



## **Case Report Instructions EMSAVM Surgery**

### **General instructions**

- Case reports, written in prose, must be in a problem-oriented approach and include a complete presentation of the case, illustrations where necessary, literature review on the subject with references and a discussion. Candidates must demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the topic.
- A case report should contain 2000 words +/- 10%, excluding tables, references and appendix.
- The 10 cases must be a mixture of various species, problems and diagnosis, all pertaining to the selected master's program. Candidates are required to keep a table of the already submitted cases which shall be sent with each new case report submission. The ESAVS Office will provide an Excel template for the table below:

Case Nr.	Species	Problem/s	Diagnosis
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- Candidates are advised to submit cases shortly after beginning and throughout the program and not all cases at the end of the program.
- ESAVS cannot guarantee the evaluation of more than 3 case reports per semester. To ensure an evaluation in a specific semester, reports should be submitted no later than the given deadline for the respective semester (please see [Important Dates](#) on the ESAVS website).

Cases should be set out under the following headings:

- Title
- Signalement
- Case History
- Physical Examination
- Differential diagnosis and final diagnosis
- Medical and surgical treatments
- Post-operative care
- Results and control
- Discussion of case in relation to current literature (no repetition of literature but a discussion why the case fits or does not fit what is known)
- References
- Pictures, including explanation (if necessary)

Each case report is viewed by one member of the Examination Board and graded on a 0-20 scale (<10= fail, 10-11,9 = sufficient, 12-13,9 = fair, 14-15,9 = good, 16-17,9 = very good, 18-20 = excellent).

The grades of the individual case reports are averaged to obtain one single grade. When this average grade is below 10, candidates are requested to resubmit revised or new cases for the failed case reports.



## **Evaluation of a case report**

### **Step 1: Is the case report acceptable?**

Is the case described in the report suitable at all?

Reasons to reject a case are:

- A case is too simple (e.g. an uncomplicated humerus fracture)
- Lack of an adequate number of state of the art clinical tests to arrive at a diagnosis (or at least a presumptive diagnosis). The case could be resubmitted when the lacking information can be retrieved.
- Inadequate surgical technique
- The animal's life was endangered by excessive/unnecessary diagnostic tests or treatments (including surgery). Such a case cannot be resubmitted.
- A case that falls not within the specified master program
- Most diagnostic tests and interpretation are done by a referring veterinarian
- Inadequate follow-up of a case (e.g. diagnosis reached after euthanasia with no follow-up available)
- Multiple cases all with the same problems or diagnosis
- Cases not seen during the enrollment in the program of the master student or where the master student is not the primary responsible clinician

***If a case is rejected the case report is assigned 0 points. The reason will be stated in the evaluation.***

### **Step 2: Grading of the accepted case report**

#### **The case report will be evaluated based on a check sheet**

An accepted case starts with the maximum of 20 points. 10 points are minimally required as a passing grade.

The table below contains a list of 11 potential inadequacies. For each one the examiner can deduct a number of points. The examiner is not limited to the potential maximum number of points to be deducted, this is just used as a guideline (i.e. it is possible to deduct more in a single category if applicable). At the end a total of points remains.

Recommendations for the candidate to avoid deduction of points:

- Make sure the history is sufficient
- Give all details of the physical exam (report on how you evaluated the lameness, etc.)
- Reported tests need to be relevant for the animal: XRays, Ultra-sound, CT.
- Explain how you came to the diagnosis
- Be precise in the description of the surgical treatment
- Discuss the case – do not just repeat text book knowledge! Bring relevant literature to justify your treatment
- Be sure your treatment was appropriate and discuss the alternative options
- Be precise about results and complications



## Evaluation Check Sheet of a Case Report / Surgery

Inadequacies	Potential max. deduction	Points deducted
<i>Incomplete signalment, history and physical examination</i>	1	
<i>Inadequate list of differentials</i>	2	
<i>Inadequate choice of tests and assessment</i>	2	
<i>Poor quality representation of diagnostic tests (radiographs, endoscopy)</i>	2	
<i>Incorrect or unjustified diagnosis</i>	2	
<i>Inadequate or inappropriate medical management</i>	2	
<i>Inadequate surgical treatment</i>	4	
<i>Inadequate follow-up for the case report to be meaningful</i>	1	
<i>Inappropriate discussion, not adequately referenced</i>	2	
<i>Language and word count inadequate</i>	1	
<i>Other problems not covered above</i>	1	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	20	
<b>GRADE ( = 20 – total deducted points)</b>		

There is no “perfect” case and thus the subsequent example of a case should be viewed more as how to present your case. If you have questions, please ask them during one of the courses early on – the course masters are ready and willing to help.