

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2018 – PRE-CONFERENCE DAY

8:00 – 10:00 am  **Feline-Friendly Handling Workshop**, *Dr. Ilona Rodan*

This hands-on workshop will begin with a short summary presentation on unique feline behaviors. Dr. Rodan will then demonstrate feline handling techniques, followed by attendees having an opportunity to break out into small groups to apply those techniques utilizing live cats. Feline-friendly handling is essential to prevent negative emotions, such as fear and pain in feline patients. Understanding the cat is the foundation of the handling principles and techniques, as cats are solitary hunters and survivors that need to protect themselves at all costs, as opposed to the other domestic animals which are pack animals. Preventing stressors that cause these negative emotions enhances feline welfare, human safety, and increases job satisfaction. Feline-friendly handling also provides more appropriate handling techniques for cats that continue to display fear and other negative emotions despite our best efforts. This session requires separate registration.

10:00 – 10:55 am **New Strategies of Managing Feline URIs**, *Dr. Jeannine Berger*

Stress in cats frequently leads to increased disease prevalence and a corresponding increase in feline treatments. Treatment can be lengthy and costly, leading to increased length of stay and a draining of valuable resources better invested in more lives saved. URI is a common, complex, and multifaceted welfare problem in most shelter populations. While calicivirus can cause periodic outbreaks of URI in shelter cats, it has been shown that this is not consistently associated with an increased risk of URI in shelter populations. In fact, reactivation of latent herpesvirus is one of the most common causes of shelter cat URI. It is particularly important to provide freedom from fear and distress because clinical signs of FHV-1, as well as virus shedding, are activated by stress. The SF SPCA has studied stress and relaxation related behaviors in our shelter cats and aims to reduce fear and stress in cats.

10:55 – 11:50 am **Cat Scratching Solutions**, *Dr. Jeannine Berger*

Scratching is a normal behavior for felines. Cats scratch on items for two main reasons: function and communication. In this presentation we explore how a normal feline behavior can lead to a break in the Human-Animal-Bond (HAB), mainly due to destruction of furniture. Animals with behavior problems are more likely to be surrendered to shelters. Animals in shelters are exposed to many stressors. We address humane solutions that are based in understanding the nature of this behavior. We will learn about tools and techniques, as well as a new product improving the HAB and feline welfare based on sound understanding of feline behavior and physiology. We address how key therapeutic solutions impacts the welfare of our feline companions in the home and in shelters.

12:15 – 1:15 pm **Is It Early CKD: Now What?**, *Dr. S. Dru Forrester*

This presentation will review how to diagnose early chronic kidney disease (CKD) in cats, treatment options to consider, and what we know (and don't) about the impact of early intervention.

1:30 – 2:20 pm **Pandora Syndrome in Cats, Part I: Diagnosis & Acute Care**, *Dr. Tony Buffington*

Some of our feline patients with chronic problems present with multiple physical and behavioral comorbid disorders. These patients' clinical signs may wax and wane with changes in their surroundings, suggesting that they may have an underlying "central sensitivity" syndrome. In this talk, Dr. Buffington will present some of the background research in cats that led to the proposal that a "Pandora Syndrome" occurs in cats, and how to approach a provisional diagnosis of the syndrome. He will then share how to manage these patients when they are housed in a veterinarian's care to minimize their perception of threat and better cope with hospitalization.

2:20 – 3:15 pm **Pandora Syndrome in Cats, Part II: Chronic Care**, *Dr. Tony Buffington*

For a variety of reasons, cat owners usually assume that their cat has an acute problem and expect a pharmaceutical "cure." After stabilizing the cat, the next step is to help owners understand what is going on and what they can do about it. At the present moment, multimodal environmental modification (MEMO) appears to offer effective adjunctive care for cats with Pandora Syndrome. Dr. Buffington will describe what this is and how to help clients implement it.

3:45 – 4:35 pm **What is so "Pleasing" About Placebo?**, *Dr. Tony Buffington*

Placebo-associated responses appear to occur in cats fairly commonly. This talk will begin with a definition and description of placebo-associated responses, and then explain recent studies helping veterinarians understand the underlying biology of these responses, some of the many factors that impact these responses, and how to maximize them for patients' and clients' clinical benefit.

4:35 – 5:30 pm **Nutrition & Disease Prevention: Focus on the Growth Period**, *Dr. Tony Buffington*

Dr. Buffington views the growth period as the most important to set clients and patients up for a lifetime of satisfactory nutrition, healthy weight maintenance, and use of food as environmental enrichment for confined (indoor) cats. He'll explain this perspective, share the evidence, and offer practical suggestions for veterinary caregivers to help their clients and patients achieve these goals. He will also present a research project that is underway to study the effects of a variety of parameters on development and behavior of "bottle babies;" orphaned kittens from 0-4 weeks of age, and include any findings we have at the time of the meeting.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018

- 8:15 – 10:00 am** **C** **Anesthesia & Analgesia for the Golden Oldies: Why Are They Different?**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson*
As animals age, there is a decrease in the functional reserve of all major organs. These changes combined with changes in body composition including decreased lean muscle mass, increased adipose tissue, decreased blood volume, and total body water alters the requirements and responses to anesthetic drugs. Older pets also have a limited ability to thermoregulate making hypothermia and its complications (delayed recovery, increased bleeding) a real threat. The requirements of inhalant agents are significantly reduced in older animals; therefore, the anesthetist must monitor the depth of anesthesia closely. Anesthetic and sedative drugs that can be titrated, reversed, and are short acting are ideal for older patients. Local anesthetic techniques should be incorporated whenever possible. Careful handling of this patient population is important as many will have underlying degenerative joint disease.
- P** **Diversity & Inclusion: Creating a LGBTQ+ Friendly Environment for Staff & Clients**, *Dr. Mike Chaddock*
Attendees will learn various aspects of diversity and inclusion, and how having a diverse team and inclusive culture helps the business bottom line. Attendees will gain an awareness and appreciation of diversity around gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. Tips will be provided for employees on what to look for in a place of employment for LGBTQ+ inclusion, and tips will be provided for employers on how to make the environment LGBTQ+ inclusive and friendly for clients and staff. These presentations will provide information and facts concerning LGBTQ+ health and wellness issues and address needs, as well as ways to address barriers surrounding LGBTQ+ health and wellness in the workplace.
- 11:10 – 12:00 pm** **A** **Cognitive Dysfunction in Senior Cats**, *Dr. Margaret Gruen*
Cognitive dysfunction is often under-recognized by owners of older cats. This lecture will discuss the pathology and clinical signs associated with cognitive dysfunction in cats, and what is currently known about management options.
- B** **Chronic Diarrhea in Older Cats**, *Dr. Alex German*
Chronic diarrhea is a common clinical problem in older cats and can be difficult both to diagnose and manage. This lecture will cover how to tailor your approach to chronic diarrhea in the older feline, focusing on prioritizing and decision-making, to maximize quality of life.
- P** **Benefits of Cat Friendly Housing**, *Dr. Ilona Rodan*
Veterinary practices of all types benefit from cat-friendly housing. Feline welfare and recovery are improved, with cats feeling safer and greatly reducing potential for human injury. Practices also benefit through increased efficiency caring for housed cats and financially by promoting cat-friendly housing. Meeting feline environmental needs and providing a hiding option improve the cat's ability to cope in both hospitalized and boarding cats.
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: Feline Heartworm Disease: What Your Clients (& You) Need to Know**, *Dr. Gary Norsworthy*
Dirofilaria immitis infection in cats presents many diagnostic and management challenges compared to infection with the same organism in dogs. In this presentation, Dr. Norsworthy will cover these differences along with new information that will allow practicing veterinarians to detect cats infected with D. immitis. In addition, Dr. Norsworthy will specify what to do with a positive cat, what additional diagnostics are needed, what additional medications will be necessary, and how to communicate this to a client.
- Lunch & Learn #2: Feline Clinical Pharmacology: Exploring Species & Disease State Influences**, *Dr. Jessica Quimby*
This presentation will discuss the special needs and pharmacologic considerations for the feline patient in both health and disease. Recent research in feline clinical pharmacology will be presented where we have learned interesting and unexpected information, highlighting the need for more feline-specific studies.
- 1:30 – 2:20 pm** **A** **How Do We Know? Assessing Chronic Pain in Cats**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson*
The most common cause of long-term pain in cats is degenerative joint disease (DJD). DJD can affect cats across all ages although the incidence is higher in cats over ten years of age. Due to the nature of chronic pain, the behavioral changes can be insidious, subtle, and therefore easily missed. Indeed, many owners assume these changes are inevitable with advancing age and put changes in activity and behavior down to “getting old” rather than “getting sore” and therefore do not seek treatment. As cats live longer there has been an increased recognition of chronic pain and its negative impact on quality of life (QoL). The veterinarian and owner must work together to assess the impact of the disease on each cat. QoL and musculoskeletal questionnaires are available for owners to complete in a standardized (e.g., Feline Musculoskeletal Index) or individualized format (Client Specific Outcome Measures). Home videos can be extremely useful in assessing mobility issues as performing a full musculoskeletal examination in a clinical setting is often challenging. Tracking a score of some sort is essential for monitoring the efficacy of treatment.
- B** **Environmental Enrichment for Senior Cats**, *Dr. Margaret Gruen*
Environmental needs change as cats age. In this lecture, we will discuss these changing needs and how owners can set their cats up for comfort in their senior years.
- P** **How Preventive Care Will Grow Your Business**, *Dr. Christine Bohn Kimos*
In this session we will explore the value of preventive care in a veterinary practice. Discussion will include the value to the patient as well as your bottom line.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 continued

- 2:25 – 3:15 pm**
- A** **Now What? Managing Chronic Pain in Older Cats**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson*
 Degenerative joint disease is not curable; therefore, the goal is to relieve the pain associated with it. Management options fall into two main categories: 1. Pharmacologic. There is no non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug approved for chronic administration in cats in the US. However, in other countries meloxicam is approved for long-term use to alleviate musculoskeletal pain. Several studies report it is efficacious and that it can be used in cats with stable chronic kidney disease (CKD). Robenacoxib is not labelled for long-term use anywhere but when used for a month in cats with and without CKD no adverse effects were noted. Despite its wide use, there are no published studies on the efficacy of gabapentin. Tramadol improved QoL in cats with DJD, but was associated with side-effects including sedation, diarrhea, and inappetence. 2. Non-pharmacologic. Physical modalities frequently used include acupuncture, laser therapy, massage, and exercise. Weight loss, if required, is a key part of management, and specific joint diets or use of supplements (omega-3 fatty acids) can be beneficial.
 - B** **Promoting Healthy Weight in Senior Patients**, *Dr. Alex German*
 Many older cats are overweight, and this can exacerbate concurrent diseases, while predisposing to others. Conversely, as cats age they may develop diseases that lead to weight loss. This lecture will focus on tailoring nutritional plans for weight loss and weight maintenance for older cats by focusing on individual priorities and aiming to maximize quality of life.
 - P** **Increasing Client Compliance in Feline Appointments**, *Dr. Christine Bohn Kimos*
 In this session, we will explore real world examples of how you can get the cat owner to say yes to your recommendations. Discussion will include how increased compliance can improve your medicine and increase your gross revenues.
- 3:45 – 4:35 pm**
- A** **Quality of Life Assessments, Feline Hospice, & Palliative Care**, *Dr. Diane Eigner*
 In this session, Dr. Eigner will discuss the increasing demand for hospice and palliative care, five steps of the hospice consultation, quality of life assessments, and the use of an interdisciplinary team. The presentation will also cover the concept of comfort care as well as provide ways to start offering hospice care or expand upon current services offered in the practice.
 - B** **Feeding Old Cats: Understanding Feeding Behavior**, *Dr. Debra Zoran*
 This session will provide the attendee with a complete background of feline nutrition, feeding behavior, and key aspects of feline eating habits that must be understood to fully help cat owners feed cats properly.
 - P** **Does Veterinary Medicine Have a Mental Health Crisis?: Results of the Merck Animal Health Veterinary Wellbeing Study**, *Dr. Linda Lord*
 There has been growing concern in the profession about mental health among veterinarians including issues such as depression, anxiety, compassion fatigue, and suicide. There have been some studies on these issues in the profession but to date, no definitive national representative study on mental health and well-being among US veterinarians has been done. This study was conducted to survey a random sample of US veterinarians across all sectors of the profession to accomplish the following three goals: 1) Definitely quantify the prevalence of serious psychological distress among veterinarians with comparisons to the US general population; 2) Identify segments of the profession most at risk and determine factors that negatively and positively impact mental health; and 3) Measure the level of well-being in the profession and identify factors that contribute to higher levels of well-being. Participants in this session will gain a much deeper understanding of the current state of mental health and well-being in the profession and also recommendations for what can be done at the organizational, practice, and individual levels.
- 4:40 – 5:35 pm**
- A** **Saying Goodbye: When, How, & Where?**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson*
 The “last appointment” a veterinarian has with a pet is often the one to perform euthanasia. This is an emotional time for the owner and the entire health care team, and can be a “make or break” appointment which dictates whether the client will return to the same practice if they acquire a new pet. In most cases, euthanasia is performed because of the pet’s deteriorating quality of life. At no time during the appointment should the cat be separated from the owner. Sedation is highly recommended prior to euthanasia. This allows a smooth transition towards death, time for the owner to see the cat resting peacefully, and facilitates administration of euthanasia drugs which may be by the intravenous, intracardiac, intrarenal, or intrahepatic route. Where euthanasia takes place is important; some veterinarians offer in-home services and others perform euthanasia in their practice. If performed within a clinic, the room used should be as non-clinical as possible; a “comfort room” with couches and chairs, dim lighting, and the ability for the owner to hold their cat if they wish can enhance everyone’s experience. In many cases an examination room can quickly be converted to a comfort room when space is limited.
 - B** **Feeding Old Cats: Determining Nutritional Needs**, *Dr. Debra Zoran*
 This session will provide the attendee with an understanding and review of key metabolic differences in cats and changes in geriatric feline physiology that changes their nutritional needs. Key concepts will include understanding sarcopenia and the essential role of protein and fat in older cats.
 - P** **Purring into Practice: Creating & Nurturing a Cat Friendly Team Mission**, *Dr. Elizabeth Colleran*
 It is not enough to want to see more cats or learn to restrain them gently or plug in a feline facial pheromone diffuser to change the experience that cats and their owners have in our practices. Our brains and senses need to be trained to read feline emotional and physical states when they are still subtle, before arousal has reached the point that it is obvious and on a trajectory that cannot be reversed. Having learned to assess them, we then use proven techniques to allay their fear enough to bond with the client, do a comprehensive physical exam, and any other procedure that is indicated for this patient at this time. Cats are solitary hunters who do not convey emotional states or physical pain with the drama of dogs. We are likely to mistake their inscrutability unless we know how and where to look, and then what to do.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

- 8:30 – 9:20 am**
- A Screening Seniors: Integrating Early Detection Programs to Benefit Your Patients & Practice, Dr. Margie Scherk**
Early detection of disease can improve wellbeing and longevity. Providing preventive healthcare that includes routine screening is especially important in senior cats. This session will look at how to implement screening programs to benefit cats, their people, and the financial stability of the clinic.
 - B Nutritional Management of Older Cats: Changes in GI Function, Dr. Debra Zoran**
This talk will discuss the use of nutritional management of common GI issues and its relationship to GI dysfunction using a case-based format.
 - T Why Assigning Acute Pain Scores to Surgery & Trauma Patients Matters, Dr. Sheilah Robertson**
To treat pain, we must first recognize it and quantify it in some way so we can assess the efficacy of our treatments. Pain is a complex multidimensional experience with both sensory and emotional components. In cats, physiologic variables (e.g., heart rate, respiratory rate, and blood pressure) are not, on their own, good indicators of pain because these are altered by other factors including fear and stress. It is now accepted that quantitative measurement of behavior is the most reliable method for assessing pain in animals. Normal behaviors should be maintained post-operatively if a cat is comfortable. The occurrence of new behaviors such as a previously friendly cat becoming aggressive, or a playful and friendly cat becoming reclusive should raise our suspicion that pain may not have been adequately addressed. There are now validated tools for assessing acute pain in cats including the Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale and the UNESP-Botucatu Multidimensional Composite Pain Scale. These tools assess specific domains including vocalization, posture, attention to the wound, facial expressions, and response to palpation and interaction with the observer. Intervention levels for treatment are also suggested. These tools can be easily integrated into veterinary clinics and will improve pain management and welfare of cats.
- 9:25 – 10:15 am**
- A Comorbidities - Managing the Unmanageable: Approaching a Cat with CKD, Diabetes, Arthritis, Hyperthyroidism, & Hypertension, Dr. Margie Scherk**
The older cat is predisposed to many medical problems and often presents with several concurrent disease conditions. How do we meet the challenge of feeding a cat with diabetes as well as CKD? What about using NSAIDs for arthritis in a cat with CKD? In this session, we'll look at how to approach an individual with conditions that have contrary therapeutic or nutritional requirements.
 - B Nutritional Management of Older Cats with Multiple Diseases, Dr. Debra Zoran**
This talk will use a case-based format to illustrate the important role of nutrition and diet selection in the management of cats with multiple diseases with competing nutritional priorities, e.g., the cat with diabetes that has kidney disease, etc.
 - T Anesthesia & Pain Management for Difficult Cats, Dr. Sheilah Robertson**
Cats can pose many problems when it comes to anesthesia and analgesia. A nice friendly cat can turn into a patient you don't recognize and there are the cats who just hate a clinic visit. However, we are now figuring out how to help these cats, which in turn makes our life easier. Administration of gabapentin at home decreases the stress score of cats when they arrive. Music specifically composed for cats and feline facial pheromones can also make cats easier to handle for pre-anesthetic examination and sedation. The correct equipment with practice are quick to use and minimally stressful to most cats. Although off-label in the US, the intramuscular use of alfaxalone can be very helpful when dealing with cats that are difficult to handle. Analgesics that have a long duration of action are useful in these cats and include long-acting local anesthetics and specific formulations of buprenorphine. Oral medications such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents are usually easy to administer if they are flavored to maximize voluntary intake.
- 11:00 – 12:30 pm**
- C Panel - Meeting Senior Needs: Q&A with the Experts, Drs. Margie Scherk, Alex German, Margaret Gruen, Sheilah Robertson, & Debra Zoran**
This session will give attendees the opportunity to ask questions of the senior care speakers. Attendees are encouraged to submit questions prior to the session. Please submit questions from Friday's senior sessions by the end of the day on Friday. Please submit questions from Saturday's morning session by 10:15 am on Saturday. Forms will be supplied in the back of the session rooms, which can be submitted via a box in the back of the session room or at the registration desk.
 - T Blood Pressure Monitoring: Who, What, Where, When, & Why?, Dr. Kelly St. Denis**
Blood pressure assessment should be an integral part of a senior cat's healthcare. Despite this, many veterinary teams struggle with the procedure. The time required to take blood pressure in a cat may not be practical in the appointment setting, the cat may not be cooperative, and the team may not be comfortable with the equipment available. Once obtained, understanding collected readings can be challenging at best. This session will review the causes and consequences of hypertension in the feline species, but will focus on the art of taking blood pressure in the cat. Cat-friendly tricks and tips will provide the attendee with the resources necessary to consistently collect and accurately interpret blood pressure readings in the cat. The attendee will attain the expertise necessary for implementing blood pressure monitoring as part of routine senior care in their practice.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 continued

- 12:45 – 1:45 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: Cats, Cardiomyopathy, & the Practical Use of BNP Testing**, *Dr. Bonnie Lefbom*
This session will discuss the wide range of heart disease affecting the feline patient including tips for, and benefits of, early diagnosis and treatment. Discussion will include recommendations for using NT ProBNP testing in daily practice.
- Lunch & Learn #2: Cats, Ticks, & Disease**, *Dr. Susan E. Little*
This session will present data documenting the risk of feline tick infestation and tick-borne infections across the United States. In addition, it will describe risk factors associated with feline tick infestation, review diagnostic and treatment approaches, and outline strategies to prevent ticks on cats that may help limit the risk of feline tick-borne diseases.
- Lunch & Learn #3: Feline Pain: Increase Your Tools**, *Dr. Jennifer Johnson*
As clinicians, we continue to be frustrated by our difficulty, first, in objectively measuring feline pain and second, in effectively creating a treatment protocol for cats to which our clients can comply. With the more frequent use of Digital Infrared Thermography, veterinarians may have found another tool for their pain-assessment and management "tool box." The use of thermal images may help to provide clues to our clinical pain investigation in cats, in a completely non-invasive fashion. The first part of the session will explore the various ways to identify feline pain discussing current metrology tools such as the FMPI, client education, and then exploring the use of thermal imaging. The second half will review current pharmacologic and adjunct treatments for feline pain, including photobiomodulation and wearable pulsed electromagnetic frequency devices, designed with cats in mind.
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm** **C The First 5 Minutes: You Too Can Save a Life!**, *Dr. Elke Rudloff*
The first five minutes are the most stressful and informative when faced with the catastrophically ill or injured cat. The veterinary team plays an integral role during this triage phase. Organized team work and hospital readiness are the keys to optimizing outcome during the resuscitation and stabilization of the emergent patient. Using case examples, this presentation provides the attendee with tips on preparedness and how to intervene when seconds count.
- T Nutritional Support in the Critically Ill Cat**, *Dr. Christina Fernandez*
Nutritional support is a vital part of managing critically ill feline patients. At times, the negative effects of malnutrition can be more detrimental to the patient than the primary disease process itself. In this talk, we will cover important aspects of feeding cats with critical illness with an emphasis on rationale decision making tailored to the individual patient.
- 2:55 – 3:45 pm** **C The Diabetic-Ketotic CATastrophe**, *Dr. Elke Rudloff*
Hyperglycemic ketoacidosis is a syndrome that can cause severe illness and death. Serum hyperosmolarity, osmotic diuresis, and vomiting can result in hypovolemia and severe dehydration. Altered mentation from serum hyperosmolarity, ketosis, acidosis, and electrolyte disturbances can increase the risk for aspiration, CNS injury, and seizure activity. Reestablishing and maintaining intravascular and interstitial fluid homeostasis requires glycemic control and elimination of ketonemia with insulin therapy. This presentation discusses new alternatives to stabilizing the cat with DKA.
- T Not in my Back Yard! The Secret Life of Cats & Parasites**, *Dr. Cathy Lund*
Keeping our cats healthy in 2018 means protecting them from things we might not even see. Our cats are enormously important to us, and just like with any other family member, we want them to be safe. This means using year-round, broad-spectrum parasite prevention, but how do we let our clients know why this is so important? How do we convince them that their inside cats don't have parasite-repelling superpowers? Successful conversations about why parasite control is imperative always start with what our cats mean to us and why caring for them involves protecting them from parasites.
- 3:50 – 4:45 pm** **C Have Questions? Answers to Your Cat Friendly Practice Inquiries**
Do you have questions about the Cat Friendly Practice program? We will be collecting your questions prior to the meeting, and answering them during this presentation. We encourage those thinking about starting the program, or those who are already a Cat Friendly Practice, to submit your questions to be answered by the panel. Many times we often have the same questions, so we encourage all to attend to learn from your colleagues.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

8:30 – 9:20 am

A **Urinary Tract Obstruction: Bad to the Stone**, *Dr. Elke Rudloff*

Obstruction of the urinary tract is a common emergency presentation. Obstruction of urine outflow rapidly leads to azotemia, uremia, and life-threatening alterations in fluid, electrolyte, and acid base balance. Additionally, the increased pressure in the distended urinary bladder is transmitted to the upper urinary tract and may lead to decreased renal perfusion and significant renal parenchymal injury. This presentation discusses a protocol for the rapid assessment and successful management of the cat with urinary tract obstruction.

B **Sedation of the Critically Ill Cat**, *Dr. Justine Lee*

In this lecture, Dr. Justine Lee will review the use of anesthetics and analgesics in the critically ill cat. In cats with underlying cardiopulmonary or metabolic disease, the judicious use of sedatives is warranted. Examples of critically ill feline patients seen in daily veterinary practice include urethral obstruction, pleural effusion, asthma, or underlying icterus. The use of appropriate analgesics (e.g., coccygeal block, buprenorphine) should be considered, along with aggressive oxygenation, stabilization, and reversible opioid therapy (e.g., butorphanol) is warranted.

T **Bring Back the Pounce: Osteoarthritis in Cats**, *Ms. Kara Burns*

The goals of medical management of osteoarthritis include: 1) mitigation of risk factors; 2) controlling clinical signs; and 3) moderating progression of the disease. Effective medical management generally requires a multimodal approach. Clinical nutrition plays a critical role in the successful long-term management of patients with osteoarthritis. Prevention or reversal of obesity is one of the most effective mechanisms for reducing risk and modifying disease progression. New studies document therapeutic foods enriched with omega-3 fatty acids ease the pain and slow the progression of osteoarthritis.

9:25 – 10:15 am

A **Feeding Tubes: How to Place & Use**, *Dr. Elke Rudloff*

The metabolism of an anorexic critically ill cat differs from that seen in simple starvation. Early and adequate nutrition may require the placement of an enteral feeding tube and initiating assisted feeding. This lecture will cover the basic indications for enteral nutrition, how to place nasogastric and esophageal feeding tubes, how to initiate feedings, and complications to look for.

B **Top 10 Mistakes to Avoid in the Emergency Feline Patient**, *Dr. Justine Lee*

In this lecture, Dr. Justine Lee, will review the top ten mistakes to avoid in the emergency feline patient. If you don't see emergencies 24/7, the feline emergency may be intimidating. Veterinarians must feel comfortable treating common emergency disorders seen in the feline patient. Rapid recognition and immediate stabilization is imperative to prevent the feline patient from rapidly deteriorating and becoming critically ill. By knowing how to stabilize the dyspneic cat, how to perform a thoracocentesis, how to correctly induce emesis in cats, how to rapidly correct acid-base and electrolyte abnormalities, and how to manage metabolic emergencies, these patients can respond well to treatment.

T **Diabetes: Nutritional Management & Client Communication**, *Ms. Kara Burns*

Diabetes mellitus is estimated to affect one in 250 cats. Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a chronic endocrine disorder that is characterized by hyperglycemia, glucosuria, polyphagia, polydipsia, polyuria, and weight loss. Usually these signs occur because the pancreas is unable to produce enough insulin to meet the animal's requirements or the animal's body is resistant to insulin. Diabetes mellitus can be an overwhelming diagnosis for cat owners. Cat owners will need to understand the disease of DM, how to give insulin, and the key points to nutritional management. Clinical nutrition plays an important role in the successful long-term management of cats with diabetes. Communication is crucial to ensure the client has the proper information and education to ensure they are providing proper care at home.

10:45 – 11:35 am

A **Approach to the Cat in Respiratory Distress**, *Dr. Adesola Odunayo*

This session will focus on stabilizing the cat in respiratory distress. Dr. Odunayo will emphasize the importance of minimizing stress in the hypoxemic cat and highlight multiple techniques for providing supplemental oxygen, utilizing ultrasound when evaluating the cat in respiratory distress, and tips for performing thoracocentesis.

B **Global FAST Ultrasound: How to Perform & Unique Feline Differences**, *Dr. Gregory Lisciandro*

This lecture will cover our 3rd ultrasound format named Global FAST that combines AFAST (abdominal) with its fluid scoring system, TFAST (thorax), and Vet BLUE (lung). Global FAST Ultrasound is achievable with minimal ultrasound training and provides a huge amount of clinical information point-of-care, rapidly and with minimal restraint answering important clinical questions to better treat and to help pick the next best test. Felines have important Global FAST differences from dogs.

T **Nutritional Counseling with the Feline Owner**, *Ms. Kara Burns*

Proper nutrient intake is essential for normal development, overall health, and disease management in cats. Nutrients have many metabolic roles essential to normal physiologic function that can be compromised by insufficient or irregular intake. Minimum requirements in cats have been determined to achieve optimal nutrition, focusing on the key nutrients for physical development, mobility, immune response, cognitive functions, disease prevention, or target treatment. This session will look at the unique aspects of felines and how best to communicate with cat owners regarding nutrition. Proper nutrition is a critical component for maintaining the health of pets. Every patient, healthy or ill, that enters the veterinary hospital should have an evaluation of their nutritional status and healthcare team members should make a nutritional recommendation based on this evaluation. However, with the number of cat foods available it may be difficult for healthcare team members to make a nutritional recommendation and effectively communicate this recommendation to their clients. We will review the role of the veterinary technician in nutrition and provide practical guidelines and tips to be used. Additionally, we will learn how to calculate amounts to feed for various life stages.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 continued

- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **Decontamination of Common Feline Toxicities**, *Dr. Adesola Odunayo*
 Permethrin, acetaminophen, ethylene glycol, lilies, or rodenticides. This session will cover important techniques for decontaminating the cat exposed to toxic agents, including important clues and how to treat specific toxins.
- B** **Proactive Lung Ultrasound: The Vet BLUE & the Tale of Four Felines**, *Dr. Gregory Lisciandro*
 This cutting-edge lecture will cover a brief evolution and history of lung ultrasound and the human and veterinary literature as a segue into the six Vet BLUE lung ultrasound signs. These Vet BLUE signs will be clinically applied to the tale of four felines, each in respiratory distress with nostril flaring and abdominal breathing, yet radically different Vet BLUE lung ultrasound patterns. Vet BLUE is performed point-of-care, rapidly (<90-120 seconds), with minimal restraint, and far less risky than radiology as your initial imaging test.
- T** **FLUTD: Updates in Nutritional Management**, *Ms. Kara Burns*
 This presentation will focus on causes of FLUTD, the technicians' role in diagnostics, treatment options – most notably nutritional management and environmental enrichment, what is new in nutritional management as well as assisting the cat owner in producing a positive outcome for FLUTD.
- 12:40 – 1:40 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: Obesity in Cats: Making that Fat Cat Fit!**, *Dr. Alex German*
 Obesity is now the most common medical disease in domestic cats and its prevalence is increasing. Weight management programs can be successful, but require dedication and expertise. In this Lunch & Learn, practical tips will be discussed that will help you to make weight management work in your practice.
- Lunch & Learn #2: Managing Complex Feline Endocrine Diseases: A Case-based Approach**, *Dr. Audra Fenimore*
 "Managing Complex Feline Endocrine Diseases" takes a case-based look at updated approaches to diagnosing and managing diabetes mellitus and hyperthyroidism.
- 1:45 – 2:35 pm** **A** **Approach to the Cat in Shock**, *Dr. Adesola Odunayo*
 This session will go over the pathophysiology of shock in cats, as well as ways to treat and manage a cat in shock. Highlights will include types of shock, recognition of shock, securing intravenous access in the cat in shock, and treatment of shock.
- B** **Global FAST Ultrasound: Patient Monitoring & Detecting Treatable Forms of Shock**, *Dr. Gregory Lisciandro*
 This lecture will cover cutting-edge ways to monitor volume status (heart, lung, caudal vena cava), survey for complications during hospitalized care, and recognize treatable forms of shock (Hs and Ts of CPR) to better change clinical course through more accurate interventions. Global FAST is our 3rd veterinary format that surveys the abdominal cavity, thorax, heart, and lung rapidly and point-of-care.
- T** **Feline IBD: Pathophysiology, Treatment Goals, & Client Communication**, *Ms. Kara Burns*
 Veterinary technicians must be familiar with feline IBD, the causes of this disease, and work with the entire healthcare team to alleviate the signs and symptoms observed in cats presenting to the hospital. Veterinary technicians play an important role in monitoring IBD feline patients and their response to treatment. This presentation will look at the pathophysiology of IBD, goals of treatment, and the importance of educating pet owners regarding this disease.
- 2:40 – 3:30 pm** **A** **Case-based Approach to Transfusion Medicine**, *Dr. Adesola Odunayo*
 This session will utilize case examples to highlight the principles of transfusion medicine. Highlights will include red cell transfusion and blood typing, plasma transfusion in cats, and the role of xenotransfusion.
- B** **Setting Up a Successful Global FAST Ultrasound Program**, *Dr. Gregory Lisciandro*
 This lecture will cover the tenets developed by the author as assistant and then medical director at their 24/7/365 emergency and critical care center at which over 1,250 FAST exams were charged over a year's time period.
- T** **CKD: Getting Your Picky Patient to Eat**, *Ms. Kara Burns*
 Nutritional management is an important component of treatment for cats with chronic kidney disease. However, a common complaint is that cats will not eat the recommended food. This presentation reviews effectiveness of different treatments for chronic kidney disease, provides guidelines for selecting foods, and offers practical tips for getting your patients to eat so they live longer and healthier lives.