

Saturday Lecture Descriptions

Jaime Maher, CVT, VTS (ECC) (Anesthesia/Analgesia)

Demystifying the Anesthesia Machine

One of the anxieties I hear from veterinary technicians is, “This anesthesia machine is different from what I'm used to. How does this work?” The purpose of this lecture is to help technicians understand the ins and outs of the anesthesia machine to the point that they are able to operate equipment of different styles and from multiple manufacturers. Attendees will be able to follow the path of oxygen from the high-pressure gas supply all the way to the patient and realize that the fundamentals of all anesthesia machines used today are the same.

Riding the Capnography Wave

End-tidal carbon dioxide monitoring (ETCO₂) has clinical uses far beyond solely determining hypo- or hyperventilation. This non-invasive monitor can give valuable information about cardiac output, perfusion, and ventilation. Capnography has become one of the mainstays of anesthetic monitoring today. This lecture is designed to not only provide the attendee with an overview of the concept of PaO₂ vs ETCO₂, but will also provide detailed explanations and interpretations of a variety of capnograms – the accompanying waveform of many capnography analyzers.

Mechanical Ventilation in Anesthesia

“How often should I give my patient a breath?” “How big of a breath do I need to give?” “My clinic doesn't have a mechanical ventilator, is that ok?” These are just a few questions veterinary technicians ask when monitoring ventilation on a patient under general anesthesia. During this lecture we will discuss what positive pressure ventilation implies, how to best support ventilation using manual intermittent positive pressure ventilation, indications for mechanical ventilation and, finally, the basics of utilizing mechanical ventilation.

Understanding Blood Pressure in Anesthesia

Blood pressure monitoring during anesthesia is a source of frustration and anxiety voiced by many veterinary technicians. What is the ideal range? How low is too low? How do we troubleshoot? By simplifying a few definitions, attendees will be able to quickly identify blood pressure issues and have the understanding to initiate therapeutic remedies. Normal values will be provided, along with troubleshooting techniques for both hypo- and hypertension.

Preventing Errors in Anesthesia

Veterinary professionals are not immune to medical errors. Anesthesia creates one of the largest areas for these errors to occur, and even the most experienced anesthetist has made mistakes. Heavy case loads, short staffing, similar medications and variations

in patient size are just a few variables that contribute to the possibility for mistakes. This judgement-free discussion will provide some examples of some commonly made errors and offer tools to avoid them.

Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) – Uses in Veterinary Medicine

The concept of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery is not new. It was conceived by a group of general surgeons in human medicine out of a desire to perform certain procedures on an outpatient basis. As with many advances in veterinary medicine, we are a few decades behind our counterparts in human medicine. In both fields however, the end goals are simple: reduced hospitalization stays, less stress and anxiety, and smoother/quicker recoveries from surgery. During this lecture, the attendee will come to understand that ERAS is not one single attribute that we can add to the anesthetic protocol. It is a collection of many actions that we can implement throughout the pre-operative, peri-operative and recovery process.

Melissa J. Supernor, AS, BS, CVT, VTS (SAIM), CFE, CCFP

Finding Positivity During Challenging Times

We all go through good times, bad times, challenges, and triumphs. We laugh, cry, have anger, sorrow, depression, and all emotions in between. It's not necessarily the situations that cause us those emotional charged responses, it is how we deal with them, with positivity or negativity – it's about our mindset that makes those difficult, challenging times more doable. How we look at the situations – can make them more difficult or easier overall.

Bullying and Violence within the Veterinary Team

Workplace bullying and violence has become an epidemic in all professions and in veterinary medicine, it has become such a part of our daily lives. Workplace bullying is defined as repeated health-harming mistreatment of one or more persons (who are the targets) by one or more perpetrators (the bullies) that take one or more of the following forms, including, but limited to, verbal, nonverbal, psychological, physical abuse, humiliation, etc.... This type of aggression is particularly difficult, unlike the typical forms of school-age bullying, workplace bullies often operate with the established rules and policies of their organization and society as a whole.

Emotional Intelligence and Growth – What is That All About?

Did you ever think back on some of the important decisions you made in your life and wonder “what was I thinking or why did I do that?” Not using your emotional intelligence may be to blame for making those bad decisions or actions. Emotional Intelligence is the ability to identify, use, understand, and manage emotions in an effective and positive way. An individual with a high emotional intelligence has the ability to communicate better, reduce anxiety and stress, defuse conflicts, improve relationships, empathize with others, and effectively overcome life's challenges.

Depression and Suicides for the Veterinary Teams

Many times, we don't want to discuss these particular subjects, but they are truly happening in the veterinary team, and we need to help each other through these and other struggles when recognize to make an end to losing our friends. Life, as we know it, has its ups and downs and is a definite struggle at times, and having too many "hits" in a row can push any of us over that edge towards sadness, despair, depression, and possible suicide.

Stress Management for the Veterinary Teams

Stress is a fact of life today, and it is a problem within the field of veterinary medicine that can cause mental and physical problems and disrupt this rewarding career. Stress can be defined as the state produced when the body responds to any demand for adaption or adjustment. Stress can be good and bad depending on the stressor associated with the stress. Stress can have both negative and positive effects on a person. Let's talk about ways to decrease stress, burnout and compassion fatigue.

Tabitha Kucera, RVT, CCBC, KPA-CTP

When Caring Hurts: Managing Compassion Fatigue

Compassion fatigue is finally getting the attention it desperately needs. During this panel discussion, attendees will:

- Learn more than just the signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue
- Hear veterinary professionals' stories and struggles
- Explore effective strategies to deal with the elephant in the room

Not Just a Vet Tech: Business Opportunities for Veterinary Technicians

Veterinary medicine is in a time of expansive growth and advancement for its technicians and nurses. For professionals who want a career outside of the typical hospital setting, there are more paths than ever to utilize your talents. This session will:

- Discuss alternative routes to professional fulfillment
- Increase earning potential
- Gain insight needed to start a business, work as a consultant, and more

Andrea Pace, CVT, VTS (ECC)

CPR for Support Staff

This lecture serves as an introduction to CPR for those who may be aware of, but not familiar with, RECOVER. Participants in this class will learn about the RECOVER initiative and how to perform CPR in line with those guidelines. Through this lecture, I intend to make CPR less intimidating for the new paraprofessional and serve as a refresher for those who would like to review RECOVER guidelines.

Emergency Surgeries from Triage to Recovery

This lecture will discuss the initial stages of managing a patient with a surgical emergency. I will cover the triage and initial stages of patient assessment, case workup, anesthetic considerations, and some details of the immediate recovery period. I will also

look specifically at several common surgical emergencies and offer suggestions of how to manage them on the way to the OR.

When a liver emergency becomes a long-term illness

This lecture will look at conditions that affect the liver with a focus on interdepartmental collaboration. I will briefly discuss the logistical realities of patient transfers and offer suggestions for avoiding and mitigating issues that may arise. I will look at common liver cases shared between the ER and IM Departments (liver toxins, portosystemic shunts, leptospirosis, gall bladder mucoceles, and hepatic lipidosis) with a focus on the role of the technician in patient care.

Laws Affecting Veterinary Technicians

This lecture will briefly touch upon the laws that affect the lives of veterinary technicians. I will primarily focus on laws that affect veterinary staff as employees, but I will also provide resources for further independent legal research.

Tiffany Gendron, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Thoracic Trauma Nursing Considerations

Tiffany reviews the role the veterinary technician plays in the identification and intervention of the thoracic trauma patient. Indications for thoracentesis and chest tube placement will be covered including required supplies, set-up, and patient monitoring parameters.

Cardiovascular Emergencies

Tiffany will review the veterinary technician's role in assessing and providing treatment for the cardiac patient. What are commonly encountered cardiovascular emergencies and how do I recognize them? Learn the importance of your role in the management and treatment as well as monitoring considerations you need to know!

Triage: What is your Superpower

Tiffany reviews the principles of triage. The use of animal-based triage scales and their application in the veterinary triage setting will be reviewed. Some case examples will be used to help reinforce the importance of a physical exam and a veterinary triage protocol in the triage process. Area of triage covered will include, phone triage, presenting and in-hospital.

Mary Berg, BS, RVT, RLATG, VTS (Dentistry)

Dental Radiology Lab (3 hours)

This lab will review how to take films and also understanding what you are seeing. Dental x-rays are an essential part of the oral exam. You are now taking diagnostic x-rays but what are you seeing? Learn how to properly position dental x-rays to be able identify the correct teeth. Is that dental pathology or a normal structure? The basics of

canine and feline dental x-rays will be presented along with a series of “What is that?” slides to help better understand dental radiology.

Erin Spencer, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Update on Massachusetts Veterinary Technician Licensure

Join MVTA Legislative Committee Chair, Erin Spencer, for an update on the bill regulating the practice and licensure of veterinary technicians in the State of Massachusetts and what you can do to help.