

Michigan Association Veterinary Technicians

2017 Fall Conference

Prince Conference Center

1800 East Beltline SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546



Lecture Abstracts

Lauren Demos, DVM, President AAFP (Feline Focus)

Feline Virology Soup:

What Do All Those Different Tests Mean and When to Use Them?

There are a variety of different acronyms that are commonly used in feline medicine, when doing laboratory testing for a variety of different diseases. Common ones include ELISA, PCR, IFA, Blots, and IHC. This lecture will utilize a variety of feline diseases and case studies as a vehicle to understand what these tests entail, and situations where they are useful. Common pitfalls in the tests will also be discussed.

Top Feline Emergencies: Triageing the Common Acute Presentations

Feline emergencies are often different than other animal species, and require a unique approach. This lecture will use a series of case studies, to investigate common emergency presentations, and how best to triage these cats. These common diseases will then be discussed in terms of acute medical therapeutics and diagnostics that can be helpful in stabilizing these patients. Some presentations that will be covered include: blocked cats, acute renal failure, seizures, and congestive heart failure.

Elevate Your Feline Medicine:

Implementing Cat Friendly Practice and Other Feline-Friendly Tips and Tricks

Cats have unique needs in the veterinary clinic: from handling methods, to housing, to diseases, they are definitely not small dogs. This lecture will examine ways to elevate your feline medicine in practice, including how to be implementing Cat Friendly Practice, and through tips and tricks gleaned in years of feline handling.

Kate D. Reynolds, DVM, CCRP (Rehabilitation)

Introduction to Rehabilitative Medicine

Rehabilitation is defined as “the treatment of injury or illness to decrease pain and restore function”, and is most like physical therapy in the human medical world. This lecture will introduce the benefits of therapy for various patients (post operative, post injury, degenerative diseases, geriatric pets, and conditioning/fitness), as well as look at individual modalities used in rehab. Case studies will complete the lecture to better understanding of the rehab process.

Golden Oldsters: Comfort Care for the Geriatric Pet

Aging is a process that affects animals and humans alike: it is progressive, irreversible, and it affects the anatomy and physiology of the body in a negative way. Aging impacts every body system, though we most often see the changes in the way an animal feels or moves, having a direct impact on their quality of life. This lecture will focus on what the technician can offer to their patients in the general/non-rehab practice.

Bringing Rehabilitation into the General/ER Practice: The Technician's Role

Rehabilitation isn't just about having access to an underwater treadmill and a certified rehab professional; veterinary technicians can employ the philosophies of therapy to their daytime/general or ER practices to better the lives of their patients. Offering such services can also be a practice-builder in that it bonds the client and patient to your practice. This lecture will cover modalities that can be used outside a rehab-only practice and discuss when referral is recommended.

Laura Byrd, LVT (Reproduction)

Intro to Canine Reproduction and Breeding Preparation

As veterinary technicians, we play a crucial role in advising clients in their animal's health. When approached with the statement "I want to breed my dog" we are given an opportunity to guide owners in the right direction. Canine reproductive terminology, testing, and processes will be explained, along with tips and tricks to counsel pet owners on this subject.

Reproduction and What to Expect (When She's Expecting)

Veterinary guidance can ensure a safe breeding experience for the male and the female canine. Technician assistance in timing and client education can help eliminate common errors often made in the reproductive process. Discussion will include the estrous cycle, progesterone and LH timing, breeding timing, types of breeding, pregnancy confirmation, and more.

They're Here, Now What? Whelping, Neonatal Care, and Post-Partum

Whether naturally whelping at home or delivering by emergency cesarean section, technicians can provide an unparalleled assistance to a laboring mother. Fulfilling our oath of promoting health and well-being, we can set neonatal puppies up for success by educating owners and giving a strong start. Topics include whelping, cesarean sections, neonatal care and complications, client education for birth and post-partum, and common post-partum conditions of the bitch.

Karlene Belyea, MBA, CEO MVMA (Mental Health & Communication)

Behavioral Differences: Understanding Yourself and Others

Each person in a work environment has differing behavioral styles. Some people may be dominant and fast-paced, others may be detail-oriented and slower-paced, and some may be more sensitive, social or people-focused. Team members tend to judge others rather than valuing each style. This session will help you understand yourself and others and adjust to different styles. You can have a more productive and fun workplace where conflicts are easily resolved and healthy communication exists!

Generational Differences – Engaging All Team Members

Did you know Millennials outnumber Baby Boomers in the U.S.? They are also the dominant generation in our workforce! Four generations are currently in the workplace and each has different values, causing communication challenges and conflicts. Significant problems can occur in a business

when people from different generations fail to communicate effectively. This light-hearted and fun session will compare values of the generations, identify their feedback styles and offer strategies for more effective cross-generational communication.

Making Body Language Your Superpower

Did you know that 93% of communication does not come from words? You can build rapport and confidence, increase your credibility and interview better! You'll learn how to tell if someone is lying, have the ability to influence through hand gestures, high power versus low power body positioning and how to regain control of a situation using your own body language. You will enjoy this fun session and leave with a whole new skill set!

Work/Life Integration and Personal Wellness

In this fast-paced world, many of us face depression, are overwhelmed, and lack work/life balance! This presentation will help you find ways to think positively, put yourself first, learn to relax, live in the moment, learn to forgive, stress less, be optimistic, ask for help and learn to say "no". Life doesn't have to be so hard! You will leave with strategies and tips you can use immediately to improve the quality of your life.

Finding Happiness at Home and at Work

Research shows that a positive outlook leads to 31% higher productivity, 25% better performance ratings, 23% less stress and 37% higher sales. Expressing a positive attitude improves engagement, intelligence, energy and profitability. The human brain is wired to be negative, but neuroscience proves that anyone can become more optimistic with appropriate tools. This session will provide you with techniques for handling negative people, creating more personal happiness, and creating a happier, more fun work place.

Brain Training and Neuroscience: How to be Happier and Make Better Decisions

Do you overthink things or make knee-jerk decisions? Learn to get out of your reptilian brain, determine your triggers and think differently. By learning new skills, we engage our brain's plasticity and keep it in great shape by utilizing mindfulness and happiness-improving techniques. You will also learn ways to tame the procrastination monster and reduce the stress hormone cortisol. This session can help you improve your thinking and productivity at work and at home.

Alicia Smith, LVT (Clinical Pathology)

Back to Basics: Small Animal Parasitology

In this clinical pathology session, primary focus will be on identification and diagnosis of gastrointestinal parasites and ectoparasites. Learn the life cycles of these common small animal parasites. Methods of heartworm testing will also be discussed.

Advanced Hematology

Take an in-depth look at hematology during this lecture. We will cover abnormal red and white blood cells and how to spot them under the microscope. Platelets and blood parasites will also be covered.

Clinical Pathology Case Studies

Let's have some fun and review case studies from emergency & critical care that focus on clinical pathology! Follow along as we discuss cases such as mast cell disease, lymphoma, immune-mediated anemia and more. This session will help you learn how clinical pathology was applied to each case to aid in a diagnosis.