

## **Amy Newfield, MS, CVT, VTS (ECC)**

### **Seizures!**

This lecture talks about why seizures can happen, diagnostics involved and treatment. Numerous videos are shown so attendees can truly understand all stages and types.

### **Emergency Cases: Get Your Think On**

This lecture will provide some critical information you need to know for most emergency cases by talking through some emergency cases.

### **How to Get Into Publishing & Speaking**

Want to become an author, but don't know where to start? Want to lecture to colleagues, but aren't sure how to get your foot in the door? This lecture breaks down how to start doing both by providing a step by step playbook.

### **Understanding Clinic Dog Behavior & Restraint Methods**

Working with animals can be a dangerous job. Understanding how to "read" dogs better will help you with knowing when to restrain or when to restrain differently. This presentation is heavy on videos and many restraining techniques will be shown.

### **Understanding Clinic Feline Behavior & Restraint Methods**

Working with animals can be a dangerous job. Understanding how to "read" both dogs and cats better will help you with knowing when to restrain or when to restrain differently. This presentation is heavy on videos and many restraining techniques will be shown.

### **Preventing Burnout**

Wait, what?! Burnout is preventable? Yes, it is. Let's talk about how someone becomes burned out and then talk

## **Erin Spencer, M.Ed, CVT, VTS(ECC)**

### **MVTA Veterinary Technician Licensing Bill Update**

Join MVTA Legislative Committee Chair Erin Spencer for an update on the bill regulating the practice and licensure of veterinary technicians in the State of Massachusetts and what you can do to help.

### **RECOVER 2.0 CPR Guidelines – What's Changed?**

This talk will review the RECOVER algorithm with a focus on changes in the newly updated guidelines.

### **Understanding Insulin: How does it work, why are we using that one, and for blocked cats?!**

This talk provides an overview of insulin therapy from its origins to ways it is being used outside of diabetes treatments.

## **Jean Orlando, CVT, LATG, BSc**

### **One Health and The Importance of Dark Skies**

Light pollution is escalating at an alarming rate around the globe and contributing to our climate crisis. It can interfere with the overall health of whole ecosystems including negative effects on human health. Many animals depend on the natural light and dark cycle for life-sustaining behaviors. With education and advocacy about proper lighting in our communities, all species can benefit. This global conservation initiative attempts to address the long-term problem with practical solutions. By thoughtful planning, the rapid rate of light pollution can be decreased. It is crucial that we act now to preserve the natural beauty of our night skies and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. By working together to combat light pollution we can create a healthier planet for all.

#### **Placenta Previa in a 39-year-old Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) at Zoo New England**

A case study describing the diagnosis of placenta previa in a western lowland gorilla, surgical intervention, and ultimate delivery of a liveborn male neonate. Several teams consisting of zoo veterinary staff, human obstetricians, neonatologists and zookeepers were mobilized to work together over several days. Having well-assembled teams with assigned responsibilities, equipment staged prior to any official diagnosis allowing a quick transition into surgery and neonate care, and keeper staff prepared to feed and care for the neonate with plans of possible reintroduction scenarios were all instrumental for a positive outcome in this case.

#### **Veterinary Technician's Role in a Zoological Setting**

The sheer diversity of species in a Zoo can challenge any veterinary technician during their day-to-day duties. Much of the work is very comparable to any other field of veterinary medicine but there are also many aspects that are unique to zoos. The constant need to adapt, be flexible, and think outside the box while caring for all taxa weighing anywhere from 10grams up to several tons is an adventure. Learn more about what the job entails to be a Zoo Veterinary Technician.

### **Jocelyn Strassel, MS, CVT, CDBC**

#### **Chatty Catty: Excessive Vocalization in Cats**

This presentation will examine the causes of this behavior, and how to assess and treat it using applied behavior analysis. Presentation will include a case study.

#### **Assessing Dog Aggression in Owned Dogs Using a Fake Dog: Valuable Information Gained from New Research**

This presentation will examine the results of data collected in a clinical setting on hundreds of owned reactive and/or aggressive dogs being introduced to a fake dog. Attendees will gain an understanding of the principles of stimulus control, how to evaluate the function of the behavior, how to conduct a fake dog assessment, and how to utilize the results in creating a behavior plan. Comparisons to existing literature on the topic will also be discussed.

#### **Using Enrichment to Improve Behavior in all Stages of Life in Cats & Dogs**

This presentation will discuss all things enrichment, including what it is, types, specific examples, and how to use it for both feline and canine species in puppy/kitten hood, adolescence, adulthood, and the senior years. Case examples of using enrichment to decrease problem behavior will be given.

#### **Kitten Kindergarten: Why it is Important and How to Offer Classes at Your Clinic**

This presentation will discuss the importance of the socialization period in kittens, and how a kitten kindergarten class can contribute to raising more confident and less fearful adult cats. We will discuss the logistics of holding class, curriculum items, and the benefits of participation.

## **Julie Antonellis, BS, LVT, CVT, VTS (ECC)**

### **Respiratory emergencies**

No matter how long folks have been working in the veterinary field the one emergency that makes everyone anxious is the respiratory emergency. It can be very difficult to find the balance in treating our patients and not harming them in the process. Watching a patient struggle with one of the basic body functions necessary for survival can be extremely difficult for the veterinary team. This lecture will address many of the concerns we all face when handling dyspneic patients and provide useful tips on ways to ease the process. Attendees will learn the importance of recognizing different breathing patterns and how they can be used to aid in the diagnosis of their patients. They will gain an understanding of some of the more common respiratory emergencies we see in emergency medicine and how they are treated. Attendees will learn the value of diligent nursing care in these patients as well as advanced procedures that technicians can perform to help them. This lecture will briefly touch on one of the more advanced therapies available for treating severe respiratory emergencies, critical care ventilation. Real life cases will be used to bring the information discussed together in a very practical way.

### **CPR: How can we improve our response?**

Being prepared for anything is something we strive for in the world of veterinary medicine. We often pride ourselves on being able to make the most out of difficult situations with what we have on hand. Despite our flexibility and ingenuity there are still times when we struggle with life and death situations involving our patients. When faced with a dying patient on a shift where the people we are working with are not on the same page as we are, an already difficult situation can appear almost impossible. This lecture will provide practical information and guidance that will help participants lead their veterinary team to work together to help any dog or cat who has suffered from cardiopulmonary arrest. Attendees will learn about basic life support and advanced life support following the RECOVER guidelines from a certified ALS instructor. They will gain knowledge that will help them to respond to cardiopulmonary arrest in a calm and organized fashion and an understanding of the importance of teamwork in these situations. Participants will leave this lecture with a solid understanding of how to perform CPR, monitor their patients during CPR and ways to prepare their hospital for this often stressful event. Videos will be used to highlight important aspects of CPR to give attendees a better sense of how to respond.

### **Taking the shock factor out of shock**

Shock is a widely used, but not always fully understood, term in veterinary medicine. Having a true understanding of what shock means and how our patients are affected by it can help us to better serve them. Without this knowledge we may miss very important and potentially subtle signs in our patients that should prompt us to either monitor more closely or treat earlier. In this lecture participants will be shocked about how much they will learn about this condition and the importance of early recognition and treatment. They will gain an understanding of the different types of shock that may affect their patients. They will learn how to recognize shock in their patients even when the signs may be subtle.

Lecture participants will be advised on how to differentiate between the different stages of shock and when to become more vigilant in monitoring for changes in their patients. They will also gain an understanding of treatment options and monitoring in their patients and how those options may differ depending on the type and stage of shock the patient is in. The presentation will conclude with participants applying the information they learned to real life case reports that are presented.

### **Carbon Dioxide: One very important little compound**

Measuring carbon dioxide gives us extremely helpful and important information about the body's metabolism, perfusion and ventilation. This lecture will explore carbon dioxide and the methods used to measure this important compound. The major focus of this lecture will be on capnography. Attendees will gain practical knowledge of how to interpret what capnographs are telling us, including waveform recognition and interpretation. Helpful videos will be used to reinforce what is learned.

## **Kara Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, VTS (Nutrition)**

### **Feline Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and the Role of Nutrition**

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.

### **Getting Cats to Eat: It is more than Pouring Food in a Bowl**

Proper nutritional management is one of the most important factors in managing health and disease in pets. 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.

### **Starting Strong: Nutrition for Your Kitten**

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. 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 to 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.

### **Nutritional Management of Pancreatitis**

Pancreatitis can be managed through focus on key nutritional factors and diligent owner compliance. The healthcare team's role in managing pancreatitis is crucial, beginning with proper identification of pancreatitis vs. other vomiting and diarrheic conditions. This session will focus on the healthcare team's role in identifying and managing pancreatitis and the key nutritional factors responsible for minimizing signs and symptoms associated with pancreatitis.

### **Nutritional Management of Digestive Disease in Brachycephalic Dog**

Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome has increased significantly due to the popularity of brachycephalic breeds. Historically, the concern has been focused on surgical correction to alleviate respiratory conditions. This concern remains today along with an increase of signs involving the digestive tract. This presentation will review the signs associated with digestive concerns, along with the anatomic and pathophysiologic characteristics contributing to the alimentary tract. Nutritional management to alleviate digestive disease of brachycephalics will be discussed.

### **Veterinary Nurse Consultations – Helping Clients with Diet Choices**

Proper nutritional management is one of the most important factors in managing health and disease in pets. As clients become more aware of the importance of nutrition for their own health, they will expect this same higher standard of nutritional care for their pets. The veterinary healthcare team should be the preferred, expert source of the best nutritional information for pets. Veterinary teams that understand and promote clinical nutrition and demonstrate in-clinic behaviors consistent with this conviction will benefit their patients, their clients, and their practices. Proper nutritional management is one of the most important factors in maximizing health, performance, and longevity in addition to managing disease conditions.

### **Communication skills that matter for Veterinary Technicians**

We communicate every day through spoken words, written words and non-verbal cues or behaviors. Communication is more than just broadcasting a message; effective communication includes information exchange, active listening and shared understanding. Effective communication reduces misunderstandings, conflict, and mistakes. The development of strong communication skills will have a tangible and positive impact on a person's personal and professional life. We will also focus on communicating with your colleagues, especially as it relates to hospital continuity and increased technician utilization.

## **Karen Hart, CVPM, CCFP**

### **Leading When You're Not the One in Charge**

What do you do when you have ideas, passion, and you want to make a difference in your workplace – but you aren't the boss? Everyone who's ever had a bad experience knows that being a manager does not necessarily mean being a leader. Fortunately, leading isn't exclusive to positions of authority. In this session, we will review the techniques of informal leadership,

managing “up,” and affecting change from any role, all while maintaining healthy boundaries. From kennel attendants to practice managers, this is for everyone who reports to somebody else (and sometimes wishes they didn’t).

### **Keep Loving What You Do: Tips for Staying Connected to the Joy of Veterinary Medicine**

Our profession is uniquely filled with people doing exactly what they dreamed of when they were kids. And yet, we know that the passion that drives us can also burn too hot, wear us down, and drive us away. This lecture focuses on taking the next step in addressing burnout, compassion fatigue, and moral distress using the healing power of connection. We will explore the ways in which purposeful connection to self and others sustains us as well as real-life strategies and action items to put into practice right away.

### **Navigating Ethical Dilemmas**

Encountering ethical dilemmas when working with animals is inevitable. Situations with no clear “right” answer can feel like a black hole. The goal is not to reach a consensus but to navigate ethical dilemmas without internalizing them. This session presents a practical framework for approaching sticky scenarios both individually and within a team. We’ll cover ethical foundations, decision trees, moral stress reduction, and impact mitigation - and then dive into some real-world examples and thought exercises.

### **Radical Candor in the Workplace**

If I had something in my teeth, would you tell me? Would you want your friend to tell you? What about your coworker or boss? Most people don’t enjoy confrontation and difficult conversations, though we know they’re necessary. Radical candor is the practice of approaching these conversations with high levels of both caring and directness. This session presents the argument for candor as a foundation for positive relationships and workplace culture, as well as practical tips and pitfalls to avoid when putting the concepts into practice.

## **Leah Contreras, RVT, CVT**

### **Anesthetic Drugs: How their effects affect the anesthesia experience**

Case examples will be used to follow how different classes of drugs affect each phase of anesthesia: premedication, induction, maintenance, and recovery. This talk is designed to educate the veterinary staff running anesthesia about different drug classes, and why certain drugs might be chosen based on certain case criteria. The idea is to enhance base knowledge of anesthetic drugs to help technicians play a more active role in creating anesthetic protocols.

### **Breathe In, Breathe Out! Capnography Made Simple.**

This lecture will simplify each part of the waveform so technicians can quickly assess and make decisions for the patient's well-being. Regardless of ASA level, this lecture will provide an overview of respiratory physiology and how that relates to adequate ventilation. Those monitoring anesthesia with or without capnography will benefit from learning about the plethora of information a single piece of equipment can tell you. Case-by-case scenarios will be reviewed for audience participation and discussion.

### **Ventilation Titration: Mechanics of Ventilation**

This lecture is an overview of how to mechanically ventilate a patient. Common ventilator settings will be reviewed, as well as how capnography and blood gases can play a vital role in ventilation management. Pictures and videos are reviewed for case examples, as well as troubleshooting techniques based on anesthetic equipment and physiology. Terms such as dead space ventilation, alveolar ventilation, positive peak inspiratory pressure (PEEP) and alveolar dead space are broken down and explained.

### **Deciphering Anesthetic Depth: Don't Fall Off the Deep End!**

This talk reviews the anesthetic planes as they relate to real time cases. An emphasis is placed on viewing the monitor as a whole picture, instead of trying to troubleshoot every abnormal value under anesthesia separately. The audience will be asked to engage in a question-and-answer discussion on cases to help them decipher which anesthetic plane the patient is in, and if it is appropriate for the procedure. Cases will range from ASA I-VE with various monitoring equipment reviewed as it pertains to the case.

### **Not All Heart Disease is Created Equal**

This talk is designed to touch on the most common types of heart disease, and how they relate to patients undergoing anesthesia. Emphasis is placed on anatomy and physiology of heart function itself, and how the concerns differ from patient to patient instead of blanket statements such as "no dexmedetomidine, ketamine or fluids". Anesthetic drugs and considerations are reviewed by case examples to help veterinary staff advocate properly for cardiac patients. Specific cardiac procedures are touched upon, such as pacemakers, balloon valvuloplasties, and patent ductus arteriosus repair (PDA) ligation.

### **Advancing Your Role as an Anesthetist: Patient Advocacy**

This talk encourages the audience to sharpen up on anesthesia drug pharmacology and techniques, all in the name of patient advocacy. Sadly, many technicians struggle to find their voice when confronted with a disagreement over an anesthetic protocol, especially those that have been in place for years. The goal of this talk is to provide real life examples on how we can all work as a team of veterinary professionals to respectfully advocate for the patient, especially those undergoing anesthesia.

## **Lorelei D'Avolio, CVT, VTS (Clinical Practice- Exotics)**

### **Spaying and Neuter of Exotic Companion Mammals: The Technicians Role**

Technicians spend a lot of time educating clients about the importance of preventive procedures, as well as helping them understand when a procedure is medically required. Exotic pets have some key anatomical and physiological differences from other companion animals that technicians should be comfortable discussing with clients. This lecture will help technicians understand whether or not these procedures should be done to prevent disease and how to technically manage the patient throughout the procedure from options for sedation and anesthesia to positioning and patient monitoring.

### **Parrot and Rabbit Emergencies: The Most Common Presentations**

Rabbits and parrots tend to be the most common patients seen in practices that see exotics. This lecture focuses on some of the most common emergencies in these animals, how to triage, what are the etiologies, and appropriate initial treatments to consider.

### **When Routing Things Are NOT Routine, Parts 1 and 2**

Working with exotic pets can be scary for technicians who are not familiar with how these animals work. It is true that working with these animals presents many challenges that working with larger animals who are not prey species don't. And sometimes unexpected, bad things can happen! This 2-part lecture is interactive and meant to discuss many instances of how performing a procedure thought to be simple when done to a dog or cat, turns into something totally different with an exotic pet. We will debunk myths, and also discuss the truths that can make people nervous about working with exotics. By exposing and evaluating the real concerns, you will learn multiple ways to avoid the things that can be unexpected and be prepared for any potential problems.

### **Xray Techniques for Exotic Pets**

From sedation and restraint to exposure and positioning, technicians are responsible for all aspects of taking x-rays. Exotic pets present some unique challenges whether it's their delicate skeletons, dense scales, or gassy GI tracts, this lecture will help technicians obtain the most diagnostic radiographs possible for their exotic pet patients.

### **Reptile Restraint for Routine Procedures**

This lecture focuses on safe restraint for both reptiles and for the technicians who are restraining them. It includes basic anatomy relevant to restraint and how to safely get a variety of reptiles into positions we need them in for specific procedures, such as phlebotomy. Understanding how to properly handle these unique animals will enhance not only the patient experience, but also that of the owner who is often watching how their reptile is being handled.

## **Rosie Villers-LaRocque, CVT**

### **Sick Appointment: Red Eye. Now what?**

Approaching the red eye. Triageing what is urgent vs. what can wait vs. what needs a referral. Starting with the eye exam and going over eye diseases and symptoms causing redness in the different areas of the eye.

### **Cataracts**

Going over-diagnosing, testing, surgery, and post-op care.

### **Approaching Eye Anatomy and Physiology by the layers**

Discussing the eye from the outside to the inside. From eyelids to optic nerve. What is each part and what is each part's function?

### **Cat Eye Diseases**

Diseases, diagnoses, treatment.