

The additional CE Sessions below will be available on-demand through the Virtual Platform. Both in-person and virtual attendees will have access to these CE Sessions.

Virtual-only Sessions

SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	SPONSOR/PARTNER
Feline GI Pain: Underappreciated & Over-Represented	Dr. Jennifer Slovak	
Nutritional Support for Cats with Cancer	Dr. Catherine Ruggiero	
The Cat is Losing Weight: Is it GI or FHT, or Both?	Dr. Kelly St. Denis	
Using Ultrasound to Collect Fine Needle Aspirates	Dr. Jennifer Babineaux	

Virtual-only Session Abstracts

Feline GI Pain: Underappreciated & Over-Represented, Dr. Jennifer Slovak

Veterinary medicine has evolved in recent years regarding the recognition and appreciation of osteoarthritis and peri-surgical pain in our companion animals, especially cats. Unfortunately, there is a commonly under-appreciated aspect of feline discomfort—abdominal/GI pain. Generally, abdominal pain is felt below the ribs and extends to the pelvis, an area largely encompassing the gastrointestinal tract and its associated organs such as the pancreas and hepatobiliary system. Visceral nociceptors within the mesentery or serosal surfaces and within the mucosal walls of hollow organs respond to chemical or mechanical stimuli. Unfortunately, visceral pain can be diffuse and poorly localized due to sparse afferent innervation relative to somatic innervation, making GI pain challenging to detect in our feline patients. This is relevant in clinical medicine as many diseases involving the GI tract occur in cats such as: chronic enteropathies (inflammatory and lymphoma), cholangiohepatitis, constipation, and pancreatitis. With continued diligent patient assessment and evolution of pain scales and analgesia options, we can improve our patients' quality of life.

Nutritional Support for Cats with Cancer, Dr. Catherine Ruggiero

Neoplasia is prevalent in the feline population and can have a significant impact on nutritional status. There is risk of malnutrition from cancer, especially when the neoplastic process interferes with prehension, chewing, and/or swallowing. Additionally, some cancer therapies can contribute to malnutrition. To help mitigate this risk, certain food features should be prioritized when feeding cats with cancer, including taste. A new food, Hill's Prescription Diet ONC Care, can benefit feline patients with neoplasia.

The Cat is Losing Weight: Is it GI or FHT, or Both?, Dr. Kelly St. Denis

Unexplained weight loss can be a challenge in the aging feline species. A minimum database, including total T4 can be enlightening, but what if the results are equivocal? If the results seem clear, how do we rule out other contributing comorbidities? In this seminar we will review the ins and outs of diagnosis, management, and monitoring these two common feline health issues.

Using Ultrasound to Collect Fine Needle Aspirates, Dr. Jennifer Babineaux

Percutaneous ultrasound-guided aspiration is a safe procedure that improves medical diagnoses, is minimally invasive, and may help avoid more costly procedures such as laparoscopic or surgical biopsies. This lecture will discuss the approach to percutaneous ultrasound-guided fine needle aspirates (FNA) for the general practitioner, including risks and benefits, case selection, and how to perform the procedure safely.

Session Abstracts

KEY: **W** WORKSHOP **LS** LIVE STREAMED
C COMBINED TRACK **IPO** IN-PERSON ONLY
A TRACK A
B TRACK B

Schedule is in Central Daylight Time

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023 – PRE-CONFERENCE DAY

- 7:45 – 11:45 am** **W** **Hands-on Feline Orthopedic Evaluation Workshop**, *Drs. Duncan Lascelles & Margaret Gruen* **IPO**
The approach to a clinically meaningful and efficient orthopedic evaluation of the cat will be discussed. The components of capturing a relevant history, observation of the cat, and the hands-on examination will be presented and discussed. Attendees will gain hands-on (yes, live cats) and expert-guided experience in techniques for successful orthopedic/osteoarthritis examinations. Cat Friendly and staff friendly approaches will be emphasized. Learn how to augment your feline practice and build stronger client bonds with caregivers. Review tools and protocols to optimize outcomes for your feline osteoarthritic patients. Read more on page 23.
- 10:15 – 11:10 am** **The Allergic Patient: New Insights in Skin Barrier Science**, *Dr. Melissa Hall* **LS**
We will review the current understanding of changes which occur in the skin of an allergic patient. We will also discuss the active ingredient Ophytrium and how it works to manage this disruption in the skin barrier. Finally, we will review cases and recent research studies in regards to Ophytrium's use.
- 11:15 – 11:45 am** **Serenity Now! A Deeper Dive into the Peaceful Practice**, *Dr. Natalie Marks* **LS**
This lecture will start by discussing the pathophysiology of fear and anxiety in cats. Attendees will then refresh about the consequences of stress to our patients, including lab work abnormalities and long-term behavioral changes, as well as how it impacts the human-animal bond. Discussion will continue around the impact of stress to veterinary professionals and how it destroys work culture and longevity. The remainder of the program will focus on ways veterinary teams can use a multi-modal approach to create a calm clinic for patients, cat caregivers, and veterinary professionals.
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm** **Nutritional Counselor Program: Get Inspired to Run your Own Nutritional Consultations**, *Vicky Ograin* **LS**
Learn how to structure and perform a nutritional consultation and how to address common questions that caregivers may ask. Veterinarians and technicians should be discussing nutrition with caregivers; this session will help start the conversation. We will work through a feline renal case, demonstrating how to do a nutritional consultation and how important it is for the cat to do the consultation, especially when switching to a new food.
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm** **Diabetes Masterclass: Oral Hypoglycemics - An Overview**, *Dr. Audrey Cook* **LS**
Many cats with diabetes mellitus fit the profile for human type 2 DM, in which chronic insulin resistance results in inadequate insulin secretion. However, oral hypoglycemic agents have traditionally performed very poorly in feline diabetics. In this lecture, we will review the history of oral hypoglycemics in cats, and introduce the SGLT-2 inhibitor drug class. This option represents a true paradigm shift in the management of feline diabetes.
- 2:00 – 3:15 pm** **Diabetes Masterclass: SGLT-2 Inhibitors - Safety & Efficacy Data**, *Drs. Ellen Behrend & Patty Lathan* **LS**
The most successful oral treatment for feline diabetes is currently sodium glucose transporter 2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors. During this lecture, we will reveal safety and efficacy data regarding velagliflozin, an SGLT-2 inhibitor recently studied in cats. This class of drugs will likely change the landscape of feline diabetes management over the next few years.
- 3:45 – 4:10 pm** **Diabetes Masterclass: Getting Started & Monitoring**, *Dr. Cynthia Ward* **LS**
There are new and exciting treatments available for feline diabetes mellitus. This talk will focus on how to use the new sodium glucose co-transport protein 2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors (SGLT-2i) in your practice. A brief overview of how the medications work will be presented followed by information on appropriate patient selection and screening protocols for diabetic cats. Initial dosing and monitoring of SGLT2i will be discussed. Information for caregivers about potential adverse events will be highlighted. Specific case examples may be presented.
- 4:10 – 5:00 pm** **Diabetes Masterclass: Troubleshooting & Complications**, *Drs. Thomas Schermerhorn & Catharine Scott-Moncrieff* **LS**
SGLT-2 inhibitors are an exciting new class of drugs for management of feline diabetes mellitus. This session will address potential adverse effects associated with the use of SGLT-2 inhibitors in cats. The speakers will discuss how to prevent, identify, and treat possible adverse effects.
- 5:00 – 5:30 pm** **Diabetes Masterclass: Panel Discussion**, *Diabetes Masterclass Speakers* **LS**
A panel of board-certified internists with expertise in endocrinology will answer questions and share insights into the management of feline diabetes mellitus. Attendees are encouraged to bring their questions and share their challenges.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

- 8:15 – 9:30 am** **C** **Critical Nutritional Foundations for Every Cat**, *Dr. Valerie Parker* **LS**
During this session, we will review how to feed healthy cats over their lifetimes, including how nutritional requirements for cats change as they progress from kittenhood to senior adulthood. We will review how to determine energy (caloric) requirements for cats. We will review what information is presented on pet food labels, how to effectively use that information, and how to interpret nutrient profiles. Several pet food myths and some tips for effective communication will be discussed.
- 11:00 – 11:50 am** **A** **Nutritional Management of the Comorbid CKD Patient**, *Dr. Valerie Parker* **LS**
We will review basic nutritional goals and nutrients of concern for cats with CKD and a few comorbid conditions, including inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes mellitus, and obesity. This will be a case-based discussion with emphasis on practical clinical decision making.
- B** **Nutritional Idiosyncrasies & the Role in Obesity, Diabetes Mellitus, & Hepatic Lipidosis**, *Dr. Adronie Verbrughe* **LS**
Metabolic idiosyncrasies result in specific and unique nutritional requirements of cats. Peculiarities of carbohydrate, protein, and fat metabolism will be discussed. Moreover, we will explore if and how these idiosyncrasies predispose cats to metabolic diseases, including obesity, diabetes mellitus, and feline hepatic lipidosis.

Schedule is in Central Daylight Time

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023 continued

- 11:55 – 12:45 pm** **A Use of Assisted Enteral Nutrition**, *Dr. Valerie Parker* **LS**
 We will review timing and implementation of assisted enteral nutritional support. We will discuss feeding tube and diet selection, determining caloric needs, and how to troubleshoot common complications associated with feeding tubes.
- B Do Nutrients & Ingredients Matter for Weight Loss? How to Select a Diet**, *Dr. Adronie Verbrugghe* **LS**
 Feline obesity is common and achieving weight loss is a challenge. In this session we will explore key nutritional factors to maximize weight loss success. Evaluation of dietary nutrients and ingredients is the basis to select a diet and design an individualized weight loss plan.
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **L Velagliflozin: An Oral Solution for the Diabetic Cat**, *Diabetes Masterclass Speakers* **IPO**
 A brief overview of the SGLT-2 inhibitors and the role of velagliflozin in the management of feline diabetes mellitus will be presented. A panel of experts will then answer questions and share their perspectives on how to introduce this exciting new product into our practices.
- L Evolving the Feline MDB: Purrfect Balance for Your Patient Assessment**, *Drs. Elizabeth Schooley & Kelly St. Denis* **IPO**
 The minimum database is a concept that many veterinarians are familiar with but should the MDB be the same for all patients? Recent data studies looking at the diagnostic findings of cats across age ranges and diagnostic use cases will be discussed. Additionally, the unique diagnostic behaviors of Cat Friendly Practices® will be shared. This information will help pave the way to create the purrfect diagnostic plan for the feline patients in your care.
- L Calming Cats: The Impact of Transport & Anxiety on Our Cats, Cat Caregivers, & Practices**, *Dr. Tracey Deiss* **IPO**
 This session will look at feline transport and vet visit fear, anxiety, and stress from the lens of the cat, cat caregiver, and practice. By examining what we know about feline behavior, routines, and comfort, we can better understand why transport and vet visit is a rate limiting factor in transport and exam success. Recognizing that FAS manifests in a gambit of clinical behaviors, we can help our cat caregivers and teams promote treatment for the spectrum and touch on current pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatment modalities.
- 2:10 – 3:00 pm** **A Nutritional Management of Chronic Enteropathies**, *Dr. Valerie Parker* **LS**
 We will review various methods by which to manage chronic enteropathies (e.g., inflammatory bowel disease) with diet and other nutritional modifications.
- B Feeding Comorbidities: Obese Cats with Other Diseases**, *Dr. Adronie Verbrugghe* **LS**
 Feline obesity is highly prevalent. Weight loss is recommended, but often complicated by other diseases. This session will use a case-based approach to explore diet selection and weight loss in cats with multiple diseases.
- 3:05 – 3:55 pm** **A Harnessing the Power of Fiber to Manage GI Disease**, *Dr. Valerie Parker* **LS**
 We will begin the discussion reviewing how we can describe different fiber sources. Then we will discuss how to quantify fiber and different situations in which fiber supplementation may prove useful in controlling stool quality. Cases will be used to illustrate points.
- B Navigating Alternative Cat Foods: Intersection Between Cat Needs & Client Preferences**, *Dr. Adronie Verbrugghe* **LS**
 The pet food market continues to evolve with more and more cat food choices available. Moreover, humanization of pets leads to cat caregivers looking for diets that resemble their own. Alternative diets can be commercial or homemade, heat-processed or raw, meat- or plant-based. This session will explore how to navigate alternative diet discussions in the consult room.
- 4:40 – 5:30 pm** **A Nutritional Management of Hypercalcemia**, *Dr. Valerie Parker* **LS**
 We will briefly review the pathophysiology and etiologies of hypercalcemia in cats. We will review various nutritional approaches that have been suggested in the past and then discuss a potential new paradigm shift to manage hypercalcemia in cats.
- B Feeding the Allergic Cat**, *Dr. Sara Ramos* **LS**
 A primary goal of this lecture is to provide a new sense of confidence to attendees on how to design an appropriate diagnostic plan for the pruritic feline patient. This seminar will focus heavily on the dietary and nutritional aspects of feeding allergic patients with a review of food allergies in feline patients. Performing an excellent diagnostic work-up for the pruritic feline patient will allow quicker identification of the primary disease. Subsequently, once the primary disease is identified, appropriate and effective treatment can be prescribed to increase patient comfort and client satisfaction.

Session Abstracts

KEY: **S** BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM **LS** LIVE STREAMED

A TRACK A

B TRACK B

C TRACK C

Schedule is in Central Daylight Time

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

- 7:00 – 7:50 am** **S** **Controlling OA Pain in Cats: Where Do I Start?**, Drs. Joyce Login & Michelle Meyer **LS**
Cats may seem like they're hiding pain, but they're usually telling us plenty if we know their language. Help clients understand the signs of chronic feline osteoarthritis (OA) pain, get familiar with the ways OA affects more than just the joints of older cats—and find out all about how an anti-nerve growth factor (Anti-NGF) monoclonal antibody can control that pain. There will be real-world case studies shared that show before/after videos and give practical ways to get started treating more cats. It's easier than you think!
- 8:00 – 8:50 am** **A** **Nutritional Management of Diabetes Mellitus**, Dr. Audrey Cook **LS**
There is still substantial controversy regarding feeding protocols for cats with diabetes mellitus, along with new concerns about the impact of highly processed foods on pancreatic function. In this session, we will review the evidence behind current recommendations, and discuss the physiological responses of cats to various macronutrient profiles. The role of the incretins in glucose homeostasis and food intake will be summarized, along with the potential impact of advanced glycation end products on islet cell health.
- B** **The Feline Philosophy Behind Diagnosing GI Disease**, Dr. Craig Webb **LS**
This discussion will use cases to highlight fundamental principles—often best expressed by non-veterinarians—that are critical to the successful practice of veterinary medicine. Attendees will learn to recognize and appreciate the critical role that “philosophy” plays in their approach to everyday feline cases.
- C** **Sippin' Through Straws: Taking the Stress Out of Feline Neonate Tube Feeding**, Ellen Carozza **LS**
In this lecture we will go over this necessary and essential skill for technicians and practitioners, and we will troubleshoot common problems and nutrition goals encountered with tube feeding. You'll leave feeling confident and bring back a skill you can use immediately in practice. As a bonus, the speaker will discuss how to properly meet their nutritional needs during a crisis.
- 8:55 – 9:45 am** **A** **Nuanced Nutrition: Calcium Oxalate Urolithiasis**, Dr. Audrey Cook **LS**
Calcium oxalate stones are routinely identified in feline patients and cause considerable morbidity. Dietary modification may reduce stone formation, but the impact of electrolytes such as sodium must be carefully considered. As calcium oxalate urolithiasis is associated with chronic kidney disease, strategies to address both issues will be outlined.
- B** **The Feline Pyramid of Poop**, Dr. Craig Webb **LS**
This discussion will build a pyramid of differentials for feline diarrhea where each layer represents a unique category. The structure emphasizes the steps required to successfully travel from one layer to the next, guided by standard script recognition as well as key features of each level.
- C** **Chew With Your Mouth Closed! Preventing Food Phobias & Fighting at the Dinner Table in the Multi-cat Household**, Ellen Carozza **LS**
Feeding the multi-cat household can be quite the challenge for a family. In this discussion we will go over creating safe, friendly meal environments as well as preventing food aversion from fearful interactions. You will also learn how to deal with common problems with age difference feedings and prescription diets in the home.
- 11:00 – 11:25 am** **A** **Cobalamin: Diagnostic & Therapeutic Implications**, Dr. Audrey Cook **LS**
Vitamin B12 plays a key role in numerous metabolic processes, and deficiency can impact appetite, gastrointestinal tract function, and hematopoiesis. Although hypocobalaminemia is routinely reported in cats with inflammatory or infiltrative bowel disease, various other conditions can also impact serum cobalamin concentrations. In this lecture, the indications for measuring B12 and the implications of subnormal levels will be discussed.
- 11:00 – 12:15 pm** **B** **No Way Out! Constipation, Obstipation, Megacolon: Panel Discussion**, Drs. Adam Rudinsky, Betsy Swanson, & Craig Webb **LS**
This panel discussion will cover all aspects of this serious and stubborn feline condition.
- C** **RECOVER CPR Guideline Updates: Feline Focus**, Ken Yagi **LS**
When patients experience cardiopulmonary arrest (CPA), seconds count. A well-trained and prepared veterinary health care team can mean the difference between life and death when a patient experiences CPA. Once CPA occurs, high quality Basic Life Support (BLS) including chest compressions and ventilation are arguably the most important part of resuscitating the patient. Once chest compressions and ventilation have been started in cats that experience CPA, Advanced Life Support (ALS) interventions can help maximize the chance of achieving return of spontaneous circulation. This lecture will explain key concepts from the newly updated RECOVER 2.0 guidelines and BLS and ALS with a focus on updates related to felines.
- 11:25 – 12:15 pm** **A** **Modifying the Microbiome: The Role of Probiotics in Feline Practice**, Dr. Audrey Cook **LS**
Numerous probiotics products are routinely advocated for a range of diseases and conditions in cats. In this lecture, we will review the evidence to support the use of probiotics and discuss the limitations of our current understanding. We will also establish some ‘best practices’ when reaching for a probiotic, and provide the attendee with solid guidelines regarding when to consider this approach and how to select an appropriate product.

Schedule is in Central Daylight Time

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023

- 12:30 – 1:30 pm**
- L Feline GI Immunity's Inextricable Links to Dietary & Microbiome Components, Dr. Alison Manchester IPO**
The gastrointestinal tract is home to the largest number of immune cells in the body. This organ system is tasked with excluding pathogens while assimilating nutrients. During this hour, we'll take a case-based approach to delve into function and dysfunction within the feline gastrointestinal immune system. Special attention will be devoted to the gut's most influential environmental triggers: the mucosal microbiome and dietary components. Attendees will be presented with data clarifying how and why microbial counterparts and food constituents impact the feline GI tract, as well as with existing evidence for the role of nutritional interventions in cats with chronic enteropathy. The lecture will incorporate basic and clinical research with the goal of providing actionable recommendations to improve management of clinical cases.
 - L Why is This Kitty Skinny? What Should I Do About It?, Dr. Jessica Pritchard IPO**
Participants will learn to differentiate sarcopenia from cachexia and interventions to help cats losing weight. We'll discuss the most common disease processes leading to weight loss in cats, how to diagnose them, and how to help cats gain weight back. Pharmacologic interventions will be the main focus, with a brief discussion of assisted feeding techniques as well.
 - L Let's Get Digital: How Smart Pet Tech Can Make a Big Impact on Cat Care, Dr. Sheryl Gamble IPO**
Millennial and Gen Z clients are now the largest segment of pet caregivers. A recent study shows that this new generation of caregivers view their pet as a part of the family and are willing to spend more money on them than previous generations. As digital natives, this segment of pet caregivers seek out technology to solve common issues, including for their health and pets. The Sure Petcare feline line of microchip and app connected technologies seeks to bridge the gap between pet caregivers, pet health, and best medical practice in the veterinary clinic while also solving for common issues in multi-cat households.
- 1:40 – 2:30 pm**
- A Management of Liver Disease, Dr. Adam Rudinsky LS**
What tools are available for management of liver disease? Are we using them correctly? In this lecture, we will review the most common medications, dietary approaches, and other supplements used for liver disease management and treatment in cats. This discussion will include evidence-based analysis of the management strategies we reach for in our hospital pharmacies. We will also discuss how these therapies apply to the most prevalent differentials in feline chronic liver disease.
 - B Diagnostic Testing in Feline Chronic Enteropathy Demonstrates Evolution from Inflammatory Bowel Disease to Intestinal Lymphoma, Dr. Anne Avery LS**
The most common form of feline inflammatory bowel disease is characterized by epitheliotropic T lymphocytes. A diagnosis of lymphoma is made when these cells are present in high concentrations or cause disruption of mucosal architecture, or both. Although not formally demonstrated by a longitudinal study, these two diseases are almost certainly a continuum. The point at which the disease transitions from inflammation to neoplasia is difficult to detect by histology alone. Other testing, including clonality assessment with the PARR assay and detection of the STAT5B mutation, may be useful for clarifying histology, but ultimately the utility of these diagnostics will be determined by their ability to predict outcome. In this talk, data from multiple types of diagnostic testing will be presented to support the hypothesis that inflammatory bowel disease and lymphoma are a continuum. The principles behind different tests, their relationship to one another, and their ability to predict outcomes will also be discussed.
 - C Nursing & Nutrition for the Critical Feline Patient Who Just Won't Eat!, Dr. Ashlie Saffire LS**
Nutritional support for the critically ill is an important part of nursing hospitalized patients and prompt intervention is crucial to recovery. In this discussion we will review helpful nursing techniques for anorexic hospitalized patients. Improving the hospitalization environment to reduce stress, recognizing signs of pain and nausea, in addition to placement and use of enteral feeding tubes will be discussed.
- 3:15 – 4:05 pm**
- A Liver & Biliary System: Peri-Operative Care, Surgical Evaluation, & Diagnostic Sampling, Dr. Betsy Swanson LS**
This presentation will discuss presurgical workup, perioperative considerations, common surgical liver diseases, and indications and techniques for obtaining liver biopsies in cats. We will also review normal feline biliary tract anatomy and biliary diseases, how to evaluate the biliary system during surgery, how to collect a bile sample, and when to refer for surgery.
 - B The Role of Microbiome: Supporting, Immune Modulating, & Stress Lessening Probiotics in GI Diseases, Dr. Michael Lappin LS**
Research evaluating the clinical effects of probiotics and synbiotics used in cats is ongoing. In this session, data supporting the use of certain probiotics to lessen stress, stabilize the GI microbiome, and modulate the immune system in cats will be presented. Emphasis will be placed on commercially available probiotics and clinical uses.
 - C Discussing Diabetes Mellitus: Empowering Technicians, Ken Yagi LS**
Become the diabetes Tech Champion of your clinic. From the first interaction you have with a pet caregivers to the diabetes conversation after diagnosis and throughout the long-term care of a diabetic pet, this presentation will empower you to support pet caregivers as they embark on the diabetes journey.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023 continued

4:10 – 5:00 pm

A **Interpreting Liver Biopsies**, *Dr. Adam Rudinsky* **LS**

The liver biopsy is the elusive, holy grail of hepatic diagnostics. But as clinicians, what are we looking for and when? In this lecture, we will review when a liver biopsy is most useful and worth the investment of time and patient involvement. We will discuss the most useful findings and differentials obtained from liver biopsies related to feline chronic liver disease. And more importantly, how to effectively translate this information into an action plan for our patients. In a world where convincing caregivers to biopsy the liver is a challenge, we will emphasize evidence-based justification for this procedure so that we can utilize it appropriately, confidently, safely, and judiciously.

B **Update on the Diagnosis & Management of Infectious GI Diseases**, *Dr. Michael Lappin* **LS**

There are multiple bacterial, parasitic, and viral agents associated with vomiting or diarrhea in cats. In this session, updates on many of the most common infections will be presented. Emphasis will be placed on newer diagnostic tests and newer treatments. Prevention will also be discussed for most agents.

C **Practical Application of Feline Emergency Transfusions**, *Ken Yagi* **LS**

The ability to perform transfusions in an emergency is a lifesaving form of treatment today. When it comes to feline patients, the story becomes complicated and faces practical challenges. Having enough of the correct type of blood can be a practical limitation in providing care. Application of transfusion medicine involves determining when transfusions are truly needed, compatibility testing, and careful administration. The option of transfusing dog blood into cats has been an emergency maneuver more veterinary practitioners are depending on to provide the needed red blood cells. We will explore the facts surrounding feline transfusions including the most recent evidence.

5:00 – 5:30 pm

Cat Friendly Practice®: Because You're Worth It

If you are looking for a proven way to improve cat caregiver satisfaction, bring more cats into your practice for healthcare, and improve your team dynamic when handling and caring for cats, the Cat Friendly Practice Program is for you! Please join us to learn how to improve your practices' bottom line, your teams' safety and happiness at work while we discuss the Cat Friendly Practice Program and the small changes you can make to achieve this designation.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023

7:00 – 7:50 am

S **Feline Constipation: Updates on Acute & Chronic Treatment Modalities**, *Dr. Ashlie Saffire* **LS**

Join us for a comprehensive discussion on acute and chronic management strategies for feline constipation. Techniques including the use of polyethylene glycol (PEG 3350) administered at a constant rate infusion via nasoesophageal tube in the acutely obstipated patient will be shared. Additionally, we will discuss how the use of fiber and diet therapy can help with chronic management and prevention.

7:30 – 10:00 am

W **Cat Friendly Interactions & Handling Workshop**, *Dr. Ilona Rodan* **IPO**

Cat Friendly veterinary interactions and handling increase human safety, team and client satisfaction, appointment efficiency, feline veterinary visits, and patient welfare. The goal is to understand the cat, both as a species and individual, and tailor the exam to each cat by appropriately responding to their emotional state and behavioral responses. As the stress of veterinary visits starts and ends at home, an important component of our care is cooperative care, partnering with caregivers to create feline positive emotional associations with the carrier and veterinary care. Working cooperatively with cats to increase physical and emotional health makes cats safer and easier to work with, resulting in appointments being completed more quickly and reducing the numbers of personnel needed. This hands-on workshop will begin with an updated summary presentation to help understand cats and why certain handling techniques work best. This will be followed by a breakout into small groups with demonstration of multiple techniques by Dr. Rodan; each attendee will then have the opportunity to apply those techniques utilizing live cats. This session requires separate registration. Read more on page 23.

8:00 – 8:50 am

A **Approach to the Vomiting Cat: Causes, Treatment, & Management**, *Dr. Adam Rudinsky* **LS**

Do all cats vomit? That is the common misconception amongst many caregivers, as well as some veterinarians. We will start the discussion of this topic with a review of the scope of the problem and how prevalent vomiting is for cats. Following that, we will discuss the more frequently overlooked causes of vomiting, how they are diagnosed, and how they are treated. This is a large world of differentials well beyond chronic inflammatory enteropathies and small cell lymphoma!

B **Stem Cells in Feline GI Disease**, *Dr. Craig Webb* **LS**

The basic but fascinating biology of feline adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells will be discussed as it relates to cats: where they come from, what they can do, what has been done with them so far, what might we do with them, and what might you do with them.

8:55 – 9:45 am

A **Approach to Diarrhea in Kittens**, *Dr. Adam Rudinsky* **LS**

In this seminar, we will review pediatric feline diarrhea management and major roadblocks in addressing this frustrating clinical scenario. This lecture will prioritize fundamental diagnostics and empirical treatments which can be utilized based on current literature and new findings from recent research. A special focus will be made on the vast array of infectious diseases and associated diagnostics targeted in early life gastrointestinal disease.

B **Diagnostic Dilemmas: The History, Mystery, & Bemoaning of Feline Triaditis**, *Dr. Craig Webb* **LS**

Although the education of veterinarians is designed in 50-minute blocks as if diseases occur one-at-a-time and are clearly labelled, nothing could be further from the truth. Cats are the poster child for comorbidities, with Feline Triaditis being a classic representation of this phenomenon.

Schedule is in Central Daylight Time

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 continued

- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A Feline Pancreatic Disease: Familiar Friends & Missed Connections**, *Dr. Adam Rudinsky* **LS**
 In this lecture, we will review inflammatory pancreatic disease (e.g., pancreatitis) in cats as well as underrecognized disease of the pancreas (e.g., feline exocrine pancreatic insufficiency) with an emphasis on achieving a diagnosis and proper case management. We are all familiar with pancreatitis and in the first half of this lecture we will review current updates in diagnosis and management of this syndrome. In the second half of the lecture, we will focus on the often overlooked exocrine disorder of the pancreas and how it deviates from many clinician's 'classic' view of the disorder.
- B Feline Chronic Enteropathy**, *Dr. Craig Webb* **LS**
 This discussion will focus on a few of the more rare and more recent entries into the recognized group of Feline Chronic Enteropathies, but most of our focus will be on inflammatory bowel disease versus low-grade alimentary lymphoma. Attendees will learn what we know about diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment, as well as what we don't know.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A Approach to the Yellow Cat**, *Dr. Adam Rudinsky* **LS**
 In this lecture, we will review the most common causes of chronic liver disease in cats with an evidence-based emphasis on empirical management strategies. We will discuss the most prevalent, concerning, and important differentials related to feline chronic liver disease and how to effectively translate this information into empirical management plans for chronic liver patients. In a world where convincing caregivers to biopsy the liver is a challenge, we will demystify the empirical 'without biopsy' approach to liver patients in a practical patient-centered approach.
- B FMT: What's Coming Down the Pipeline**, *Dr. Craig Webb* **LS**
 The "Microbiome" is all the rage, seemingly responsible for most every ailment known to the veterinary profession. So it is no surprise that Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) is rising out of the litter box and into our practice at a rapid rate. This discussion will help attendees appreciate the potential, put together a recipe, and critically consider the paucity of evidence behind the magic that is FMT.
- 12:40 – 1:40 pm** **L Elevate Your Practice's Feline Wellness at Every Life Stage**, *Dr. Matt McGlasson* **IPO**
 Today's feline caregivers want the absolute best for their cats. Is your practicing doing enough? In this lecture, we will discuss important touch points and messaging for every life stage of our feline patients. Cats make our lives so much better—let's elevate the care that we provide!
- L Cats Don't Read Textbooks: The Conundrums of Diagnosing Feline Hyperthyroidism**, *Dr. Kelly St. Denis* **IPO**
 We all know *that* cat. The total T4 is a little bit high, but there are no clinical signs. Or maybe the T4 is normal, but the clinical picture fits with feline hyperthyroidism. Perhaps there are comorbidities which are complicating the diagnosis. Sometimes a diagnosis of feline hyperthyroidism can be straight forward, but at times we are left with 'that cat,' trying to sort out what to do next. In this seminar, we will explore diagnostic dilemmas with feline hyperthyroidism including how to use additional testing to navigate our way through the diagnostic maze. We will also look at case management, with or without comorbidities.
- L Don't Sugar Coat It: Treatment Options for the Diabetic Cat**, *Dr. Cynthia Ward* **IPO**
 Treatment of the diabetic cat can be a challenge to caregivers and veterinarians. This talk will focus on options available for successful diabetic management in the cat. Different approaches to treatment will be discussed and appropriate clinical cases will be highlighted.
- 1:45 – 2:35 pm** **A Emerging or Just Ignored: Ductal Plate Malformations**, *Dr. Adam Rudinsky* **LS**
 In this lecture, we will discuss one of the emerging diseases in feline liver disease, ductal plate malformations. Are they really new? Or are we just now understanding the scope of what they are? Here we will discuss what types of ductal plate malformations are recognized and how they may be impacting some of our most challenging and refractory liver patients.
- B The Vomiting Cat: Probing for Answers in the Older Cat**, *Dr. Jennifer Babineaux* **LS**
 This session will cover using ultrasound to diagnose the underlying causes of vomiting in the older cat, focusing on chronic enteropathies and neoplasia. The session will review the ultrasound appearance of the normal feline gastrointestinal system and contrast normal with changes observed on ultrasound in cats with chronic enteropathies and gastrointestinal neoplasia. Attendees will feel more confident in utilizing ultrasound to assist in the diagnosis of chronic enteropathies and gastrointestinal neoplasia.
- 2:40 – 3:30 pm** **A Feline Gastrointestinal Eosinophilic Sclerosing Fibroplasia**, *Dr. Petra Cerna* **LS**
 Feline gastrointestinal eosinophilic sclerosing fibroplasia (FGESF) is a recently described disease in cats that presents as eosinophilic mass(es) that are associated with the gastrointestinal tract and abdominal lymph nodes, most commonly near the pylorus or ileocolic junction. This disease is most commonly seen in middle-aged cats of all breeds with Ragdolls being overrepresented. This lecture will focus on presenting the most common clinicopathological findings in cats with FGESF as well as diagnosis of this disease. Last but not least, it will cover possible treatments and outcome of cats with FGESF.
- B The Vomiting Cat: Probing for Answers in the Younger Cat**, *Dr. Jennifer Babineaux* **LS**
 This session will cover using ultrasound to diagnose the underlying causes of vomiting in the younger cat, focusing on acute causes of vomiting. Attendees will develop a solid understanding of when to choose radiographs vs. ultrasound as an imaging modality in cases of acute vomiting. Attendees will feel more confident in utilizing ultrasound to assist in the diagnosis of gastric or intestinal foreign bodies, acute gastroenteritis, intussusception, and acute pancreatitis.