



New Mexico FFA

Veterinarian Science

2025 Practicum List

1. Swabbing a Lesion
2. Filling a prescription
3. Fine Needle Biopsy - Aspirate
4. Applying a gauze dog muzzle
5. Lifting a hind foot of a horse
6. Restraint of a rabbit

Career Development Event

Clinical Procedures Practicum

SWABBING A LESION

Participant must talk through practicum steps with judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student assembles the correct material for swabbing a lesion. (sterile swab and tube with appropriate transport media).	5	
The student aseptically removes the swab by opening the outer packaging and grasping the handle end of the swab.	5	
The student inserts/places the swab in/on the lesion of concern and rotates the swab for 5 seconds, avoiding causing any additional trauma and bleeding. The student should avoid contacting the swab with non-lesioned surfaces.	15	
The student removes the swab from the lesion and places the swab directly into the collection tube ensuring the swab end is within the transport media. The swab should be vigorously swirled within the transport media.	10	
When withdrawing the swab, the student should reduce the amount of transport media that has been absorbed within the swab by pressing the swab along the side of the tube.	10	
The student should label the tube with the animal's identification number and promptly chill the tube for shipment.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

Adapted Resource: <https://www.securepork.org/Resources/Nasal-Swabs.pdf>

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Clinical Procedures Practicum

PRESCRIPTION FILLING

Participant must talk through practicum steps with judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student reads and verbally interprets prescription.	10	
The student selects the correct drug and concentration.	20	
The student places the pill counting tray on the pharmacy counter with the channel to the left and the open plate in front of him or her.	1	
The student pours the medication tablets or capsules onto the tray plate.	1	
The student opens the channel cover.	1	
The student uses a spatula or tongue depressor to push groups of tablets or capsules into the channel.	1	
When the student has counted the desired amount of medication, he or she closes the channel cover. The student tilts the tray to return the unused medicine into the stock bottle.	4	
The student lifts the tray to place the channel spout into the medicine vial and transfers medication.	4	
The student places the lid on the vial and sets it on the counter.	1	
The student appropriately fills out label with prescription information.	7	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

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Clinical Procedures Practicum

FINE NEEDLE BIOPSY-ASPIRATE

Participant must talk through practicum steps with the judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student stabilizes the mass.	5	
The student inserts the needle into the mass.	10	
The student retracts the plunger on the syringe to create negative pressure.	10	
The student redirects the needle several times without removing the needle from the mass.	10	
While maintaining negative pressure, the student removes the needle from the mass. To maintain negative pressure, hold the plunger in place.	10	
The student removes the needle from the syringe for slide preparation.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	50	

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Handling and Restraining Practicum

APPLYING A GAUZE DOG MUZZLE

Participant must talk through practicum steps with judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student selects proper type of material and length.	4	
The student places the dog in sitting or sternal position on exam table or floor.	2	
The student makes a loop in the gauze and approaches the dog from behind.	6	
The student places the loop on the dog's face with the tie on top.	6	
The student quickly tightens the loop and then crosses the ends under the dog's face.	6	
The student brings the ends back behind the dog's head under the ears and ties in a quick-release bow.	6	
TOTAL POINTS	30	

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Handling and Restraining Practicum

LIFTING A HIND FOOT OF A HORSE

Participant must talk through practicum steps with judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
Without quick movements and loud noises, the student properly approaches the haltered patient at a 45-degree angle to the patient's hip.	5	
The student will stand beside the horse facing caudally (facing the hindquarters).	5	
The student will slide their hand over the hip and down the caudal aspect of the leg.	5	
The student will continue down the leg with their hand cupped around the palmar aspect, over the tendons behind the cannon bone.	5	
The student will apply light pressure to either side of the tendons near the fetlock until the horse lifts its leg. The student will then cup the hoof to support the animal.	5	
The student will gently place the foot back on the ground and move away in a safe manner.	5	
TOTAL POINTS	30	

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Resource: <https://youtube.com/shorts/E6tp7FwA6tQ>

Handling and Restraining Practicum

RESTRAINT OF A RABBIT

Participant must talk through practicum steps with judge.

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned
The student approaches the rabbit calmly and quietly.	4	
The student scruffs the rabbit with one hand while gently lifting the front end.	6	
The student's other hand immediately reaches under the hind limbs and holds them (not allowing the hind limbs to dangle).	7	
The student rests the rabbit's body on the arm with the hand holding the hind limbs.	6	
The scruffing hold is released, and the hand is moved to hold the rabbit's outside front leg.	7	
TOTAL POINTS	30	

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