiveness		
26.	Perform local and regional nerve blocks		
27.	Evaluate the effects of common pre-anesthetic, induction, and maintenance drugs		
28.	Evaluate and respond to adverse reactions to and/or complications from pre-anesthetic, induction, and maintenance drugs		
29.	Implement appropriate pre-oxygenation technique and know rationale with regards to species, anemia, etc		

30.	Mastery of endotracheal intubation and tube placement with regard to size, length, safe technique, and when to use cuffed vs. non-cuffed tubes in routine and emergent situations		
31.	Thorough knowledge of the risks associated with intubation and the appropriate steps to avoid these risks		
32.	Set up a capnograph end-tidal CO2 monitor, evaluate ventilation status, and troubleshoot equipment malfunction		
33.	Set up a continuous respiratory rate monitor, evaluate respiratory rate status, and troubleshoot equipment malfunction		
34.	Perform manual intermittent positive pressure ventilation with an anesthesia breathing bag and evaluate its effectiveness		
35.	Set up ventilator, calculate appropriate tidal volume and respiratory rate, and troubleshoot machine as needed		
36.	Set up and monitor temperature (esophageal, rectal, external), evaluate patient status, and troubleshoot machine malfunction		
37.	Implement techniques to prevent hypothermia/hyperthermia and resolve these issues by safely and effectively using devices such as warm air blankets, circulating water blankets, IV fluid warmers, radiant heating devices, and incubators pre and post surgically		
38.	Monitor and evaluate patient status and anesthetic depth using established parameters such as outward involuntary physical response (i.e. jaw tone, palpebral reflex, eye position), blood pressure, ECG, pulse oximetry, heart rate, respiratory rate, and ventilation status		
39.	Administer and evaluate the effects of IV fluid (crystalloid and colloid) and blood component therapy during anesthesia		
40.	Ability to assess appropriate extubation time with regard to various species, (such as reptiles versus ferrets), regurgitation/aspiration, and emergence from anesthesia		
41.	Set up, maintain, and troubleshoot a non-rebreathing system		
42.	Set up, maintain, and troubleshoot a rebreathing system		
43.	Set up, maintain, and troubleshoot an anesthesia machine (oxygen tank, vaporizer, CO2 absorbent, scavenger system)		
44.	Set up, maintain, and troubleshoot an anesthetic induction chamber		
45.	Set up, maintain, and troubleshoot a waste gas scavenging system		

Surgical Nursing

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
46.	Mastery of the unique and varied individual surgical nursing requirements of various species (ferrets, small rodents, birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, reptiles, etc.)		
47.	Extensive knowledge of and ability to set up necessary equipment and supplies for a variety of surgeries (i.e. reproductive tract, GI tract, ophthalmic, orthopedic, soft tissue, rigid and flexible endoscopy, laparoscopy/coeleoscopy) for each species		
48.	Coordinate the process of preparation, safe use, and maintenance of suction equipment, radiosurgery, electrocautery, and laser units		
49.	Coordinate the process of preparation and positioning of patients for a variety of surgical procedures (i.e. reproductive tract, GI tract, ophthalmic, orthopedic, soft tissue, rigid and flexible endoscopy, laparoscopy/coeleoscopy) for each species		
50.	Coordinate pre and post operative care of surgical patients		
51.	Supervise staff in the care of surgical instruments		
52.	Supervise staff in proper surgical sterilization procedures (autoclave, ethylene oxide, glutaraldehyde, etc.)		

Laboratory

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
53.	Mastery of all basic laboratory testing: PCV, TP, UA, fecal analysis (direct smears, floats, gram stains, acid fast stains), external parasite analysis, basic cytology, blood smear evaluation, and estimated WBC count		
54.	Utilize, maintain, and troubleshoot in-house hematology and clinical chemistry analyzers and evaluate results		
55.	Demonstrate the ability to perform at least 2 different in-house clotting tests (BMBT, ACT, Platelet evaluation, PT, APTT)		
56.	Demonstrate the ability to obtain samples for tests such as, but not limited to, CBC, clinical chemistries, PCR, serology, and virology. This includes: appropriate fasting protocols, correct timing of sample collection, and correct sample collection and handling		

57.	Properly collect, handle, and store samples of excretion, secretion, and effusion for laboratory evaluation		
58.	Properly collect, handle, and submit cytology and samples for laboratory evaluation		
59.	Properly collect, handle, and submit samples for bacterial and fungal culturing		
60.	Properly collect, handle, and submit samples for histopathology		

Diagnostic Imaging

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
61.	Coordinate the radiographic process by directing team members to consistently and efficiently produce radiographs of diagnostic quality		
62.	Proficiency in evaluating the patient's condition (medical, surgical, behavioral) and adapting the radiographic procedures to those conditions		
63.	Demonstrate accuracy and efficiency in positioning patients for a variety of radiographic studies (thorax, abdomen, spine, skull, extremity, pelvis, dental)		
64.	Accurate and consistent evaluation and modification of radiographic technique		
65.	Perform and/or demonstrate the ability to set up and assist in contrast studies (i.e. GI studies, double contrast, cystograms, myelograms) including the set up of necessary equipment, patient preparation, and administration of contrast media		
66.	Ability to maintain radiograph cassettes, radiology processor and develop radiographs properly		
67.	Ability to utilize, troubleshoot, and manipulate technique using digital radiology		
68.	Demonstrate the ability to set up, maintain equipment, and assist with or perform ultrasonography		

Dentistry

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
69.	Thorough knowledge of dental anatomy for all species (rodent, rabbit, ferret, hedgehog, sugar glider, etc.)		
70.	Efficiently perform a comprehensive oral exam		

71.	Readily identify oral pathology and anatomic abnormalities		
72.	Comprehensive knowledge of how to use and care for dental hand instruments and power instruments		
73.	Perform thorough and efficient dental prophylaxis		
74.	Efficiently and consistently produce dental radiographs of diagnostic quality		
75.	Ability to perform and/or assist with rodent/rabbit dental trimming		
76.	Ability to maintain and troubleshoot dental machinery and equipment		

Pharmacology

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
77.	Extensive knowledge of groups of drugs, their mechanisms, clinically relevant side effects, and accurate evaluation of therapeutic responses		
78.	Extensive knowledge of types of vaccines, their immunological mechanisms, and adverse vaccine reactions		

Behavior

	Skill	Case Log Number(s)	Vet or VTS Signature
79.	Knowledge of basic behavioral learning concepts (i.e. punishment, positive reinforcement, rewards, operant conditioning)		
80.	Ability to recognize appropriate and inappropriate behaviors in several species (birds, rabbits, reptiles, etc.) and provide information to clients regarding current scientifically based techniques of training, management, and behavior modification		
81.	Familiarity with a variety of training tools and their uses		
82.	Train practice staff in recognizing and managing aggressive behavior in the practice setting (i.e. use of proper restraint techniques, muzzles, sedation, etc.)		

Please provide the names and credentials of all persons who have signed this form attesting to your mastery of advanced skills in clinical practice.