



Whiskers and Wisdom:
**Senior Care, Endocrinology, Infectious
Disease, & Latest Feline Innovations**

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION BROCHURE

A close-up photograph of a tabby cat lying down on a wooden surface. The cat is looking towards the camera with a calm expression. The lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the texture of the cat's fur and the grain of the wood.

September 24 – 27, 2026

**Broward County Convention Center
Fort Lauderdale, FL**

www.catvets.com/conference2026

Platinum Partnership Sponsors



Early Career Veterinarian Scholarship Program; Veterinary Technician Scholarship Award Program; Feline Veterinarian Bootcamp for New Graduates; Speed Rounds: Essential Tips for Pancreatitis, Obesity, & UTIs in the Diabetic Cat, Dr. Kelly St. Denis; What is New in Insulin Therapy & its Monitoring, Drs. Alisa Berg, Chen Gilor, & Jennifer Salpeter; What is on the Horizon for Diabetic Management?, Drs. Alisa Berg, Chen Gilor, & Jennifer Salpeter; Technician: Multicat Feeding Homes, Ellen Carozza, LVT; Technician: Tube Feeding Kittens, Ellen Carozza, LVT; Breakfast Symposium - The New Feline Diabetes Mellitus: Transformations in Patient Care, Dr. Kelly St. Denis



Hands-on Feline Orthopedic Evaluation Workshop, Drs. Duncan Lascelles & Margaret Gruen; Monoclonal Antibodies in Feline Medicine: History, Evolution, & Emerging Therapeutic Targets, Drs. Hazel Carney, Ralph Harvey, Jenna Hunter & Tracey Deiss; Silent Struggles: Recognizing Pain & Mobility Changes in Cats, Dr. Margaret Gruen; Lunch & Learn - Feline Gait & Orthopedic Evaluations, Dr. Duncan Lascelles; Lunch & Learn - Clinical Workups with Innovative Diagnostics, Drs. Luca Giori & Eric Morissette; Breakfast Symposium - Unpacking Feline CKD - Today's Realities, Tomorrow's Directions, Drs. Hazel Carney & Tracey Deiss



Thursday Welcome Reception; Conference Water Bottles, Student Social; Lunch & Learn - HCM: From Detection to Intervention, Dr. Jose Novo Matos

Diamond Partnership Sponsor



Pre-conference Day Early Morning Learning Sessions – Under Pressure: Best Practices in Diagnosing & Managing Feline Hypertension, Dr. Mark Acierno & Cyclosporine's Role in Dermatologic Peacekeeping, Dr. Domenico Santoro; Technician: Understanding Protective Emotions! De-escalating Situations & Sedation in Cats, Ellen Carozza, LVT; Technician: Designing a Cat-centric Veterinary Experience, Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT; Cupcakes for Cats Networking Refreshment Break; Inspiration Station Breakout Room

Gold Partnership Sponsors



Workshop: Veterinarian & Technician Dental Wet Lab, Dr. Jan Bellows; Diagnosis of Hyperthyroidism: More Than Just Measuring T4, Dr. Mark Peterson; The Hyperthyroid Cat with Concurrent Nonthyroidal Illness: Complications in Diagnosis & Management, Dr. Mark Peterson; Senior Cats: Cachexia, Sarcopenia, & Other Muscle Wasting Syndromes, Dr. Mark Peterson; The Fungal Side of Cats, Dr. Petra Cerna



Lunch & Learn - Decoding the Feline Patient: Stories Told by Blood Cells & the Hidden Clues of SDMA, Drs. Christine Bohn Kirnos, Alicia Dudley, & Natalee Holt; Dispersing the Myth of Absolute Certainty: How to Interpret the Results of Endocrine Tests - Part 1 & 2, Drs. Chen Gilor & Shir Gilor; The Modern Shelter Cat: Bridging Shelter Medicine & Primary Care, Dr. Alyssa Comroe; Caring for the Older Shelter Cat: Medical Management, Welfare Needs, & Adoption Strategies, Dr. Alyssa Comroe; FeLV & FIV in Focus, Dr. Petra Cerna



Lunch & Learn - Case-based Approach to the Critical Feline Patient with GI Disease, Dr. Ashlie Saffire & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT; Managing Hyperthyroidism: Tailoring Treatment to the Individual Cat, Dr. Mark Peterson; Technician: Taming the Thyroid: Supporting Hyperthyroid Cats in Clinical Practice, Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT; Conference Wi-Fi in the Convention Center

Silver Partnership Sponsors



Lunch & Learn - Senior Cats & Hidden Disease, Dr. Diane Delmain; Monitoring & Troubleshooting SGLT2i Therapy, Dr. Cynthia Ward; Feline Diabetic Ketoacidosis: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, & Evidence-based Management, Dr. Christopher Byers; The American Heartworm Society Feline Guidelines: What Has Changed, What Has Stayed the Same, & Why, Dr. Andy Moorhead; Cats Get Worms Too, Dr. Andy Moorhead



What Have We Learned About SGLT2i Therapy in the Last Three Years?, Dr. Cynthia Ward; Lunch & Learn - Hot Topics in Feline Infectious Diseases, Dr. Michael Lappin



Lunch & Learn - A Dietary Combination of Antioxidants, Linoleic Acid, & a Prebiotic Maintained Kidney Function During Age-related Decline in Senior Cats: A Retrospective, Longitudinal Study, Dr. Erin Bryan; Benefits & Risks of Cat Ownership: MD & DVM Perspectives, Drs. Peter Karczmar & Michael Lappin; Nourishing the Senior Cat: Priorities, Pitfalls, & Practical Plans, Dr. Julie Churchill; When Conditions Collide: Choosing Therapeutic Diet Plans for Cats with Comorbidities, Dr. Julie Churchill

Bronze Partnership Sponsors



Pre-conference Day Food for Thought Luncheon - Are Cats Social? Using Science to Support Cat-Human Relationships & Promote Wellbeing, Dr. Monique A. R. Udell



Friday Morning Breakfast



Lunch & Learn - Raising the Bar on Feline Visits: Advancing Patient Welfare Through Cat-centered Care, Dr. Petra Cerna



Badge Lanyards, A Quarter Century of Research: Cellular Therapy for Cats & What It Means for Clinical Practice Today, Dr. Tracy Webb



Friday Happy Hour Reception; Saturday Afternoon Coffee Break



Three Morning Coffee Breaks; Technician: Sleepless in Scrubs: My Cat Sleeps Fine – Why Can't I?, Dr. Peter Karczmar; Technician: Optimizing Veterinary Technician Utilization in Clinical Practice, Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT; Technician: Designing a Cat's World: Helping Clients Build a Behaviorally Healthy Home, Dr. Tiffany Tupper

Conference Sponsors



Notepads & Pens



Registration Pop-up Event



Feline Ultrasound in Action: Case-based POCUS & Guided Sampling Workshops, Drs. Lacie Lee & Ashlie Saffire



The Mysterious FIP: Clinical Signs & Diagnosis, Dr. Petra Cerna; Purrfecting Your Therapy for FIP, Dr. Petra Cerna



Friday Happy Hour Reception



Friday Happy Hour Reception



Technician: Weigh In & Win: Teamwork for Feline Obesity Prevention & Management, Dr. Julie Churchill; Technician: Kitten Nutrition from the Queen to the Neonate, Ellen Carozza, LVT



Technician: Purrfectly Connected: Using Technology to Strengthen Cat-Caregiver-Vet Partnerships, Ellen Carozza, LVT



Friday Happy Hour Reception & Shelter Toy Stuffing Station



The Heart of the Matter: Guiding Euthanasia Choices Through Quality of Life Assessments, Dr. Mary Gardner; The Art, Science, & Beauty of Euthanasia - Part 1 & 2, Dr. Mary Gardner



Collaborative Cancer Care: Staging of the Cancer Patient Prior to Referral, Dr. Megan Yanos; Radiation Therapy of Neoplastic & Non-Neoplastic Conditions in the Cat, Dr. G. Neal Mauldin



Technician: From Grief to Gratitude: The Role of Aftercare & Memorialization in Client Loyalty & Healing, Dr. Mary Gardner; Technician: Caregiving Burden: Navigating the Strain of Caring for a Dying Pet, Dr. Mary Gardner

Conference Partners



Pre-conference Day*

Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ROOM	SPONSOR/ PARTNER
7:45 - 11:45 am	Workshop 1: Hands-on Feline Orthopedic Evaluation Workshop**	Drs. Duncan Lascelles & Margaret Gruen	252 B&C	
9:00 am - 4:30 pm	Bootcamp: Feline Veterinarian Bootcamp for New Graduates**	Drs. Lacie Lee, Autumn McBride, & Ashlie Saffire	250 C	

PRE-CONFERENCE DAY*

Early Morning Learning Sessions				
9:30 - 10:20 am	Under Pressure: Best Practices in Diagnosing & Managing Feline Hypertension	Dr. Mark Acierno	Atlantic Ballroom C	
10:25 - 11:15 am	Calming the Cat: Cyclosporine's Role in Dermatologic Peacekeeping	Dr. Domenico Santoro	Atlantic Ballroom C	
11:20 - 11:50 am	Speed Rounds: Essential Tips for Pancreatitis, Obesity, & UTIs in the Diabetic Cat	Dr. Kelly St. Denis	Atlantic Ballroom C	
Food for Thought Luncheon				
12:15 - 1:05 pm	Are Cats Social? Using Science to Support Cat-Human Relationships & Promote Wellbeing	Dr. Monique A. R. Udell	Atlantic Ballroom C	
Seminar & Social				
1:20 - 2:50 pm	Benefits & Risks of Cat Ownership: MD & DVM Perspectives	Drs. Peter Karczmar & Michael Lappin	Atlantic Ballroom C	 
Refreshment Break				
2:50 - 3:20 pm			Atlantic Ballroom Foyer	
3:20 - 4:10 pm	A Quarter Century of Research: Cellular Therapy for Cats & What It Means for Clinical Practice Today	Dr. Tracy Webb	Atlantic Ballroom C	
4:15 - 5:05 pm	Monoclonal Antibodies in Feline Medicine: History, Evolution, & Emerging Therapeutic Targets	Drs. Hazel Carney, Ralph Harvey, Jenna Hunter; Moderator: Dr. Tracey Deiss	Atlantic Ballroom C	
5:05 - 5:30 pm	Speaker Q&A	Drs. Hazel Carney, Ralph Harvey, Jenna Hunter, Peter Karczmar, Michael Lappin, Tracy Webb	Atlantic Ballroom C	
5:30 - 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception <i>All attendees invited</i>		Convention Center Plaza	

*Pre-conference Day Registration Required for In-person Attendees. Additional fees apply.

Sessions and speakers are subject to change.


**Separate Registration Required from Pre-conference Day. Additional fees apply.

Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ROOM	SPONSOR/ PARTNER
7:00 - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast		Atlantic Ballroom Foyer	
7:45 - 8:15 am	President's Address	Dr. Hazel Carney	Atlantic Ballroom A	
8:15 - 9:30 am	Diagnosis of Hyperthyroidism: More Than Just Measuring T4	Dr. Mark Peterson	Atlantic Ballroom A	
9:30 - 11:00 am	Networking Refreshment Break		Exhibit Hall	
9:30 - 10:30 am	Student Social: <i>All Students & Faculty Advisors Invited to Attend</i>		252 A	
11:00 - 11:50 am	Managing Hyperthyroidism: Tailoring Treatment to the Individual Cat	Dr. Mark Peterson	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Nourishing the Senior Cat: Priorities, Pitfalls, & Practical Plans	Dr. Julie Churchill	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Feline Fine 101: Understanding Protective Emotions! De-escalating Situations & Sedation in Cats	Ellen Carozza, LVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
11:55 - 12:45 pm	The Hyperthyroid Cat with Concurrent Nonthyroidal Illness: Complications in Diagnosis & Management	Dr. Mark Peterson	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	When Conditions Collide: Choosing Therapeutic Diet Plans for Cats with Comorbidities	Dr. Julie Churchill	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> More Than a Warm Lap: Enrichment Strategies for Aging Cats	Dr. Margaret Gruen	Atlantic Ballroom C	
12:45 - 2:10 pm	Lunch		Exhibit Hall	
1:10 - 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #1*</i> : Senior Cats & Hidden Disease: The Impact of Early Detection	Dr. Diane Delmain	250 A&B	
1:10 - 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #2*</i> : Decoding the Feline Patient: Stories Told by Blood Cells & the Hidden Clues of SDMA	Drs. Christine Bohn Kirnos, Alicia Dudley, & Natalee Holt	251 A&B	
1:10 - 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #3*</i> : Purr-formance Check: Expert Insights on Feline Gait & Orthopedic Evaluations	Dr. Duncan Lascelles	253 A&B	
2:10 - 4:10 pm	Workshop 2: Feline Ultrasound in Action: Case-based POCUS & Guided Sampling Workshop**	Drs. Lacie Lee & Ashlie Saffire	252 B&C	
2:00 - 4:00 pm	Oral Abstract Presentations (<i>more information coming soon</i>)		Atlantic Ballroom D	
2:10 - 3:00 pm	What is New in Insulin Therapy & its Monitoring	Drs. Alisa Berg, Chen Gilor, & Jennifer Salpeter	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	The Heart of the Matter: Guiding Euthanasia Choices Through Quality of Life Assessments	Dr. Mary Gardner	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Weigh In & Win: Teamwork for Feline Obesity Prevention & Management	Dr. Julie Churchill	Atlantic Ballroom C	
3:05 - 3:55 pm	What is on the Horizon for Diabetic Management?	Drs. Alisa Berg, Chen Gilor, & Jennifer Salpeter	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Silent Struggles: Recognizing Pain & Mobility Changes in Cats	Dr. Margaret Gruen	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Kitten Nutrition from the Queen to the Neonate	Ellen Carozza, LVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
3:55 - 4:40 pm	Cupcakes for Cats Networking Refreshment Break & Poster Session Opens		Exhibit Hall	
4:40 - 5:30 pm	Conn's Syndrome & Addison's Disease	Dr. Chen Gilor	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Not Just Getting Old: Feline Cognitive Dysfunction Explained	Dr. Margaret Gruen	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Sleepless in Scrubs: My Cat Sleeps Fine – Why Can't I?	Dr. Peter Karczmar	Atlantic Ballroom C	
5:30 - 6:45 pm	Happy Hour Reception		Exhibit Hall	

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Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ROOM	SPONSOR/ PARTNER
6:45 - 8:00 am	Breakfast		Atlantic Ballroom Foyer	
7:15 - 8:05 am	<i>Breakfast Symposium: From Meow to Now: Unpacking Feline CKD - Today's Realities, Tomorrow's Directions</i>	Drs. Hazel Carney & Tracey Deiss	Atlantic Ballroom A	
8:00 - 11:00 am	Workshop 3: Feline Euthanasia Techniques Workshop**	Dr. Kathleen Cooney	260 B	
8:15 - 9:05 am	Dispersing the Myth of Absolute Certainty: How to Interpret the Results of Endocrine Tests - Part 1	Drs. Chen Gilor & Shir Gilor	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Monitoring & Troubleshooting SGLT2i Therapy	Dr. Cynthia Ward	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Purrfectly Connected: Using Technology to Strengthen Cat-Caregiver-Vet Partnerships	Ellen Carozza, LVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
9:10 - 10:00 am	Dispersing the Myth of Absolute Certainty: How to Interpret the Results of Endocrine Tests - Part 2	Drs. Chen Gilor & Shir Gilor	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	What Have We Learned About SGLT2i Therapy in the Last Three Years?	Dr. Cynthia Ward	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Multicat Feeding Homes	Ellen Carozza, LVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
10:00 - 11:15 am	Networking Refreshment Break		Exhibit Hall	
10:10 - 10:35 am	FelineVMA Membership Meeting	FelineVMA Board	Atlantic Ballroom C	
10:40 - 11:05 am	ABVP: The Next Level	Dr. Tina Hall	Atlantic Ballroom C	
11:15 - 12:10 pm	Uncovering the Mystery of Feline Fever	Dr. Petra Cerna	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	What to do with the Acromegalic or Cushingoid Diabetic Cat	Dr. Cynthia Ward	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Tube Feeding Kittens	Ellen Carozza, LVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
12:10 - 1:35 pm	Lunch		Exhibit Hall	
12:35 - 1:25 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #1*:</i> Case-based Approach to the Critical Feline Patient with GI Disease	Dr. Ashlie Saffire & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	250 A&B	
12:35 - 1:25 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #2*:</i> Shifting Paradigms in Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: From Detection to Intervention	Dr. Jose Novo Matos	251 A&B	
12:35 - 1:25 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #3*:</i> A Dietary Combination of Antioxidants, Linoleic Acid, & a Probiotic Maintained Kidney Function During Age-related Decline in Senior Cats: A Retrospective, Longitudinal Study	Dr. Erin Bryan	253 A&B	
1:35 - 2:30 pm	Diagnosis & Management of Iatrogenic Hypothyroidism in Cats	Dr. Mark Peterson	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Feline Diabetic Ketoacidosis: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, & Evidence-based Management	Dr. Christopher Byers	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Dealing with Infectious Cats in the Hospital	Ellen Carozza, LVT & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
2:30 - 3:15 pm	Networking Refreshment Break		Exhibit Hall	
2:45 - 3:10 pm	Timely Topics Technician Edition: Pathway to Feline VTS	Ellen Carozza, LVT & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Workshop 4: Feline Ultrasound in Action: Case-based POCUS & Guided Sampling Workshop**	Drs. Lacie Lee & Ashlie Saffire	252 B&C	
3:15 - 4:05 pm	Spontaneous Hypothyroidism in Cats: Underdiagnosed, Undertreated, & Underappreciated	Dr. Mark Peterson	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Immune-mediated Hemolytic Anemia in Cats: Diagnostic Approach & Therapeutic Principles	Dr. Christopher Byers	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Optimizing Veterinary Technician Utilization in Clinical Practice	Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
4:10 - 5:00 pm	Senior Cats: Cachexia, Sarcopenia, & Other Muscle Wasting Syndromes	Dr. Mark Peterson	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Shock & Fluid Therapy in Cats: Recognition, Monitoring, & Clinical Decision-making	Dr. Christopher Byers	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician:</i> Designing a Cat-centric Veterinary Experience	Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	

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Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

TIME	SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ROOM	SPONSOR/ PARTNER
6:45 - 8:00 am	Breakfast		Atlantic Ballroom Foyer	
7:00 - 7:50 am	<i>Breakfast Symposium: The New Feline Diabetes Mellitus: Transformations in Patient Care</i>	Dr. Kelly St. Denis	Atlantic Ballroom A	
8:00 - 4:45 pm	Workshop 5: Veterinarian & Technician Dental Wet Lab**	Dr. Jan Bellows	Offsite - Weston, FL	
8:00 - 8:50 am	The Modern Shelter Cat: Bridging Shelter Medicine & Primary Care	Dr. Alyssa Comroe	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	The Mysterious FIP: Clinical Signs & Diagnosis	Dr. Petra Cerna	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician: From Grief to Gratitude: The Role of Aftercare & Memorialization in Client Loyalty & Healing</i>	Dr. Mary Gardner	Atlantic Ballroom C	
8:55 - 9:45 am	Caring for the Older Shelter Cat: Medical Management, Welfare Needs, & Adoption Strategies	Dr. Alyssa Comroe	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Purrfecting Your Therapy for FIP	Dr. Petra Cerna	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician: Caregiving Burden: Navigating the Strain of Caring for a Dying Pet</i>	Dr. Mary Gardner	Atlantic Ballroom C	
9:45 - 10:45 am	Networking Refreshment Break		Exhibit Hall	
10:45 - 11:35 am	The Art, Science, & Beauty of Euthanasia - Part 1	Dr. Mary Gardner	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	FelV & FIV in Focus	Dr. Petra Cerna	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician: Taming the Thyroid: Supporting Hyperthyroid Cats in Clinical Practice</i>	Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
11:40 - 12:30 pm	The Art, Science, & Beauty of Euthanasia - Part 2	Dr. Mary Gardner	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	The Fungal Side of Cats	Dr. Petra Cerna	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician: Common Feline Medical Cases: Nursing Skills & Treatments</i>	Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
12:30 - 1:45 pm	Lunch		Exhibit Hall	
12:45 - 1:35 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #1*: "What Is It?" to "What Next?": New Ways to Simplify Clinical Workups with Innovative Diagnostics</i>	Drs. Luca Giori & Eric Morissette	250 A&B	
12:45 - 1:35 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #2*: Raising the Bar on Feline Visits: Advancing Patient Welfare Through Cat-centered Care</i>	Dr. Petra Cerna	251 A&B	
12:45 - 1:35 pm	<i>Lunch & Learn #3*: Hot Topics in Feline Infectious Diseases</i>	Dr. Michael Lappin	253 A&B	
1:45 - 2:35 pm	Collaborative Cancer Care: Staging of the Cancer Patient Prior to Referral	Dr. Megan Yanos	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	The American Heartworm Society Feline Guidelines: What Has Changed, What Has Stayed the Same, & Why	Dr. Andy Moorhead	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician: Supporting the Sedated: Anesthetic Insights for Techs</i>	Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT	Atlantic Ballroom C	
2:40 - 3:30 pm	Radiation Therapy of Neoplastic & Non-Neoplastic Conditions in the Cat	Dr. G. Neal Maldin	Atlantic Ballroom A	
	Cats Get Worms Too	Dr. Andy Moorhead	Atlantic Ballroom B	
	<i>Technician: Designing a Cat's World: Helping Clients Build a Behaviorally Healthy Home</i>	Dr. Tiffany Tupler	Atlantic Ballroom C	
3:30 pm	Conclusion of Conference			

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 – PRE-CONFERENCE DAY

- 7:45 – 11:45 am** **W Hands-on Feline Orthopedic Evaluation Workshop**, *Drs. Duncan Lascelles & Margaret Gruen*
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 your cat caregivers. Review tools and protocols to optimize outcomes for your feline osteoarthritic patients.
- 9:00 – 4:30 pm** **F Feline Veterinarian Bootcamp for New Graduates**, *Drs. Lacie Lee, Autumn McBride, & Ashlie Saffire*
Jumpstart your career in feline medicine with our hands-on full-day Bootcamp designed for recent veterinarian graduates. Gain real-world experience, learn from leading experts, and connect with like-minded peers. Navigating the path to a diagnosis, and subsequent management and treatment, involves critical thinking and methodically working through cases. Build confidence in diagnosing and managing common feline conditions through guided, practical training—setting you up for success in a collaborative, supportive environment. Learn more on page 17.
- 9:30 – 10:20 am** **Under Pressure: Best Practices in Diagnosing & Managing Feline Hypertension**, *Dr. Mark Acierno*
This course provides a clinically relevant overview of hypertension in feline practice, with emphasis on identifying at-risk patients, recognizing target organ damage, and implementing practical diagnostic and therapeutic strategies. Attendees will review current concepts in blood pressure measurement, interpretation of results in the clinical setting, and evidence-informed treatment approaches. This session is designed to enhance confidence in managing hypertensive patients and improving patient outcomes.
- 10:25 – 11:15 am** **Calming the Cat: Cyclosporine's Role in Dermatologic Peacekeeping**, *Dr. Domenico Santoro*
During this session, the attendee will become more familiar with clinical presentations of atopic skin syndrome in cats and explore the options for the treatment of allergies in cats. Finally, we will discuss becoming familiar with the clinical benefits and contraindications of cyclosporine in allergic cats.
- 11:20 – 11:50 pm** **Speed Rounds: Essential Tips for Pancreatitis, Obesity, & UTIs in the Diabetic Cat**, *Dr. Kelly St. Denis*
Feline diabetes mellitus is rarely a one-and-done treatable condition. Comorbidities are common and can negatively impact disease management. Pancreatitis, obesity, and urinary tract infections are commonly linked with, sometimes contribute to, and often complicate feline diabetes mellitus. In this session, we will examine the impact of these common diabetic comorbidities with a practical approach to successful management.
- 12:15 – 1:05 pm** **Are Cats Social? Using Science to Support Cat-Human Relationships & Promote Wellbeing**, *Dr. Monique A. R. Udell*
Beneath their reputation for independence, many cats have a rich social side shaped by their environment and experiences. This session will explore feline sociability and cat-human attachment, highlighting how these insights can be applied to help cats and caregivers thrive together.
- 1:20 – 2:50 pm** **Benefits & Risks of Cat Ownership: MD & DVM Perspectives**, *Drs. Peter Karczmar & Michael Lappin*
In this lecture, Drs. Lappin and Karczmar will discuss the benefits and risks of cats from the veterinarian and physician standpoints. The team will share salient points from the upcoming WSAVA Direct Zoonoses Guidelines. They will discuss “what you can catch at work,” which is most likely when cats are clinically ill. They will discuss why healthy cats generally induce more benefits than risks to caregivers.
- 3:20 – 4:10 pm** **A Quarter Century of Research: Cellular Therapy for Cats & What It Means for Clinical Practice Today**, *Dr. Tracey Webb*
During their lifetime, most cats will suffer from chronic diseases for which we lack the means to adequately control or cure. Many of these diseases are inflammatory and result in decreased quality of life and lifespan. Cellular therapies, such as mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSC), offer the promise of long-term immunomodulation and resultant control of symptoms, and disease progression or cure. This presentation will discuss the current information on investigations of MSC use in cats, and what that means for clinical practice today, for diseases like feline chronic gingivostomatitis, chronic intestinal enteropathy, osteoarthritis, chronic kidney disease, feline infectious peritonitis, and asthma.
- 4:15 – 5:05 pm** **Monoclonal Antibodies in Feline Medicine: History, Evolution, & Emerging Therapeutic Targets**, *Drs. Hazel Carney, Ralph Harvey, Jenna Hunter; Moderator: Dr. Tracey Deiss*
This session charts the evolution of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) across human and veterinary medicine—from core principles and early breakthroughs to current approvals and the horizon of innovation. We will clarify mAb design, species specificity, and feline-focused safety, then delve into real-world applications and emerging targets. Attendees will gain a framework to critically appraise evidence, incorporate mAbs into multimodal care pathways, and anticipate pharmacoeconomic and workflow implications in practice.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

- 8:15 – 9:30 am** **C Diagnosis of Hyperthyroidism: More Than Just Measuring T4**, *Dr. Mark Peterson*
This session provides a comprehensive approach to diagnosing feline hyperthyroidism in the modern era, with a focus on correctly identifying mild, subclinical, or complicated cases. Attendees will learn to integrate signalment, history, and physical examination—with a specific emphasis on thyroid palpation—alongside baseline laboratory data to move beyond reliance on a single “high” hormone value. We will critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of serum total T4, free T4 (equilibrium dialysis vs. chemiluminescence), total T3, and TSH (chemiluminescence vs. Truforma bulk acoustic wave technology). The discussion will highlight why false positives occur and why suppressed TSH or elevated free T4 should never be used in isolation for diagnosis. Finally, the lecture focuses on practical decision-making in borderline or questionable cases, the recommendations for the clinical application of thyroid scintigraphy, and how to implement a conservative monitoring strategy for cats with equivocal results.

Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 continued

11:00 – 11:50 am **A** **Managing Hyperthyroidism: Tailoring Treatment to the Individual Cat**, *Dr. Mark Peterson*

This session will provide a practical, case-based framework for choosing the best-fit therapy for each hyperthyroid cat and caregiver by comparing the four options—methimazole/carbimazole, ultra-low iodine diet, thyroidectomy, and radioiodine—and clarifying which are reversible/palliative versus permanent/curative treatments. Importantly, attendees will understand that feline hyperthyroidism is a progressive thyroid tumor disease, so “reversible” medical or dietary control does not halt thyroid nodule growth, whereas surgery or radioiodine addresses the underlying tumor tissue. Clinicians will learn to move beyond “one-size-fits-all” protocols by weighing patient factors (age, goiter size, disease severity, and comorbidities such as CKD) and caregiver logistics (ability to medicate, multi-cat logistics, cost horizon, and tolerance for hospitalization). Finally, the lecture emphasizes monitoring strategies to mitigate complications such as iatrogenic hypothyroidism and post-treatment renal decompensation, while optimizing long-term outcomes and quality of life.

B **Nourishing the Senior Cat: Priorities, Pitfalls, & Practical Plans**, *Dr. Julie Churchill*

Aging cats commonly experience changes in appetite, body composition, digestion, and chronic disease risk. Although there is no standard “senior” nutrient profile, senior cats have unique nutritional needs. This session reviews practical nutrition strategies to support healthy aging, including how to prioritize energy, protein, hydration, and key nutrients while monitoring body condition and muscle mass. Examples will highlight common senior challenges and realistic feeding adjustments that improve health, mobility, and quality of life.

T **Feline Fine 101: Understanding Protective Emotions! De-escalating Situations & Sedation in Cats**, *Ellen Carozza, LVT*

In this session, attendees will learn about the positive and negative feline emotions displayed during a veterinary visit. They will leave learning WHY cats react the way they do, and how WE can modify our practice and ourselves to prevent escalation. We’ll be discussing the various methods of sedation and even discussing how to work around dangerous situations when appointments don’t go as planned.

11:55 – 12:45 pm **A** **The Hyperthyroid Cat with Concurrent Nonthyroidal Illness: Complications in Diagnosis & Management**,

Dr. Mark Peterson

This session reviews the diagnostic and management challenges of senior hyperthyroid cats with common comorbidities such as chronic kidney disease, thyrotoxic heart disease, and gastrointestinal disorders. Attendees will learn a practical approach to screening and case workup to distinguish hyperthyroid-related signs from independent senior illness, and how to counsel caregivers realistically about expected outcomes. The lecture emphasizes post-treatment monitoring for “masked” renal dysfunction, hypertension, and iatrogenic hypothyroidism, with guidance on recognizing complications early. Attendees will leave with a clear framework for adjusting therapy to support long-term clinical outcomes and feline quality of life.

B **When Conditions Collide: Choosing Therapeutic Diet Plans for Cats with Comorbidities**, *Dr. Julie Churchill*

Cats increasingly present with multiple chronic conditions, making diet selection challenging when nutritional priorities conflict and evidence for “best” management is limited. Using case-based discussion, this session introduces a practical framework for nutritional triage: Defining the primary clinical goals, identifying nutrients of concern and contraindications across comorbidities, comparing therapeutic diet features, and selecting a best-fit plan when no single diet is perfect. Attendees will leave with a repeatable approach to balancing tradeoffs and monitoring response over time to support the whole patient.

T **More Than a Warm Lap: Enrichment Strategies for Aging Cats**, *Dr. Margaret Gruen*

During this presentation, we will discuss ways to identify age-related physical, sensory, and cognitive changes that influence enrichment needs in senior cats. We will differentiate between enrichment strategies appropriate for healthy seniors versus cats with pain or mobility limitations, and focus on how to design individualized, low-impact enrichment plans that support emotional wellbeing, agency, and quality of life in aging cats.

1:10 – 2:00 pm **L** **Senior Cats & Hidden Disease: The Impact of Early Detection**, *Dr. Diane Delmain*

Senior cats are often affected by hidden diseases that go undetected until advanced stages. This session will explore the findings of the Mortier study to highlight gaps in feline preventive care and examine key conditions that may be improved through early detection. Emphasis will be placed on the latest diagnostic data and the role of regular wellness assessments in improving outcomes. Attendees will also gain strategies for practice- and client-level change management to better support feline health through proactive care.

L **Decoding the Feline Patient: Stories Told by Blood Cells & the Hidden Clues of SDMA**, *Drs. Christine Bohn Kirnos,*

Alicia Dudley, & Natalee Holt

Early identification and accurate classification of feline diseases are critical to improving patient outcomes, yet clinicians often face uncertainty when interpreting subtle renal biomarker changes or mild hematologic abnormalities. This lecture integrates practical approaches to feline chronic kidney disease (CKD) staging with clinically relevant principles of blood morphology assessment, emphasizing how early, actionable findings can inform confident decision-making in feline practice. Using a case-based format, the session will focus on early CKD, clarifying the distinction between reference intervals and clinical decision points, and outlining practical next steps when SDMA is mildly or persistently elevated. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing IRIS Stage 1 CKD as an opportunity for early intervention, and results of a new study will be shared that provide evidence that early action improves patient outcomes.

L **Purr-formance Check: Expert Insights on Feline Gait & Orthopedic Evaluations**, *Dr. Duncan Lascelles*

Gait evaluation in cats?? And then an orthopedic evaluation?? YES! – but different from what you were taught in dogs. Attendees will be guided through a logical, practical, and effective approach to gait and orthopedic evaluation of cats (with a focus on OA pain), as well as provided details of practical resources.

Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 continued

- 1:50 – 3:50 pm** **W** **Feline Ultrasound in Action: Case-based POCUS & Guided Sampling Workshop**, *Drs. Lacie Lee & Ashlie Saffire*
The use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is steadily growing in veterinary general practice, thanks to advances in technology that have made ultrasound more accessible and user-friendly. While many veterinarians are eager to incorporate ultrasound into their practice to help detect abnormalities and guide diagnostic decisions of common feline diseases, they often aren't sure where to begin. In this Workshop we will introduce the technique of ultrasound scanning and how to incorporate it into the work-up of commonly presented feline diseases involving the liver, kidney, bladder, and spleen. The second part of this Workshop will include hands-on scanning and fine-needle aspirate techniques on actual phantoms.
- 2:10 – 3:00 pm** **A** **What is New in Insulin Therapy & its Monitoring**, *Drs. Alisa Berg, Chen Gilor, & Jennifer Salpeter*
In this lecture, we will present a spectrum of care in feline diabetes, focusing on a patient and client-centered approach that emphasizes what *could* be done instead of what *should* be done. The discussion will include insulin options optimized for patients who are unable to be meal-fed, clients with lifestyle and financial limitations, and how to use monitoring tools to allow safe and efficient insulin dosing. Tips to improve compliance, convenience, and treatment success will be addressed, including insulin pen use.
- B** **The Heart of the Matter: Guiding Euthanasia Choices Through Quality of Life Assessments**, *Dr. Mary Gardner*
Navigating the decision to euthanize a beloved pet is one of the most challenging aspects of veterinary practice. In this lecture, attendees will learn how to effectively assess a cat's quality of life by balancing clinical observations with the emotional and practical considerations of cat caregivers. Drawing from both veterinary and palliative care principles, this session will guide veterinarians in helping clients identify and articulate their goals of care, recognize the signs that indicate a decline in their cat's well-being, and make compassionate, informed decisions. Attendees will leave equipped with tools and strategies to support families through this delicate process, ensuring that the final chapter of their cat's life is as peaceful and dignified as possible.
- T** **Weigh In & Win: Teamwork for Feline Obesity Prevention & Management**, *Dr. Julie Churchill*
Despite broad awareness that excess weight contributes to comorbidities, reduced mobility, and decreased quality of life and lifespan, the prevalence of overweight pets remains high. The multifactorial nature of obesity can make weight-loss plans difficult to implement and sustain. Successful outcomes require an individualized approach that partners with caregivers and empowers the entire veterinary team to support weight loss and long-term maintenance. Utilizing nutrition tools and strong, consistent communication across the team and with clients strengthens relationships, improves satisfaction, and directly supports better health outcomes for each cat.
- 3:05 – 3:55 pm** **A** **What is on the Horizon for Diabetic Management?**, *Drs. Alisa Berg, Chen Gilor, & Jennifer Salpeter*
This lecture we will cover cutting-edge treatment and monitoring options that are either already being used or are being studied, and how they promise to reshape feline diabetology. We will discuss the needed revision to the concepts of "prediabetes" and "remission" and how these relate to new tests and treatments. The discussion will focus on hemoglobin A1c, adjunctive treatments such as GLP-1 agonist therapy for obesity, once-weekly insulin, closed loop-insulin pumps, and more.
- B** **Silent Struggles: Recognizing Pain & Mobility Changes in Cats**, *Dr. Margaret Gruen*
During this presentation, we will discuss how to recognize behavioral and subtle physical indicators of pain and reduced mobility in cats. We will review how pain influences behavior, handling tolerance, and stress responses during veterinary visits, and how we can integrate behavioral observation with orthopedic and mobility assessments to improve pain detection. We will also discuss how to communicate findings and concerns about pain and mobility to caregivers in a way that improves acceptance of treatment and follow-up.
- T** **Kitten Nutrition from the Queen to the Neonate**, *Ellen Carozza, LVT*
This session will touch on multiple avenues that revolve around nutrition. From the health of the queen to the kitten, we will go over the multitude of situations you may come across when caring for the feline patient in practice. You'll leave with a better understanding that there may be more than just food that may need to be addressed.
- 4:40 – 5:30 pm** **A** **Conn's Syndrome & Addison's Disease**, *Dr. Chen Gilor*
Diseases of the adrenal gland are relatively uncommon in cats and are easy to misdiagnose because they are uncommon and can mimic other conditions. Conn's syndrome is caused by mineralocorticoid excess and, in its less extreme presentation, can be misdiagnosed as chronic kidney disease and therefore go untreated. Addison's disease is caused by glucocorticoid deficiency and mineralocorticoid deficiency ("typical" Addison's) or by glucocorticoid deficiency alone ("atypical" Addison's) and might mimic gastrointestinal disease, kidney disease, and others. In this lecture we will briefly review the physiology of adrenal hormones and review feline-specific literature on Conn's syndrome and Addison's disease, with relevant case examples.
- B** **Not Just Getting Old: Feline Cognitive Dysfunction Explained**, *Dr. Margaret Gruen*
In this presentation, we will review the clinical and behavioral signs associated with cognitive dysfunction in cats. We will discuss ways to differentiate cognitive dysfunction from other medical or behavioral conditions with overlapping signs, and discuss evidence-based management strategies, including environmental modification and behavioral support. We will also discuss how to guide caregivers in setting expectations, monitoring progression, and supporting quality of life for affected cats.
- T** **Sleepless in Scrubs: My Cat Sleeps Fine – Why Can't I?**, *Dr. Peter Karczmar*
Sleep is a basic physiologic need. It is important for brain and cardiovascular health, learning, memory consolidation, and maintaining a healthy immune system. Yet most Americans do not get enough sleep. Veterinarians and veterinary staff are at an increased risk for having poor quality sleep due to job-life stress and irregular work schedules. At the end of the presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the basic physiology of sleep, common sleep disorders, and strategies for improving sleep quality.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

- 7:15 – 8:05 am** **S** **From Meow to Now: Unpacking Feline CKD - Today's Realities, Tomorrow's Directions**, *Drs. Hazel Carney & Tracey Deiss*
 Chronic kidney disease is a leading, life-shaping condition in aging cats. This session bridges today's realities—with tomorrow's science. We'll unpack key mechanisms and link them to current and emerging targets. Recognizing CKD's co-morbidities—we'll covert the whole-cat approach in crafting practical, multimodal, stage-appropriate plans that improve outcomes for cats and caregivers.
- 8:00 – 11:00 am** **W** **Feline Euthanasia Techniques Workshop**, *Dr. Kathleen Cooney*
 This Workshop will provide euthanasia practice using feline simulation models. Attendees will review the 14 Essential Components of Companion Animal Euthanasia which includes client support skills. The Workshop will cover euthanasia injection techniques like intravenous, intracardiac, intrahepatic, and intrarenal injections. Attendees will review venous pathways, intraorgan injections, memorialization, and much more. This is an opportunity to gain invaluable technique training. We also will outline the necessary supplies and best practices across general practice and specialty settings. Being prepared for all scenarios is the secret to success. No detail is too big or too small.
- 8:15 – 9:05 am** **A** **Dispersing the Myth of Absolute Certainty: How to Interpret the Results of Endocrine Tests - Parts 1 & 2**, *Drs. Chen Gilor & Shir Gilor*
 As clinicians, we are trained to look at a test result and then refer to a reference interval in order to determine "normal" vs. "abnormal." However, this determination is often fraught with uncertainty because: 1. The result itself is uncertain (because of biological variability and assay imprecision); 2. The cutoffs used to make this decision depend on the sensitivity and specificity of the test as well as the disease prevalence in the tested population. In this lecture, we will discuss these challenges and provide tools to deal with them in the practice. Analytic imprecision and biological variability will be discussed by a clinical pathologist and positive and negative predictive values will be discussed by an internist. These concepts will be simplified and clarified, and tools will be given to assess and incorporate them into routine clinical work in a practical way.
- 9:10 – 10:00 am** **B** **Monitoring & Troubleshooting SGLT2i Therapy**, *Dr. Cynthia Ward*
 This presentation will review monitoring and troubleshooting for a cat on an SGLT2 inhibitor and how to address complications. We'll also discuss when and how to transition to traditional insulin therapy. Specific case examples may be used to highlight session information.
- 9:10 – 10:00 am** **T** **Purrfectly Connected: Using Technology to Strengthen Cat-Caregiver-Vet Partnerships**, *Ellen Carozza, LVT*
 Cat ownership doesn't have to be a challenge, however, as veterinary professionals, we need to know the newer technology and AI tactics being utilized by our clients. Does this make cat ownership easier or are they making lazier cat parents? From robotic litter boxes, smart scales, food tracking applications, automatic feeders and more, we'll go over WHAT can and does work, and HOW we can empower our clients to utilize these products to their advantage without compromising the cat!
- 9:10 – 10:00 am** **B** **What Have We Learned About SGLT2i Therapy in the Last Three Years?**, *Dr. Cynthia Ward*
 SGLT2 inhibitors for treatment of diabetes mellitus in cats were introduced to the market approximately three years ago. This session will focus on what we have learned about this novel treatment over that time, including revised patient screening and monitoring protocols. Specific patient case examples will be presented.
- 9:10 – 10:00 am** **T** **Multicat Feeding Homes**, *Ellen Carozza, LVT*
 Many cats are stressed during mealtime in multicat households. We will discuss intercat tension, food anxieties, and how we can help our clients to have a more peaceful time when it comes to feeding their cats in the home.
- 11:15 – 12:10 pm** **A** **Uncovering the Mystery of Feline Fever**, *Dr. Petra Cerna*
 Identifying the cause of fever in cats is a diagnostic challenge with infection being the most common cause of unknown origin (FUO) in cats. This lecture will focus on different causes of fever in cats and will address the potential diagnostic tests and treatment of FUO in cats.
- 11:15 – 12:10 pm** **B** **What to do with the Acromegalic or Cushingoid Diabetic Cat**, *Dr. Cynthia Ward*
 Diabetic cats with comorbidities can be frustrating to diagnose and manage. In this session we will focus on two endocrine diseases associated with diabetes that can occur simultaneously in cats. We will discuss diagnosis and management techniques that result in the best patient outcome. Specific case examples may be presented.
- 11:15 – 12:10 pm** **T** **Tube Feeding Kittens**, *Ellen Carozza, LVT*
 Tube feeding is an essential skill for technicians in the veterinary practice, including knowing how to feed an orphaned or hospitalized neonate. We'll go over why tube feeding is necessary, how to choose the right size, and review the common traumatic injuries that can occur if incorrectly fed. This session includes a video demonstration.
- 12:35 – 1:25 pm** **L** **Case-based Approach to the Critical Feline Patient with GI Disease**, *Dr. Ashlie Saffire & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
 The vomiting cat is not always straightforward. In this unique lunch session, we will discuss the challenges when presented with a critical vomiting cat, including how to work through building a differential list, diagnostic plan, and executing treatment. We will focus on cases that require hospitalization with pearls of wisdom from a practicing feline specialist and veterinary technician specialist.
- 12:35 – 1:25 pm** **L** **Shifting Paradigms in Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: From Detection to Intervention**, *Dr. Jose Novo Matos*
 Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most prevalent cardiac disease in cats, yet its subclinical phase presents significant diagnostic challenges in both first-opinion and referral settings. This session will explore how the integration of clinical findings and biomarker data—in particular NT-proBNP—can support the earlier identification of affected cats, and how an evidence-based staging framework can be applied to stratify individuals at increased risk of congestive heart failure and aortic thromboembolism. Attendees will gain a practical understanding of the current evidence base for managing asymptomatic HCM, including the indications for pharmacological intervention in subclinical disease. By the end of this session, attendees will be equipped with actionable tools to improve the detection, staging, and management of subclinical HCM in everyday clinical practice.

Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 continued

- 12:35 – 1:25 pm** **L** **A Dietary Combination of Antioxidants, Linoleic Acid, & a Prebiotic Maintained Kidney Function During Age-related Decline in Senior Cats: A Retrospective, Longitudinal Study**, *Dr. Erin Bryan*
Chronic kidney disease remains one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in aging cats. This lunch lecture will present findings from a retrospective longitudinal study evaluating a nutrient blend consisting of antioxidants, linoleic acid, and a prebiotic, designed to support healthy longevity in senior cats. Ninety healthy senior (≥ 7 years of age) cats were randomized to one of three diets: control (diet 1), control + antioxidants (diet 2), or control + antioxidants + linoleic acid + prebiotic (diet 3). Cats were then monitored through end of life for clinical, biochemical, and body composition changes. Cats fed diet 3 demonstrated slower age-associated increases in serum creatinine, BUN, and phosphorus, as well as a slower decline in urine concentrating ability, red blood cell count, body weight, and lean body mass when compared to controls. This session will contextualize these findings within current knowledge of oxidative stress, inflammation, and gut-kidney interactions in feline aging.
- 1:35 – 2:30 pm** **A** **Diagnosis & Management of Iatrogenic Hypothyroidism in Cats**, *Dr. Mark Peterson*
This session focuses on how to detect, interpret, and manage iatrogenic hypothyroidism as a common complication of treating feline hyperthyroidism (antithyroid drugs, thyroidectomy, or ^{131}I), emphasizing that most cats show few or no obvious clinical signs—so the condition is often underdiagnosed and routine monitoring is essential. Attendees will learn a practical diagnostic approach using total T4 (\pm free T4) together with TSH to distinguish overt vs. subclinical hypothyroidism and to determine if and when levothyroxine replacement should be instituted. The lecture highlights the major clinical consequence—unmasking or worsening azotemic CKD—and teaches how to use serial creatinine, T4, and TSH values to guide therapeutic decisions. Participants will master a stepwise approach to detection, levothyroxine treatment, and follow-up that reduces missed diagnoses and improves long-term outcomes and feline quality of life.
- B** **Feline Diabetic Ketoacidosis: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, & Evidence-based Management**, *Dr. Christopher Byers*
This lecture reviews the pathophysiology and common precipitating factors of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) in cats, with emphasis on differences from canine disease. Diagnostic criteria, interpretation of laboratory abnormalities, and stabilization priorities are discussed. Attendees will learn evidence-based approaches to insulin therapy, fluid and electrolyte management, and nutritional support in feline patients with DKA.
- T** **Dealing with Infectious Cats in the Hospital**, *Ellen Carozza, LVT & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
Just because a cat presents ill, doesn't mean you need to panic. This session reviews common infectious illnesses from panleukopenia, ringworm, and more (including the use and cleaning products and isolation units). We will help you care for these patients with confidence.
- 2:45 – 3:10 pm** **Timely Topics Technician Edition: Pathway to Feline VTS**, *Ellen Carozza, LVT & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
Are you a veterinary technician interested in becoming an AVTCP Feline VTS? Come join us for this informative session. The requirements for application and credentialing will be discussed, followed by a question-and-answer period.
- 3:00 – 5:00 pm** **W** **Feline Ultrasound in Action: Case-based POCUS & Guided Sampling Workshop**, *Drs. Lacie Lee & Ashlie Saffire*
The use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is steadily growing in veterinary general practice, thanks to advances in technology that have made ultrasound more accessible and user-friendly. While many veterinarians are eager to incorporate ultrasound into their practice to help detect abnormalities and guide diagnostic decisions of common feline diseases, they aren't often sure where to begin. In this Workshop we will introduce the technique of ultrasound scanning and how to incorporate it into the work-up of commonly presented feline diseases involving the liver, kidney, bladder, and spleen. The second part of this Workshop will include hands-on scanning and fine-needle aspirate techniques on actual phantoms.
- 3:15 – 4:05 pm** **A** **Spontaneous Hypothyroidism in Cats: Underdiagnosed, Undertreated, & Underappreciated**, *Dr. Mark Peterson*
This session equips clinicians to recognize spontaneous hypothyroidism across the feline lifespan, ranging from congenital disease in kittens to adult-onset primary hypothyroidism. While congenital cases often present with distinct signs like disproportionate dwarfism, mental dullness, and delayed tooth eruption, adult signs are frequently subtle and easily dismissed as "normal aging" or comorbid disease. Attendees will learn to identify reliable diagnostic patterns—specifically low- to low-normal serum total T4/free T4 with inappropriately high TSH—and utilize thyroid imaging to define the etiology (e.g., aplasia/hypoplasia, goitrous forms, or thyroid atrophy). By recognizing key triggers like unexplained azotemia, weight gain, lethargy, and worsening diabetic control, attendees will master a stepwise approach to detection, levothyroxine treatment, and follow-up to reduce missed diagnoses.
- B** **Immune-mediated Hemolytic Anemia in Cats: Diagnostic Approach & Therapeutic Principles**, *Dr. Christopher Byers*
This session provides a structured approach to the diagnosis of immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) in cats, including differentiation between primary immune-mediated disease and secondary causes of hemolysis. Diagnostic testing, interpretation of hematologic findings, and common diagnostic limitations are reviewed. Therapeutic strategies, including immunosuppressive therapy and transfusion considerations, are discussed with attention to feline-specific risks and complications.
- T** **Optimizing Veterinary Technician Utilization in Clinical Practice**, *Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
Credentialed veterinary technicians are one of the most valuable resources in clinical practice and truly are the future of veterinary medicine. This presentation explores veterinary technician utilization through the lens of a veterinary technician specialist working in modern veterinary medicine, with a focus on how fully leveraging technician skillsets can transform patient care, team efficiency, and hospital culture. Drawing from real-world experience, this session will highlight the gap between technician capability and day-to-day responsibilities. Attendees will gain insight into practical strategies for optimizing technician roles, including advanced nursing care, case management, anesthesia and procedural support, client communication, and leadership within the care team. Emphasis will be placed on building trust, establishing clear protocols, and creating a culture that supports technicians practicing at the top of their license. This session will also address common barriers to utilization such as workflow limitations, communication breakdowns, and lack of role clarity. This disconnect does contribute to burnout, inefficiency, and ultimately reduced job satisfaction. Actionable solutions that can be implemented in clinical practice will be reviewed during this session. Reframing how veterinary technicians are integrated into patient care, practices can improve outcomes, enhance team retention, and elevate the overall standard of veterinary medicine.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 continued

- 4:10 – 5:00 pm** **A** **Senior Cats: Cachexia, Sarcopenia, & Other Muscle Wasting Syndromes**, *Dr. Mark Peterson*
 Cachexia and sarcopenia are both common causes of muscle wasting in older cats, particularly those with endocrine or other chronic medical disease; while normal aging contributes to gradual lean tissue loss (sarcopenia of aging), illness or injury can accelerate and perpetuate muscle loss through cachexia. Attendees will learn how to screen for and monitor muscle loss in practice using muscle condition scoring (MCS) together with muscle ultrasound to provide a more objective, repeatable way to track changes over time. The session will use hyperthyroid cats as a key model—reviewing evidence that muscle wasting is common at diagnosis and that lean mass may recover incompletely or more slowly than body weight, even after definitive radioiodine therapy. Finally, the lecture will outline practical prevention and treatment strategies, including nutrition-focused approaches and the evidence base for capromorelin (Elura; Entyce) to support appetite and weight gain, with attention to appropriate case selection and monitoring.
- B** **Shock & Fluid Therapy in Cats: Recognition, Monitoring, & Clinical Decision-making**, *Dr. Christopher Byers*
 This lecture addresses the recognition and classification of shock in feline patients and reviews the physiologic principles guiding fluid therapy. Concepts of fluid responsiveness, fluid tolerance, and endpoints of resuscitation are discussed in the context of cats' unique cardiovascular and metabolic characteristics. Practical strategies for monitoring response to therapy and minimizing iatrogenic complications are emphasized.
- T** **Designing a Cat-centric Veterinary Experience**, *Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
 Cats are uniquely sensitive to their environment, and the design of the veterinary experience plays a critical role in reducing stress, improving compliance, and strengthening the caregiver bond. This presentation explores evidence-based strategies to create feline-friendly practices, incorporating both environmental modifications and team training. Attendees will learn how certifications such as Cat Friendly Practice, Fear Free, and Low Stress Handling empower veterinary professionals and enhance patient care. The session highlights the “Five Pillars” of feline-friendly environments and respect for feline sensory perception. Practical applications are shared for lobbies, exam rooms, and hospitalization areas, including pheromone use, music, lighting, carrier etiquette, and resource separation. By adopting these strategies, veterinary teams can decrease feline stress, improve patient cooperation, reduce workplace injuries, and ultimately elevate the standard of care for cats and their caregivers.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

- 7:00 – 7:50 am** **S** **The New Feline Diabetes Mellitus: Transformations in Patient Care**, *Dr. Kelly St. Denis*
 New strategies for diabetes management in the cat are rapidly changing the way we care and plan for our diabetic patients. Advances in pharmacology and improvements in the nutritional management of obese diabetic cats have helped us pivot to a spectrum of care approach that moves us beyond high-protein diets and an insulin-centered approach. In this session, we will discuss how to incorporate these new strategies in a practical manner, enhancing patient-tailored care, with more successful outcomes and increased quality of life.
- 8:00 – 4:45 pm** **W** **Veterinarian & Technician Dental Wet Lab**, *Dr. Jan Bellows*
 This full-day, hands-on Feline Dentistry Wet Lab provides veterinarians and technicians with practical skills to improve quality, safety, and efficiency in practice. Veterinarians will focus on elegant extractions and intraoral radiograph interpretation while technicians will learn full-mouth dental radiography technique in 10 minutes, happy dental charting, and creating dental reports. See more details on page 16.
- 8:00 – 8:50 am** **A** **The Modern Shelter Cat: Bridging Shelter Medicine & Primary Care**, *Dr. Alyssa Comroe*
 Cats adopted from shelters now make up a significant portion of the feline patients seen in general practice, and they often arrive with medical histories shaped by population-level care. This session will review practical shelter medicine considerations most relevant to primary care veterinarians, including current approaches to FeLV/FIV testing, panleukopenia prevention and outbreak implications, and vaccination strategies commonly used in shelter settings. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of common shelter and TNVR protocols: What is routinely done, why those decisions are made, and how they may influence a cat's early medical history after adoption. The focus will be on practical information that helps bridge shelter practices with long-term primary care.
- B** **The Mysterious FIP: Clinical Signs & Diagnosis**, *Dr. Petra Cerna*
 This lecture will explain the differences between feline enteric coronavirus (FECV) and feline infectious peritonitis virus (FIPV). There will be a discussion of the pathogenesis of FIP, the most common clinical signs of cats with FIP, and the different diagnostic tests for FIP in practice.
- T** **From Grief to Gratitude: The Role of Aftercare & Memorialization in Client Loyalty & Healing**, *Dr. Mary Gardner*
 The moments after a cat's death matter just as much as the goodbye itself. This session explores how thoughtful aftercare and meaningful memorialization can support grieving families while strengthening trust in the veterinary team. We will discuss the importance of respectful body care, choosing and working with trustworthy cremation partners, and understanding the different aftercare options available to families. You will also learn practical, compassionate ways to offer follow-up support, grief resources, and memorial opportunities that honor the pet without judgment or pressure. When aftercare is handled with intention and dignity, it helps families move through loss feeling supported, respected, and deeply grateful for the care they received.

Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 continued

- 8:55 – 9:45 am** **A** **Caring for the Older Shelter Cat: Medical Management, Welfare Needs, & Adoption Strategies**, *Dr. Alyssa Comroe*
Senior cats are an increasingly important population in animal shelters and often present with chronic medical and welfare needs that influence both adoption success and long-term care. This session will explore practical strategies for managing common health conditions seen in older shelter cats, while maintaining quality of life in a shelter environment. Attendees will learn how shelters adapt housing, enrichment, and medical decision-making for senior cats, as well as how targeted adoption strategies, such as matching senior cats with senior adopters, support successful transitions into homes. The focus will be on practical insights that help primary care veterinarians partner effectively with shelters and confidently support adopters of senior cats after adoption.
- B** **Purrfecting Your Therapy for FIP**, *Dr. Petra Cerna*
This lecture will focus on all the new options for FIP therapy, such as different antivirals as well as immune stimulants. We will also cover monitoring of cats while undergoing treatment, and possible complications of FIP therapy with antivirals.
- T** **Caregiving Burden: Navigating the Strain of Caring for a Dying Pet**, *Dr. Mary Gardner*
Understanding the profound impact of caring for a terminally ill or senior cat is essential in recognizing the toll it takes on caregivers. The emotional burden can often result in heightened levels of depression and anxiety. This session delves into how caregivers' needs can be identified and adequately supported by both individuals and the entire veterinary team. By exploring strategies to recognize and address the unique challenges faced by caregivers during this difficult time, attendees will gain insights into providing compassionate and effective support throughout the caregiving journey.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A** **The Art, Science, & Beauty of Euthanasia - Part 1**, *Dr. Mary Gardner*
The euthanasia appointment is unparalleled in emotion and sentiment. There are a few things in veterinary medicine, or life, that require as many outward displays of empathy, compassion, and commiseration from a doctor. The tone of voice, delivery of words, bedside manner with both patient and client, and the medical procedure itself become a delicate dance around death that the veterinary professional and staff should carefully choreograph and continually improve. It is only through this shared connection that the family will feel lovingly connected with your practice, ensuring an unsurpassed level of client service.
- B** **FeLV & FIV in Focus**, *Dr. Petra Cerna*
This lecture will focus on discussing the diagnosis and management of retrovirus infections (FIV and FeLV) in cats. We will cover different options for primary testing, confirming the infection, and will focus on the management of cats with retroviral infections and their comorbidities.
- T** **Taming the Thyroid: Supporting Hyperthyroid Cats in Clinical Practice**, *Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
As a common endocrine disorder in aging feline patients, hyperthyroidism presents ongoing challenges that extend far beyond diagnosis. In this session, we will review the disease process and clinical presentation of feline hyperthyroidism. We will also explore nursing responsibilities including caregiver education, diagnostic monitoring recommendations, and feline friendly medication administration strategies. Continued discussion will include additional treatment options such as therapeutic diets, surgery, and radioactive iodine.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **The Art, Science, & Beauty of Euthanasia - Part 2**, *Dr. Mary Gardner*
See abstract above.
- B** **The Fungal Side of Cats**, *Dr. Petra Cerna*
Fungal infections represent an important and often underrecognized group of diseases affecting cats, ranging from common superficial conditions to life-threatening systemic mycoses. This lecture provides a comprehensive overview of feline fungal infections, with emphasis on epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation, diagnostic approaches, and current management strategies.
- T** **Common Feline Medical Cases: Nursing Skills & Treatments**, *Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
Feline patients present with unique and often complex medical conditions that require a skilled nursing approach for successful outcomes. This presentation reviews several of the most common and clinically significant feline cases including linear foreign bodies, lily toxicity, urethral obstruction, and acute kidney injury. For each case type, attendees will explore clinical signs, diagnostic pathways, treatment options, and critical nursing responsibilities. Emphasis is placed on multimodal pain management, fluid therapy, nutritional support, and specialized procedures such as urinary catheterization, coccygeal epidurals, and feeding tube placement. Attendees will also learn strategies for monitoring complications, managing stress in feline patients, and supporting post-hospitalization care through caregiver education. By focusing on both technical skills and compassionate nursing practices, this session equips veterinary professionals with practical tools to enhance patient outcomes and advance feline medical care.
- 12:45 – 1:35 pm** **L** **“What Is It?” to “What Next?”: New Ways to Simplify Clinical Workups with Innovative Diagnostics**, *Drs. Luca Giori & Eric Morissette*
In this case-based lecture, we'll explore how modern diagnostics can help streamline feline practice workflows, help improve accuracy, and help support confident clinical decision-making, while delivering clear value for cat caregivers. Using real clinical scenarios, you'll learn how innovative diagnostic tools—including Vetscan Imagyst AI Masses and Digital Cytology, blood chemistry panels, and Vetscan OptiCell—fit into everyday case management, helping you move efficiently from problem recognition to diagnostic clarity to actionable next steps. Emphasis will be placed on practical test selection, result interpretation, and client communication that clearly explains value and supports timely, accessible care.

Schedule is in Eastern Daylight Time

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 continued

- 12:45 – 1:35 pm** **L** **Raising the Bar on Feline Visits: Advancing Patient Welfare Through Cat-centered Care**, *Dr. Petra Cerna*
continued
- Cats are no longer the “other” patient in small-animal practice—they are a driving force shaping the future of veterinary medicine. Feline patients now represent approximately 23% of all clinical visits, and kitten adoptions are outpacing puppies, signaling a sustained and growing demand for high-quality feline care. Yet despite this growth, cats continue to experience significant barriers to veterinary visits, from transport stress to fear from handling and caregiver reluctance. This lecture explores what the rise of the feline patient means for modern practices and how embracing Cat Friendly handling and clinic strategies can transform the experience for cats, their people, and veterinary teams. We will also discuss exciting updates in feline medicine including the development of new vaccines. Attendees will learn how cat-centered approaches that reduce stress improve patient welfare, strengthen client trust, increase visit compliance, and support better clinical outcomes. As the profession evolves, practices that adapt to the needs of cats—and the humans who love them—will be best positioned to thrive. The future is feline, and it’s already here.
- L** **Hot Topics in Feline Infectious Diseases**, *Dr. Michael Lappin*
- Infectious diseases are common in both healthy and clinically ill cats. In this lecture, Dr. Lappin will emphasize hot topics in prevention of selected feline infectious diseases. Emphasis will be placed on those agents for which vaccines are available and those that risk can be lessened by use of flea and tick control. An update on upper respiratory disease prevention and on infection site sarcomas will also be presented.
- 1:45 – 2:35 pm** **A** **Collaborative Cancer Care: Staging of the Cancer Patient Prior to Referral**, *Dr. Megan Yanos*
- This session is designed to provide information regarding diagnostic techniques and cancer staging that can be performed by the general practitioner prior to referral to an oncology service. By incorporating these tests into your practice, you can not only retain revenue for your hospital, but also help your patients be seen and treated faster by the referral service. These diagnostic tests can be completed in most primary care practices, and many can be done during a standard appointment timeslot. Case examples will also be provided.
- B** **The American Heartworm Society Feline Guidelines: What Has Changed, What Has Stayed the Same, & Why**, *Dr. Andy Moorhead*
- Feline heartworm is a complex disease due to the elusive diagnosis and inability to treat adult heartworms in the cat. The American Heartworm Society Guidelines update the latest recommendations for the best chance to diagnose heartworm in cats and what to do when the cat is “positive.” Also, the basics of biology and pathology will be reviewed.
- T** **Supporting the Sedated: Anesthetic Insights for Techs**, *Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT*
- With cats presenting unique physiologic, behavioral, medical, and stress-related challenges, this session will provide insight on how to better care for our anesthetized feline patients. The presentation will review pre-sedation assessment and preparation as well as thoughtful drug selection tailored to each feline patient. Anesthetic protocols that prioritize safety and analgesia will be discussed, with the discussion focusing on feline-appropriate drug combinations and dosing considerations. Intra-anesthetic nursing care will focus on patient monitoring, thermoregulation, fluid therapy, pain assessment, and anesthetic complications in cats. Post-sedation and recovery care will be reviewed focusing on unique considerations of feline patients. This session will be a technician-focused presentation designed to strengthen confidence and consistency in feline sedation and anesthesia.
- 2:40 – 3:30 pm** **A** **Radiation Therapy of Neoplastic & Non-Neoplastic Conditions in the Cat**, *Dr. G. Neal Mauldin*
- This lecture emphasizes the role technological advances have played in treating cancer with radiation therapy. We will discuss how the evolution of Linac technology has improved our ability to target tumors, minimize side effects, and reduce the number of anesthetic events needed for each patient. We will look at case-based examples and discuss outcomes specific to feline patients. Finally, we will discuss the emerging use of low-dose radiation therapy to treat inflammatory diseases such as interstitial cystitis and stomatitis.
- B** **Cats Get Worms Too**, *Dr. Andy Moorhead*
- Cats can become infected with a variety of helminths from roundworms to tapeworms. The common parasites are well-known, and should be emphasized to the clients by veterinarians, both for the impact on feline health as well as zoonotic risk. Other parasites, such as lungworm, need to be considered, especially in respiratory cases. This session will provide an overview of both the “common” and “uncommon” worms.
- T** **Designing a Cat’s World: Helping Clients Build a Behaviorally Healthy Home**, *Dr. Tiffany Tupler*
- Feline behavioral concerns are a leading cause of veterinary visits, reduced quality of life, and relinquishment, yet many of these issues stem from modifiable environmental factors within the home. This session will discuss a practical, evidence-informed approach to evaluating and optimizing the feline home environment. The session begins with a concise overview of core feline behavioral principles, including normal behaviors, environmental needs, and stress responses, to establish a foundation for clinical application. Attendees will then learn a structured framework for conducting feline home assessments, identifying common environmental stressors, and recognizing how these factors contribute to behavioral and medical conditions such as house-soiling, intercat conflict, and stress-related disease. Most of the program focuses on implementing realistic, client-friendly environmental modifications, including resource distribution, litter box optimization, enrichment strategies, and social management in multi-cat households. Finally, the session will address strategies for effective client communication and follow-up, emphasizing how ongoing education and environmental management can support both physical and mental health outcomes in feline patients. This lecture equips veterinary professionals with actionable tools to integrate behavioral and environmental assessments into everyday clinical practice.

Registration costs for attending are listed below. All attendees who register for the in-person Conference will also receive Virtual Access, which will become available about 4-5 weeks after the conclusion of the in-person Conference. More details on the on-demand Virtual Access can be found on the Conference website at catvets.com/2026conference.

In-person Registration		EARLY BIRD (BY 8/21/26)	REGULAR (AFTER 8/21/26)
Pre-conference Day (Thursday)			
	Veterinarian Member	\$189	\$199
	Veterinarian Non-member	\$240	\$249
	Technician/Manager/Other Support Staff Member	\$114	\$119
	Technician/Manager/Other Support Staff Non-member	\$134	\$139
	Student	\$ 45	\$ 55
Three-Day Conference (Friday - Sunday)			
Veterinarian	Member	\$679	\$759
	Non-member	\$779	\$859
	One-day/Two-day Registration (per day)	\$299	\$329
Technician/Nurse	Member	\$289	\$299
	Non-member	\$349	\$369
	One-day/Two-day Registration (per day)	\$129	\$139
Practice Manager & Other Support Staff	Member	\$289	\$299
	Non-member	\$349	\$369
	One-day/Two-day Registration (per day)	\$129	\$139
Student		\$119	\$129
Additional Items & Events			
Feline Ultrasound in Action: Case-based POCUS & Guided Sampling Workshop (2 Sessions; Limited to 30 each)	Veterinarian	\$159	\$169
	Technician	\$ 99	\$109
Hands-on Feline Orthopedic Evaluation Workshop (Limited to 30)		\$475	\$485
Euthanasia Workshop (Limited to 50)		\$149	\$159
Veterinarian & Technician Dental Wet Lab (Offsite, All day. Limited to 20 Veterinarians and 20 Technicians)	Vet Member	\$829	\$899
	Vet Non-member	\$929	\$999
	Tech Member	\$399	\$449
	Tech Non-member	\$459	\$509
Feline Veterinarian Bootcamp for New Graduates (Limited to 36)	Member	\$499	\$599
	Non-member	\$599	\$699
Lunch & Learn (Limited to 125 people each.. Maximum of 2 sessions per person, one per day)		FREE	FREE
Guest Registration (Friday - Sunday)*		\$349	\$369
Guest Ticket (Thursday and/or Friday Reception - each ticket)		\$ 49 each	\$ 55 each
Printed Proceedings Book		\$ 75	\$ 75

*Guest Registration includes meals, the Exhibit Hall, and onsite receptions only, Friday through Sunday. The guest must be affiliated with a registered attendee.

If you are not a member of the FelineVMA and wish to become a member, you can purchase membership at the same time as the Conference registration and receive the reduced member rate.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation must be received in writing via email at conference@catvets.com. In-person Registration cancellations received by Friday, August 21, 2026 have two options:

- Receive a refund for registration fees minus a \$75 administrative fee.
- Transfer your registration to the On-Demand Virtual Access and receive a partial refund for the remaining balance minus a \$15 administrative fee.

Cancellations received after Friday, August 21, 2026 are not eligible for refund, but the registration fees may be transferred to the On-demand Virtual Access (details available in July 2026 at catvets.com/2026conference).

Contribute to the FelineVMA Student Travel Fund

It is often cost-prohibitive for students to attend the FelineVMA Annual Conference as they cannot cover their travel expenses. The Student Travel Fund is a way to award stipends to ensure students can benefit from top-notch feline education. FelineVMA Members and Conference Attendees can contribute to this Fund via Conference Registration and Membership Renewal to help our Student Chapter Members overcome this barrier to the education and networking that are so valuable to young people in our profession.

Thank you for considering investing in the next generation of veterinary professionals to ensure a bright future for feline medicine. Please note the FelineVMA is a 501(c)(6) and contributions are not deductible as charitable donations. Please consult your tax advisor if you have specific questions.

Conference Add-ons

Workshops

Hands-on Feline Orthopedic Evaluation Workshop



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 approach and build stronger client bonds with your cat caregivers. Review tools and protocols to optimize outcomes for your feline osteoarthritic patients.

Separate registration is required and this Workshop is not included in Pre-conference Day registration. The Workshop will take place on Thursday, September 24 from 7:45 – 11:45 am and a light breakfast will be provided. Make sure to register early to get a seat in the Workshop (limited to 30 registrants). Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis and Conference registration is required.

Ticket Price: \$475 – Early-bird; \$485 – Regular

Feline Ultrasound in Action: Case-based POCUS & Guided Sampling Workshop



The use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is steadily growing in veterinary general practice, thanks to advances in technology that have made ultrasound more accessible and user-friendly. While many veterinarians are eager to incorporate ultrasound into their practice to help detect abnormalities and guide diagnostic decisions of common feline diseases, they often aren't sure where to begin. In this Workshop we will introduce the technique of ultrasound scanning and how to incorporate it into the work-up of commonly presented feline diseases involving the liver, kidney, bladder, and spleen. The second part of this Workshop will include hands-on scanning and fine-needle aspirate techniques on actual phantoms.

Separate registration is required. There will be two Workshops presented on Friday, September 25 from 2:10 - 4:10 pm and Saturday, September 26 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Be sure to register early to get a seat (limited to 30 in each Workshop). Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis and Conference registration is required.

Ticket Price: \$159 – Veterinarian Early-bird; \$169 – Veterinarian Regular; \$99 – Technician Early-bird; \$109 – Technician Regular

Feline Euthanasia Techniques Workshop

This Workshop will provide euthanasia practice using feline simulation models. Attendees will review the fourteen Essential Components of Companion Animal Euthanasia which includes client support skills. The Workshop will cover euthanasia injection techniques like intravenous, intracardiac, intrahepatic, and intrarenal injections. Participants will review venous pathways, intraorgan injections, memorialization, and much more. This is an opportunity to gain invaluable technique training. We also will outline the necessary supplies and best practices across general practice and specialty settings. Being prepared for all scenarios is the secret to success. No detail is too big or too small.

Separate registration is required for this event. The Workshop will be presented on Saturday, September 26 from 8:00 - 11:00 am. Make sure to register early to get a seat in the Workshop (limited to 50 registrants). Attendance is on a first come, first served basis and Conference registration is required.

Ticket Price: \$149 – Early-bird; \$159 – Regular

Veterinarian & Technician Dental Wet Lab



This full-day, hands-on Dental Wet Lab provides veterinarians and veterinary technicians with practical, clinically relevant skills to elevate the quality, safety, and efficiency of feline dentistry in general practice. This course offers parallel veterinarian and technician tracks, each focused on building confidence through guided wet lab exercises, real-world radiograph interpretation, and repeatable clinical techniques.

- Veterinarians will gain in-depth instruction on performing extractions with greater ease and safety, emphasizing techniques that minimize complications such as jaw fractures. Additionally, participants will focus on proper intraoral radiographic positioning to achieve diagnostic images, effective local anesthesia blocks, and step-by-step interpretation of feline dental radiographs to support improved case planning and treatment recommendations.
- Technicians will develop essential skills that strengthen the dental team's workflow, including instrument care and sharpening, accurate and efficient probing and charting, and rapid full-mouth intraoral radiograph acquisition. Participants will also learn the 15 essential steps of the Comprehensive Oral Prevention, Assessment, and Treatment (COPAT) visit and how to create a professional go-home dental report featuring before-and-after images to enhance client communication and compliance.

Separate registration is required for this event. The Wet Lab will take place on Sunday, September 27 from 8:00 am - 4:45 am offsite in Westin, FL. Transportation will be provided to and from this Wet Lab. All equipment will be provided, as well as a continental breakfast and lunch. Make sure to register early to get a seat in the Workshop (limited to 20 veterinarians and 20 technicians). Attendance is on a first come, first served basis.

**Ticket Price: Veterinarians - \$829 Member Early Bird, \$899 Member Regular; \$929 Non-member Early Bird, \$999 Non-member Regular
Technicians - \$399 Member Early Bird, \$449 Member Regular; \$459 Non-member Early Bird, \$509 Non-member Regular**

Conference Add-ons

Bootcamp

Feline Veterinarian Bootcamp for New Graduates



Are you a recent veterinary graduate with a passion for feline medicine? Are you sad you missed out on last year's SOLD OUT bootcamp? Back by popular demand, you can join us again this year for our exclusive Feline Veterinarian Bootcamp 2.0, bigger, better and LONGER. Designed to provide you with real-world experience, learning from top experts, and connecting with fellow new graduates who share your passion for cats. This Bootcamp is tailored for new graduates to help you understand where to begin with common diagnoses and how to approach the diagnostic process effectively. Enhance your knowledge and practical skills in a supportive and collaborative environment, setting the stage for a successful and fulfilling career in feline medicine.

You must meet the following prerequisites to register for the Bootcamp:

- Recent graduate who needs to have graduated after March 2023
- Must have acquired the Cat Friendly Veterinarian® Certificate by August 1, 2026
- Agree to share your contact information with the Sponsor
- Complete a survey after the Bootcamp

Separate registration is required to attend this event. This Bootcamp will take place on Thursday, September 24 from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. Make sure to register early to get a seat (limited to 36 registrants). Attendance is on a first-come, first-serve basis and Conference registration is required. More details are available on the FelineVMA website here.

Ticket Price: Members - \$499 Early Bird; \$599 Regular

Non-Members - \$599 Early Bird; \$699 Regular

Lunch & Learn Sessions

Friday, September 25

Lunch & Learn #1: Boehringer Ingelheim is sponsoring *Senior Cats & Hidden Disease: The Impact of Early Detection*, presented by Dr. Diane Delmain. For a detailed description, see page 8.



Lunch & Learn #2: IDEXX is sponsoring *Decoding the Feline Patient: Stories Told by Blood Cells & the Hidden Clues of SDMA*, presented by Drs. Christine Bohn Kirnos, Alicia Dudley, & Natalee Holt. For a detailed description, see page 8.



Lunch & Learn #3: Zoetis is sponsoring *Purr-formance Check: Expert Insights On Feline Gait & Orthopedic Evaluations*, presented by Dr. Duncan Lascelles. For a detailed description, see page 8.



Saturday, September 26

Lunch & Learn #1: Dechra is sponsoring *Case-based Approach to the Critical Feline Patient with GI Disease*, presented by Dr. Ashlie Saffire & Caitlin Dutcher-Lundy, RVT. For a detailed description, see page 10.



Lunch & Learn #2: PRN is sponsoring *Shifting Paradigms in Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: From Detection to Intervention*, presented by Dr. Jose Novo Matos. For a detailed description, see page 10.



Lunch & Learn #3: Purina is sponsoring *A Dietary Combination of Antioxidants, Linoleic Acid, & a Prebiotic Maintained Kidney Function During Age-related Decline in Senior Cats: A Retrospective, Longitudinal Study*, presented by Dr. Erin Bryan. For a detailed description, see page 11.



Sunday, September 27

Lunch & Learn #1: Zoetis is sponsoring *“What Is It?” to “What Next?”: New Ways to Simplify Clinical Workups with Innovative Diagnostics*, presented by Drs. Luca Giori & Eric Morissette. For a detailed description, see page 13.



Lunch & Learn #2: Merck is sponsoring *Raising the Bar on Feline Visits: Advancing Patient Welfare Through Cat-centered Care*, presented by Dr. Petra Cerna. For a detailed description, see page 14.



Lunch & Learn #3: Elanco is sponsoring *Hot Topics in Feline Infectious Diseases*, presented by Dr. Michael Lappin. For a detailed description, see page 14.



Separate registration is required to attend these events and space is limited in each session. Make sure you register early to participate in a Lunch & Learn. **We ask that you please limit your registration to two Lunch & Learn sessions over the three days so others have the opportunity to attend.** If you register for more than two, additional sessions will be removed from your registration and selected at random. Attendance is on a first-come, first-served basis and Conference registration is required.

Ticket Price: FREE (Limited to 125 registrants each).

Included in Your Registration

Breakfast Symposia

Back by popular demand, sponsored Breakfast Symposia lectures will be complimentary for all attendees. Join us for presentations on *From Meow to Now: Unpacking Feline CKD - Today's Realities, Tomorrow's Direction* sponsored by Zoetis and *The New Feline Diabetes Mellitus: Transformations in Patient Care* sponsored by Royal Canin.



Oral Abstract Presentations

Oral abstract presentations will be held on Friday, September 25 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Presenters were selected from a competitive pool by a panel of reviewers, highlighting concise, high-impact studies that reflect emerging and important advancements in feline medicine.

Poster Presentations

Poster Presentations of new and emerging feline research will be available to view in the Exhibit Hall starting at the afternoon coffee break on Friday, September 25 through lunch on Sunday, September 27. Poster presenters will be available to answer any questions during the afternoon coffee break and reception on Friday, September 25.

Conference App

The Conference App is back! With the App, you will have access to the agenda, announcements, sponsor information, as well as the ability to plan your schedule and chat/interact with other attendees, and much more at your fingertips. Accessing the app will be easier than ever with complimentary Wi-Fi sponsored by Dechra in the meeting space for all in-person attendees. Access details will be emailed before the Conference.

Wi-Fi Access

Complimentary Wi-Fi will also be provided to all attendees in the Convention Center Ballroom space and Exhibit Hall. This Wi-Fi is sponsored by Dechra.



Meals

Your Conference registration includes breakfast and lunch all three days of the general Conference. A large variety of hot and cold items are served, including vegetarian, vegan, and other healthy alternatives. Coffee breaks and receptions on select days are also provided. Pre-conference Day, which is an additional fee (not included in the Three-day Conference), includes lunch and a coffee break with a snack in the afternoon.

Welcome Reception

All attendees are invited to the Welcome Reception located at the Convention Center Ballroom Plaza hosted by PRN Pharmacal on Thursday, September 24. Refreshments and appetizers will be provided while you have the opportunity to network and socialize with friends and meet new colleagues.



Happy Hour Reception

All attendees are invited to this reception co-sponsored by Bionote, Kong, Paw Prosper, and Scratch on Friday, September 25 in the Exhibit Hall. Refreshments and appetizers will be provided as you visit with exhibitors and colleagues, and stuff interactive toys for shelter cats. We encourage all Conference attendees to make the most of this time to ask questions, test equipment, create relationships, and learn about new products. A special raffle card will be provided during this reception so you can visit the Sponsor's booths, obtain a unique stamp, and submit the card for additional prizes that night.



Giveaways & Raffle Prizes

Attendees will receive a plethora of giveaways with your registration materials. Raffle prizes will also be awarded, so be sure to visit the Exhibit Hall to stamp your Exhibit Passport, included in your registration materials onsite, for your chance to win! The Conference also offers a dynamic mix of fun and interactive experiences that will bring energy, creativity, and connection to your days.

Conference Proceedings

Proceedings Notes are provided to each attendee. Since we know you cannot be in two places at one time, the notes will be included in the Conference proceedings so you will not miss out on any valuable information. Access includes:

- 1. Online Proceedings:** Each registered attendee will receive an email approximately three weeks prior to the event with complimentary online access. **You MUST print out these notes if you want the proceeding notes onsite (unless you have pre-purchased a printed book).**
- 2. Printed Book:** You may pre-purchase a Printed Proceedings Book for \$75.00, which will be provided to you when you register onsite. If you purchase a Proceedings Book but do not attend the conference there will be a \$20 shipping and handling fee.

Exhibit Hall

Each registered attendee has full access to our busy Exhibit Hall. The Exhibit Hall will be open during coffee breaks, lunches, and the Friday Happy Hour Reception. A full list of exhibiting companies can be found at catvets.com/2026conference. *Please note: the FelineVMA does not endorse the products or services of the companies that exhibit.*

Friday, September 25, 2025

Exhibits open 9:30 am to 6:45 pm

Saturday, September 26, 2025

Exhibits open 10:00 am to 3:15 pm

Sunday, September 27, 2025

Exhibits open 9:45 am to 1:45 pm

On-demand Virtual Access

On-demand Virtual Access will be available to all in-person registered attendees. The Conference **will not be live-streamed** but the sessions in the main three ballrooms will be available on-demand approximately 4-5 weeks following the in-person Conference. There will be a total of approximately 54 sessions available on-demand. Sessions from the Pre-conference Day (Thursday, September 24), Lunch & Learn sessions, Workshops, Bootcamp, and Oral Abstract Presentations will not be available on-demand. More information can be found on the FelineVMA website.

Continuing Education Credits

This Conference will be submitted (but not yet approved) for 33 continuing education credits in jurisdictions that recognize AAVSB RACE approval; however, participants should be aware that some boards have limitations on the number of hours accepted in certain categories and/or restrictions on certain methods of delivery of continuing education. Contact FelineVMA Headquarters for further information at conference@catvets.com. Once obtained, the program approval number will be listed on the Conference website at catvets.com/2026conference and on the CE form.

Pre-conference Day	Thursday, September 24, 2026	Up to 9 CE Hours
General Conference	Friday, September 25, 2026	Up to 7.5 CE Hours
	Saturday, September 26, 2026	Up to 8.5 CE Hours
	Sunday, September 27, 2026	Up to 8 CE Hours

Sunday Sessions

Don't leave early—our final day features some exciting sessions and speakers you won't want to miss, so plan to stay and finish strong!!

We know the last day of the Conference often gets overlooked—but this year, it's packed with **can't-miss sessions and powerhouse speakers** that will elevate your learning experience. Be sure to book your flight and travel back home later in the day so you don't miss any of it!

Event Policies and Attendee Guidelines

The FelineVMA is dedicated to providing a safe and productive environment for everyone attending our events. To help ensure all attendees have a pleasant Conference experience, we ask you to please read through and abide by our Conference policies and attendee guidelines. They include, but are not limited to: General Policies, Code of Conduct, Cancellations & Refunds, Americans with Disabilities Act, Children in Sessions, Animals at the Conference, and Consent to Use Photographic Images. These can be read at www.catvets.com/education/conference/policies. You will be required to confirm you will adhere to these policies when you register online.

Additional Things to Note

- Dressing in layers at the Conference is recommended due to room temperature variations.
- Please note that children are not permitted in the educational session rooms – see the Event Policies link above for more details.
- Nursing mothers can reach out to conference@catvets.com for information about accommodations.
- Before bringing a pet to the Conference, and after reading our Animals at the Conference Policy, you must reach out to conference@catvets.com for the policies at the Convention Center before attending.
- The FelineVMA will work closely with the venue to create menus that can be enjoyed by all attendees while keeping in mind the most common food allergies and restrictions including vegetarian and vegan options, and nut and seafood allergies. If you have a food allergy or dietary restriction, you must note this when registering for the Conference. We can work closely with the event venue to try and provide meals that accommodate individual restrictions as best as possible with proper advanced notice. Please note, onsite requests cannot be accommodated.

The listing of speakers with their bios as well as the hotel and travel information can be found on the FelineVMA website at catvets.com/2026conference