

Feline Dentistry, Pain Management and Nutrition

Session Abstracts:

KEY: **A** ADVANCED TRACK
G GENERALIST TRACK
C COMBINED TRACK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013 – SEMINAR AND SOCIAL

- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **The Role of Stress in Feline Medicine, Susan Little**
The feline species is particularly prone to physiologic changes and disease states associated with stress. This presentation will review the current body of knowledge and focus on how to recognize the role of stress in sick cats and tools to mitigate the impact.
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm** **Supporting Senior Cats with Cancer, Susan Little**
Cancer is a common concern in senior cat care and with advances in veterinary oncology, more feline cancer patients are under long term care. This presentation will review the issues surrounding providing effective supportive care for feline cancer patients and understanding owner attitudes.
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm** **When Good Bladders Go Bad: Feline Idiopathic Cystitis, Susan Little**
Idiopathic cystitis is the most common diagnosis for young cats with signs of lower urinary tract disease. Our concepts of disease pathophysiology and the role of stress are evolving and changing our approaches to management of these sometimes frustrating cases. This presentation will focus on the current state of knowledge and practical tips for case management.
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm** **De-frustrating Kitten Diarrhea, Susan Little**
Diarrhea is a common health problem of kittens in pet homes and shelters. Our knowledge on the role of dysbiosis is evolving and may change our approach to many of these cases. This presentation will focus on common causes as well as effective prevention and interventional strategies.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2013 – DENTISTRY TRACKS

- 7:30 – 8:30 am** **C General Session: New Feline Findings & Solutions to Increase Cat Visits, Dr. Elizabeth Colleran**
This session will provide attendees with information on the new feline research from the Bayer Veterinary Care Usage Study III: Feline Findings. Pet owner and veterinarian study results will be presented, as well as discussion on the opportunities that veterinary practices now have to reach underserved cats. Detailed solutions that can be adopted into your veterinary practice will be provided.
- 8:35 – 9:35 am** **C Pandora Syndrome: It's More than Just the Bladder, Dr. Dennis Chew**
Pandora Syndrome is the name recently developed to focus attention on cats that have a systemic disease but exhibit local organ system manifestations. Frequently the systemic nature is not recognized. Feline interstitial cystitis (FIC) is a lower urinary tract predominant form of Pandora Syndrome. The pivotal role of the nervous system in FIC will be detailed as will new developments in use of blood testing to identify unique changes in cats with FIC. The importance of stress reduction in environmental modification and enrichment will be the featured component in our discussions of treatment.
- 9:40 – 10:30 am** **A Feline Gingivostomatitis: What We Know & How We Treat It, Dr. Cindy Charlier**
Gingivostomatitis is one of the most frustrating diseases to treat in our feline patients. We will review the definitions for inflammation in the oral cavity, the causes of gingivostomatitis and the treatment considerations.
- G Skyrocket Your Feline Dental Practice, Dr. Jan Bellows**
A high quality dental practice for your feline patients just doesn't happen. Getting from where you are to where you want to be is the subject of this seminar. Adjusting age-old paradigms to reflect on what your feline patients and your practice needs will open your eyes to your future dental practice.
- 11:15 – 12:05 pm** **A My Cat Can't Close Its Mouth! How to Close the Case, Dr. Cindy Charlier**
Cats may present to your hospital frantic and unable to close their mouth. A systematic and complete oral examination will allow you to rule in or rule out the potential causes during your initial physical exam. We will review TMJ luxation, caudal mandibular fractures, TMJ joint fractures, neoplasia, foreign bodies, periodontal disease and neurologic conditions as causes for cats unable to close their mouth.
- G Solid Dental Concepts to Guide Your Feline Dental Practice, Dr. Jan Bellows**
Feline dental syndromes show their ugly heads in many ways including periodontal diseases, endodontics, oral medicine, radiology, and orthodontic abnormalities. Creating a logical treatment plan based on solid dental concepts will help guide you to dental success.
- 12:10 – 1:00 pm** **A Oral Tumors: Diagnosis & Treatment, Dr. Cindy Charlier**
All cat oral tumors aren't squamous cell carcinomas! During an interactive case based discussion we will review the proper diagnosis and treatment of oral tumors, including squamous cell carcinomas, fibrosarcomas, malignant melanomas, odontogenic tumors and other types of benign oral tumors.
- G Red Gums: It's Not All Stomatitis, Dr. Jan Bellows**
At one time all feline oral inflammation was referred to as stomatitis now there are thirteen identified feline oropharyngeal inflammation conditions approved for use by the American Veterinary Dental College. Each of these conditions will be identified with specific case examples and treatment options.
- 2:30 – 3:20 pm** **A Interpreting Intraoral Radiographs, Dr. Jan Bellows**
Sixty percent of feline teeth are located subgingivally. The importance of intraoral radiology in dental practice is a given. This seminar will help you interpret the exposed images you take daily. Normal and abnormal findings in periodontal, endodontic, neoplastic, and tooth resorption diseases will be featured.
- G Review of Skull & Tooth Anatomy, Dr. Cindy Charlier**
Mesial? Distal? Lamina Dura? Pulp Chamber? 404? Class 2 malocclusion? This session will review the anatomy of the feline skull and tooth, focusing on terms that all feline practitioners should know. In addition, we will review tooth development, the triadan system and proper occlusion for your feline patients.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2013 continued

- 3:25 – 4:15 pm**
- A** **Feline Tooth Resorption, Dr. Jan Bellows**
Statistically greater than half of our feline patients older than three years have resorbing teeth. What do we know and what don't we know about tooth resorption in cats? What is the best treatment? Alternatives? How to best extract teeth from equipment to technique will be featured.
 - G** **Diagnostic Full Mouth Dental Radiographs: How Do I Do That? Dr. Cindy Charlier**
Full mouth radiographs are indicated for all feline patients in your practice. We will review proper positioning to obtain diagnostic full mouth dental radiographs, including a brief review of normal radiographic anatomy.
- 4:45 – 5:35 pm**
- A** **Feline Dental Brain Teasers, Dr. Jan Bellows**
This audience participation presentation in the format of "this is your dental patient what would you do next if you see this?" Advanced dental cases of oropharyngeal inflammation, endodontic, orthodontic and neoplastic disease will be featured.
 - G** **Oral Surgery to Extract Teeth: Tips & Techniques to Avoid Complications, Dr. Cindy Charlier**
How do I decide...extraction of the entire tooth, including all root structure or crown amputation with intentional root retention? We will discuss the appropriate indications for each method of extraction based on clinical appearance and radiographs. In addition, we will discuss alternate methods for sectioning teeth, complications of extractions and methods to retrieve fractured root tips.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013 – PAIN MANAGEMENT AND PARA-PROFESSIONAL TRACKS

- 8:30 – 9:20 am**
- A** **Building an Acute Pain Management Pyramid, Dr. Robin Downing**
Acute pain in cats may arise from many causes. It is important to consider the cause, nature, and predicted severity of the pain when creating an appropriate comprehensive pain management strategy. The image of a pyramid communicates that we get our best outcomes by utilizing a multi-modal approach in which each piece builds upon the last and all the tools complement one another. The focus of this session will be acute operative pain management — before, during, and after surgical procedures.
 - G** **Pediatric Anesthesia & Analgesia: Why Kittens are Different, Dr. Sheilah Robertson**
The small size of pediatric kittens can increase the risks associated with anesthesia and this may be related to hypothermia and hypoglycemia and these must be prevented for a successful outcome. The size of these patients makes monitoring of vital signs a challenge but non-invasive techniques can be used and equipment can be adapted for this special population. It is well documented in many species that the neonatal nervous system is "plastic" and exposure to noxious stimuli can lead to long-term changes in how pain is processed and perceived later in life, therefore using robust analgesic protocols in this vulnerable population is important.
 - P** **Developing Patient Nursing Care Plans, Harold Davis**
Developing nursing care plans help to enhance the delivery of patient care. Nursing care plans are developed to meet patient care needs based upon the disease process. There are a variety of ways to approach developing nursing care plans. This discussion will use the Nursing Process as the foundation for planning patient care.
- 9:25 – 10:15 am**
- A** **Building a Chronic Pain Management Pyramid, Dr. Robin Downing**
We know that the vast majority of older cats suffer from osteoarthritis and the chronic pain of that condition. And, by and large, they suffer in silence. A multi-modal approach to chronic pain management provides the best outcomes, so think of building a pyramid where each "layer" of pain protection builds upon the last and the tools complement one another. The focus of this session will be getting chronic pain under control and keeping it that way!
 - G** **Meouch! Assessing Acute Pain, Dr. Sheilah Robertson**
Veterinary professionals who work with cats "know what pain looks like," but it can be hard to quantify and some pain scales used in the past show great inter-observer variability. Validated pain scales are needed to direct intervention and for conducting good multicenter pain studies and for evaluating new analgesic drugs and modalities. Composite measures pain scales that rely heavily on observing behavior have been developed and are being validated for acute pain in cats. This presentation will use videos to illustrate these pain behaviors.
 - P** **Critical Care Nursing Techniques, Harold Davis**
This lecture covers nursing care techniques for the critically ill patient. Techniques include but not limited to catheter management (IV, urinary, chest tube and feeding tube), determining energy requirements and enteral feeding and administration of blood products.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am**
- A** **Drug Infusions: Roller Coaster or Smooth Ride, Dr. Sheilah Robertson**
Several anesthetic, analgesic and sedative agents such as propofol, ketamine, dexmedetomidine and opioids can be used as a single bolus or as an infusion to provide continuous rather than intermittent actions. To do this successfully species specific pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics data is required. This session will discuss which drugs are suitable for infusion in cats, explain the difference between continuous rate infusions and target controlled infusions, loading doses, how to calculate infusion rates and which patient parameters may influence what rates we choose.
 - G** **Chronic Pain & Cats: Understanding "The Gift That Keeps on Giving," Dr. Robin Downing**
Pain occurs on a spectrum from adaptive pain to maladaptive pain — from "good pain" to "bad pain". Acute pain, poorly managed, will evolve over time to a maladaptive pain state. This session will focus on the implications of maladaptive pain in cats and the importance of recognizing when it is present.
 - P** **The Ins & Outs of Fluid Therapy, Harold Davis**
Administration of intravenous fluids can be an important life saving measure in the management of the emergent or critically ill patient. This discussion will review the principles of intravenous catheter placement and the development and administration of a fluid therapy plan.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013 continued

- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **NSAIDs: Short & Long Term Use**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson*
 NSAIDs can be used to alleviate acute and long-term pain and as antineoplastic agents. The features of the different NSAIDs including the newer coxib class will be discussed. Based on the current evidence, the efficacy and safety of this class of drug for both short and long term use will be discussed and the issue of on label and off label use will be addressed. The “pros and cons” of this class of drug will be discussed including their use in the face of concomitant disease.
- G** **Chronic Pain & Cats: Pharmacological & Non-pharmacological Pain Management Tools**, *Dr. Robin Downing*
 Chronic pain in cats presents unique challenges from how to identify it to how to treat and manage it. This session will focus on assessing/identifying chronic pain in cats, and will outline both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic strategies for managing that pain to restore comfort, mobility, and quality of life.
- P** **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation: An Update**, *Harold Davis*
 Veterinary technicians are important members of the CPR team. A collaborative or team approach is mandatory for optimal care of the cardiopulmonary arrest patient. Recently veterinary guidelines have been established for the management of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. It is important that all CPR team members be aware of current recommendations. This discussion will review the principles of CPR along with the new recommendations.
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm** **C** **Comfort, Safety & Hygiene for Felines at the End of Life**, *Dr. Robin Downing*
 Cats that are approaching the end of life have their own special set of needs. This session will focus on maximizing their comfort by modifying their environment and activities of daily living. Simple lifestyle modifications can make a big difference in these kitties.
- P** **Meeting the Needs of the Pet Cat**, *Dr. Ilona Rodan*
 Despite our love and compassion for cats, the lack of understanding of this species and its needs results in cats being kept in environments where they cannot express their natural behaviors. This often leads to stress and boredom, impacting feline health and welfare. Resulting problems include stress-associated disease, obesity, and behavior problems. Fortunately, most of the problems can be prevented or addressed if we understand the beloved cats we live with – and allow cats to be cats!
- 2:55 – 3:45 pm** **C** **Palliative Care & Hospice for Cats**, *Dr. Robin Downing*
 There is a space between withdrawing treatment of disease and the time for euthanasia, and that is the space where palliative care and hospice fit. Palliative care is also referred to as “comfort care.” This session will focus on the many strategies for assisting clients in their work to keep their cats comfortable in the time leading up to death, as well as providing tools for evaluating a cat’s quality of life.
- P** **Recognizing & Preventing Pain in the Practice & at Home**, *Dr. Ilona Rodan*
 Cats are masters at hiding their pain, which makes identification and subsequent treatment challenging. Many apparently healthy cats are painful, with painful dental disease, arthritis, or other common conditions. If we recognize the subtle changes in behavior seen with pain, we can provide needed analgesia. The team approach, including the well-educated client, is critical to recognizing pain. Respectful handling in a calm practice environment helps prevent pain.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2013 – NUTRITION TRACKS

- 8:20 – 9:20 am** **Update on Feline Vaccinations**,
- 9:25 – 10:15 am** **Cats & Carbohydrates: What is the Impact?**, *Dr. Claudia Kirk*
 Carbohydrate feeding to cats remains controversial. This discussion will review the current evidence regarding low carbohydrate diets in cats and any benefits. The discussion will include which populations of cats may benefit from low carbohydrate feeding and debunk popular myths. A limited discussion will review metabolic biology of the cat and how that relates to carbohydrate use. The participant should leave with an evidence based approach to carbohydrate feeding in the domestic field.
- Feeding Cats: Healthy Nutrition from Kitten Hood to Geri’s: Part One**, *Dr. Deb Zoran*
 Talk will review important things to remember about feline feeding behavior, the key issues of concern in selecting feline diets, the importance of proper counseling about how to feed cats to prevent obesity (the most important nutritional disease of cats), and key nutritional needs in feeding obese cats to achieve weight loss. Finally, we will explore the role of diet in the other epidemic which is feline sarcopenia and muscle wasting in older cats.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **Feline Hepatic Lipidosis**, *Dr. Claudia Kirk*
 This discussion will review current understanding of idiopathic feline hepatic lipidosis and evidence for best practice of nutritional management and prevention. An overview of supportive feeding strategies and supplements for hepatic protection and repair will be discussed.
- Feeding Cats: Healthy Nutrition from Kitten Hood to Geri’s: Part Two**, *Dr. Deb Zoran*
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2013 continued

- 11:40 – 12:30 am** **A** **Adverse Food Reaction in the Cat: Food as a Pathogen and a Cure**, *Dr. Claudia Kirk*
Recent advances in the understanding of oral tolerance to food, effects of food processing and the role of the micro biome in the development of adverse food reactions will be discussed. Attendees will review strategies thought to reduce the risk of adverse food reactions and understand the role of food in disorders such as IBD.
- G** **Kitten Diarrhea: Diagnosis & Therapy with Special Focus on Diet Issues**, *Dr. Deb Zoran*
Review of common (but often overlooked) causes of kitten diarrhea and proper diagnostic and treatment plans. Discussion will also cover the key role of diet in both cause and resolution of feline diarrhea.
- 1:30 – 2:20 pm** **A** **The Feline Pancreas: Understanding Pancreatitis & Insufficiency in the Cat**, *Dr. Deb Zoran*
This session will review the current understanding of feline pancreatitis - diagnostic challenges and treatment options, and will discuss one major complication of chronic feline pancreatic disease: insufficiency - clinical appearance, diagnosis, and key features of therapy.
- G** **Management of Feline Obesity**, *Dr. Claudia Kirk*
This discussion provides a review of feline obesity in the US population of cats, disease risks, and nutritional strategies for safe weight loss. Review of current diets and weight loss strategies will occur with plenty of time for audience discussion of their favorite feline weight loss tip.
- 2:30 – 3:20 pm** **A** **The Long Term Diabetic: Managing the Ups & Downs**, *Dr. Deb Zoran*
This discussion will review the treatment of challenging cases of diabetes in cats such as insulin, diet, monitoring and other diseases will be discussed.
- G** **Nutrition for Hospitalized Cats: Tools & Techniques**, *Dr. Claudia Kirk*
This topic will cover best feeding practices for hospitalized cats needing nutritional support. From when to consider parenteral nutrition to the best feeding tubes for long term support, the focus will be on providing advanced nutrition in the general practice setting.
- 3:25 – 4:15 pm** **A** **Feline Colon Diseases: Understanding the Role of Diet & Drugs in the Management of Colitis and Constipation**, *Wendy Myers*
This talk will focus on understanding feline colon disease and the role of diet in therapy. Particular focus will be on the key role of fiber in both development of and treatment of colon disease but understanding how to assess proper response.
- G** **Top Nutraceuticals in Pet Foods & Practice**, *Dr. Claudia Kirk*
This lecture will discuss the use of common nutraceuticals for cats and the available evidence (and anecdotes) for their use. From Omega-3 fatty acids to probiotics, what and how to use the more mainstream supplements will be considered.