

A Technician's Guide to Blocked Cats

Blocked Cats are a major emergency that require special nursing care and TLC. This lecture will review the basics of Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD) and urinary obstruction and walk the technician through setup and patient monitoring for a urinary unblocking. Common complications from urinary obstructions will be reviewed and discussed. Post procedure care of the patient and urinary closed system will also be covered.

Aging Gracefully: Helping Senior Cats Thrive

As cats age, they experience behavioral, cognitive, and physical changes that can affect comfort, mobility, and quality of life. Veterinary professionals are essential in identifying these changes and providing guidance to support both cats and their caregivers. This session will equip participants with strategies to recognize age-related behavioral shifts, adapt home and clinic environments, implement enrichment to maintain mental and physical health, and guide caregivers through the challenges of caring for senior cats.

Aquarium and Zoo Medicine for the CVT

An overview of aquarium and zoo medical techniques and information that I have experienced over my career.

Blood, It's Not Just for Vampires Anymore!

This lecture explains the different blood components available in companion animal medicine, and how and why we utilize them for patients. Technicians will be more knowledgeable about what types of component therapy is available, how to choose which is best needed for the patient, how to make sure it is safe for the patient to receive and how to monitor the patient appropriately during their transfusions

Cracking the Cat Code: Recognizing Feline Signals for Better Care

Understanding feline body language is essential for creating a safer, more positive experience for both patients and veterinary teams. This session equips veterinary professionals with the skills to assess and respond to cat behavior using the Fear Free FAS (Fear, Anxiety, Stress) scale. Attendees will learn how to identify early signs of fear, anxiety, and stress and refine their observational skills. Through video demonstrations and practical examples, participants will gain confidence in interpreting body language and making real-time adjustments to support feline welfare and reduce risk in the clinical setting.

CRF or AKI ... Helping the Kidney Patient

This lecture helps to explain how to identify CRF and AKI in patients and the importance of monitoring these diseases appropriately. The objective is for technicians to have a

better understanding of what types of signs and symptoms can be associated with both CRF and AKI, to help clinicians sooner identify patients that may require more immediate interventions

Depression and Suicide and How to Help Ourselves and Our Teams

Depression and suicide are complex and deeply interconnected challenges that continue to impact individuals, families, workplaces, and society as a whole. This lecture provides an overview of depression and suicide, emphasizing their relationship, the importance of early recognition, and the critical need for prevention, intervention, and compassionate support within the veterinary profession.

Don't Cry, It's Just a CRI: Making Medical Math Make Sense

Pull out your pencil, paper and calculator! This one-hour lecture starts with a review of the basics of medical math including dose calculations, percent solutions and dilutions. Building on those skills we move on to calculating Constant Rate Infusions. Real life scenarios are used to help illustrate and practice math concepts.

Don't Let it Hurt! Pain Management in the Critically Ill Pet

This lecture is to explain the different categories of pain medication, how it effects our patients, and how to monitor our patients for pain appropriately. The objective is for technicians to better understand how to identify pain in their patients. They will understand the different types of pain meds and how and when to utilize them, and how to monitor the patients appropriately while on pain medications

ER Management of Brachycephalic Patients

Brachycephalic patients in the ER are high-risk and require specialized nursing to prevent respiratory arrest. This presentation covers stabilization, monitoring, and advocacy, with a focus on triage workflow, safe sedation, and pharmacology.

Fearful Fido: Handling Techniques for Fear Aggressive Dogs

Dogs exhibiting aggressive behaviors due to fear and/or pain present several challenges to the veterinary team. These patients can be difficult to evaluate safely and have compromised well-being due to the severe stress they are dealing with. Thankfully, there are many handling techniques and skills that can be used in these situations. Through case studies and video demonstrations, I will be discussing handling techniques and plans to add to your handling toolbox.

Feline Cardiac Emergencies

Cardiac emergencies are common in the veterinary ER and like most things involving cats - cardiac issues present special challenges. The most common cardiac emergencies

in cats are feline atrial thromboembolism (FATE), congestive heart failure (CHF), and arrhythmias. We will review cardiac anatomy and physiology before moving on to discuss the specific disease processes. We will examine the difficulties faced in cats with cardiac disease, and how to manage them.

Feline Stress and Sedation Options for Fearful Cats

This lecture focuses on the unique challenges of managing stress and sedation in feline patients. We will delve into the behavioral and physiological aspects of feline stress, discuss effective stress-reduction techniques, and review the sedation options available. Practical tips and case studies will be presented to help veterinary professionals improve the care and comfort of their feline patients.

Geriatric Anesthesia

This session focuses on anesthetic management of geriatric patients, emphasizing physiologic changes, concurrent disease, and decreased physiologic reserve. Attendees will learn strategies to reduce anesthetic risk and improve perioperative outcomes in older animals.

Healthy Cats, Happy Lives: Enrichment-Driven Approaches to Combat Feline Obesity

With rising obesity rates in cats, veterinary professionals are ideally positioned to prevent and manage this growing health concern. Obesity in cats can lead to serious conditions, such as diabetes, but with thoughtful lifestyle changes, it is both preventable and manageable.

This dynamic session dives into a range of food-based and non-food-based enrichment techniques designed to keep feline patients active, mentally stimulated, and engaged. Participants will discover creative enrichment strategies that support weight management and enhance overall wellness, equipping them with practical tools for a holistic approach to feline health.

How to Become a Unicorn Team

What skills are needed to be the best team? This lecture dives into the top 10 ingredients needed to ensure you have the best team.

Introduction to ECG Interpretation — Just the Basics Please

Understanding electrocardiogram waveforms can be overwhelming, sometimes it is even difficult to know if what you are seeing is normal or not! This lecture will describe 5 simple steps to recognize if a waveform is normal or abnormal. We will review the movement of electrical impulses through the heart and how that is reflected on the ECG monitor. Examples will be shared to practice interpreting common arrhythmias.

IV Fluid Therapy: Keeping Up with Patient Needs

This lecture discusses the different types of IVF utilized in veterinary medicine. The objective is for technicians to better understand the different types of fluids we utilize for our patients, the effects these fluids have on the patients, and why we monitor them closely. Helps technicians identify patients who may have received too few or too many fluids and which fluids to utilize

Medical Oncology: A Bird's Eye View

A comprehensive overview of medical oncology for the general practice technician. I would like to cover:

- Why we are seeing an increase in cancer cases and how the veterinary oncology landscape has changed in the last 20 years.
- Common neoplasms that we see in veterinary oncology, how they present, how they are treated, and how they typically progress.
- Review of common chemotherapy agents and protocols and new/ emerging treatment options
- End of life/ quality of life/ hospice considerations. Addressing humane euthanasia and having difficult conversations with clients.

Muzzles Unleashed: From Stigma to Safety

Muzzles are a vital part of safe and compassionate veterinary care—but they're often misunderstood, misused, and emotionally charged for both caregivers and professionals. This lecture explores how we can shift the narrative around muzzles from fear and stigma to comfort, trust, and preparation. You'll learn how to properly introduce and train dogs to wear muzzles using positive reinforcement, how to incorporate muzzle conversations into client education, and how to use muzzles effectively and ethically in clinical settings. Whether it's for safety during procedures or setting dogs up for success in the real world, muzzles can be part of compassionate care when introduced and used thoughtfully.

Purr-fecting Medication: Techniques and Tips for Medicating Cats with Ease

Medicating cats can be a daunting task for both veterinary professionals and caregivers alike. The challenge of administering medications to our feline companions is a persistent issue in the world of veterinary care, often leading to missed doses and compromised treatment outcomes. In this lecture, I aim to shed light on this critical issue and present practical solutions to help veterinary professionals and caregivers overcome the obstacles associated with medicating cats. By fostering a positive and cooperative environment, both at the clinic and in the home, we can transform the medicating process into a stress free and even enjoyable experience for our feline patients.

Stabilizing the Hemoabdomen

This lecture provides a practical framework for the rapid triage and stabilization of patients with hemoabdomen, a life-threatening emergency caused by free blood in the abdominal cavity. It will cover common causes and strategies, focusing on initial emergency assessment and management of hypovolemic shock.

Stress Management for the Team

Stress is a common issue affecting all individuals worldwide, and it can have a significant impact on mental, emotional, and physical health. It is a common challenging aspect of the Veterinary field. Stress management is crucial for all Veterinary team members as they often face a multitude of challenging and emotionally demanding and draining situations while providing the best care for all their patients and clients.

The Many Faces of Lymphoma

- Lymphoma in veterinary medicine (palliative) vs human medicine (curative).
- Dogs vs cats
- Multicentric vs local disease
- Predispositions and contributing factors.
- Ongoing research, novel treatments and what is on the horizon.

The Road to Your VTS

This lecture is to help new or interested technicians understand what it takes and what is expected of them to obtain their VTS. The objective of this lecture is to make sure that technicians walk away knowing what they need to do in order to pursue a VTS in whatever specialty they're interested in as well as what is going to be expected of them in a typical hospital setting once that license is received

The Room is Spinning! Vestibular Disease in Companion Animals

Vestibular disease is a fairly common problem in small animals that can have a very dramatic presentation. This lecture will cover the pathophysiology of vestibular disease and the signs associated with it. We will discuss treatment and nursing consideration for patients who feel like their world is spinning.

The Vet Tech's Role in One Health Medicine for Sea Turtle Conservation

Explanation of One Health Medicine. Description of the annual spay/neuter clinic that takes place in coastal Mexico and how it has a positive impact on sea turtle conservation. The vet tech's role in the clinic is explained as well as the benefits to the vet tech by participating in such a volunteer project.

Veterinary Specialty and Referral Practice: What's Expected of You

This lecture is to help technicians that are interested in branching out into specialty medicine, so they know what's expected of them. The objective is to help technicians who have had the desire and drive to inquire about specialty medicine, have an idea of what they're getting into and what they'll be expected to be able to accomplish