Introduction to Veterinary Medical Terminology

**Building Blocks of Words**

**Introduction:**

Most veterinary terms are based on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Common Name** | **Latin** | **Derived Adj.** |
| **Dog** |  |  |
| **Cat** |  |  |
| **Horse** |  |  |
| **Cattle** |  |  |
| **Sheep** |  |  |
| **Goat** |  |  |
| **Pig** |  |  |
| **Bird** |  |  |
| **Mouse** |  |  |
| **Rat** |  |  |

**The Building Blocks:**

**Word Structure Components**

* Root Word
* Prefix
* Suffix
* Combining Vowel
* Compound Word

*The key to learning terminology is to break down each word into parts and learn the most common roots, prefixes, suffixes, and combing forms*.

**Root Word**

* Definition - the **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** of the word
* Gives substance to the meaning.
* Like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a train, they give the train volume and substance.
* They come in a variety of different sizes and volumes.
* There can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a word.

**Root Word Examples:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ROOT** | **MEANING** | **ILLUSTRATION** |
| **Cardi/o -** |  |  |
| **Cephalo/o –** |  |  |
| **Dent/o –** |  |  |
| **Mamm/a, Mamm/o –** |  |  |
| **Nas/o –** |  |  |
| **Ophthalm/o –** |  |  |
| **Ot/o –** |  |  |
| **Steth/o –** |  |  |
| **Thorac/o –** |  |  |
| **Trache/o -** |  |  |
| **Abdomin/o –** |  |  |
| **Copr/o –** |  |  |
| **Cyan/o –** |  |  |
| **Derm/o, Dermat/o –** |  |  |
| **Enter/o –** |  |  |
| **Erythr/o –** |  |  |
| **Gingiv/o –** |  |  |
| **Hepat/o –** |  |  |
| **Hydr/o –** |  |  |
| **Peritone/o –** |  |  |

**Prefix**

* Word that **precedes/BEFORE** the root, modifying the roots meaning to form a

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

**Prefix Examples:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PREFIX** | **MEANING** | **ILLUSTRATION** |
| **A, an -** |  |  |
| **Anti -** |  |  |
| **Brady -** |  |  |
| **De -** |  |  |
| **Dys -** |  |  |
| **Hyper -** |  |  |
| **Hypo -** |  |  |
| **Mal -** |  |  |
| **Poly -** |  |  |
| **Ep, Epi -** |  |  |
| **Eu -** |  |  |
| **Iso -** |  |  |
| **Multi -** |  |  |
| **Neo -** |  |  |
| **Pan -** |  |  |
| **Peri -** |  |  |
| **Post -** |  |  |
| **Pyo -** |  |  |
| **Uni -** |  |  |

**Suffix**

* Written \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a root word to form a NEW word.

**Suffix Word Examples:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PREFIX** | **MEANING** | **ILLUSTRATION** |
| **cyte –** |  |  |
| **ectomy –** |  |  |
| **emia –** |  |  |
| **pnea –** |  |  |
| **iasis –** |  |  |
| **itis –** |  |  |
| **ism –** |  |  |
| **logy –** |  |  |
| **oma –** |  |  |
| **penia –** |  |  |
| **scope –** |  |  |
| **tomy –** |  |  |
| **al –ic, ac, ous** |  |  |
| **graphy –** |  |  |
| **ist–** |  |  |
| **Lysis -** |  |  |
| **megaly–** |  |  |
| **natal–** |  |  |
| **osis –** |  |  |
| **Oxia -** |  |  |
| **phagia–** |  |  |
| **spasm–** |  |  |
| **toxin–** |  |  |

**Combining Vowel**

* Vowel commonly used: **“\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”**

**General Rule 1:**

* If the suffix starts with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, **connect** the rootword and the suffix with the vowel “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.
* Example 1:

Root Word + CV Suffix New word

Cardi + -o- -logy Cardiology

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**General Rule 2:** If the suffix starts with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DO NOT USE the vowel “o”.

Just attach the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* Example 2:

Root Word + Suffix New word

Hepat/o -osis Hepatosis

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**General Rule 3**: If the suffix begins with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the root word, DO NOT repeat the vowel.

* Example 3:

Root Word + Suffix New word

Cardi -itis Carditis

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Compound Word**

* Word Structure: Compound Word
* Rootword 1 + CV + Rootword 2 + Suffix New word

Heart + worm Heartworm

Medi + “o” + later + -al Mediolateral

Crani + “o” + caud/al + -al Craniocaudal

Dors + “o” + palm + -ar Dorsopalmar

**Review: Word Structure**

1. What is a Root Word?
2. Where can you find a prefix in a word?
3. Where can you find a suffix in a word?
4. What is the most commonly used vowel?

a. If first letter of suffix = consonant?

b. If first letter of suffix is = vowel?

c. If first letter of suffix = last letter of RW?