

NAVLE STUDENT TESTING PREPARATION REPORT

Yearly survey report of student data
on preparing for and taking
the national veterinary board examination

Vol. 01

Sponsored By:
STUDENT AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

vicki foss



Education and Professional Development Committee

The EPDC promotes opportunities for student personal and professional development including essay contests, grants, and survey competitions. The Committee also works closely with the American Association of Veterinary State Boards and the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges.



NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY LICENSING EXAMINATION



requirement for licensure to practice veterinary medicine

in all licensing jurisdictions in North America



The NAVLE consists of 360 clinically relevant multiple choice questions.

The NAVLE is offered throughout North America and at certain overseas sites at computer testing centers operated by Prometric. The NAVLE is available during a four week testing window in November-December, and a two week window in April.

NAVLE

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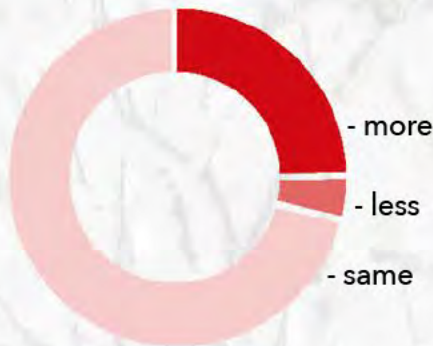
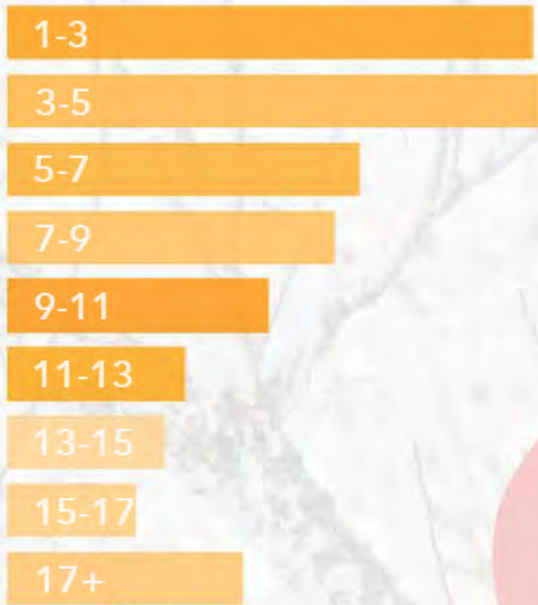
GENERAL STUDYING HABITS

The majority of students studied between 1-7 hours a week, with the most respondents (21%) studying for 3 to 5 hours/week. When asked if they would suggest studying more or less, (70%) recommended studying the same and (27%) recommended studying more. Most students (29%) began studying for the NAVLE in August and most recommended to start at the same time (August) (53%).

"...make a schedule early,
and **STICK TO IT!**"

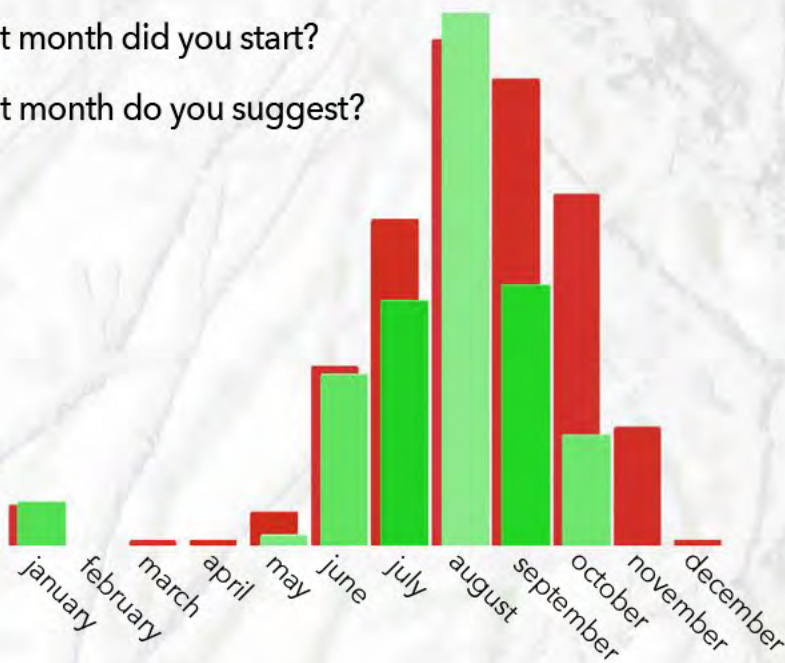
GENERAL STUDYING HABITS

How many hours per week?



Would you recommend studying more or less?

■ What month did you start?
■ What month do you suggest?



Many students responded that the school-provided sessions did not fit into their schedule when they were on clinical rotations or externships or due to family demands. Students struggled with paying attention in evening reviews after being in the clinic all day. Students appreciated it when the provided review materials were posted online (as powerpoints or as recorded sessions/podcasts) so they could study at their own pace or make up material they missed while away on externships. Students who took the NAVLE during the April test period felt that the reviews held in the fall were not useful for them.

Students appreciated reviews of species had not covered much in their curriculum

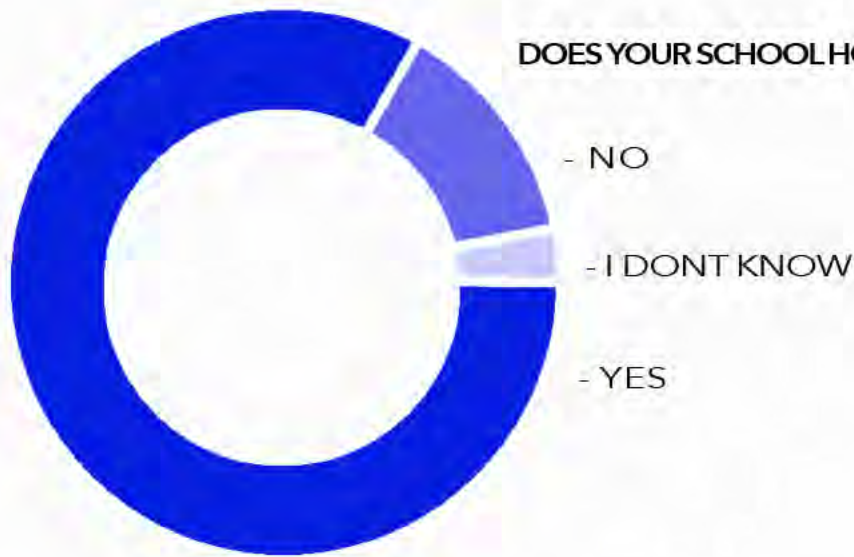
Some schools had only one review session over one species (bovine, porcine) in depth, and students felt they learned a lot from it. They would like to expand these reviews as a seminar series to include other topics.

Students suggested focusing on specific diseases for a particular species rather than broad topics. They also suggested focusing on pharmacology, pathology and clinical pathology findings for common diseases. Students appreciated or wanted a parasitology review.

Students felt overwhelmed when reviewers tried to cover everything on a particular subject instead of giving an overview or "top 10 or top 20" approach to the most common clinical scenarios. Many students felt the reviews were good overall knowledge reviews or were useful in the clinic, but weren't helpful on the NAVLE. Some students said the review sessions were too much like lectures and were too detail-oriented.

"Some sessions were posted online, and I really appreciated that..."





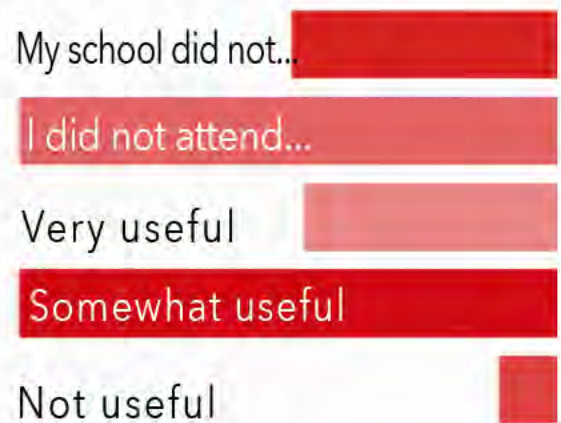
SCHOOL RUN REVIEWS

The vast majority of students said that their school provided review sessions (89%), while some students (2%) were unaware if their school provided reviews (an area for schools/SCAVMA chapters to improve). However, despite most schools offering reviews, 37% said they attended less than half and 34% did not attend any review sessions. Of the people who attended the reviews, 103 people found them very useful, 217 people found them somewhat useful, and 25 found them not useful.

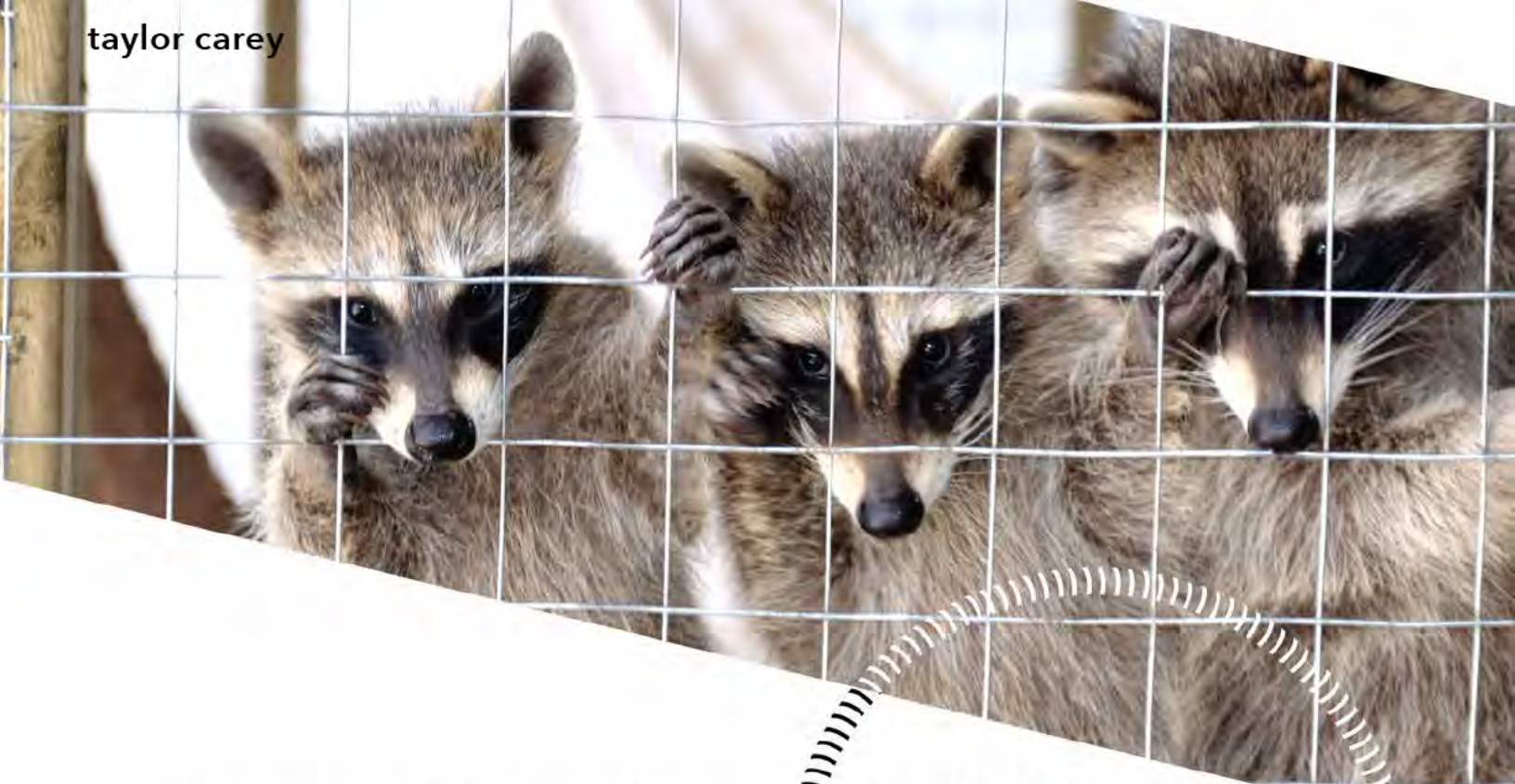
How many sessions did you attend?



Did you find them useful?



"reviews were most helpful to me, especially topics not covered in lectures previously such as exotics..."



We surveyed students on three distinct modalities for review materials: Books, Review Services, and Digital Media. They were all individually split into several options, some involved additional comments on relative efficacy and requirement for succeeding on the NAVLE.

REVIEW MATERIALS

Several students added additional options but we will be focusing on those that were most highly used. There are also additional comments on several of the modalities in the 'General Advice' section of this report.

"Notes available online for review sessions, this was helpful because it allowed me to study at the time that was best for me."

REVIEW BOOKS

The following were the most popular books students chose as important to NAVLE studying. The bar graphs are relative to popularity. Individually, they are rated from:

PERSONAL CLASS NOTES:



VERY USEFUL
SOMEWHAT USEFUL
NOT USEFUL

BOARD REVIEW SESSION NOTES:



MERCK MANUAL:



NVMS BOOKS:



MOSBY'S BOOKS:



AUBURN SPECIES BOOKS:



VETERINARY NERD BOOK:



PASQUINI GUIDES:



ETTINGER TEXTBOOK OF VET INTERNAL MED:



COTE CLINICAL VETERINARY ADVISOR:



Other books/materials used were Saunders Comprehensive NAVLE Review, Vet Prep materials, NAVLE review flash cards by Shank, Large Animal Internal Medicine (Smith), Nelson Small Animal Internal Medicine, etc. Most people (31%) rated using their books as a 3 on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 being a waste of time and 5 being essential to passing.

"Condensed learning modules are very helpful - they can be studied in small time periods."

Of the four survey options for review services (Zuku, VetPrep, VIN, Other), most people who used a review service used Vet Prep. Those who used Vet Prep Mostly found it very useful (78%) or somewhat useful (21%) and only a few did not find it useful (1%).

The second most common review service was ZUKU

Review, and of those who used it 44% found it very helpful, 55% found it somewhat helpful, and 1% found it not helpful. Lastly, those who used VIN Online

Review found it very helpful (41%), somewhat helpful (48%) or not helpful (10%).

REVIEW SERVICES

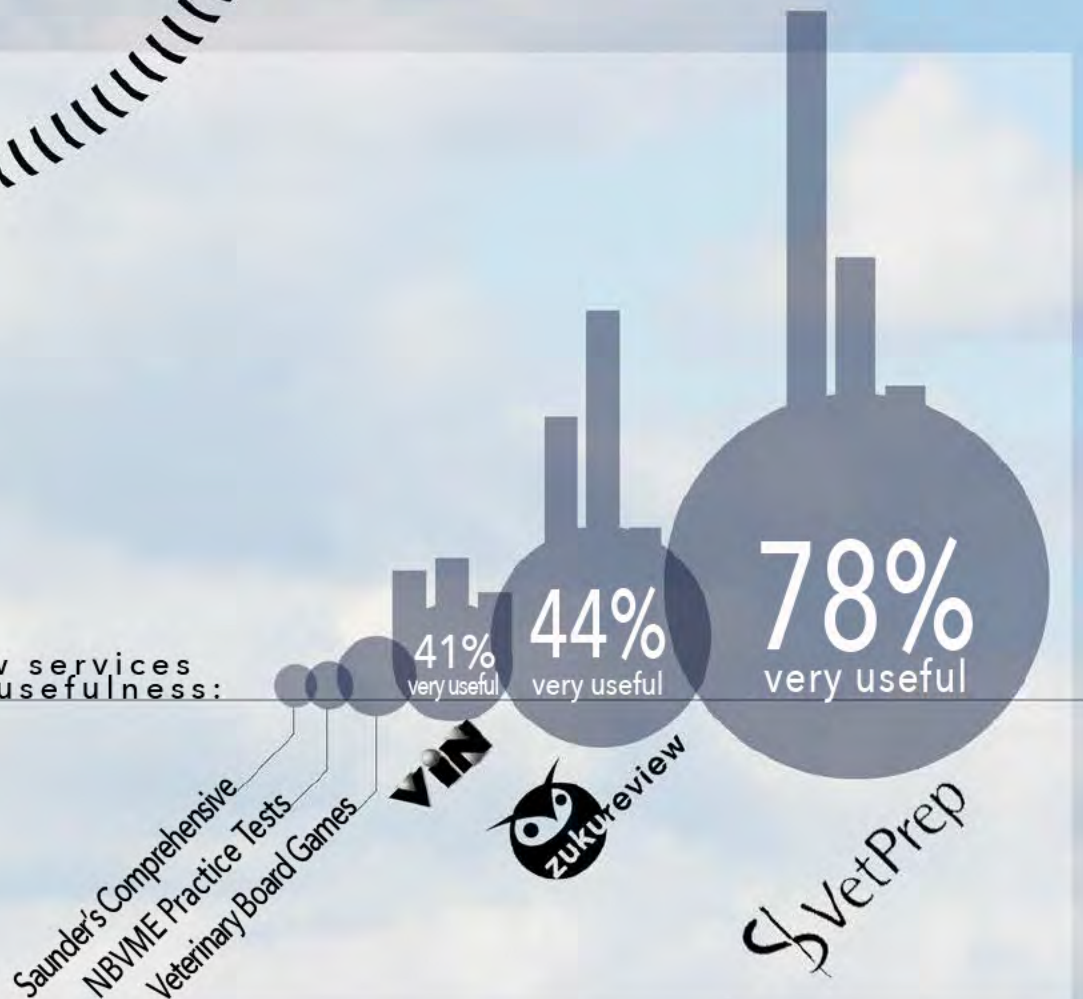
Overall the most popular and highest rated review service surveyed was VetPrep.

REVIEW SERVICES

When asked to rate their review service on a scale of 1 to 5, most students (37%) rated their review service as a five- couldn't have passed without it!

Many students (29%) rated it a 4, while 9% gave it a 3. This shows that many students are using these services and feel they are very worthwhile in preparing for the NAVLE.

The top 6 review services and their rated usefulness:





DIGITAL MEDIA

The vast majority (83%) of students today studied (at least in part) for the NAVLE using digital media. Only a few (16%) did not.

The most commonly used form of digital media were the daily ZUKU questions, followed by the daily VetPrep Questions.

In addition to these services, many students appreciated recorded, digitally available review sessions so they could study on their own. In the comments and advice section, many students recommended purchasing access to the sample tests from NBVME on the NAVLE website.

**Most of these
services
are free!**

“(ZUKU, VetPrep) ...great programs to get an idea of the level of information required to answer the questions.” 13

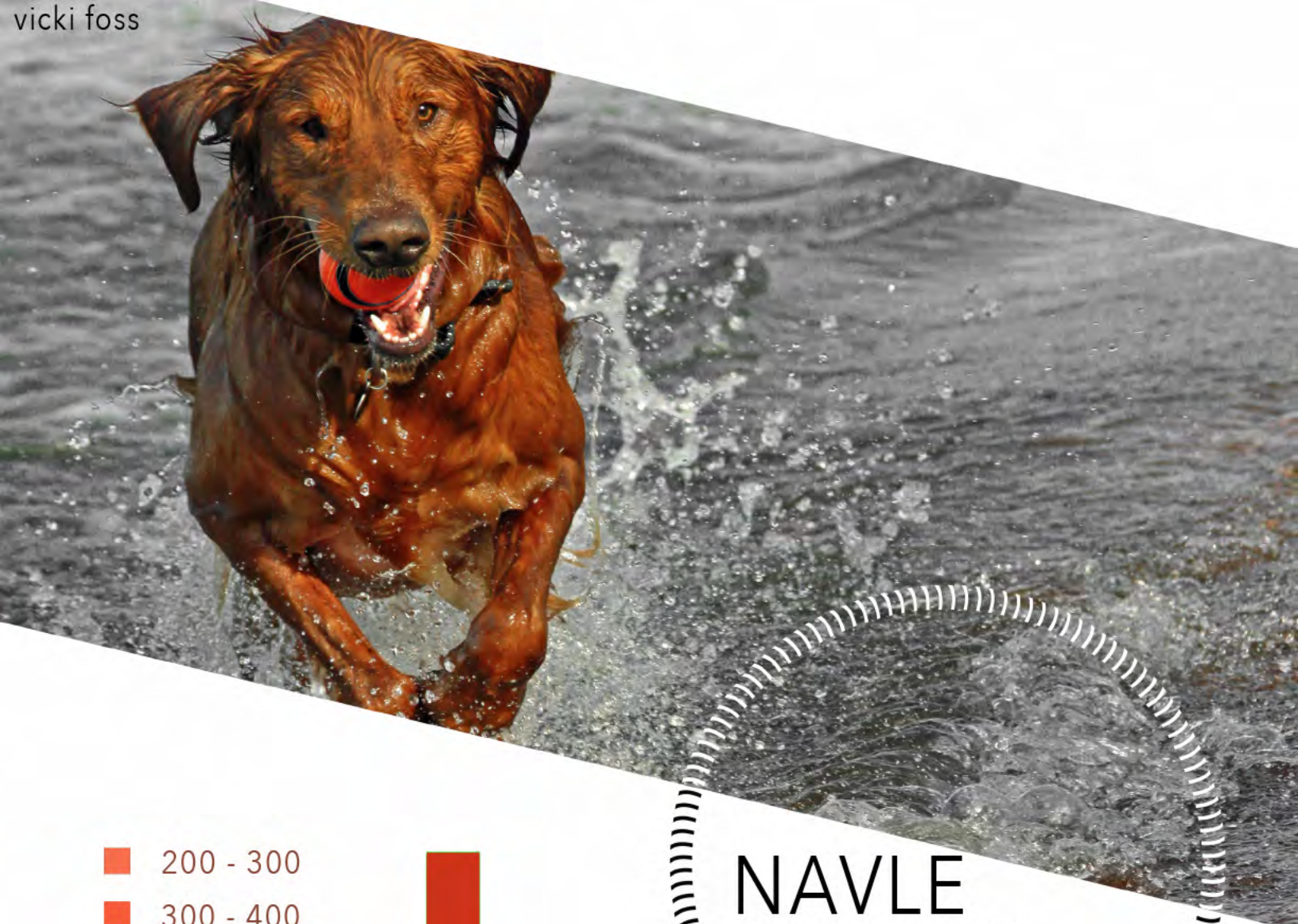
DIGITAL MEDIA

"Use the NVBME practice tests on the NAVLE site to help get used to the time constraints on the actual exam. There is a lot of reading/interpretation on some sections and not much time per question for some sections, other sections time was not a concern."

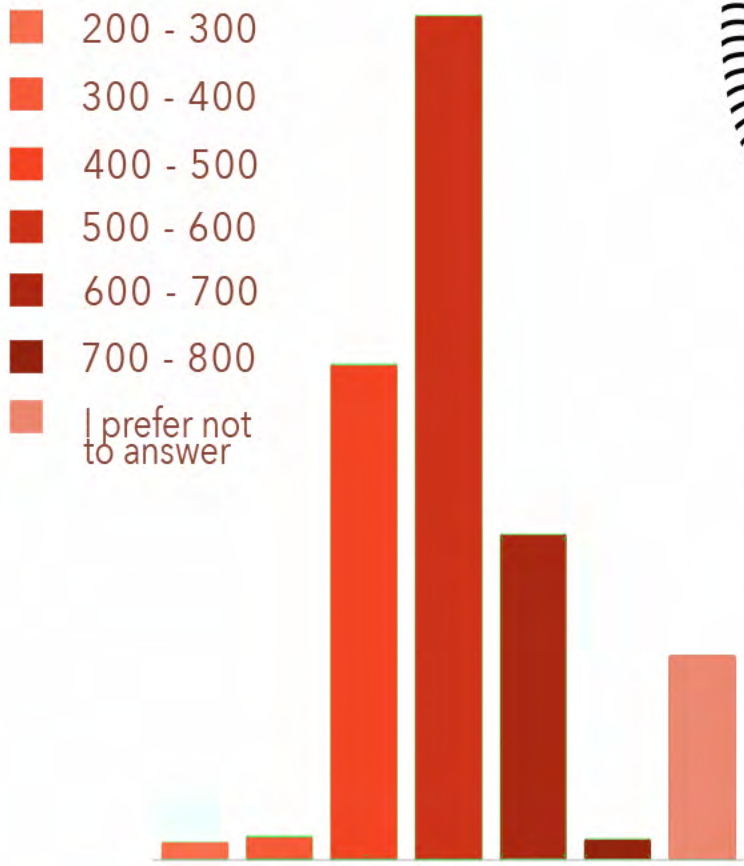
Did you use digital media?



"Use multiple modes of studying. Doing 100% of one service and nothing else is probably not as good as doing 20% of multiple modes of studying to review - change it up!"



NAVLE SCORES



"Relax! In reality, you have really been studying for 4 years or longer. Study, but make time for fun every week as well!"



TESTING PREPAREDNESS ADVICE

"Study a little bit every day so you do not get overwhelmed and try not to stress about it too much!"

"It was also very helpful to try to take cardiology, emergency and internal medicine beforehand"

"Involve your friends! It helps to get your friends study tricks, memory cues. Plus, you have a mixed area of interest amongst your friends"

"Many people recommended VetPrep, but said the questions were more open-ended than what was actually on the NAVLE, or were more difficult on the NAVLE

"Think about the best management approach to cases!"

"If I could go back in time I would have studied the top 10 diseases of each species, (top three-five for birds, camelids and other exotics), and have those diseases down."

"Study hard a few weeks before. Rest the night before. Drink after. Success"



"Try to stay calm on the day of the exam - you've been studying for this for four years!"

Don't study the night before the exam, go to bed early. Test day is a long day.

It is normal to feel like you are failing while you are taking it.

The NAVLE is just another, really long multiple choice test. You will be able to narrow down the options and pick the best one even if you aren't really sure you know the

answer to the question!

TEST TAKING ADVICE

Eat a good breakfast. Bring snacks and fluids. Allow yourself enough time to get to the testing center. Take your breaks. It is a really long time to sit at a computer for 6 hours even if you think you can get through it all in one sitting. It took the entire time (some people finish it in 4 hours- they don't take any breaks and fly through it which I would not recommend).

Practice your stamina: a 6 hour test takes a lot out of you!

Be confident, you know a lot. Study the last month the hardest!

My advice is don't eat out at some sketchy Mongolian barbecue place the night before.



S A V M A

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