

Schedule is in Eastern Standard Time

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022 – PRE-CONFERENCE DAY

- 7:45 – 11:45 am** **W** **Hands-on Feline Orthopedic Evaluation Workshop**, *Drs. Duncan Lascelles & Margaret Gruen* **IPO**
 The approach to a clinically meaningful and efficient orthopedic evaluation of the cat will be discussed. The components of capturing a relevant history, observation of the cat, and the hands-on examination will be presented and discussed. Delegates 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 owners. Review tools and protocols to optimize outcomes for your feline osteoarthritic patients. Read more on page 24 (separate registration required).
- 10:00 – 10:50 am** **Crusty, Crusty Cats! Pathway to a Diagnosis**, *Dr. Melissa Hall* **LS**
 During this lecture we will review key findings in regards to history, examination, and in-clinic diagnostics to reach a diagnosis for our crusty feline patients. We will review relevant findings in regards to cutaneous cytology, skin scraping, and dermatophyte testing as well as advanced testing including tissue biopsies.
- 10:55 – 11:45 am** **Allergic Kitties: Tips & Tricks for Successful Diagnosis & Management**, *Dr. Melissa Hall* **LS**
 During this lecture, we will dive into the often confusing and frustrating world of diagnosing and treating allergic hypersensitivity reactions in the cat. We will review common historical and clinical presentations as well as create a diagnostic pathway to distinguish between flea, food, and environmental triggers. We will also review various treatment options to help manage these cases with the goal to keep the cat and the owner comfortable.
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm** **To the Bladder & Beyond: The Role of Stress in Feline Urinary Health**, *Dr. Julia Albright* **LS**
 Cats urinate outside the litter box for a myriad of reasons, and stress is a contributing factor in many cases of litter box aversion, urine marking, and somatic diseases such as feline interstitial cystitis or urinary tract infections. Furthermore, acute and chronic stress has been linked to other illnesses, organ dysfunction, and behavior problems. Attendees will gain a better understanding of normal feline urinary behavior and environmental needs within a home, as well as management and pharmaceutical treatment options for reducing feline stress to improve urinary health and overall wellbeing.
- 1:30 – 2:20 pm** **Fabulous Felines but Difficult Diabetics: Approach to Complicated Diabetic Patients**, *Dr. Laura Greene* **LS**
 This presentation will examine the approach to difficult-to-regulate diabetics, including discussing the benefits and strategy of an individualized approach, and the most common culprits and comorbidities causing dysregulation of diabetes in cats. Attendees will have exposure to a step-by-step process of diabetic management, and will gain communication strategies for identifying obstacles to diabetic regulation, an introduction to up-and-coming potential therapeutics for feline diabetes and comorbidities, and an exploration of technologies that can help facilitate monitoring and management of complicated diabetics.
- 2:20 – 3:15 pm** **Novel RNA Particle Vaccine Technology**, *Dr. Laura Greene* **LS**
 This presentation will review the biology and benefits of RNA particle vaccines, detailing the unique features that make them a remarkable and exciting addition to the world of veterinary vaccines. Attendees will gain familiarity with the concept of a vaccine platform, which allows the potential creation of multiple vaccines from a single RNA particle vaccine base. The results of a trial in cats will also be discussed.
- 3:45 – 4:35 pm** **Feline Addison's & Cushing's: Cat Adrenals are Not Small Dog Adrenals!**, *Dr. Patty Lathan* **LS**
 In this session, we'll discuss diagnosis and treatment of Addison's Disease and Cushing's Syndrome in cats, and some of the similarities and differences with the diseases in cats and dogs. A case-based approach will be used, and specifics regarding diagnostics and treatments in cats will be addressed.
- 4:35 – 5:30 pm** **Feline Hyperaldosteronism & Acromegaly: Are We Missing These Patients?**, *Dr. Patty Lathan* **LS**
 In this session, we'll discuss diagnosis and treatment of hyperaldosteronism and acromegaly in cats. Abnormal findings on physical examinations and minimum data base that should help the clinician identify these patients (earlier) will be addressed, as well as treatments that can help these cats feel better.

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- 8:15 – 9:30 am** **C** **Cat Friendly Interactions**, *Drs. Sarah Heath & Ilona Rodan* **LS**
 The aim of Cat Friendly interactions is to improve feline welfare and to increase the safety of caregivers and members of the veterinary team. This presentation will discuss the principles of Cat Friendly interactions and explain how taking this approach can help to reduce the potential stress of the veterinary visit from start to finish. Consideration will be given to the importance of reading feline body language accurately in order to reduce negative, and promote positive, emotions..
- 11:00 – 11:50 am** **A** **The Challenging Cat**, *Dr. Sarah Heath* **LS**
 When cats are labelled as being challenging by veterinary professionals or feline caregivers it is important to ask questions about why the cat is behaving in that way. This presentation will consider the emotional motivations behind common challenging behaviors as well as the potential for physical and cognitive health factors to be involved. Practical approaches to dealing with the challenging cat will be explored.
- B** **Optimizing the Use of Continuous Glucose Monitoring in Diabetic Cats: Case Selection, Report Interpretation, Troubleshooting, & More**, *Dr. Catharine Scott-Moncrieff* **LS**
 This lecture will review the basics of diabetic monitoring in cats with a focus on how to integrate continuous interstitial glucose monitoring into the monitoring protocol. Topics will include case selection, sensor placement and activation, data upload, and report interpretation. We will also discuss how to identify errors and how to troubleshoot problems that may arise.

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- 11:55 – 12:45 pm** **A Neonatal & Pediatric Kittens**, *Dr. Sarah Heath* **LS**
This presentation will discuss the emotional development of kittens as it relates to creating emotional stability and exploring the role of the veterinary profession in optimizing kitten development. The provision of appropriate advice for breeders and caregivers will be covered. In addition, the importance of veterinary professionals leading by example during veterinary visits and hospitalization by providing appropriate experiences for young kittens, will be highlighted.
- B Beyond Total T4 in Diagnosis of Feline Hyperthyroidism: Role of Concurrent Illness & Approach to Grey-zone Results**, *Dr. Catharine Scott-Moncrieff* **LS**
This lecture will update current recommendations for diagnosis of feline hyperthyroidism. Topics will include a review of available diagnostic tests, how to accurately diagnose feline hyperthyroidism in cats with concurrent illness, and how to interpret grey-zone results. Case examples will be used to illustrate test interpretation.
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **L Ticks Like Cats Too! An Update on the Threat of Ticks & Tick-borne Pathogens for Cats**, *Dr. Kathryn Reif* **IPO**
Ticks pose a health risk to cats as a nuisance blood-feeding pest and through the numerous pathogens they can vector. Increased globalization, increased movement of humans and animals, and changing climate have helped facilitate the spread of vectors including ticks and their associated pathogens. This presentation will review the risk ticks and tick-borne pathogens pose to cats in the U.S. Additionally, this presentation will review best practices for reducing the risk of tick-borne pathogen transmission and tick-borne diseases for cats.
- L Expanding the Toolbox: Cutting Edge Diagnostics to Improve Outcomes in Patients with Early Renal Disease**, *Dr. Sarah Sweet* **IPO**
Utilization of novel and existing renal biomarkers as recommended by the International Renal Interest Society (IRIS) Guidelines provides veterinarians with clear-cut tools to aid in the diagnosis, staging, and treatment of kidney disease in cats. Novel biomarkers such as symmetric dimethyl arginine (SDMA) have provided clinicians with the ability to diagnose kidney disease earlier in feline patients. This, in turn, provides opportunities for more targeted interventions which can lead to increased longevity and better outcomes for feline patients diagnosed with kidney disease.
- L Don't Miss a Diagnosis: Comprehensive CBC with AI & Human Expertise in Your Practice**, *Dr. Eric Morissette* **IPO**
This session will focus on the diagnostic power of a comprehensive CBC. Using case based examples, we will explore advances in AI technology that makes blood films easier than ever. Come learn how to leverage your automated hematology analyzer with AI blood smear technology!
- 2:10 – 3:00 pm** **A Creating a Cat Friendly Veterinary Environment: Setting Patients Up for Success**, *Drs. Sarah Heath & Ilona Rodan* **LS**
The potentially challenging nature of the veterinary visit for feline patients is well documented. This presentation will discuss the potential impact of sensory arousal within the veterinary context and explore ways in which modification of the physical environment within the practice, training of staff, and selection of procedural protocols can help to set patients up for success.
- B Pancreatitis in the Diabetic Cat**, *Dr. Catharine Scott-Moncrieff* **LS**
This lecture will review the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of pancreatitis with a specific focus on pancreatitis in diabetic cats. Topics will include the role of pancreatitis in pathogenesis of pancreatitis in cats, impact of sub-clinical pancreatitis on diabetic regulation, diagnosis of acute versus chronic pancreatitis in cats, and approach to treatment of both acute and chronic pancreatitis in diabetic cats.
- 3:05 – 3:55 pm** **A Cat Friendly Hospitalization: Optimizing the Inpatient Experience**, *Dr. Sarah Heath* **LS**
The hospitalization of the feline patient can be challenging. The aims are to provide necessary physical health care while ensuring the protection of the patient's mental wellbeing. These aims overlap considerably as the physical, emotional, and cognitive health of the individual cat all impact one another. This presentation will consider practical ways in which the health triad can be considered in order to optimize the inpatient experience.
- B Practical Tips & Pearls for the Management of Feline Urolithiasis**, *Dr. Anne-Marie Germain* **LS**
During this session, the speaker will share practical tips and pearls to help in the management of feline urolithiasis. The session will offer answers to common questions and challenges veterinary teams are faced with in private practice. At the end of the lecture, those attending should have a good understanding of the information needed to design a successful individualized management plan, be familiar with various nutritional strategies and how they can be leveraged for urolithiasis management, as well as be equipped with a list of measures to implement when the follow up results don't meet our prevention targets. The attendees should also leave more confident navigating through the diet options in order to select the most optimal diet for each patient, including patients with preferences, a history of stone recurrence, or comorbidities.
- 4:55 – 5:45 pm** **A Addressing Distress in the Home Environment**, *Dr. Ilona Rodan* **LS**
Many companion cats do not have mental (emotional and cognitive) wellbeing in their homes despite well-meaning cat caregivers. This case-based presentation will support you in identifying the common causes with the goal of improving feline welfare, prevention, or early detection of behavioral concerns and prevention of stressor-stacking during the veterinary visit.
- B Panel Discussion - Piecing the Puzzle Together: Medical or Behavioral?**, *Dr. Margaret Gruen (moderator), Ms. Kara Burns, Drs. Elizabeth Colleran, Jessica Quimby, Catharine Scott-Moncrieff, & Kelly St. Denis* **LS**
Led by Dr. Margaret Gruen, this session will include case-based discussions with multiple panelists as they explore and determine whether each case is behavioral or medical. Discussions will include diagnosis and approach.

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7:00 – 7:50 am

S Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV): More Complex Than We Thought, *Dr. Richard Ford* **LS**

This clinical update stresses several key issues pertaining to the diagnosis, management, and prevention of Feline Leukemia Virus infection in domestic cats. Key clinical issues addressed during the presentation include risk for exposure/infection, vaccination, age-related resistance, interpretation of FeLV-Ag test results within the context of pathogenesis, and long-term patient management.

S Practical Side for Implementing Monoclonal Antibodies, *Dr. Elizabeth Colleran* **LS**

The single most important step towards treating chronic pain in cats is to develop a strategy for accomplishing pain recognition in cats. The first step towards accomplishing this is to achieve a clear step-by-step approach to pain recognition among team members. The consistent use of an artificial intelligence app by all members of the team will help create a consistent picture. Once an established discipline is created for the team, using pain recognition tools and artificial intelligence, outreach can begin to take place to caregivers. The second step for implementing monoclonal antibodies within the practice is consistent messaging regarding pain management. The subtlety of feline pain manifestation is a barrier that can easily be overcome once the entire team is trained and they begin to use their new skills interacting with caregivers. Before and after treatment videos will be particularly helpful in solidifying the caregivers' willingness to engage in chronic therapy. This talk will discuss the science behind the use of monoclonal antibodies in pain management, tools for creating a team strategy, and multiple case reports that will demonstrate the power of visual imagery to create caregiver commitment.

8:00 – 8:50 am

A Nutrition in CKD: Focus on Calories & Calcium, *Dr. Jessica Quimby* **LS**

Poor appetite is a major quality of life concern for cats with CKD. This presentation will discuss possible pathophysiological mechanisms of inappetence in CKD, recent research on management of nausea and inappetence in CKD cats, and nutritional goals for these patients. Calcium-phosphorus physiology will be reviewed and recent concerns about hypercalcemia in CKD will be discussed.

B The Critical Cat: Part 1, *Dr. Christopher Byers* **LS**

Feline patients are frequently presented in critical condition due to a wide variety of medical and surgical problems. Timely and effective intervention are required to maximize the likelihood of a positive outcome. Learners will review cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as well as practical approaches to hypotension, dyspnea, thoracic trauma, and shock.

C Feline Thermal Imaging: What the Pretty Colors Tell Us, *Dr. John Godbold* **LS**

See how the pretty colors of feline thermal images and the visual representation of body surface temperatures give us unique physiological information and serve as a road map for further diagnostics. Clinical cases will illustrate how thermal images detect problems earlier, when physiological changes are present, and before structural changes appear. Learn how to map areas requiring further evaluation, identify secondary areas of compensation, and objectively monitor any therapeutic plan.

8:55 – 9:45 pm

A Inter-cat Conflict, *Dr. Sarah Heath* **LS**

Conflict between cats is a very common problem and can have implications for the physical, as well as emotional, health of feline patients. This presentation will discuss how cases of feline conflict can be identified by veterinary practitioners and explain how understanding the reasons for conflict can lead to a selection of appropriate management and treatment approaches.

B The Critical Cat: Part 2, *Dr. Christopher Byers* **LS**

See Part 1 abstract above.

C But I Can't Pill my Cat: Options for Non-pharmacologic Pain Management in Cats, *Dr. John Godbold* **LS**

Help your clients avoid the battles of wits, wills, and claws. Begin incorporating non-pharmacological pain management techniques for patients whose owners cannot medicate them at home. Learn how to expand your multi-modal pain management protocols by including therapeutic modalities and technologies that will help reduce your patients' pain and the unpleasant battles at home.

11:00 – 12:15 pm

A Cat Friendly Homes: Setting Clients up for Success, *Dr. Sarah Heath* **LS**

This presentation will consider the importance of the physical and social environment in relation to the physical and mental wellbeing of pet cats. The responsibility of caregivers in providing a home that caters for the species-specific needs of the cat will be discussed. Creating a Cat Friendly environment within the home does not need to be expensive and can be a lot of fun! Practical advice for clients on how to achieve this aim will be explored.

B QOL in CKD: Make Every Medication Matter, *Dr. Jessica Quimby* **LS**

Management of CKD can be complex and require multiple medications due to the various complications of the disease. Balancing these therapies with each individual cat's tolerances to create an acceptable QOL is important. Management of CKD with these goals in mind will be discussed.

C Kitten Nutrition: Starting Them Off Right & Making Nutritional Recommendations, *Ms. Kara Burns* **LS**

Proper nutritional management is one of the most important factors in managing health and disease. The healthcare team should be educated and proactive when discussing nutrition with clients. Kittens are dependent on the queen to provide food during the neonatal or nursing period. The transition from queen's milk to solid food (weaning) is a gradual process and is an integral part of the nursing period. However, the veterinary team must be prepared to care for orphaned kittens as well. Kittens are considered orphaned if they lack sufficient maternal care for survival from birth to weaning. The post weaning period through the first year of life is a critical time for development. It is important for the veterinary team and the pet owner to impart a strong nutritional foundation to help support the growth and development of the kitten throughout the demanding neonatal and post weaning period. This presentation will discuss feeding nursing kittens, feeding orphaned kittens, and integrating the weaning process. Additionally, we will discuss nutritional assessment, key nutrients for a healthy kitten, and feeding to achieve healthy growth, optimize trainability and immune function, and minimize obesity. The healthcare team should be educated and proactive when discussing nutrition with clients. This presentation will allow the team to present a researched and educated nutritional recommendation to clients.

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- 12:30 – 1:30 pm**
- L COVID-19: A New World in Human & Veterinary Vaccines**, *Drs. Randal Gregg & Madeleine Stahl* **IPO**
This session will review differences in human COVID-19 vaccines and similar veterinary applications. Attendees will learn how SARS CoV-2 disease presents in humans and about efficacy and safety data available for the different types of human COVID-19 vaccines. The application of new technology to develop a feline COVID vaccine will also be presented.
 - L Giving Your Cat a Voice: How Tracking Elimination Behavior Provides Insights into Health & Emotional Wellbeing**, *Dr. Ragen McGowan* **IPO**
The litter box is a window into what is going on with our cats' health and emotional wellbeing. This session will provide a high-level overview of a comprehensive ethogram of cat behavior in and around the litter box, as well as what we know about cat preference in a multi-cat household. By understanding the litter box from the cat's perspective, we can look out for subtle changes in elimination patterns that serve as early indicators of change in health state. Keeping tabs on litter box behavior with digital tools can move us from a reactive to a proactive approach to health for cats.
 - L Uremic Toxins in CKD: Why Should We Care?**, *Dr. Jessica Quimby* **IPO**
Uremic toxins are substances that build up in the body due to decreased GFR. Of particular interest are uremic toxins that are produced in the colon due to protein fermentation (e.g. indoxyl sulfate). The formation of uremic toxins, their many possible deleterious effects, as well as possible treatment strategies will be discussed.
- 1:40 – 2:30 pm**
- A Taking the Edge Off: Sedation Before and/or During Veterinary Visits**, *Dr. Robin Downing* **LS**
In the past, cats who resisted or even fought veterinary visits were labeled "bad cats." These cats are NOT bad! They may be frightened, they may be anxious, they may even be painful, so for them the veterinary visit is torture. This session will provide ideas for pre- and during-visit sedation options that will not mask pain if it is present but will allow both cats and veterinary team members to be safe and comfortable.
 - B Practical Fluid Therapy: More than "Twice Maintenance"**, *Dr. Christopher Byers* **LS**
Feline patients often require fluid therapy to help treat a myriad of disease processes. Learners will review types of fluids and how to develop a logical fluid therapy plan. They will also be introduced to the endothelial glycocalyx and highlight current controversies associated with synthetic colloids.
 - C PURRfecting the Feline Exam: Communicating with Clients to Get the Information You Need**, *Dr. Elizabeth Colleran & Margaret Gruen* **LS**
Getting systematic information from cats and their people can be tricky. In this session, Drs. Colleran and Gruen will discuss communication techniques for getting the most information during your feline exam, particularly with regard to feline mobility and osteoarthritis pain. This will include how to shift our language and creative ways to extend the exam room using pictures and videos from clients' homes.
- 3:15 – 4:05 pm**
- A Seek & Ye Shall Find: Pain Exams in Cats**, *Dr. Robin Downing* **LS**
Cats are notorious for declining to tell their humans when something is wrong. Particularly when pain is present, cats are particularly reticent. This session will provide a demonstration of a feline-friendly (and effective) palpation strategy to help you look for, and find, pain in your feline patients.
 - B Diagnosis & Management of Chronic Vomiting**, *Dr. Christopher Byers* **LS**
Chronic vomiting is one of the most common reasons for which feline patients are presented to a veterinarian. Attendees will review common primary and secondary gastrointestinal etiologies. They will also discuss a logical diagnostic plan and options for antiemetic therapy.
 - C Conducting Procedures in the Exam Room & Techniques for Obtaining Diagnostics**, *Dr. Elizabeth Colleran* **LS**
Several studies have demonstrated that separating cats from their caregivers in the veterinary setting creates more of an experience of stress for both parties. Everyone on the veterinary team understands that caregivers want the best care for their beloved cats and are worried when they disappear into a big room with more people and barking dogs. The effects of stress on physical parameters has been well documented. This talk will demonstrate techniques for improving a cat's ability to cope with the stress of a trip outside their home range, interactions with strangers, and the presence of other animals. Not only should most procedures be done in the examination room with the owner present, when a trip to another procedure room is necessary the client should remain in the presence of the cat and be engaged in the process. Specific techniques for gentle handling, engaging the client, and performing procedures in the exam room will be demonstrated.
- 4:10 – 4:35 pm**
- A Catupuncture & Meowssage in Cat Friendly Practice**, *Dr. Robin Downing* **LS**
Medical acupuncture is a useful tool that we can use to good advantage in Cat Friendly Practice. So, too, medical massage. This session will provide participants with some ideas for leveraging these physical medicine techniques to help cats.
 - B Gabapentin Sedation in Cats With & Without CKD**, *Dr. Jessica Quimby* **LS**
Gabapentin has become popular as a medication prescribed to reduce stress and improve compliance in feline patients during veterinary visits. However, this dose may be inappropriate for elderly cats, specifically those with CKD as gabapentin is cleared only by renal excretion. This session will review our current state of knowledge and present new data to help inform how gabapentin dosing should be altered in this patient population.
 - C Cat Friendly: Getting (& Keeping) the Whole Team on Board**, *Dr. Elizabeth Colleran* **LS**
Cat Friendly Practice® (CFP) has the potential to create an enthusiasm for a shared vision within the practice team. As we emerge from very stressful times it is important to restore and reinforce enthusiasm for veterinary practices that seem to have suffered in the last 2 years. We will discuss techniques for restoring enthusiasm, reinforcing the value of how we interact with our feline patients, and to help heal our team. The consequences of these stressful times can be counteracted with a mission to improve the experience of feline patients and their caregivers.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022 continued

4:40 – 5:15 pm

Cat Friendly Practices® by the Data **LS**

Did you know that being a Cat Friendly Practice® (CFP) has real tangible benefits? We'll take a look at what the data shows including how being a Cat Friendly Practice® helps you, your team, cats, and cat caregivers. In this session we will review injury reduction data from CFPs and show how being a Cat Friendly Practice® can reduce injuries at your practice, decrease your insurance premium, increase revenue, and increase use of diagnostics for both wellness and clinical patients. We will also have time at the end of the session to answer questions about your CFP journey.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022

7:00 – 7:50 am

S Hematuria Detection: A New Standard of Care, Dr. Kelly St. Denis **LS**

Hematuria is a common feature of many feline lower urinary tract diseases. It often precedes other clinical signs of disease but is not detected until later in the disease process as gross hematuria in the litter box or during diagnostic urine testing. By this time, the patient is already experiencing clinical symptoms and discomfort or pain. The ability to detect hematuria early in the disease process gives caregivers a powerful tool which allows them to seek veterinary assistance early. This seminar will explore the technology behind Hematuria Detection and its application in managing feline urinary tract disease.

S Maximizing Claw & Order in Feline Anesthesia: A Case Based Approach, Dr. Rebecca Salazar **LS**

This interactive session will cover the continuum of care of anesthetic stages including a multimodal approach to feline anesthesia and the importance of a patient-centric experience.

7:30 – 10:00 am

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

The goals of Cat Friendly handling are to minimize feline stressors and to promote positive veterinary experiences for cats, subsequently increasing feline welfare, client loyalty, and human safety. More appropriate handling techniques are provided for cats that continue to display fear or other negative emotions despite our best efforts. Understanding the cat is the foundation of feline handling principles and techniques. Cats are unique animals because they are the only solitary hunter that can live amicably with people. They have strong survival instincts and protective mechanisms when they perceive threats which are not uncommon during veterinary visits. This hands-on workshop will begin with an updated summary presentation to help understand cats and why certain handling techniques work best. This will be followed by a breakout into small groups with demonstration of multiple techniques by Dr. Rodan; each attendee will then have the opportunity to apply those techniques utilizing live cats. This session requires separate registration. Read more on page 24 (separate registration required).

8:00 – 8:50 am

A Understanding & Managing Feline Hypertension the Cat Friendly Way, Dr. Kelly St. Denis **LS**

Diagnosing and managing hypertension in the cat depends on a sound level of comfort and understanding with obtaining blood pressure readings in the first place. A familiarity with the equipment on hand is key. However, the most significant barrier to obtaining blood pressure readings in the cat is the cat itself, or rather how comfortable the cat is with the experience. Situational (white coat) hypertension is a genuine concern in the feline species. Extra attention paid to Cat Friendly interactions will go a long way to obtaining reliable readings while at the same time providing a positive experience for all. It's easier than you think!

B Chronic Pancreatitis: Diagnosis, Treatment, & Management, Dr. Megan McClosky **LS**

This lecture will focus on chronic pancreatitis in cats. We will discuss the limitations and benefits of the available diagnostic tests. We will discuss treatment and management strategies. The long-term sequelae of chronic pancreatitis will be reviewed.

8:55 – 9:45 pm

A Elimination as a Problem: Is it Behavior or is it Medical?, Drs. Julie Byron & Meghan Herron **LS**

"Peeing outside the litter box" is one of the most common, yet often dreaded, complaints general practitioners face. While many clients may be convinced their cat is urinating all over their house out of spite or revenge, many times there is actually a medical problem to blame. Determining whether or not an undesirable elimination pattern is a result of a medical problem is the first step in approaching feline elimination disorders. Attendees will learn common and not-so-common medical reasons for cats to show changes in their litter box habits, what minimal diagnostic screening tests to perform with every feline who presents with elimination problems, and what additional testing may be warranted based on that data. This presentation will be primarily case-based with questions and interaction encouraged.

B IBD to Lymphoma: How Do I Manage if the Client Won't Biopsy?, Dr. Megan McClosky **LS**

This lecture will focus on inflammatory bowel disease and small cell GI lymphoma in cats. We will discuss the similarities and differences between these two conditions. We will address the benefits and limitations of biopsy and focus on empiric therapy absent a biopsy diagnosis.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2022 continued

- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A** **Multi-cat Households: Stress, Feeding, Inter-cat Aggression, & More – Part 1**, *Dr. Meghan Herron* **LS**
 Living with multiple cats can be utter purr-fection for some households. But what about those who just don't get along? What cats are more likely to get along with other cats than others? The first step is knowing which cats will make a better match than others and how to appropriately introduce them. Next, one must be keen at observing and interpreting feline body language to determine how well cats are tolerating each other's presence. Finally, a resource-enriched environment, including feeding options that meet each individual cat's needs, is key to long-term success. Attendees will learn how to best promote a life of harmony and happiness for the humans and felines in the multi-cat household, utilizing all of these skills.
- B** **Felines with Cardiomyopathy: Is it Safe to...?**, *Dr. Henry Green* **LS**
 Cardiac disease in cats is an unfortunate common occurrence with various stages of disease. Unfortunately, most disease processes in cats are silent in nature and not found until the onset of heart failure. Following a brief review of disease pathophysiology, this session will attempt to answer the common question of "is it safe to...?" (including review of current drug recommendations, diagnostics/therapeutic procedures, and sedatives and anesthetics).
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **Multi-cat Households: Stress, Feeding, Inter-cat Aggression, & More – Part 2**, *Dr. Meghan Herron* **LS**
 See Part 1 abstract above.
- B** **Feline Arterial Thromboembolic Disease: 24 Hours Can Tell a Story**, *Dr. Henry Green* **LS**
 Feline arterial thromboembolism "saddle thrombus" is a common sequela of advanced cardiac disease in cats. This syndrome is often devastating to owners and often results in euthanasia of cats presenting with this disease complication. This session will discuss current approaches to cats with this clinical syndrome including diagnostic and latest treatment options and results.
- 12:40 – 1:40 pm** **L** **Early Prediction Advantages for CKD**, *Dr. Ashlie Saffire* **IPO**
 What if genetics and oral microbiome testing could be used to identify potential risk factors for development of periodontal disease and chronic kidney disease in our feline patients? In this discussion we will share current research and advancements in feline oral health and what a cat's oral microbiome is telling us. We will also discuss how incorporating oral microbiome testing along with traditional diagnostics in your practice can elevate patient care by improving prediction of CKD and improve management of patient health over time.
- L** **Serum TSH: An Essential Tool for Diagnosis & Monitoring of Thyroid Disease in Cats**, *Dr. Mark Peterson* **IPO**
 When most veterinarians think of serum thyroid function tests commonly used to diagnose hyper- and hypothyroidism, the main thyroid hormones that come to mind include total T4 and free T4, with serum TSH concentrations considered only rarely. In cats, assays for measuring canine TSH (cTSH) are widely available, and these assays work well enough to be useful for clinical purposes. In addition, a new feline-optimized TSH assay has recently been launched, which appears to offer better diagnostic test sensitivity and specificity. In this review, I will explain why serum TSH should be moved up in the list of importance as a thyroid function test for cats. In fact, serum TSH concentration may actually be the best single diagnostic test for cats with hypothyroidism, as well as being a very useful test in cats with subclinical and mild hyperthyroidism.
- L** **Evidence Based Medicine Supporting Stem Cell Therapy in the Feline Patient**, *Dr. Anne Hale* **IPO**
 A growing body of published work supports the use of autologous and allogeneic stem cells for osteoarthritis, renal disease, inflammatory bowel disease, mucocutaneous dysplasias, and general immune mediated conditions. This lecture will review the evidence and explore the pathways to treat your feline patients with stem cells. Using an evidence-based approach to select a stem cell product or provider, we will discuss today's available products and services as well as future opportunities.
- 1:45 – 2:35 pm** **A** **My House is Not Your Toilet: Feline Elimination Problems**, *Dr. Meghan Herron* **LS**
 While cats may not recognize their inappropriate elimination patterns as problematic, families with such cats find it quite undesirable, making it the number one behavioral reason for relinquishment of cats to shelters and a common reason for the return of a previously adopted cat to a shelter. This session aims to boost general practitioners' knowledge regarding the current literature on feline elimination problems. This includes how to make an accurate diagnosis, as well as to implement safe and effective treatment strategies.
- B** **Blocked Cats: Anything New?**, *Dr. Julie Byron* **LS**
 We still struggle to find a way to prevent re-obstruction in our male cats with urethral obstruction. The attendee will hear about recent data involving prazosin and other peri-obstructive therapies and techniques. Some of our previous presumptions have been overturned in these studies.

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2:40 – 3:30 pm

A Integrated Care: Feline Psychopharmacology, Nutrition, & Supplements, Dr. Meghan Herron LS

Many indications for psychotropic medications exist, including generalized anxiety, separation anxiety, panic disorders, persistent phobias, compulsive disorders, and more. Daily drugs are given as such – every day, regardless of events, season, or stress level. Patients on daily psychotropic medications may still be in need of additional help to alleviate panic, fear and/or anxiety during predictable, situational events, as the daily medications may not be enough to control intense spike in stress levels. Other patients who display distress only as a result of known, predictable triggers, such as fireworks, car travel, or thunderstorms, may benefit from an event medication alone. In some cases, nutritional supplements and specialized diets can complement and, in some cases, replace the use of medication. This session will give an overview of the main classes of drugs and nutritional supplements used for daily treatment of emotional disorders as well as for “as needed” treatment of predictable panic/fear triggers in cats. We will cover how these medications work, what the therapeutic expectations are for each, and what side effects may be expected. Drug interactions, adverse effects, and weaning protocols will also be discussed.

B Feline Ureterolithiasis: Big Kidney-Little Kidney, Dr. Julie Byron LS

More than half of cats with ureteral obstruction have evidence of previous obstruction in the contralateral kidney. This session will discuss the current understanding of feline ureteral obstruction, how to recognize it, treatment options, and potential complications. Long term management of cats with subcutaneous ureteral bypass systems will also be addressed with case examples of complications.

On-demand Session Abstracts**Bring Back the Pounce: Managing Osteoarthritis in Cats, Ms. Kara Burns**

The goals of medical management of osteoarthritis include: 1) mitigation of risk factors, 2) controlling clinical signs, and 3) moderating progression of the disease. Effective medical management generally requires a multimodal approach. Clinical nutrition plays a critical role in the successful long-term management of patients with osteoarthritis. Prevention or reversal of obesity is one of the most effective mechanisms for reducing risk and modifying disease progression. We will review nutrients and nutritional management of OA in cats, aimed at easing the pain and slowing the progression of OA.

Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy & the Role of Nutrition, Ms. Kara Burns

Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common heart disease in cats. This presentation will review HCM, its prevalence, risk factors, signs, and breed predispositions. We will take an in-depth look at the role of nutrition as part of effective multimodal management of HCM, examining specific nutrients which aid in improving the quality of life for cats with HCM. Effective treatment requires a multifaceted approach, of which therapeutic nutrition is an important component. We will take an in-depth look at foods formulated for cats with cardiovascular disease and the specific nutrients that may help manage hypertension, decrease fluid retention, maintain heart muscle function, and help slow the progression of concurrent disease processes.

Feline IBD: Pathophysiology, Treatment Goals, & Client Communication, Ms. Kara Burns

Veterinary technicians must be familiar with feline IBD and the causes of this disease; and work with the entire healthcare team to alleviate the signs and symptoms observed in cats presenting to the hospital. Veterinary technicians play an important role in monitoring IBD feline patients and their response to treatment. This presentation will look at the pathophysiology of IBD, goals of treatment including nutritional management, and the importance of educating pet owners regarding this frustrating and chronic disease.

Getting Cats to Eat: More than Pouring Food into a Bowl?, Ms. Kara Burns

Proper nutritional management is one of the most important factors in managing health and disease in cats. As clients become more aware of the importance of nutrition in their own health, they will expect this same higher standard of nutritional care for their cats. The veterinary healthcare team should be the preferred, expert source of the best nutritional information for pets. Proper nutritional management is one of the most important factors in maximizing health, performance, and longevity in cats, in addition to managing disease conditions. This session will review the physiology and behavior of feeding cats, along with tips to ensure cats are getting the nutrients they need.

Cats, Carriers, & Cars: A Cat Friendly Approach to Containment for Travel, Dr. Sarah Ellis

It can be really tricky for clients to be able to get their cats to the veterinary practice. This talk provides plentiful tips and training techniques that the veterinary team can share with their clients for Cat Friendly travel to the veterinary practice.

Interactions with Cats: How Can Human Behavior Change Theory Help?, Dr. Sarah Ellis

For interactions with cats to be truly Cat Friendly, they need to consider not only the cat's needs, but the person's ability to meet such needs. This talk will consider both sides including what factors influence individual cats to be more suited to interactions with people, tips to interacting in Cat Friendly ways, and introducing a human behavior change model that can help us investigate what may prevent/facilitate people to interact positively with cats.

Triple Threat: Diagnosis and Management of Feline Triaditis, Dr. Megan McClosky

This lecture will review the etiologies of feline triaditis, including cholangiohepatitis, inflammatory bowel disease, and pancreatitis. We will discuss diagnostic tests for all three components of the disease, focusing primarily on cholangiohepatitis. Treatment strategies including dietary modification, antibiotics, immunomodulation, and hepatoprotectant medications will be discussed.