### ORAL PRESENTATIONS – Thursday, June 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Presenting Author</th>
<th>Abstract Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Allison Heaney</td>
<td>Use of Polymerase Chain Reaction to Detect Bacteremia in Dogs with Bacterial Endocarditis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Andrea Lantis</td>
<td>The Effect of Furosemide and Pimobendan on the Renin-Angiotensin- Aldosterone System (RAAS) in Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lisa Keller</td>
<td>Assessment of Change in Left Ventricular Systolic Function by Tissue Doppler Imaging Methods after Closure of Patent Ductus Arteriosus in Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Giosi Farace</td>
<td>Correlation of N-Terminal Prohormone Brain Natriuretic Peptide with Left Ventricular Outflow Tract in Dogs with Sub Aortic Stenosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BREAK</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ashley Saunders</td>
<td>NT-proBNP Concentrations in Canine Congenital Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 am</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gretchen Singletary</td>
<td>Utility of NT-proBNP Assay to Detect Occult Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Doberman Pinschers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gerhard Wess</td>
<td>Evaluation of NT-proBNP in the Diagnosis of Various Stages of Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Doberman Pinschers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sarah Achen</td>
<td>Serial Evaluation of NT-proBNP in Dogs with CHF Predicts Clinical Score and the Presence or Absence of Radiographic Pulmonary Edema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gerhard Wess</td>
<td>The Utility of NT-proBNP to Detect Early Stages of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy in Cats and to Differentiate Disease Stages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 am</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Giosi Farace</td>
<td>Pulmonary Hypertension and N-Terminal Prohormone Brain Natriuretic Peptide in Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kathryn Meurs</td>
<td>Genome-Wide Association Identifies a Mutation for Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy in the Boxer Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 pm</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Eva Oxford</td>
<td>Phenotypic Differences in the Ultrastructure of Cardiomyocytes from Boxer Dogs Afflicted with Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Also see Cardiology abstracts 61–73 (Thursday, June 4, 2:15 pm – 6:00 pm)**

### SMALL ANIMAL – NEPHROLOGY/ UROLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Barrak Pressler</td>
<td>In vivo Determination of Canine Cystolith Mineral Composition Using Computed Tomography-Generated Hounsfield Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Allyson Berent</td>
<td>Ureteral Stenting for Feline Ureterolithiasis: Technical and Clinical Outcomes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Boldface type** indicates presentation by award eligible resident. Presentation times are subject to change.
9:30 am 15 Allyson Berent The Use of a Percutaneously Controlled Hydraulic Occluder for the Treatment of Urethral Sphincter Mechanism Incompetence in 11 Dogs and 1 Cat
9:45 am 16 Michael Wood Development of a Ussing Chamber Model for Studying the Canine Urothelial Response to Infection

BrEak

10:30 am 17 Christine Wu Urodynamic Evaluation of Cats with Feline Interstitial Cystitis (FIC)
10:45 am 18 Dennis Chew Randomized, Placebo-controlled Clinical Trial of Pentosan Polysulfate Sodium for Treatment of Feline Interstitial (Idiopathic) Cystitis
11:00 am 19 Herve Lefebvre Comparison of Plasma Clearance of Exogenous Creatinine and Iohexol in a Canine Population
11:15 am 20 Andrea Zatelli Effects of Supplementation with Amino Acids in Dogs with Glomerulonephritis
11:30 am 21 Karen Hillel Documentation of Hypercoagulability in Protein-Losing Nephropathy via Thromboelastography in 10 Dogs
11:45 am 22 Mark Aiernio Measuring Level of Agreement between Directly Measured Blood Pressure and Values Produced by Oscillometric Units in Cats
12:00 pm 23 Carly Bloom Pharmacokinetics and Cardiovascular Effects of Intravenous Fenoldopam in Healthy Awake Dogs
12:15 pm 24 Bart Maddens Urinary Immunoglobulin G, C-Reactive Protein and Retinol Binding Protein as Candidate Early Biomarkers for Renal Dysfunction in Dogs with Pyometra (ECVIM Award Winner)

Small Animal – Hematology
9:00 am 25 Stephanie Smith Whole Bloodthromboelastometry (TEM) Is Related to Cell Counts and Plasma Coagulation Tests in Healthy Dogs
9:15 am 26 Lara Rose Effect of Canine Hyperadrenocorticism on Thrombelastography Parameters
9:30 am 27 John Thomason Effects of Cyclosporine on Canine Platelet Procoagulant Activity
9:45 am 28 Sarah Helmond Treatment of Canine Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia with Individually Adjusted Heparin Dosing: A Pilot Study
BrEak
10:30 am 29 Elizabeth Orcutt Comparison of Individually Monitored Unfractionated Heparin versus Low-Dose Aspirin on Survival of Dogs with Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia
10:45 am 30 Kristopher Sharpe Platelet Impedance Aggregometry in Clinically Healthy Dogs with and without Ultralow-Dose Aspirin
11:00 am 31 Paulo Vilar Saavedra Hemostatic Effects of Cryoprecipitate in Dogs with Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation
11:15 am 32 Rebecca Kessler Extended Canine Blood Typing by Gel Column Technique
11:30 am 33 Rebecca Kessler Pseudomonas fluorescens Contamination of Canine and Feline Packed Red Blood Cell Units

Small Animal – Other
11:45 am 34 Mads Kjelgaard-Hansen Combination of Inflammatory and Hemostatic Markers in Mortality Model for Critically Ill Canine ICU Patients Significantly Improves Efficacy
12:00 pm 35 Bianka Schulz Investigation of Doxycycline-Related Side Effects in Dogs

Small Animal – Pharmacology
12:15 pm 36 Fabrice Thoulon Metabolism and Excretion of Oral Meloxicam in the Cat

Small Animal – Endocrinology
9:00 am 37 Arnon Gal Cloning of the Calcium-Sensing Receptor from the Feline Parathyroid Gland
9:15 am 38 Eric Zini Hypertriglyceridemia Does Not Impair Whole Body Insulin Sensitivity in Cats, Possibly through Increased Circulating Adiponectin
9:30 am 39 Eric Zini Role of Hyperglycemia in the Pathogenesis of Pancreatitis in Cats
9:45 am 40 Kirk Sears Use of Lispro Insulin for Treatment of Dogs with Diabetic Ketoadidosis
BrEak
10:30 am 41 Kirsten Roomp Evaluation of Detemir in Diabetic Cats Managed with a Protocol for Intensive Blood Glucose Control
10:45 am 42 Andrew McGraw Determination of the Concentrations of Trilostane and Ketotrilostane that Inhibit ex vivo Synthesis of Cortisol in Canine Adrenal Tissues
11:00 am 43 Ghita Benchekroun Plasma ACTH Precursors (Pro-Opiomelanocortin and Pro-Adrenocorticotropic) in Cats with Hyperadrenocorticism
11:15 am 44 Katharine Lunn Endocrine Function in Cats after Stereotactic Radiosurgery Treatment for Acromegaly
11:30 am 45 John Rossmeisl Blood-Brain-Barrier Disruption in Chronic Canine Experimental Hypothyroidism
11:45 am 46 Jennifer Wakeling Induction of Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptors in Cats
12:00 pm 47 Audrey Cook Prevalence of Hypocobalaminemia in Cats with Hyperthyroidism
12:15 pm 48 Lisa Morrow Hypertension in Hyperthyroid Cats: Prevalence, Incidence and Predictors of its Development
**EQUINE**

9:00 am 49 Natália Rodrigues  
Expression of Cyclooxygenase Isoforms in Equine Gastric Ulcers

9:15 am 50 Kati Vainio  
Primary Gastric Impaction in Horses: A Retrospective Study of 22 Cases (2005-2008)

9:30 am 51 Frank Andrews  
Effect of Volatile Fatty Acid Mixes on Equine Nonglandular Mucosa Bioelectric Properties: Pathogenesis of Gastric Ulcers in Horses

9:45 am 52 Peggy Moreau  
Study of the Variability of Endoscopic Duodenal Biopsies in Healthy Horses and in Heavily Affected Horses Fed with Different Diets

**BREAK**

10:30 am 53 Emilie Setlakwe  
Sub-EPithelial Fibrosis Is Present in the Peripheral Airways of Heaves-Affected Horses

10:45 am 54 Modest Vengust  
Furosemide Does Not Affect Transvascular Fluid Fluxes across the Lung in Exercising Horses

11:00 am 55 James Nicol  
Partitioning of Pulmonary Resistance in Horses

11:15 am 56 Julie Dauvillier  
Effects of Prolonged Inhaled Corticosteroid Treatment on Cell-Mediated Immunity in Horses

11:30 am 57 Lutz Goehring  
EHV-1 Positive PBMC Fractions During Cell-Associated Viremia following Experimental Infection

11:45 am 58 Sonya Wilsterman  
The Efficacy of Nitazoxanide as an Antiviral Agent for the Treatment of EHV-1 Infection in Horses

12:00 pm 59 Alexandra Draper  
Repeatability and Reproducibility of Transabdominal Ultrasonographic Renal Loci and Dimensions in Thoroughbred Horses

12:15 pm 60 Gemma Tyner  
Renal Biopsies in Horses: A Retrospective Study of 71 Cases

**Also see Equine abstracts 116–129 (Thursday, June 4, 2:15 pm – 6:15 pm) and Equine abstracts 142–143 (Thursday, June 4, 5:45 pm – 6:15 pm)**

**SMALL ANIMAL – CARDIOLOGY**

2:15 pm 61 Caryn Reynolds  
Owner Perceptions and Priorities Regarding Quality of Life and Quantity of Life in Cats with Heart Disease

2:30 pm 62 Sara Bordelon  
Validation of Platelet Factor 4, Soluble P-Selectin, β-thromboglobulin, and 11-dehydro-thromboxane B2 ELISAs in the Feline Population

2:45 pm 63 Karl Jandrey  
Plasma PECAM-1 and Endothelin-1 Concentrations Are Elevated in Cats with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

3:00 pm 64 Francesco Porciello  
Association of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Phenotype and Genotype in Italian Maine Coon Cats

3:15 pm 65 Denise Schwartz  
Pulsed Tissue Doppler Identifies Preclinical Left Ventricular Myocardial Dysfunction in Obese Dogs

3:30 pm 66 Sarah Scruggs  
Serotonin Transporter Expression Is Locally Down-Regulated in Canine Degenerative Mitral Valves

3:45 pm 67 Sophia Moesgaard  
B-Type Natriuretic Peptide and Cyclic Guanosine Monophosphate Levels Increase whereas Nitric Oxide Bioavailability Decreases with Increasing Degree of Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease

**BREAK**

4:30 pm 68 Adonia Hsu  
Trans-Thoracic Three-Dimensional Echocardiographic Evaluation of Normal Canine Heart Valves

4:45 pm 69 Ingrid Ljungvall  
Cardiac Troponin-I Is Associated with Severity of Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease, Age, Heart Rate and C-Reactive Protein in Dogs

5:00 pm 70 Carl Kirker-Head  
Evaluation of a Minimally Invasive Treatment for Mitral Valve Regurgitation

5:15 pm 71 Sonya Gordon  
Caval Syndrome: Outcome in 42 Dogs

5:30 pm 72 Brian Maran  
Modulation of Inflammatory and Oxidative Stress Markers in Coronary Artery Smooth Muscle Cell Model

5:45 pm 73 Barthel Schmelting  
High Definition Oscilometry: A Novel, Non-Invasive Approach for Precise Blood Pressure Determination and Cardiovascular Assessment in Old World and New World Monkeys

**Also see Cardiology abstracts 1–12 (Thursday, June 4, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm)**

**SMALL ANIMAL – NEUROLOGY**

2:15 pm 74 Luisa De Risio  
Prevalence, Heritability and Genetic Correlations of Congenital Sensorineural Deafness and Pigmentation Phenotypes in 4143 Border Collies

2:30 pm 75 Fiona James  
Investigation of a New Electroencephalography (EEG) Electrode in Sedated and Awake Dogs

2:45 pm 76 Simon Platt  
Cerebrospinal Fluid Neurotransmitter Concentrations in Dogs with Ischemic Infarction of the Brain

3:00 pm 77 Ronaldo da Costa  
Risk Factors for Post-Myelographic Seizures in Dogs – 503 Cases

3:15 pm 78 John Rossmeisl  
effects of Palliative Pharmacotherapy on Survival and Quality of Life in 50 Dogs with Primary Intracranial Neoplasms

3:30 pm 79 Sarah Moore  
The Pharmacokinetics of Levetiracetam in Dogs Concurrently Receiving Phenobarbital

3:45 pm 80 Liran Tzipory  
Metabolism and Action of Nelarabine in Glioma Cell Lines
Expression of Matrix Metalloproteinases and RECK in Microglial Cells in Different Intracranial Diseases

Low Field Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Findings of the Caudal Cervical Region in Clinically Normal Doberman Pinschers and Foxhounds

Computed Tomographic Findings In Large and Giant Breed Dogs with Cervical Spondylomyelopathy: 58 Cases

Cervical Arthroplasty in Dogs with Disc Associated Caudal Cervical Spondylomyelopathy and Cervical Disc Herniation: Preliminary Study in Two Cases

F Ratio of the Sciatic and Ulnar Nerve in Dogs

Peripheral Nerve Pathology in Canine Degenerative Myelopathy with Mutation in Superoxide Dismutase 1 Gene

An SOD1 Mutation Associated with Degenerative Myelopathy Occurs in Many Dog Breeds

Lymphocyte Counts and Circulating Lymphoblasts in Canine Lymphoma Patients

Pharmacokinetic Properties of Toceranib Phosphate (Palladia™, SU11654), a Novel Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor, in Laboratory Dogs and Dogs with Mast Cell Tumors

Feline Injection Site Sarcomas in the United Kingdom: One Hundred and Fifty Seven Cases

Nonviral Gene Transfer of the Feline Cytokine Genes IL-2, IFN-γ and GM-CSF as Adjuvant Immunotherapy of the Feline Fibrosarcoma

Immunohistochemical Differentiation of Canine Prostatic Carcinoma

Feasibility and Safety Associated with Selective and Superselective Intra-Arterial Carboplatin + Meloxicam Delivery for Urothelial Tumors in Dogs

Effect of Intracavitary Chemotherapy as Treatment of Recurrent Pleural Effusion Following Percardectomy: Eight Cases

Technique for Fluoroscopic Nasojejunal Tube Placement in Dogs

Technique for Percutaneous Radiologic Gastrojejunostomy in the Dog

Dietary γ-linolenic Acid Supports Arachidonic Acid Enrichment of Feline Red Blood Cell Membranes

Adipokine Expression and Secretion by Canine Adipocytes: Stimulation of Inflammatory Adipokine Production by LPS and TNFα

Exercise and Active Client Motivation Improve Rate of Weight Loss in Obese Dogs

Comparasion of Dietary Strategies on the Perception of Hunger during a Field Feline Weight Loss Program

Influence of Dietary Protein Source and Content on Fecal Quality and Gene Expression of Water and Electrolyte Transporters of Colon in Miniature Poodles and German Shepherds

Influence of Empirical Antimicrobial Choice on Outcome following Septic Peritonitis in Dogs

Detection of Fluoroquinolone Resistance Level in Clinical Canine and Feline Escherichia coli Pathogens Using Rapid and Early-Real-Time PCR Assay

Evaluation of Potential Biomarkers for Canine Sepsis

Pulmonary Manifestation in Canine Leptospirosis

Seroprevalence of FeLV and FIV in Canada

Prognostic Factors in Cats with Feline Panleucopenia

Prevalence of Protective Antibody Titers for Distemper Virus and Parvovirus in Dogs Entering a Florida Animal Shelter

Detection of Canine Parvovirus Type 2c by a Commercially Available In-house Rapid Test

Prevalence of, Risk Factors for, and Assemblage Types of Giardia Infection in Cats Housed in an Animal Shelter

Assessment of Reproductive Tract Disease in Cats at Risk for Enteric Tritrichomonas foetus Infection

Use of Snap® 4Dx® Assay to Monitor Tick-Borne Infection in Minnesota: A 4-Year Study

Prevalence of Hemoplasma DNA in Field-Caught Mosquitoes in Colorado

Topical Imidacloprid and Moxidectin Prevents Flea Transmission of Bartonella henselae in Cats

Outcome and Prognostic Factors in Dogs with Canine Leishmaniasis in a Non-Endemic Country
### EQUINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Abstract ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>Mary Rose Paradis The Use of Computer Tomography in the Diagnosis of Septic Arthritis/Osteomyelitis in the Neonatal Foal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Rosa Barsnick Endocrine Energy Response in Septic Foals: Insulin, Leptin and Adiponectin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 pm</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Dominic Dawson Opsonization of <em>Rhodococcus equi</em> with High Antibody Plasma Decreases Bacterial Viability and Promotes Phagocyte Activation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>Lais Costa Plasma Endothelin Concentrations in Septic and Non-Septic Neonatal Foals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 pm</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Jose L. Mendez Thromboelastography (TEG): An Innovative Technique for Early Detection of Hemostatic Abnormalities in Foals with Septicemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Gayle Hallowell Effects of Dobutamine and Atropine and Acetylpromazine on Aortic Valve Function in the Horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 pm</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>Andrew van Eps Intravenous 99m-technetium Liposomes in Horses: A Safety and Biodistribution Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BREAK

**4:30 pm**

**123** Jill Muno Prevalence and Risk Factors for Hyperinsulinemia in Clinically Normal Horses in Central Ohio

**4:45 pm**

**124** Jill Muno Seasonal Variation in Plasma Insulin and Glucose Concentration in Normal Horses in Central Ohio

**5:00 pm**

**125** Nicholas Frank Effects of a Supplement Containing Chromium and Magnesium on Insulin Sensitivity in Horses with Equine Metabolic Syndrome

**5:15 pm**

**126** Rebecca Funk Seasonal Changes in the Combined Glucose Insulin Tolerance Test in Normal Aged Horses

**5:30 pm**

**127** Nicholas Frank Effects of Sampling Time and Hay Feeding on Blood Glucose, Insulin, and Adrenocorticotropin Hormone (ACTH) Concentrations in Horses

**5:45 pm**

**128** Nicholas Frank Effects of Endotoxemia and Carbohydrate Overload on Glucose and Insulin Dynamics and the Development of Laminitis in Horses

#### 6:00 pm

**129** Teresa Burns Pro-Inflammatory Cytokine and Chemokine Expression Profiles of Various Adipose Tissue Depots of Insulin-Resistant and Insulin-Sensitive Light Breed Horses

**Also see Equine abstracts 49–60 (Thursday, June 4, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm) and Equine abstracts 116–129 (Thursday, June 4, 2:15 pm – 6:15 pm)**

### FOOD ANIMAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Abstract ID</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Jody Gookin An Animated Model of Reticulorumen Motility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>Alexandra Burton A Retrospective Study of 106 Cases of Bovine Lymphosarcoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 pm</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>David Francoz Determination of Dairy Cows Hematological Reference Interval by 3 Methods and Evaluation of Confounding Factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>Anita Varga Correlation of Serum Cardiac Troponin I and Myocardial Damage in Cattle with Monensin Toxicosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 pm</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>Anita Varga Validation of the I-STAT® Stallside Immunoassay for the Measurement of Bovine Cardiac Troponin I and its Clinical Relevance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Baljit Singh RGD-Conjugated Helical Rosette Nanotubes Inhibit Chemotaxis and Cell Signaling of Cattle Neutrophils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 pm</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Michel Levy Experimental Infection of Colostrum-Deprived Calves with Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus Type-1 Isolated from Free-Ranging White-Tailed Deer (<em>Odocoileus virginianus</em>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BREAK

**4:30 pm**

**137** Nathalie Kirschvink Evidence for Transplacental Passage of Bluetongue Virus Serotype 8 in Sheep

**4:45 pm**

**138** Nathalie Kirschvink Long Term Follow up of Rams’ Semen Quality after Natural Infection with Bluetongue Virus Serotype 8

**5:00 pm**

**139** Teresa Buchheit Prevalence of BVDV on Alpaca Farms in Eastern and Middle Tennessee

**5:15 pm**

**140** Mireille Meylan Seroprevalence of Bovine Viral Diarrhea in New World Camelids in Switzerland and Implications for the Eradication Campaign in the Bovine Population

**5:30 pm**

**141** Mireille Meylan Tuberculosis Caused by *Mycobacterium microti* in New World Camelids

### EQUINE

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>Jennifer Davis Pharmacokinetics of Intravenous Enrofloxacin and its Active Metabolite Ciprofloxacin in Hospitalized Horses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>James Belknap Laminar Leukocyte Accumulation and Epithelial Stress in Horses with Carbohydrate Overload-Induced Laminitis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Also see Equine abstracts 49–60 (Thursday, June 4, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm) and Equine abstracts 116–129 (Thursday, June 4, 2:15 pm – 6:15 pm)**

### SMALL ANIMAL – RESPIRATORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>Elizabeth Rozanski The Effect of Tracheal Lavage Administration on Lung Function in Healthy Kittens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 am</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>Laura Nafe Utility of Biomarkers in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid for Discrimination of Asthma and Chronic Bronchitis in Cats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS – Friday, June 5
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/Speaker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>146 Tekla Lee-Fowler</td>
<td>Comparison of Intradermal Skin Testing and Allergen-Specific Serum Immunoglobulin E (IgE) in Experimental Feline Asthma</td>
<td>Tekla Lee-Fowler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>147 Jason Eberhardt</td>
<td>Chronic Administration of FeG-COOH in Experimental Feline Asthma</td>
<td>Jason Eberhardt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>148 Ray Dillon</td>
<td>Progression of Circulating Antigen and Antibody Responses in Cats Experimentally Infected with Dirofilaria immitis</td>
<td>Ray Dillon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>149 Anne Wooldridge</td>
<td>Isometric Responses of Isolated Intrapulmonary Bronchioles from Cats with and without Adult Heartworm Infection</td>
<td>Anne Wooldridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>150 Henna Heikkilä</td>
<td>Matrix Metalloproteinase -2 and -9 in Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid of Dogs with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis</td>
<td>Henna Heikkilä</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>151 Baljit Singh</td>
<td>Recruitment of Pulmonary Intravascular Macrophages in Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia In Dogs</td>
<td>Baljit Singh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SMALL ANIMAL – HEPATOLOGY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>152 Cynthia Webster</td>
<td>Cyclic AMP Attenuates Fatty Acid Induced Apoptosis in an in vitro Model of Hepatic Lipotoxicity</td>
<td>Cynthia Webster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 am</td>
<td>153 Kenny Simpson</td>
<td>Culture-Independent Detection of Bacteria in Feline Inflammatory Liver Disease</td>
<td>Kenny Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>154 Todd Archer</td>
<td>Development of a Flow Cytometric Panel of T-Lymphocyte Biomarkers to Evaluate the Immunosuppressive Effects of Cyclosporine in Dogs</td>
<td>Todd Archer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SMALL ANIMAL – GASTROENTEROLOGY</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>155 Niels Gruetzner</td>
<td>Evaluation of Serum Concentrations of Immunoglobulin A and Immunoglobulin M in Chinese Shar Peis with Cobalamin Deficiency</td>
<td>Niels Gruetzner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>156 Aarti Kathrani</td>
<td>Genetical Analysis of Toll-Like Receptor Genes in German Shepherd Dogs Reveals Potential Polymorphism Associated with Inflammatory Bowel Disease</td>
<td>Aarti Kathrani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>157 Iwan Burgener</td>
<td>Urinary Leukotriene E4 Excretion Is Increased in Dogs with Chronic Enteropathies</td>
<td>Iwan Burgener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>158 Melanie Craven</td>
<td>High Throughput Pyrosequencing Reveals Reduced Bacterial Diversity in the Duodenal Mucosa of Dogs with IBD</td>
<td>Melanie Craven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>159 Melanie Craven</td>
<td><em>E. Coli</em> Associated with Granulomatous Colitis of Boxer Dogs Frequently Manifest Resistance to Antibiotics</td>
<td>Melanie Craven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 pm</td>
<td>160 Susan Simmerson</td>
<td>Description of Protein-Losing Enteropathy in Yorkshire Terrier Dogs using the W.S.A.V.A. Gastrointestinal Classification System</td>
<td>Susan Simmerson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>161 Joshua Hobbs</td>
<td>Doppler Ultrasound Analysis of Gastrointestinal Blood Flow for Differentiating Food Allergic from Non-Food Allergic Pruritic Dogs</td>
<td>Joshua Hobbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 pm</td>
<td>162 Heather Graham</td>
<td>Effects of Prednisone or Prednisone with Ultralow-Dose Aspirin on the Gastroduodenal Mucosa of Healthy Dogs</td>
<td>Heather Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>163 Panagiotis Xenoulis</td>
<td>Serum Triglyceride Concentrations in Miniature Schnauzers with and without a History of Pancreatitis</td>
<td>Panagiotis Xenoulis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 pm</td>
<td>164 Lisa Prior</td>
<td>Serial Evaluation of Canine Pancreatitis Lipase (Spec cPL™) in Dogs with Clinical Signs of Pancreatitis</td>
<td>Lisa Prior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>165 Marcin Forman</td>
<td>Evaluation of Feline Pancreas-Specific Lipase (Spec fPL™) for the Diagnosis of Feline Pancreatitis</td>
<td>Marcin Forman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 pm</td>
<td>166 Kelly McCord</td>
<td>A Multi-Institutional Study Evaluating Diagnostic Utility of Spec cPL™ in the Diagnosis of Acute Pancreatitis in Dogs</td>
<td>Kelly McCord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>167 Suzanne Bailey</td>
<td>Clinical Significance of Increased Serum Feline Pancreatic Lipase Immunoreactivity Concentrations in Cats with Inflammatory Bowel Disease</td>
<td>Suzanne Bailey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 pm</td>
<td>168 Dennis O'Brien</td>
<td>Serum D-Lactate Concentrations in Cats with Gastrointestinal Disease</td>
<td>Dennis O'Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>169 Nora Berghoff</td>
<td>Association of Serum Cobalamin and Methylmalonic Acid Concentrations in Dogs</td>
<td>Nora Berghoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>170 Kelly McCord</td>
<td>Comparison of Gastrointestinal Motility in Dogs Treated with Metoclopramide, Cisapride, Erythromycin or Maropitant Using the SmartPill™</td>
<td>Kelly McCord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm</td>
<td>171 Frederic Gaschen</td>
<td>Variability Associated with Repeated Measurements of Gastric Emptying using the SmartPill pH pH Wireless Capsule and Scintigraphy in Dogs</td>
<td>Frederic Gaschen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45 pm</td>
<td>172 Michael Lappin</td>
<td>The Esophageal Transit Time of Tablets or Capsules in Cats following Administration with FlavoRx® Pill Glide or Pill Delivery Treats</td>
<td>Michael Lappin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>173 Diane Frank</td>
<td>Gastrointestinal Disease in Dogs with Excessive Licking of Surfaces</td>
<td>Diane Frank</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POSTER PRESENTATIONS

On Display: Thursday, June 4, 7:00 am – 10:00 pm  
Friday, June 5, 7:00 am – 10:00 pm  
Saturday, June 6, 7:00 am – 12:30 pm

Attended by Author: Thursday, June 4, 7:00 am – 9:00 am;  
Friday, June 5, 9:50 am – 10:30 am; &  
Friday, June 5, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm (Wine & Cheese Reception)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Presenting Author</th>
<th>Abstract Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>174</td>
<td>Byeong-Teck Kang</td>
<td>High Resolution Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Canine Brain at 7 Tesla: A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Comparison Study with 0.2 and 1.5 Tesla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>Alberta de Stefani</td>
<td>Clinical Signs, Magnetic Resonance Imaging Findings and Survival in Dogs with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Intracranial Meningiomas and Glial Cell Tumours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td>Michaela Cautela</td>
<td>Oral Hydroxyurea Therapy for Dogs with Suspected Intracranial Meningioma: A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Retrospective Cohort Study (2004–2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>177</td>
<td>Christopher Mariani</td>
<td>Immune Cell Infiltration into Canine Meningiomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>178</td>
<td>Byeong-Teck Kang</td>
<td>Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography and Magnetic Resonance Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Findings of Non-Suppurative Meningoencephalitis in Seven Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>179</td>
<td>Arianna Negrin</td>
<td>Steroid Responsive Meningitis-Arteritis Treatment with Three Potential Different Protocols: Clinical Signs, Laboratory and Long Term Follow Up in 48 Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>Byeong-Teck Kang</td>
<td>Three-dimensional Time-of-Flight MR Angiography of Intracranial Vessels in a Canine Model of Ischemic Stroke with Permanent Middle Cerebral Artery Oclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181</td>
<td>Maria Luisa Suarez</td>
<td>Prevalence of Cerebral Microbleeds in Aged Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>182</td>
<td>Fred Wininger</td>
<td>Preliminary Observations between Cox-2 Inhibitor Administration and Acute Cerebrovascular Disease in Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>183</td>
<td>Renee Barber</td>
<td>Multiplex Analysis of Cytokines in the Cerebrospinal Fluid of Dogs after Stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>184</td>
<td>N. Matthew Ellinwood</td>
<td>Validation of R&amp;D Systems Kits to Detect Cytokine Levels in Canine Cerebral Spinal Fluid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>185</td>
<td>Ronaldo da Costa</td>
<td>Magnetic Resonance Imaging Findings in 60 Dogs with Cervical Spondylomyelopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>186</td>
<td>Hiroaki Kamishina</td>
<td>Phosphorylated Neurofilament NF-H as a Biomarker of Spinal Cord Injury in Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>187</td>
<td>Natasha Olby</td>
<td>Epidural and Intradural Scarring Post Laminectomy and Durotomy: A Comparison of Gelfoam and SentriX Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>188</td>
<td>Allison Haley</td>
<td>Breed Specific Polymyositis in the Hungarian Vizsla Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>189</td>
<td>Richard Piercy</td>
<td>Mutational Analysis of Dystrophin-Deficient Muscular Dystrophy in Cavalier King Charles Spaniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>Edward (Ned) Patterson</td>
<td>Frequency of the Canine Exercise Induced Collapse Gene in Diverse Breeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>191</td>
<td>Charles Vite</td>
<td>BRDU Labeling Pattern of the Rostral Migratory Stream in Normal Canine and Feline Brains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>192</td>
<td>Charles Vite</td>
<td>Intrathecal Enzyme Therapy in Mucopolysaccharidosis I Cats Reduces Storage throughout the Brain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>193</td>
<td>Ji-hey Lim</td>
<td>Neural Stem Cell Sources in Adult Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>194</td>
<td>German Santamarina</td>
<td>Dogs with Cortical Beta-Amyloid Pathology Have Less Serotonergic Neurons in the Rostral Raphe Nuclei than Aged Matched Healthy Controls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SMALL ANIMAL – ONCOLOGY

195 Clair Oliveira Evaluation of the Carcinoembrionic (CEA) and Carbohydrate 15-3 (CA 15-3) Antigen in Malignant Mammary Tumors in Bitches

196 Clair Oliveira Expression of Her-2/Neu Protein in Mammary Tumors of Bitches

197 Silvia Regina Ricci Lucas Ceruloplasmin Concentrations in Dogs with Multicentric Lymphoma Undergoing Chemotherapy

198 Emily Marcus Flow Cytometric Prognostic Factors in Canine B Cell Lymphoma

199 Geneviev Hammond Denamarin® for the Prevention of Lomustine (CCNU) Induced Hepatotoxicity in Tumor Bearing Dogs: Interim Analysis

200 Timothy Stein Effects of Mutant Beta-Catenin on Hepatocyte Growth Homeostasis (*VCS Award Winner*)

SMALL ANIMAL – HEMATOLOGY

201 Jacqueline Whittemore Comparison of Complete Blood Count Values for Samples Collected Using Traditional and Micro-sampling Tubes

202 Shiguang Yu Aging Associated Changes in Blood Cells of Cats

203 Rebecca Haviland Clopidogrel Therapy in Dogs with Immune-mediated Hemolytic Anemia

204 Sharon Center Platelet P-Selectin (CD62P) Expression and Platelet-Leukocyte Interactions in Clinically Healthy Dogs with and without Ultralow-Dose Aspirin

205 Lisa Shearer Effects of Aspirin and Clopidogrel on Platelet Function in Normal Dogs

206 Reinhard Mischke Influence of rhFVIIa on Haemostatic Variables in Normal and Factor VII Deficient Dogs

*Boldface type* indicates presentation by award eligible resident Presentation times are subject to change
### SMALL ANIMAL – CARDIOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>207</td>
<td>Rebecca Manley</td>
<td>Exercise-Associated Heart Rate Recovery Time in Normal Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>208</td>
<td>Elise Mercier</td>
<td>Influence of Age on Pulmonary Arterial Pressure in Healthy Beagle Dogs: Analysis by Right Ventricular Catheterization, Pulsed Doppler Echocardiography and Pulsed Doppler Tissue Imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>209</td>
<td>Beate Egner</td>
<td>Evaluation of HDO(^\text{®}) (High Definition Oscillometry) – A New NIBP Technique – In Comparison to Invasive Measurement (HSE – Hydro Sachs Electronics) in Anesthetised Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210</td>
<td>Yasutomo Hori</td>
<td>Action Duration-Related Diuretic Effects and Rennin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System in Healthy Dogs with a Furosemide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>211</td>
<td>Yasutomo Hori</td>
<td>Changes in the Plasma ANP and NT-proBNP Concentrations in Healthy Dogs with an Acute Volume Overload</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td>Alora Carrier</td>
<td>Analytical Validation of a Commercially Available Feline N-Terminal Prohormone Brain Natriuretic Peptide ELISA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>Katie Cyr</td>
<td>Measurement of Canine B-Type Natriuretic Peptide Using a Human Analyzer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>214</td>
<td>Kristine Yee</td>
<td>Intraday Variation in Feline N-Terminal Prohormone Brain Natriuretic Peptide Concentration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>Nobuyuki Kanno</td>
<td>Plasma Adrenomedullin as a Biomarker for Severity of Pulmonary Hypertension in Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td>Maria Helena Matiko</td>
<td>Pulsed Tissue Doppler Evaluation in Dogs with Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>Akao Larsson</td>
<td>Evaluation of Left Ventricular Systolic and Diastolic Function Using Pulsed Tissue Doppler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>Maria Helena Matiko</td>
<td>Doppler in Dogs with Chronic Mitral Valve Insufficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>219</td>
<td>Akao Larsson</td>
<td>Pathological Findings in Dogs with Mitral Valve Insufficiency: Biopsies during Open Heart Surgery with Cardiopulmonary Bypass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>Miki Nishida</td>
<td>Long-Term Survival of Two Dogs after Mitral Valve Plasty using Expanded Polytetrafluoroethylene Chords: Pathological Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>Miki Nishida</td>
<td>Mitral Valve Plasty in 11 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>Takeshi Mizuno</td>
<td>Efficacy of Methylprednisolone Therapy for Inflammation after Cardiac Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>Megumi Fujiwara</td>
<td>Recovery of Atrial Fibrillation in Three Dogs after Mitral Annuloplasty under Cardiopulmonary Bypass for Severe Mitral Regurgitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>Yoko Fujii</td>
<td>LV 2D Strain Analysis Pre- and Post- Balloon Valvuloplasty in Dogs with Pulmonary Stenosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225</td>
<td>Yoshinori Nishijima</td>
<td>Effects of Bisoprolol on Ventricular Myocyte Electrophysiology during Chronic Heart Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226</td>
<td>Megan Rector</td>
<td>Heart Rate in Irish Wolfhounds with Lone Atrial Fibrillation &amp; Assessment of Digoxin as Sole Method of Rate Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>227</td>
<td>Jonathan Abbott</td>
<td>Prevalence of the Myosin-Binding Protein C Mutation in Apparently Healthy Cats of Diverse Lineage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>Ann-Sabin Berli</td>
<td>The Use of Strain, Strain Rate, and Displacement by 2D Speckle Tracking for Assessment of Systolic Left Ventricular Function in Goats: Applicability and Influence of General Anesthesia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SMALL ANIMAL – RESPIRATORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>Miquel Laporta</td>
<td>Barometric Whole-Body Plethysmography Reference Values in Different Age-Range Cats with Natural Bronchial Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>Yan-Ann Jhuo</td>
<td>Clinical Application of Barometric Whole-Body Plethysmography and Bronchoprovocation Test in Feline Bronchial Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>231</td>
<td>Michelle Patrick</td>
<td>The Quality of Canine Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid Cytology is Preserved for up to 72 Hours with or without Autologous Serum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>233</td>
<td>M Josefa Fernandez Del Palacio</td>
<td>Comparative Study of the Tolerance and Efficiency of Four Different Techniques for Nebulisation Delivery in Cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>Carol Reiner</td>
<td>Utility of Tepoxalin, a Dual Lipoxygenase and Cyclooxygenase Inhibitor, in Canine Chronic and/or Eosinophilic Bronchitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235</td>
<td>Eric de Madron</td>
<td>Treatment of Tracheal Collapse with Vet-Stents(^\text{®}) in 36 Dogs: Complications and Long-Term Results</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SMALL ANIMAL – ENDOCRINOLOGY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>236</td>
<td>Melania Osto</td>
<td>Subacute Endotoxemia Temporarily Impairs Insulin Sensitivity and β-cell Function in Cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>237</td>
<td>Johanna Rieder</td>
<td>Comparison of Wireless and Conventional Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems (CGMS) in 4 Dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>238</td>
<td>Richard Nelson</td>
<td>Extended Use of Protamine Zinc Recombinant Insulin for Treating Diabetes Mellitus in Cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>239</td>
<td>Pascale Smets</td>
<td>Urinary Markers and Plasma Iohexol Clearance in Healthy Dogs and Dogs with Pituitary-Dependent Hyperadrenocorticism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
240  Kellie Fecteau  Effect of Phytoestrogens and Melatonin on Adrenal Steroidogenesis Using Human Adrenal Cells as a Model for Canine Hyperadrenocorticism

241  Linda Martin  Effects of Low Doses of Cosyntropin on Cortisol Concentrations in Clinically Healthy Cats

242  Linda Martin  Dose Response of Aldosterone to ACTH Stimulation in Clinically Healthy Cats

243  Bronwyn Rutland  Determination of the Optimal Time for Testing Thyroid Hormones during Treatment with Methimazole in Healthy and Hyperthyroid Cats

244  Kate Hill  The Efficacy and Safety of a Novel Lipophilic Formulation Methimazole for the Once Daily Transdermal Treatment of Cats with Hyperthyroidism

SMALL ANIMAL – GASTROENTEROLOGY
245  Jan Suchodolski  The Effect of a Multi-Strain Probiotic Formulation on Markers of Gastrointestinal Function in Healthy Dogs and Cats

246  Debbie Minikhiem  Effect of Bifidobacterium animalis AHC7 on Resolution of Acute Diarrhea in the Canine

247  Jose F Garcia  Evaluation of Intra-Stool Variability of Three Lactic Acid Bacterial Genera in Dogs by Quantitative Real-Time PCR

248  Jodi Nicklas  Molecular and Histopathological Characterization of Enteropathogenic Bacteria in Failure to Thrive Kittens

249  Melanie Craven  Absence of a Bacterial Association in Yorkshire Terriers with Protein-Losing Enteropathy and Cystic Intestinal Crypts

250  Panagiotis Xenoulis  Serum fPLI and Spec fPL Concentrations in Cats with Experimentally Induced Chronic Renal Failure

251  Brier Bostrom  Immunohistochemical Characterization of Canine Pancreata with Lymphocytic Infiltration

252  Romy Heilmann  Purification and Partial Characterization of Canine S100A12

253  Niels Gruetzner  Association Study of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms with Cobalamin Deficiency in the Chinese Shar Pei

254  Albert Jergens  Apoptosis in the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Canine Inflammatory Bowel Disease

255  Isabelle Ruhnke  Feasibility of a Modified Ussing Air Suction Chamber for the Evaluation of Intestinal Mucosal Function in Endoscopic Biopsies from Dogs and Cats

256  Allison Bradley  Comparison of Gastrointestinal Motility in Dogs Treated with Iberogast™ and Ondansetron using the Smartpill™

257  Bettina Mayer-Roenne  Successful Treatment of Benign Esophageal Strictures with Balloon Dilation and Submucosal Triamcinolone Injection in Five Dogs and One Cat

258  Adam Ginman  Small Animal Gastrointestinal Endoscopy: A Computer-Aided Instructional Program

SMALL ANIMAL – HEPATOLOGY
259  Kensuke Nakamura  Usefulness of Contrast-Enhanced Ultrasonography for Characterization of Focal Liver Lesions

260  Andrea Johnston  Hepatic Copper Concentrations in Labrador Retrievers with and without Chronic Hepatitis (1980–2008): An Emerging Syndrome or Oversupplementation?

261  Angela Au  Reduction of Cytokine-Induced Prostaglandin E2 and Chemokine Production in Cultured Canine Hepatocytes by Natural Products

262  Melinda Camus  Serum Protein Electrophoresis Beta-Gamma Bridging Is a Poor Predictor for Hepatic Disease

SMALL ANIMAL – NEPHROLOGY/UROLOGY
263  Kevin Byl  In vitro Comparison of Plain Radiography, Double Contrast Cystography, Ultrasonography, and Computed Tomography for Measuring Urocystolith Size Using a Bladder Phantom

264  Ben Young  Influence of Food Consumption on Variation of Urinary Volume, pH, Analytes, and Relative Supersaturation for Calcium Oxalate and Struvite in Healthy Adult Male Hound Dogs

265  Bernhard Gerber  Alpha 1-Acid Glycoprotein, Serum Amyloid A, and Monocyte Chemoattractant Protein-1 in Cats with Idiopathic Cystitis

266  Ryan Keegan  Oxidative Stress in Cats with Chronic Renal Failure

267  Marcia Kogika  Erythrocyte Zinc Protoporphyrin Evaluation in Cats with Chronic Renal Disease

268  Christiane Prosser  Sequential Evaluation of Erythrocyte Zinc Protoporphyrin in Cats with Chronic Renal Disease

269  Shigeki Yamano  Endogenous Erythropoietin Levels and Iron Utility in Cats with Chronic Kidney Disease

270  Natalie Finch  Is Cadmium Exposure Associated with Chronic Kidney Disease in Cats?

271  Jerome Seguela  Glomerular Filtration Rate in Healthy English Pointer, English Setter and German Shepherd Dogs

272  David Grant  24-Hour Water Consumption in Healthy Cats using a Fountain versus a Bowl

273  Courtney North  Clinical and Genetic Characterization of a Congenital Entlebucher Mountain Dog Urinary Tract Syndrome

274  Mary Nabity  Proteomic Analysis of Urine from Male Dogs in Early Stages of Progressive Tubulointerstitial Injury Due to X-linked Hereditary Nephropathy (XLHN)
SMALL ANIMAL – NUTRITION/METABOLISM
275 Nolan Frantz Metabolomic Profiling of Plasma in Arthritic vs Non-Arthritic Dogs
276 Nolan Frantz Metabolomic Profiling of Plasma in Arthritic vs Non-Arthritic Cats
277 Ryan Yamka Metabolomic Profiling of Plasma in Lean vs Obese Dogs
278 Yuka Mitsuhashi Determination of Maintenance Energy Requirement of Cats after Spaying
279 Marcia Jericó Assessment of Metabolic Syndrome Occurrence in Obese Client-Owned Dogs
280 Amy Chamberlin A Vegetarian Dietary Oil Source of γ-linolenic Acid Results in Arachidonic Acid Accumulation in Feline Uterine Tissues: Evidence of Delta-5 Desaturation
281 Ji-Houn Kang Effect of Parenteral L-dalanoy-L-glutamine Supplementation on Phagocytic Responses of Canine Peripheral Blood Polymorphonuclear Neutrophilic Leukocytes Exposed to Methylprednisolone Sodium Succinate

SMALL ANIMAL – PHARMACOLOGY
282 Jessica Quimby The Pharmacokinetics of Mirtazapine in Healthy Cats
283 Robin Butchin Bioavailability of a Novel, Bioenhanced Preparation of Curcumin in Dogs
284 Meaghan Whealen Bioavailability of a Novel Formulation of S-Adenosylmethionine in Beagle Dogs
285 Steven Budsberg In vivo Effects of Firocoxib, Meloxicam and Tepoxalin Administration on Eicosanoid Production in Target Tissues of Normal Cats

SMALL ANIMAL – INFECTIOUS DISEASE
286 Elise Gingrich Intestinal Parasites of Dogs on the Galapagos Islands
287 Merle Olson Canadian Prevalence and Diagnosis of Giardia Infection in Dogs and Cats using a Fecal Antigen Test and Fecal Smear
289 Nipattra Debavalyi Serotypes and Pathogenicity Associated with Antimicrobial-Induced Resistance in Fecal Escherichia coli of Healthy Dogs
290 Julia Veir Comparison of Quantitative PCR and Conventional Endpoint PCR for Amplification of Parvovirus DNA in Blood from Naturally Infected and Recently Vaccinated Dogs
291 E. Freya Kruger The Epidemiology of Streptococcus canis Infections in Dogs and Cats
292 Jean-Pierre Pages Bacterial and Fungal Colonization of Peripheral Intravenous Catheters in Dogs and Cats
293 Mary Marcondes Determination of Four IgG Subclasses in Asymptomatic Dogs with Visceral Leishmaniasis and in Animals Vaccinated against the Disease
294 Regis Krah Performance Evaluation of Species-Specific Peptide-Based Assays for Detection of Canine Antibodies to E. canis and E. chaffeensis
295 Ramaswamy Chandrashekar Ehrlichia/Anaplasma spp. Infection and Exposure Rates in Dogs from Oklahoma and Arkansas
296 Pedro Paulo Diniz Efficacy of Doxycycline Treatment in Dogs Naturally Infected with Anaplasma phagocytophilum
297 Audra Fenimore Bartonella spp. Associated Endocarditis in Dogs in Colorado and Wyoming
298 Jeanne Ficociello Detection of Bartonella henselae IgM in Cats with Experimentally Induced Bartonellosis
299 James Eucher Prevalence of Bartonella and Haemoplasma DNA in Samples from Non-Owned Free-Roaming Cats Admitted to Animal Shelters in Colorado and Florida
300 Christian Leutenegger Association of Pathogenicity and Rate of Coinfection of Three Feline Hemotropic Mycoplasma Strains with Presence and Severity of Anemia
301 Christian Leutenegger Analytical Sensitivity and Specificity of a Real-Time PCR Assay Detecting Pathogenic Leptospira in Dogs Based on the hap-1 Gene
302 Kristy Dowers Prevalence of Infectious Agents and Anti-Erythrocyte Antibodies in Cats with Anemia
303 Michael Lappin Bartonella henselae Antigen Recognition Patterns in the Serum and Aqueous Humor of Cats with and without Uveitis
304 Michael Lappin Effect of Oribifloxacin or Doxycycline Administration on Bartonella spp. and Hemoplasma Test Results from Naturally-Exposed Cats
305 Abstract Withdrawn
306 Jacqueline Whittemore Alpha Enolase and Annexin A2 Antibodies in Cats
307 Kristopher Curtis Prevalence of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Antibody and Feline Leukemia Virus Antibodies in Samples Submitted to IDEXX Reference Laboratories for Feline Hemotropic Mycoplasma Testing
308 Yasuyuki Endo An Updated Epidemiological Survey of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus Infection in Japan
309 Mitika Hagiwara Evaluation of CD4+ and CD8+ T Lymphocytes in Cats Naturally Infected with Feline Leukemia Virus
310 Archivaldo Reche Junior Cutaneous Mycetoma and CD4+:CD8+:Ratio of Cats Infected with Feline Immunodefiency Virus
311 Archivaldo Reche Junior Prevalence of Feline Calicivirus and Herpesvirus Type 1 in Maine Coon Cats with Chronic Gingivitis

SMALL ANIMAL – OTHER
312 Sara Zaldivar-Lopez Disease Prevalence and Causes of Death in American Kennel Club Registered Greyhounds
313 Paulo Vilas Saavedra Thromboelastographic Changes after Gonadectomy in Retired Racing Greyhounds
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immunological Responses in Persistently BVDV Infected Alpacas</td>
<td>Daniela Bedenice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humoral Response to Bluetongue Vaccination in Alpacas</td>
<td>Claire Whitehead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence of <em>Clostridium difficile</em> in Feces of Male Holstein Veal Calves</td>
<td>Marcio Costa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Rattlesnake Envenomation in 25 New World Camelids</td>
<td>Jennifer Sonis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentrations of Cardiac Troponin I Measured with an I-Stat® I Analyzer in Normal Horses Undergoing a Standard Treadmill Performance Examination</td>
<td>Marc Kraus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Effects of Dehydration on Central Venous Pressure in Adult Horses</td>
<td>Rose Nolen-Walston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison of Water Manometry to Two Electronic Pressure Monitors for Central Venous Pressure Measurement in Horses</td>
<td>Joan Norton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeatability and Effect of Head Position on Central Venous Pressure Measurement in Standing Adult Horses</td>
<td>Joan Norton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Troponin I Concentrations in Horses Referred for Colic</td>
<td>Olga Seco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association of Growth Hormone and Ghrelin with the Energy Metabolism and Mortality in Septic Foals</td>
<td>Rosa Barsnick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal Changes in Plasma Alpha-Melanocyte-Stimulating Hormone and Adrenocorticotropin Hormone in Response to Thyrotropin-Releasing Hormone Administration in Normal Aged Horses</td>
<td>Rebecca Funk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect of Insulin Infusion into the Digital Artery on Glucose Concentrations in the Digital Vein in Healthy Horses</td>
<td>John Haffner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation of a Species Specific Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay for Measurement of Serum Insulin in Horses</td>
<td>Johan Brojer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperinsulinemia in Horses with Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction and Effects of Housing on Insulin Response during a Glucose Tolerance Test</td>
<td>Harold Schott II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characterization of the cDNA Sequence Encoding for the Platelet Integrin AlphaIIb and Beta3 in a Horse with Glanzmann Thrombastenia</td>
<td>Susana Macieira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison of Hematologic and Biochemical Values Obtained via Intravenous Catheter Versus Venipuncture in Hospitalized Horses</td>
<td>Maeva May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effects of Lipopolysaccharide, Lipoteichoic Acid, and Peptidoglycan on Tumor Necrosis Factor Production in Equine Whole Blood Culture</td>
<td>Jennifer Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laminar Inflammatory Gene Expression in the Carbohydrate Overload Model of Equine Laminitis</td>
<td>Britta Leise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IL-10 Downregulates Production of Peroxynitrite in Equine Monocyte-Derived Macrophages: Implications for Rhodococcal Infection</td>
<td>Brett Sponseller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect of Intravenous Lidocaine Administration on Leukocyte Emigration in the Black Walnut Extract Model of Laminitis</td>
<td>Jarred Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Immune Response of Foals to Natural Infection with Equid Herpesvirus-2 and its Association with Febrile Illness</td>
<td>Stephanie Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Quantitative Real-Time PCR for the Detection of <em>Salmonella</em> sp. in Fecal Samples of Horses Admitted to a Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital</td>
<td>Emir Hodzic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparison of PCR Testing for Management of an Outbreak of EHVI at a Racetrack</td>
<td>Alma Roy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonella Oranienburg in a Large Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital</td>
<td>Kathryn Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnostic Utility of Computed Tomography of the Head in Horses Affected by Neurologic Disorders</td>
<td>Cristina Sogaro-Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Effect of Metformin on Insulin Sensitivity in Horses</td>
<td>Anna Firshman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Positive Interaction of Propionate, Insulin, and Cortisol in the Horse</td>
<td>David Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute Hyperinsulinemia Modulates Expression of Genes Involved in Glucose and Fat Metabolism in Subcutaneous Adipose Tissue of Horses</td>
<td>Jessica Suagee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulin Sensitivity in Ponies Is Influenced by Season and Pasture</td>
<td>Kibby Treiber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EQUINE – OTHER
344 James Belknap Mononuclear Leukocytes in the Laminae of Normal Horses and Those with Black Walnut Extract-Induced Laminitis
345 Abstract withdrawn
346 Lee Ann Fugler Evaluation of Various Matrix Metalloproteinase Inhibitors (MMPIs) in the Horse
347 Cristobal Navas de Solis Ultrasonographic Measurement of Spleen Volume in Horses

EQUINE – PHARMACOLOGY
348 Grace Forbes Effects of Flunixin Meglumine on Leukocyte Activation in a Low-dose Endotoxemia Model in Horses
349 Jennifer Davis The Pharmacokinetics of Intravenous and Intramuscular Buprenorphine in the Horse
350 Cynthia North Bioavailability of Detomidine Administered to Horses as an Oromucosal (Sublingual) Gel and Comparison of Absorption of Detomidine by the Sublingual and Intramuscular Routes
351 Elizabeth Davis Pharmacokinetics of Orally Administered Terbinafine in Horses
352 Jessica Thompson Assessment of Cardiac Function, Skeletal Muscle Morphology, and Muscle Enzymes in Horses on Long-Term Clenbuterol Therapy
353 Dorothy Whelchel Effects of Clopidogrel on Platelet Function in the Horse

EQUINE – RESPIRATORY
354 Renaud Leguillette Upper and Lower Airway Endoscopic Findings and Bronchoalveolar Lavage-Induced Lower Airway Collapse in Equine Respiratory Inflammatory Diseases
ABSTRACT #1

USE OF POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION TO DETECT BACTEREMIA IN DOGS WITH BACTERIAL ENDOCARDITIS. AM Heaney,1 KM Meurs,1 JL Oaks,1 PR Fox,1 TC DeFrancesco.2 Washington State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Pullman, WA, The Animal Medical Center, Caspary Institute, New York, NY, 2North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

Infectious endocarditis (IE) is associated with substantial morbidity and mortality. Outcome is influenced by effectiveness of antimicrobial therapy. The reliability of blood cultures to identify inciting pathogens has been disappointing. Panbacterial polymerase chain reaction (PCR) used on DNA extracted directly from human valve tissue has resulted in a threefold increase in sensitivity compared to blood cultures. Application of panbacterial PCR primers to canine blood samples holds promise to identify the offending bacteria and improve of antimicrobial therapy. Panbacterial PCR amplification (using primers to amplify the conserved 16s ribosomal bacterial DNA) with direct sequencing to identify the organism would be beneficial if it allows earlier targeted therapy.

Our hypothesis was that PCR can be used to identify circulating bacteria in canine IE patients.

Our objective was to perform PCR with primers targeted to amplify the 16s ribosomal bacterial DNA from IE suspect’s blood samples and compare these findings with those obtained from blood cultures.

Thirteen dogs with IE were studied. Diagnosis was based upon history, physical examination, and echocardiographic examination. All had PCR performed and 9 of the 13 also had blood cultures. Two cases were positive using standard blood culture techniques yielding a sensitivity of 22.2%. PCR was positive in 4 of 13 cases yielding a sensitivity of 30.8%.

In conclusion, bacteremia was detected by PCR in 4 out of 13 dogs with IE. Panbacterial PCR is a viable and potentially useful test to detect bacteremia in dogs with IE and warrants further investigation. Case enrollment is ongoing.

ABSTRACT #2

THE EFFECT OF FUROSEMIDE AND PIMOBENDAN ON THE RENIN-ANGIOTENSIN-ALDOSTERONE SYSTEM (RAAS) IN DOGS. AC Lantis, CE Atkins, TC DeFrancesco, BW Keene. North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh NC.

We hypothesized that the labeled dosage of pimobendan would not have an additive effect on furosemide-induced RAAS activation. Furthermore, we asked whether furosemide’s effect on RAAS would plateau with subacute administration.

Twelve healthy hounds were used. Group 1 (control) received furosemide (2 mg/kg PO, BID) for 10 days. Group 2 received furosemide (2 mg/kg PO, BID) and pimobendan (0.25 mg/kg PO, BID) for 10 days. To measure the response of the RAAS, urinary aldosterone:creatinine ratio (A:Cr) was determined on days 0, 5, and 10.

Urinary aldosterone secretion, as indicated by A:Cr, increased 3-fold with both furosemide monotherapy and the combination of pimobendan and furosemide at both days 5 and 10. There was no evidence of synergism between pimobendan and furosemide in terms of RAAS activation. Furosemide’s effect on RAAS appears to plateau at 5 days or sooner but is maintained for at least 10 days.

We have shown that pimobendan, at the labeled dosage, does not accentuate furosemide-induced RAAS activation. We observed a three-fold increase in RAAS activity with furosemide alone and in combination with pimobendan. Therefore, furosemide, with or without pimobendan, is not recommended for chronic use in the absence of concurrent therapy to blunt RAAS activity, such as ACEI, aldosterone receptor blockers, or angiotensin II type I receptor blockers.

ABSTRACT #3

ASSSESSMENT OF CHANGE IN LEFT VENTRICULAR SYSTOLIC FUNCTION BY TISSUE DOPPLER IMAGING METHODS AFTER CLOSURE OF PATENT DUCTUS ARTERIOSUS IN DOGS. LJM Keller, M Killilich, K Hartmann, G Weiss. Clinic of Small Animal Internal Medicine, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany.

Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) initially causes left ventricular (LV) volume overload; systolic dysfunction may develop later. Studies in veterinary medicine showed minimal or no improvement of left ventricular systolic volume indices after PDA closure indicating that myocardial remodeling in PDA is at most only partially reversible. Human long term follow-up studies using LV endystolic volume measurements and evaluating ejection fraction (EF) showed however, that systolic function deficits are reversible after closure. The aim of the present study was to determine systolic function in dogs with PDA before and after closure using systolic parameters of Tissue Doppler Imaging (TDI) and comparing them to endystolic volume indices and EF in dogs.

In 31 dogs, echocardiographic studies including volume measurements and TDI parameters were performed before, one day after, and ≥5 months after interventional or surgical PDA closure. To evaluate LV volume indices and EF, the modified Simpson’s method was used. Systolic Tissue Velocity, systolic Strain Rate, and Strain using Echo Pac 2D Strain analysis (General Electric Medical Systems, Horten, Norway) were evaluated in the basal, midventricular, and apical segment of the interventricular septum. Systolic TDI parameters at ≥5 months after closure were compared to the TDI parameters of 49 age-matched healthy control dogs.

Systolic Tissue Velocity in all segments as well as systolic Strain Rate and Strain in the apical segment significantly decreased immediately after closure. At the ≥3 month follow-up, these parameters had reversed to normal, and there was no significant difference compared to preclosure values. In addition, TDI parameters at the ≥3 month follow-up did not show decreased values in comparison to healthy control dogs. Systolic volume indices did not change over the study period, whereas EF decreased and stayed low at long term follow-up.

PDA with a relevant amount of left-to-right shunting, left-to-right shunting causes LV remodeling. This is the first study in dogs that showed, however, that LV remodeling can be reversible after PDA closure using TDI methods. TDI in the present study showed that systolic function deteriorates immediately after closure but recovers within 3 months. Systolic volumes did not show any change over the study period, and EF decrease immediately after closure and stayed low at long-term follow-up. TDI seems to be a more sensitive tool and, therefore, should be preferred over volume measurements for the assessment of LV systolic function in congenital heart diseases.

ABSTRACT #4

CORRELATION OF N-TERMINAL PROHORMONE BRAIN NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE WITH LEFT VENTRICULAR OUTFLOW TRACT IN DOGS WITH SUB AORTIC STENOSIS. G Farace1, SJ Ettinger2, S Forney3, A Beardow1, A Carrier1, K Yeung1. 1IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME, 2California Animal Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, 3Las Vegas Veterinary Referral Center, Las Vegas, NV.

In human medicine aortic stenosis has been shown to correlate with N-terminal prohormone brain natriuretic peptide (NTproBNP). This is to be expected because an obstruction in the aorta is likely to cause increased ventricular systolic pressures which in turn will increase the ventricular wall stress and thus cause a release of BNP and NTproBNP. Dogs with sub aortic stenosis (SAS) are likely to undergo similar pathophysiological changes and so it is probable that there is a correlation between the left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT) peak flow velocity, severity of stenosis, and NTproBNP concentration.

To test this hypothesis we retrospectively analyzed samples from 169 normal dogs of various breeds and ages and 69 dogs with varying degrees of SAS. Each dog was given a full cardiax exam including a radiograph and echocardiogram with Doppler flow analysis prior to collecting plasma for NTproBNP testing.
There is a moderate correlation (0.56) between LVOT and NT-proBNP and this does not change if only dogs with a diagnosis of SAS are considered.

Grouping the population according to the severity of SAS (none, mild, moderate and severe) results in mean LVOT velocities of 1.46 (95% CI: 1.40–1.52), 2.62 (2.49–2.75), 3.58 (2.98–4.17) and 6.39 (5.83–6.96) m/s respectively and NT-proBNP mean values of 361 (307–415), 234 (249–348), 1011 (86–1938) and 2529 (1841–3217) pmol/L. While clearly there are significant differences in LVOT across the groups while NT-proBNP is only significantly different from the normal population once the severity of the SAS reaches a moderate level. This would appear to suggest that while there is a change in the outflow tract velocity in those patients with mild SAS it is not large enough to cause hemodynamic changes resulting in BNP (NT-proBNP) release. However the data does suggest that NT-proBNP can differentiate patients with moderate or severe disease from those with no disease or only mild disease. Indeed an ROC analysis gives an AUC of 0.86 and a negative predictive value of 96% at a cut-off of 713 pmol/L.

Mean NT-proBNP levels in the moderate and severe groups are extremely high. Interpretive criteria would suggest these dogs were in congestive heart failure. This would make SAS a confounding factor for detecting heart failure associated with acquired cardiac disease were it not for the fact that the 2/3 of the dogs in this study with SAS are under the age of three.

In conclusion, NT-proBNP correlates with LVOT and both correlate with severity of SAS.

**ABSTRACT #5**

**NT-proBNP CONCENTRATIONS IN CANINE CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE.** A. Gordon1,9, GG Gordon1,9, MG Miller1,9, SE Acree1,9, A. Achen1,9, R. Gordon1,9, LT Drourr1,9, C. Harris1,9 and MA Oyama1,9

1The Michael E. DeBakey Institute, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. 2University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Many canine congenital heart defects (CHD) such as patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) and pulmonic stenosis (PS) can be repaired or palliated with interventional or surgical procedures. Puppies with CHD may have murmurs that are undetected by primary care veterinarians, and CHD such as atrial septal defects (ASD) may go undetected in adult dogs. Echocardiography is indicated for definitive diagnosis, but is not always available to primary care veterinarians who may need to encourage clients to obtain a referral for definitive diagnosis.

The objective of this study was to report NT-proBNP concentrations in dogs with a variety of CHD. Thirty nine dogs with CHD (PDA = 13, PS = 20, ASD = 6) and 6 young, healthy dogs were evaluated. All dogs had echocardiograms. Median NT-proBNP for PDA was 742 pmol/L (range, 50–3000), PS was 746 pmol/L (278–3000), ASD was 833 pmol/L (388–2194) and for normal dogs was 318–1154) pmol/L; normal, 220 [IQR, 115–501] pmol/L; normal, 220 [IQR, 115–501]. NT-proBNP levels were significantly different the between the control group and the “still healthy” group only a trend, but no significant difference was observed. Occult disease was defined as TV systolic dimension greater than 38.8, 39.5, 40.2, 40.9, 41.6, 42.3, and 43.0 mm in dogs weighing up to 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, and 55 kg respectively, or > 50 VPCs on 24-hour Holter. Median NT-proBNP in dogs with occult DCM (n = 33) was significantly higher than normal dogs (n = 67) (occult, 552 [IQR, 318–1154] pmol/L; normal, 220 [IQR, 171–315]; P < 0.0001). NT-proBNP > 194, > 315, and > 478 pmol/L possessed sensitivity and specificity for detecting occult DCM of 90.9% and 40.3%, 78.8% and 76.1%, and 57.6% and 91.4%, respectively (area under curve = 0.82%). With regards to how diagnosis of occult DCM was achieved, 5 dogs fulfilled echo criteria alone, 16 dogs fulfilled Holter criteria alone, and 12 dogs fulfilled both. NT-proBNP detected dogs with abnormal echo (n = 3) was better than dogs with only abnormal Holter (AUC = 69.7%). NT-proBNP > 478 pmol/L had 88.2% sensitivity and 91.4% specificity for detecting the 17 dogs with abnormal echo. The use of abnormal Holter or NT-proBNP > 478 pmol/L possessed 86.4% sensitivity, 96.8% specificity, and 93% accuracy for detecting occult cases, suggesting that use of these two diagnostics could potentially be used to detect occult DCM.

**ABSTRACT #6**

**UTILITY OF NT-proBNP ASSAY TO DETECT OCCULT DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY IN DOBERMAN PINCERS.** G. Wess, V. Butz, M. Killich, A. Schulze, K. Hartmann. Clinic of Small Animal Internal Medicine, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in Doberman pinchers is an autosomal inherited diseases with a very high prevalence in this breed. The disease is usually divided into three disease stages. The first stage consists of a genetic defect that cannot be diagnosed with current diagnostic tools. This stage is followed by an occult phase, during which dogs appear to be clinically healthy. The occult phase is characterized by ventricular arrhythmias, leading to sudden death in about 1/3 of the dogs. In the occult phase, dogs may or may not show abnormalities on echocardiography. This stage is followed by the clinical phase with typical echocardiographic findings of DCM.

 previous studies have shown elevated NT-proBNP in dogs with congestive heart failure and in dogs with heart diseases without heart failure. The purpose of this study was to evaluate NT-proBNP in the diagnosis of DCM in Doberman pinchers in various disease stages.

The study included 484 NT-proBNP measurements of 324 dogs (187 male and 137 female Doberman pinchers, mean age 4.7 years). Samples were collected from dogs at various rechecks in different disease stages. Based upon echocardiography and 24-hour-ECG, the following groups were compared: healthy controls with normal echocardiographic exam and <50 VPCs in 24-hours-ECG (n = 329), only ventricular premature contractions (VPCs) (n = 64), only echocardiographic changes (n = 26), VPCs and echocardiographic changes (n = 31), uncomplicated stage (n = 13) and finally the stage “still normal” consisting of dogs that were considered to be free of disease at the first exam, but that developed the disease later (n = 17). NT-proBNP was measured in plasma samples using an ELISA (VETSIGN Canine CardioSCREEN NT-proBNP, Guildhay Ltd, UK).

NT-proBNP levels were significant different between the control group and the group with only VPCs, the group with only echocardiographic changes, the group with both VPCs and echocardiographic changes and the uncomplicated group. Between the control group and the “still healthy” group only a trend, but no significant difference was detected. NT-proBNP had a sensitivity of 76.1% and a specificity of 76.9% using a cut-off value of 400 pmol/l to detect occult DCM. Using the same cut-off value, the sensitivity reached 90%, the specificity 79% to detect dogs with echocardiographic changes. NT-proBNP increased with progressing disease stages. Even VPCs without echocardiographic changes led to increased NT-proBNP values. NT-proBNP is a useful additional test to screen for Doberman cardiomyopathy, but should not replace conventional tests.
ABSTRACT #8

SERIAL EVALUATION OF NT-proBNP IN DOGS WITH CHF
PREDICTS CLINICAL SCORE AND THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF RADIOGRAPHIC PULMONARY EDEMA.
J. Hirschberger1, SG Achen1, SG Gordon1, RM Roland1, AB Saunders1, MM Bogosian2, and MW Miller1.
The Michael E. DeBakey Institute, 1College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences & 2College of Science, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Human studies have found NT-proBNP useful in clinical decision making in CHF. The objective of this prospective study was to evaluate serial NT-proBNP in dogs with CHF due to chronic valve disease (CVD). Evaluations included thoracic radiographs, blood work, BP, echocardiogram, NT-proBNP, and therapy changes. Statistical analysis evaluated the predictive value of the change in NT-proBNP (ΔNT-proBNP) against clinical score (CS): 1 = ↓ furosemide; 1 = ↓ pimobendan; 1 = no therapy change; 0 = no change, with a probability > 70%. For ΔNT-proBNP > 2,000 pmol/L, a CS of 0 was likely, with a probability > 90%. For ΔNT-proBNP > 0, a CS of 1 was likely, with a 60% probability. A NT-proBNP > 2,000 pmol/L, predicted an RIS=1 while a ↓ in NT-proBNP, or an ↓ < 2,000 pmol/L, predicted an RIS=0.

These results suggest serial evaluation of NT-proBNP may facilitate management of CHF due to CVD.

ABSTRACT #9

THE UTILITY OF NT-proBNP TO DETECT EARLY STAGES OF HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY IN CATS AND TO DIFFERENTIATE DISEASE STAGES.
G. Farace1, SJ Ettinger2, S Forney3, A Beardow1, A Carrier1, K Yeung1, 1IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME, 2California Animal Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, 3Las Vegas Veterinary Referral Center, Las Vegas, NV.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is the most common cardiac disease in cats. In practice, it is currently necessary to use echocardiography to confirm the diagnosis and to assess disease severity. Early stages of the disease often show no or only subtle clinical symptoms and might therefore not be detected if echocardiography is not available. N-terminal pro-BNP (NT-proBNP) has no physiological activity, but is more stable than BNP and therefore easier to measure. Measurement of NT-proBNP concentration is helpful to distinguish cardiac from non-cardiac causes of dyspnea in cats, dogs, and humans. Previous studies have shown elevated NT-proBNP concentrations even in the occult phase of cardiomyopathy. The purpose of this prospective study was to evaluate the utility of NT-proBNP to detect early disease stages of HCM in cats and to assess whether a differentiation between mild, moderate, and severe disease stages is possible using NT-proBNP measurements.

NT-proBNP was measured in plasma samples from 159 cats using an ELISA (VETSIGN Feline CardioSCREEN Nt-proBNP, Guildhay Ltd, UK). The cats were classified according to echocardiography into one of the following groups: (1) clinical healthy (control) group (n=33), (2) mild HCM with focal hypertrophy of the left ventricular (LV) free wall or septal hypertrophy between 5.5 and 5.9 mm (n=13), (3) moderate HCM with focal or generalized LV free wall or septal wall between 6.0 and 7.0 mm and normal left atrial size (LA) (n=12), and (4) severe HCM with LV free wall or septal wall > 7.0 mm and enlarged LA (n=43) and clinical symptoms. NT-proBNP was significantly higher in all HCM groups compared to healthy control cats. Mean NT-proBNP was 58±65 pmol/L in the control group (1), 333±244 pmol/L in the mild group (2), 433±299 pmol/L in the moderate group (3) and 835±314 pmol/L in the severe group (4). Values of the mild (2) and moderate (3) group cats were significantly lower than those of the severe (4) group cats, but there was no difference between the values of the mild (2) and moderate (3) group. It was shown that the recommended cut-off value of 49 pmol/l had a high specificity of 97.1% but only a specificity of 56% to differentiate healthy cats from cats with HCM. The new cut-off value is more specific. This study showed too many false positive results. Using a cut-off value of 100 pmol/L NT-proBNP had a sensitivity of 94.2% and a specificity of 81.3% for the differentiation of control and HCM cats and might therefore be preferable for use in practice. In conclusion, this feline ELISA NT-proBNP assay is helpful in the diagnosis of even early cases of HCM in cats. Cats with elevated levels, therefore, should be further worked up with echocardiography.

ABSTRACT #10

PLUMONARY HYPERTENSION AND N-TERMINAL PROHORMONE BRAIN NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE IN DOGS.
G. Farace1, SJ Ettinger2, S Forney3, A Beardow1, A Carrier1, K Yeung1, 1IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME, 2California Animal Hospital, Los Angeles, CA, 3Las Vegas Veterinary Referral Center, Las Vegas, NV.

N-terminal prohormone brain natriuretic peptide (NTproBNP) is usually viewed as a marker of left ventricular dysfunction but there is a significant body of literature in human medicine that shows a correlation between pulmonary hypertension (PH), right ventricular dysfunction and NTproBNP. In dogs it has been reported that B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) is elevated in cases of PH but the degree of elevation was not correlated to the ISACHC class. PH may, therefore be a confounder if NTproBNP alone is used to diagnose disease. If the NTproBNP level correlates with the severity of PH it might be useful in staging disease.

The aim of this retrospective study was two-fold: firstly to determine if NTproBNP levels are elevated in dogs with PH independent of disease severity and to determine if NTproBNP correlates to PH severity.

374 dogs had their maximum tricuspid regurgitation pressure gradient (max TRPG) measured together with a blood draw upon entry into the California Animal Hospital Veterinary Specialty Group (CAHVS)/IDEXX Cardiac Study. Thereafter, dogs with disease were excluded. (10) The remainder was divided according the magnitude of the max TRPG. Dogs with a max TRPG < 30mmHg were classified as normal; 31–50mmHg were considered to have mild PH; 51–75 mmHg moderate and >75mmHg had severe PH.

Plotting max TRPG against NTproBNP concentration gives a weak but significant correlation (0.17, p=0.001) thus indicating a relationship between these two measures. Comparing those dogs with PH to those with no PH shows a significant difference (1289 vs. 1076 pmol/L, p<0.02). However controlling for disease severity (according to the CAHVS) there is no significant difference between the two groups at any individual grade.

The mean NTproBNP levels for the four groups of PH were: none – 1076 pmol/L (n=193), mild – 1185 pmol/L (n=132), moderate – 1686 pmol/L (n=24) and severe – 1573 (n=15). While this suggests that there is an increase in NTproBNP as PH increases significant overlap between groups occurs and only those dogs with moderate PH are significantly elevated (p=0.04) over the dogs with no PH. Controlling for the disease severity fails to identify any significant difference between the four groups.

In conclusion, this study concurs with the study on BNP. NTproBNP is elevated in the presence of PH but that there is no correlation to the severity of cardiac disease or severity of PH when the evaluation is controlled for disease severity.
this breed. There is a familial inheritance, possibly suggesting a major dominant gene. Based on the new tools available with the canine genome project, it is now possible to perform genome wide association with a canine 50k SNP array. The objective of this study was to identify the genetic alteration(s) associated with the disease. A 10 Mb region of genome-wide significant association was identified on chromosome 17 (p < 0.0001) using DNA samples from 48 adult boxer dogs with ARVC (>50 ventricular premature complexes [VPC] in 24 hours) and 48 unaffected dogs (<100 VPC/24 hours). Fine-mapping of 24 additional SNPs within the region localized a signal to between two candidate genes of potential cardiac importance. All exons of the candidate genes and non-coding conserved elements within this region were re-sequenced in affected and unaffected dogs.

A 7 base pair deletion within a non-coding conserved element in a regulatory region of a calcium modulating gene was identified and observed to be highly associated with the disease status (p < 0.0001). The deletion was not observed in unaffected Boxer dogs or in any of 31 dogs from other breeds tested. Affected and homozygous (mean of 7860 and 2845, respectively) (p < 0.05). We conclude that this 7 base pair deletion is associated with the development of Boxer ARVC and that dogs that are homozygous for the mutation appear to have a more severe degree of arrhythmias.

ABSTRACT #12
PHENOTYPIC DIFFERENCES IN THE ULTRASTRUCTURE OF CARDIOMYOCYTES FROM BOXER DOGS AFFECTED WITH ARHYTHMOGENIC RIGHT VENTRICULAR CARDIOMYOPATHY (ARVC). Eva M. Oxford1, Karen Maass2, PhilipR. Fox2, Mario Delmar4, and N. Sydney Moise1.

ARVC is an inherited myocardial disease associated with sustained monomorphic ventricular tachycardia, sudden cardiac death (SCD), and replacement of myocardium with fatty or fibro-fatty tissue. Our previous work demonstrated altered localization of intercalated disc (ID) proteins in afflicted dogs. In this study, we used transmission electron microscopy (TEM) to assess the ultrastructure of desmosomes (DSM) or adherens junctions (AJ) in ARVC-afflicted boxers.

Afflicted boxers were identified by 24-hour Holter monitoring and histopathological examination of the heart. Samples from the right and left ventricles (RV and LV) of 2 unaffected dogs (1 beagle, 1 German shepherd), and 7 ARVC afflicted boxers were collected and examined by TEM (data from 3 boxers reported here). Samples from control tissue showed normal morphology, normal alignment of the sarcomeres and myofibrils, and attachment of myofibrils to the ID. Samples from ARVC-afflicted boxers displayed myofibril disorganization, with fewer attachments to ID. Furthermore, electron dense areas up to one sarcomere in length were observed radiating from Z bands (Z-band streaming) in ARVC afflicted samples. Within RV and LV longitudinal sections, the following parameters were measured from an average of 120 μm of ID per ventricle: (1) average length of desmosomes (DSM), adherens junctions (AJ), and gap junctions (GJ), and (2) number of DSM, AJ, and GJ per 10 μm of ID. No significant differences were found in the length (all measurements in μm) of AJ or GJ from RV or LV samples of ARVC versus control. AJ length was 0.27±0.01 (RV) and 0.25±0.02 (LV) in control samples versus 0.26±0.04 (RV) and 0.22±0.02 (LV) in afflicted pGS. AJ length in control samples was 0.48±0.03 (RV) and 0.48±0.02 (LV). In afflicted animals, GJ length was 0.40±0.02 and 0.47±0.13, for RV and LV respectively (pNS). In contrast, the average length of DSM was significantly reduced in afflicted animals. DSM length was 0.22±0.05 (RV) and 0.20±0.02 (LV) in control. DSM length in afflicted samples was 0.16±0.03 (RV) and 0.15±0.03 (LV) (p<0.05). In addition, our data indicated a significant (p<0.05) decrease in the number of GJ per 10 μm ID in the ARVC samples (1.8±0.12 RV, 1.5±0.27 LV in control; 4.2±0.02 RV, 6.6±0.24 LV in ARVC). No decrease in the number of DSM or AJ was observed. Our results indicate that ARVC in the boxers is associated with reduced length of DSM and reduction of GJ at the intercalated disc; the latter which may act as a substrate for ventricular arrhythmias. Furthermore, Z band streaming suggests a novel concept: genes associated with the cardiomyocyte contractile apparatus may play an etiological role in the development of ARVC in the boxer dog.

ABSTRACT #13
IN VIVO DETERMINATION OF CANINE CYSTOLITH MINERAL COMPOSITION USING COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY-GENERATED HOUNSFIELD UNITS. BM Pressler, LG Adams, HG Heng, JJ Rohleder, GE Moore, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

Determination of mineral composition is essential for effective management of urolithiasis in dogs. Composition of uroliths retrieved from people has been determined in vitro by computed tomographic peak attenuation measurements (Hounsfield units, HU), and HU allow in vivo differentiation of the most common types of uroliths. In a previous study the three most common cystolith mineral types recovered from dogs could be differentiated in vitro using CT-generated HU with >90% accuracy. This study was designed to determine the accuracy of CT-generated HU for differentiation of canine cystolith mineral composition in vivo.

Forty-eight cystoliths of known composition were placed in a phantom array (15 struvite, 8 calcium oxalate, 9 urate, 7 mixed, M) and scanned at 80 kVp/400 mAs using two different CT scanners. Mean HU were calculated for each cystolith using an open-source CT scanner by two radiologists; region-of-interest (ROI) for HU calculation was determined using the largest cystolith cross-section, with a manually-centered oval ROI encompassing two-thirds to three-fourths of the cystolith. Reference ranges were constructed using receiver operating curves to optimize sensitivity and specificity of mineral identification. To determine in vivo applicability of these HU reference ranges, 20 dogs with confirmed cystolithiasis were anesthetized and CT scans (1 mm slices) were obtained of their bladders immediately prior to removal of cystoliths. Each radiologist calculated mean HU using the largest urolith cross-section, and mineral composition was predicted. True cystolith mineral composition was determined using standard techniques by a veterinary urological center.

The 20 enrolled dogs were determined to have 12 calcium-containing cystoliths (9 pure O, 1 pure calcium phosphate, 2 cystoliths with 80-85% O and 15-20% silica), 6 S-containing cystoliths (5 pure S, 1 85% S/15% calcium phosphate), and 2 U cystoliths. 9 of 12 (75%) of calcium-containing cystoliths were correctly identified by both radiologists; 2 were misidentified as S by one radiologist, and one was misidentified as O by both radiologists. 2 of 6 (33%) S cystoliths were correctly identified by both radiologists; 3 were incorrectly identified as O by both radiologists, 1 was identified as O by both radiologists, 2 of 2 (100%) U cystoliths were correctly identified by both radiologists. In total, the two radiologists were in agreement in their analysis of likely mineral composition in 18 of the 20 (90%) cystoliths. Overall, 75% and 88% of non-dissolvable and dissolvable uroliths, respectively, were correctly identified.

These preliminary results suggest that CT-generated HU may be used to differentiate canine cystolith mineral composition in vivo. Accuracy is highest for calcium-containing and urate cystoliths. Ongoing studies will increase the number of enrolled dogs and determine if alternative methods of reference range calculation may improve correct identification of cystolith mineral composition.

ABSTRACT #14
URETERAL STENTING FOR FELINE URETEROLITHOSIS: TECHNICAL AND CLINICAL OUTCOMES. A. Beren1, C. Weiss1, D Bagley2, C Adan1, K Todd1, J Solomon1. 1Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. 2Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA.

Ureteral stenting has been performed for a variety of benign and malignant disorders, bypassing an obstruction while directing urine from the renal pelvis to the urinary bladder. The most common ureteral dilemma in feline patients is ureterolith-induced obstruction, of which traditional therapy is associated with excessive morbidity/mortality. The authors’ objective is to describe the tech-
measurable transmural resistance (TER) across viable tissue. The urothelium also serves active roles. During the acute phase of urinary tract infections the epithelium can produce cytokines including IL-6. In vitro studies have demonstrated that cultured urothelial cells will produce IL-6 when challenged with bacteria. To date however, a precise understanding of the role of IL-6 during the acute phase response to urinary pathogens has eluded researchers. While cell culture systems identify the response of individual cells, the mucosal response of the tissue may be more complex. With the ultimate goal of characterizing the global urothelial response to infection, the described work sought to develop an in-vitro model that preserves the microenvironment constructed by the urothelium and lamina propria. To achieve this aim bladder mucosa from recently euthanized dogs was stripped of its muscularis layer and retained within Using Chambers. This construct created independent luminal and submucosal compartments. Each side of the tissue was bathed with an oxygenated, 37 °C, physiological saline solution. A 10 mM glucose substrate added to the submucosal side provided nutrient support. Model success was defined as a demonstration of intact barrier function and cytokine production over a minimum course of 5 h. Barrier function was measured using voltage clamps to record the potential difference and short circuit currents traversing the tissue over time. These values were used to calculate the TER over a 10 h period for tissue treated on the mucosal side with E. coli and saline control. Ascorbic acid, reserpine and indomethacin were added as blocking agents. IL-6 was administered as a bolus injection or saline control. Production was measured using a validated canine specific IL-6 ELISA. Results indicated that both saline and E. coli treated tissue remained viable beyond 5 h as the TER increased over this time period and there were no indicators of cell death via histology. This contrasted with the PMA/iomycin treated tissue in which the TER decreased and there was evidence of apoptosis within 3 h. E. coli treatment significantly increased submucosal IL-6 concentrations at 3 and 5 h when compared to the saline control. These data provide evidence that canine bladder mucosa sustains normal barrier function, remains histologically intact, and responds biologically to E. coli infection by synthesis of IL-6 in an ex-vivo model system. The model generated represents a powerful tool for the study of molecular mechanisms of the urothelial response to urinary tract infection.

**ABSTRACT #17**

**URODYNAMIC EVALUATION OF CATS WITH FELINE INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS (FIC), Wu CH1, Westropp JL2, Buffington CAT2**, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, CA and **The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.**

Although urodynamic studies of humans with interstitial cystitis have been reported, similar evaluations of cats with FIC have not been reported to our knowledge. The purpose of this study was to compare urodynamic parameters from 12 female cats with FIC with previously published data from six healthy female cats using the same anesthetic regimen.

All cats were anesthetized with propofol for cystometry (CMG) and urethral pressure profile (UPP) measurements. Threshold pressure (TP) and volume were recorded for CMGs. If a detrusor reflex was not evident, TP was recorded when urine passively leaked, or intravesical pressure exceeded 85 cmH2O. The maximal urethral closure pressure (MUCP) was evaluated during a period of 10 minutes.

Four cats had obvious detrusor reflexes, but none had evidence of detrusor overactivity (DO). Bladder compliance during the first CMG was significantly lower in FIC than in healthy cats (0.3±0.2 vs. 0.6±0.2; p=0.04). Compliance of cats with FIC increased significantly on the second CMG compared to the first (0.4±0.3 vs. 0.3±0.2 mls/cm H2O; p=0.007). The maximal urethral closure pressure (MUCP) was significantly higher in FIC than in healthy cats on the first and second UPP evaluated (first MUCP obtained: 158±48 vs. 91±23 cm H2O; p=0.003, second: 152±45 vs. 86±29).

Although a decreased compliance was documented, it was not a result of DO; therefore drugs aimed at this problem do not seem to be necessary.

**ABSTRACT #16**

**DEVELOPMENT OF A USING CHAMBER MODEL FOR STUDYING THE CANINE UROTHELIAL RESPONSE TO INFECTION. M. Wood, E. Breitschwerdt, M. Sayemoto, M. Stone, J. Goskin, North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC.**

The urothelium prevents pathogen access to the body. Tight junctions linking umbrella cells of the urothelium serve as a physical blockade passively preventing infectious agents from accessing the underlying submucosa. These junctions assist in maintaining a
ABSTRACT #18
RANDOMIZED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL OF PENTOSAN POLYSULFATE SODIUM FOR TREATMENT OF FELINE INTERSTITIAL (IDIOPATHIC) CYSTITIS. 1DJ Chew, 1JW Bartges, 2LG Adams, 3JM Kruger, 4A Zatelli, 5F Nizi, E CAT Buffington
1Clinical Sciences, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse, Toulouse, France. 2Companion Animal Ods identified the same dogs with abnormally low GFR value, (FIC). This study was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized clinical trial that involved 107 cats with at least two episodes of LUTS within the past six months, cystoscopically findings of glomerulonephritis, and absence of an alternative diagnosis. Cats were randomly assigned to 0.0 (vehicle placebo), 2.0, 8.0 or 16.0 mg/kg PPS orally twice daily for 26 weeks. Owners rated hematuria, stranguria, pollakiuria, peruria and vocalization during voiding. Outcomes on a scale of 0–3 (none, mild, moderate, severe) weekly. Glomerulonephritis were counted at the end of the study, and 3 of the 4 sites also recorded urothelial friability, edema and vascularization. Data were analyzed within and between groups using repeated measures; ANOVA; P<0.05 was considered significant.

All treatments were well tolerated. Owner-recorded average symptom scores decreased by 75% in both groups; recurrent episodes occurred in approximately 40% of cats in each group. No statistically significant differences were observed between any of the groups based on the owner’s evaluation of clinical signs or overall improvement in cystoscopic score. A statistically significant decrease in friability was observed at the 16.0 mg/kg dose.

Clinical improvement occurred in all cats, regardless of the dose of PPS administration or changes in cystoscopic appearance of the bladder. These results indicate that PPS is equivalent to placebo for treatment of FIC, and demonstrate the importance of placebo controlled clinical trials for evaluation of therapy for FIC.

ABSTRACT #19
COMPARISON OF PLASMA CLEARANCE OF EXOGENOUS CREATININE AND IOHEXOL IN A CANINE POPULATION. C Collignon1, R Heine1, N Harran1, U Risønen2, D Balouka1, C Germain1, M Faucher1, K Eliassen2, Y Queau1, B Lefebvre1, HP Lefebvre1, 1Clinical Sciences, Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse, Toulouse, France. 2Companion Animal Clinical Sciences, Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Oslo, Norway.

Plasma clearance of exogenous creatinine (PCEC) and ioheoxol (PCI) have been validated for measurement of glomerular filtration rate (GFR) in dogs. The aim of this prospective study was to compare PCEC and PCI in a canine population.

Simultaneous intravenous administration of ioheoxol (300 mg/L/kg) and creatinine (40 mg/kg) was performed in 50 healthy and renal-impaired Anglo Francais dogs. Blood samples were then obtained at 5, 10, 30, 60, 120, 240, 360, and 480 min. Plasma creatinine and ioheoxol were assayed by enzymatic method and HPLC, respectively. Exo-ioheoxol concentrations were used. The method effect on the GFR value was tested using ANOVA.

Plasma clearances (mean±SD) of PCEC and PCI were 3.0±0.7 and 3.4±0.8 mL/min/kg. Their ranges were 1.1–5.7 and 1.2–5.1 mL/min/kg, respectively. A significant effect of the method on GFR value was evident (P<0.001; R²=0.767). Nevertheless, both methods identified the same dogs with variability in low GFR value, discrepancies being observed for higher GFR values. 34/50 dogs showed a difference between both clearances <0.6 mL/min/kg and only 5/50 dogs a difference >1 mL/min/kg.

In conclusion, both methods provide similar results for screening patients with low GFR values but may differ for higher GFR values.

ABSTRACT #20
EFFECTS OF SUPPLEMENTATION WITH AMINO ACIDS IN DOGS WITH GLomerulonephritis. A Zatelli1, F Nizi1, E Zinola2, Clinica Veterinaria Pirani, Reggio Emilia, Italy. 2Clinic for Small Animal Internal Medicine, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Severe malnutrition is frequent in dogs with renal proteinuria and is likely associated with increased morbidity and mortality. Diets with reduced protein content are routinely used in the management of dogs with kidney disorders, including glomerulonephritis. They were shown to reduce disease progression, delay uremia onset and increase survival. However, in dogs with glomerulonephritis renal diets may not adequately meet protein requirements, thus leading to malnutrition. Aim of this study was to investigate the effects of oral amino acid supplementation on body weight (BW), serum albumin, creatinine and urea levels, and urine protein-to-creatinine ratio (UPC) in dogs with glomerulonephritis treated with enalapril and a renal diet.

Forty-seven dogs with glomerulonephritis were allocated to receive the amino acid supplement (29 dogs, Group A), or not (18 dogs, Group B). The daily amount (mg) of amino acids (IT IS, ACME, Reggio Emilia, Italy) was calculated with the following formula: BW (kg)xUPC<2.0. All dogs were treated with enalapril (0.5 mg/kg, q24 h) and received a commercial renal diet. BW, serum albumin, creatinine and urea, and UPC were determined at baseline and after 4–8 weeks in all dogs. In Group A the same parameters were also recorded at 16–20 weeks. Statistical differences in each group were determined with paired t-tests.

A 4–8 weeks, BW of dogs in Group A increased on average 3.1% (P<0.01) whereas in Group B was stable. Albumin levels increased of 0.25 g/dl (P<0.05) in Group A and did not differ in the other. Urea levels and UPC significantly decreased only in Group B (average decrease of urea: 16.0 mg/dl; and of UPC: 1.91). In both groups creatinine levels did not vary. At 16–20 weeks in Group A, compared to 4–8 weeks, creatinine levels increased of 0.45 mg/dl (P<0.05) and UPC decreased of 0.84 (P<0.05). BW and levels of albumin and urea remained stable.

Treating dogs affected by glomerulonephritis with enalapril and a renal diet, in addition to lowered a proteinuria, is beneficial because it maintains stable BW and albumin levels. Even though supplementation with amino acids increases BW and albumin levels, it delays the decrease of proteinuria and prevents lowering of urea, one of the major toxins in chronic renal failure. In light of these findings, supplementation with amino acids should be regarded with caution in dogs with glomerulonephritis. Whether amino acids may have a place in the treatment of dogs with more severe hypoalbuminemia is currently explored.

ABSTRACT #21
DOCUMENTATION OF HYPERCOAGULABILITY IN PROTEIN-LOSING NEPHROPATHY VIA THROMBOELASTOGRAPHY IN 10 DOGS. KM Hiling, MA Labato, AM de Laforcade, S Shaw, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, MA.

Protein-losing nephropathy (PLN) has been previously associated with hypercoagulable states, including the presence of fatal pulmonary thromboemboli. A sensitive method for detecting Hypercoagulability (HC) in affected dogs is warranted, as the appropriate use of either anti-platelet or anti-thrombotic therapies may improve patient survival and limit complications of PLN. Conventional tests of coagulation are insensitive at detecting HC. Serum albumin has previously been shown to correlate with antithrombin (AT) activity in PLN; reduced AT is associated with thrombotic disease. The thromboelastography (TEG) assay has recently been re-introduced as a point-of-care test of the global clotting function. The purpose of this pilot study was to evaluate the TEG assay as a reliable and early predictor of HC in canine PLN patients, including those with evidence of thromboembolism.

Kaolin-activated TEG was performed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, using the TEG 5000 Haemostasis Analyzer (Haemoscope Co). The results of TEG variables R, K, α, MA and G for study dogs were compared to established local reference ranges. Based on the TEG G value, dogs were categorized as hypo-(<5.7 K), normo-(G=5.7–6.9 K), and hypercoagulable.
(G > 6.9 K); absolute numbers of the TEG variables R, K, z, MA and G were also evaluated as was serum albumin. All dogs with PLN were eligible for study inclusion; dogs were divided into uncomplicated PLN (PLN-uc) and PLN with thromboembolic disease (PLN-TED). Results between groups were compared using a t-test with a p < 0.05 considered significant.

Ten dogs were enrolled; all dogs were hypercoagulable. There was no correlation between G and albumin values. Three dogs had TED, albumin was significantly higher in dogs with PLN-TED than PLN-uc (p = 0.02), but there was no other difference in any TEG variables between groups.

These data confirm that dogs with PLN are hypercoagulable as assessed by TEG. However, in contrast to antithrombin activity, the degree of HC does not correlate to serum albumin. Further studies are warranted to delineate coagulation changes in PLN, as well as define optimal anticoagulation strategies.

### ABSTRACT #24

**URINARY IMMUNOGLOBULIN G, C-REACTIVE PROTEIN AND RETINOL BINDING PROTEIN AS CANDIDATE EARLY BIOMARKERS FOR RENAL DYSFUNCTION IN DOGS WITH PYOMETRA.**


1Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, Biochemistry and Organ Physiology; Department of Medicine and Clinical Biology of Small Animals, both Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium.

Renal dysfunction in dogs has been associated with pyometra. Nevertheless, the mechanism and type of renal injury remain controversial. Routine measurement of serum urea nitrogen and creatinine detects renal injury only in a late irreversible stage and does not indicate the localisation of the damage. We hypothesize that urinary immunoglobulin G (uIgG), C-reactive protein (uCrrP) and retinol binding protein (uRBP) may serve as superior renal biomarkers. Both IgG and CRP are high molecular weight proteins indicating glomerular lesions, whereas RBP may serve as a tubular damage marker.

In this study, 14 dogs with Escherichia coli (E. coli) pyometra (P) without concurrent other diseases were included. Age-matched clinically healthy bitches (H) served as controls (n = 14). At ovariohysterectomy (P, H) or ovarioectomy (H) blood, urine and uterine swabs were taken. Serum biochemical analysis, CBC, urinanalysis and uterine bacteriological culture were performed. Commercial canine ELISAs were validated and used to quantify uIgG and uCRP; uRBP concentrations were determined with a human RBP ELISA kit validated for use in the dog. All concentrations were related to urinary creatinine concentration (uC) and expressed as ratios. In P dogs, uIgG/C (196 ± 45.2 mg/g) and uCRP/C (706 ± 298 µg/g) (mean ± SEM) ratios were significantly increased compared to those in H bitches (2.1 ± 0.4 mg/g respectively 0.1 ± 0.1 µg/g) (P < 0.01). Furthermore, uRBP/C ratios were significantly higher in P (43.7 ± 10.1 µg/g) than in H dogs (16.7 ± 5.5 µg/g) (P < 0.05). A positive correlation at the 0.05 level was found between the urinary concentrations of all three proteins. Urinary total protein/C ratios (uTP/C) were significantly higher in P (0.77 ± 0.19) than in H dogs (0.16 ± 0.06) (P < 0.05). A highly significant positive correlation was found between uTP/C and uIgG/C (R = 0.79) or uCRP/C (R = 0.72), but not between uTP/C and uRBP/C.
Concentrations of uIgG and uCRP, the latter for the first time examined in the dog, are strongly elevated in P bitches indicating glomerular dysfunction immediately after E. coli pyometra. The milder increase in uRBP is suggestive for tubular dysfunction, possibly secondary to the proteinuria related to immunemediated glomerulonephritis. We suggest that the observed increases in the candidate renal markers uIgG, uCRP and uRBP might be indicative of renal dysfunction at the glomerular and tubular level, associated with E. coli pyometra.

Previously presented at ECVM in Belgium, September 2008.

ABSTRACT #25
WHOLE BLOODTHROMBOELASTOMETRY (TEM) IS RELATED TO CELL COUNTS AND PLASMA COAGULATION TESTS IN HEALTHY DOGS. SA Smith1, MA McMichael2, AJ Galligan3, S Gilor4, C Holz5. 1College of Medicine and 2College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, Urbana IL.

TEM use is increasing. An understanding of the relationships between TEM and other hematologic values is needed. Blood samples were collected from 78 apparently healthy dogs. Hematocrit (Hct), white blood cell (WBC), prothrombin time (PT), activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), platelet count (Plat), fibrinogen (Fib), and maximum clot firmness (MCF). Strength of correlations was calculated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation (r) calculated with Sigma Stat. Comparison between Extem (Ex) and Intem (In) parameters indicated that there was no significant relationship between ExCT and InCT. r values for CFT (0.77**), Hct (0.69***), and MCF (0.52*) indicated that Ex values and In values were highly correlated. Additional r values:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>ExMCF</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plat</td>
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<td>0.44**</td>
<td>0.35*</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>0.49***</td>
<td>0.45***</td>
<td>−0.39**</td>
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*p<0.05, **p<0.005, ***p<0.0005

Comparisons between Extem (Ex) and Intem (In) parameters indicated that there was no significant relationship between ExCT and InCT. r values for CFT (0.77**), Hct (0.69***), and MCF (0.52*) indicated that Ex values and In values were highly correlated. Additional r values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hct</td>
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<td>0.66**</td>
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*p<0.05, **p<0.005, ***p<0.0005

CT is a function of time to initial fibrin polymerization, and is primarily dependent on thrombin formed in the initiation phase of thromboplastin time (aPTT), and fibrinogen concentration, and independent of the type of clot trigger used. Interestingly, Hct was correlated with all parameters, with the exception of In-CT, despite the presence of normal red cell mass in all dogs (Hct range 41–60%). Dogs with higher Hct were relatively hypercoagulable, while those with lower Hct were relatively hypocoagulable. The significant impact of Hct on TEM results may be an in vitro artifact associated with relative under- or over-citration of blood samples, or may be an indication of interference of red cell mass with clot development. TEM parameters obtained from anemic or polycythemic dogs may need to be assessed in reference to HCT adjusted reference ranges.

ABSTRACT #26
EFFECT OF CANINE HYPERADRENOCORTICISM ON THROMBOELASTOGRAPHY PARAMETERS. L. Rose, M Dunn, C Belard. University of Montreal Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec.

Hyperadrenocorticism (HAC) is associated with an increased risk of thromboembolism in dogs. The purpose of this prospective clinical study was to use thrombelastography (TEG®) to detect and qualify the hypercoagulable state in canine patients with HAC. We hypothesized that the presence of HAC in dogs would result in a hypercoagulable profile on TEG® tracings that is reversible with management of the disease.

Seven dogs suffering from HAC as diagnosed by ACTH stimulation test, low dose dexamethasone suppression test or complete adrenal profile were included. TEG® tracings were obtained before treatment in all dogs and after normalisation of ACTH stimulation and improvement of clinical signs in 4 dogs. TEG® analyses were performed in duplicate on citrated whole blood 30 minutes after collection using recombinant human tissue factor at a final concentration of 1:3600. The reaction time (R), the alpha angle (α), the kinetic time (K) and the maximum amplitude (MA) were recorded.

When individual dogs were compared to the normal reference range, no dog was considered hypercoagulable. Furthermore, a paired t test showed no significant difference in TEG® values before and after treatment. However, a t test for values with unequal variance was used to compare the population of HAC dogs with a population of healthy beagles and showed that the mean values of healthy dogs were significantly higher for R (p<0.0001) and K (p<0.0001) and significantly lower for alpha (p<0.0001) and MA (p<0.0001) suggesting that HAC dogs tend toward hypercoagulable TEG® tracings.

ABSTRACT #27
EFFECTS OF CYCLOSPORINE ON CANINE PLATELET PROCOAGULANT ACTIVITY. JM Thomason, K Lunsford, A Mackin, L Pinchuk, S Pruett, C Langston. Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Starkville, MS.

Cyclosporine has become increasingly popular for treating canine immune-mediated diseases such as immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA). Cyclosporine has recently been shown to increase platelet procoagulant activity in humans, potentially predisposing to thrombosis. Our study was designed to evaluate the effects of cyclosporine on canine platelet procoagulant activity.

Platelet reactivity was quantified by flow-cytometric evaluation of activated platelet surface markers P-Selectin and phosphatidylserine, platelet function was assessed via a point-of-care analyzer (PFA-100®), and clot formation was evaluated using viscoelastometery (SonoClot®). Evaluation of platelet reactivity in two healthy dogs after cyclosporine PO BID for 1 week, and in a third dog after a cyclosporine IV CRI for 1 day (dose adjusted to attain target blood levels) revealed increased P-Selectin expression (mean increase 95%, range 37–138%), decreased phosphatidylserine expression (mean decrease 35%, range 5–64%), and variable SonoClot® signatures. In vitro platelet exposure to cyclosporine resulted in decreased PFA-100® closure times (mean change 96 seconds, range 41–170 seconds), and no consistent change in P-Selectin or phosphatidylserine expression or SonoClot® signatures.
Our results suggest that cyclosporine may increase platelet procoagulant activity in some dogs. Individual variations in canine platelet thromboxane receptor function, thromboxane-mediated degradation, and P-selectin expression may explain variable reponsiveness to cyclosporine.

Cyclosporine may potentially predispose some dogs to thrombotic complications such as pulmonary thromboembolism, possibly negating the benefits of the drug in patients with prothrombotic conditions such as IMHA. Further investigation of the potential effects of cyclosporine on platelet procoagulant activity in both normal dogs and clinic patients is warranted.

ABSTRACT #28
TREATMENT OF CANINE IMMUNE-MEDIATED HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA WITH INDIVIDUALLY ADJUSTED HEPARIN DOSING: A PILOT STUDY, SE Helmond1, DJ Polzin1, PJ Armstrong3, M Finke1, SA Smith2 1University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, St Paul, MN. 2University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana, IL.

A major cause of mortality and morbidity in canine Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA) is thrombotic disease. Previous studies have suggested that unfractionated heparin (UH) may not be effective at increasing survival in IMHA; however, subtherapeutic dosing may explain the seeming lack of efficacy. We hypothesized that providing appropriate therapeutic plasma levels of UH by individually adjusting doses based on anti-factor Xa activity would improve survival in dogs with IMHA.

To investigate this hypothesis, a randomized, prospective, masked, placebo-controlled clinical trial was conducted using 15 dogs with newly diagnosed primary IMHA. Dogs were recruited following diagnosis and received standardized therapy for IMHA. In addition, dogs were treated with either a Constant Dose (CD) (150 U/kg SQ q 6h) or an Individually Adjusted Dose (IAD) of UH. UH dosing was monitored via an Anti-Xa chromogenic assay modified for use in dogs and adjusted according to a nomogram developed for dogs. UH dose was adjusted daily until day 7, and then once weekly until day 28, after which heparin dosing was tapered over 1 week. Dogs were followed for 6 months (180 days).

The primary endpoint was 6 month survival. Secondary endpoints were: 1) frequency of thromboembolism (TE), 2) frequency of hemorrhage, 3) the dose of UH required to maintain a therapeutic plasma level of UH in the IAD group and 4) the survival rate of dogs with IMHA.

At Day 180, 7 out of 8 dogs in the IAD group were alive; 1 dog out of 7 in the CD group was alive (p=0.01). Median survival time for the IAD group was 180 days, and 68 days for the CD group. Five dogs in the CD group had suspected TE events, three of which were fatal. Two dogs in the IAD group had suspected TE events; one of these dogs died of TE. There were no hemorrhagic complications in either group. The dose of UH required to maintain therapeutic plasma levels of 0.3-0.7 IU/mL in dogs in the IAD group ranged from 180 IU/kg to 720 IU/kg q6-8h. There were marked inter- and intra-individual variations in UH doses, with no correlations between dose and anti-Xa activity. Anti-Xa activity in the CD group ranged from 0.1 IU/mL to 0.33 IU/mL (median 0.1 IU/mL).

Results of this pilot study suggest that IAD UH therapy, using anti-Xa monitoring, reduces mortality in canine IMHA. This is the first study to demonstrate successful adjustment of therapeutic heparin levels in dogs with IMHA. In addition, we found that fixed, low dose UH therapy resulted in poor survival rates, as has been suggested in other studies.

ABSTRACT #29
COMPARISON OF INDIVIDUALLY MONITORED UNFRACTIONATED HEPARIN VERSUS LOW-DOSE ASPIRIN ON SURVIVAL OF DOGS WITH IMMUNE MEDIATED HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA, ES Orcut1, DJ Polzin1, PJ Armstrong1, SE Helmond1, S Smith1. 1University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, St Paul, MN. 2University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.

A previous retrospective study on low-dose aspirin therapy (LDA) in dogs with immune mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) reported a survival rate of 75% in LDA treated dogs. As a result, LDA has become the standard anticoagulant therapy for IMHA because of its perceived safety, lack of need for special monitoring, minimal cost and availability. However, multiple studies in human patients comparing the TE prophylactic effect of aspirin versus heparin have shown marginal to no benefit with aspirin therapy compared to a significant reduction in TE or vascular events in patients treated with heparin. We hypothesized that subcutaneous administration of unfractionated heparin with dosage individually adjusted using anti-Xa monitoring (IAD) is superior to LDA in limiting mortality in dogs with IMHA managed with glucocorticoids. Study objectives were: (1) to evaluate 6 month survival in dogs treated with LDA versus IAD and (2) to evaluate the incidence of TE in both groups.

Medical records from the U of MN Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) were searched for dogs with IMHA treated with low-dose aspirin therapy (0.5 mg/kg/day). Inclusion criteria were: 1) regenerative anemia, 2) one or more of the following: a) autoaglutination, b) spherocytosis, or c) positive Coombs’ test; 3) platelet count >40,000/μl; and 4) glucocorticoid therapy for IMHA. Dogs from a study at the VMC evaluating IAD and selected using the same inclusion criteria were used as the comparison group. Dogs selected included signalement, biochemical and hematological results, treatment regimes, TE complications and outcome.

Twenty five dogs met inclusion criteria for the LDA group and 8 dogs from the IAD study served as the comparison group. Ten of 25 dogs treated with LDA survived and 7 of 8 dogs treated with IAD survived (p=0.084). Seven of 25 LDA treated dogs and 2 of 8 IAD treated dogs developed TE. Seven of 14 LDA dogs developing TE died; of 2 IAD dogs developing TE died.

Results of this retrospective study suggest that IAD may be superior to LDA in reducing mortality in canine IMHA. However, dogs enrolled in the IAD study may have fared better due to closer monitoring occurring in the prospective clinical trial.

ABSTRACT #30
PLATELET IMPEDANCE AGGREGOMETRY IN CLINICALLY HEALTHY DOGS WITH AND WITHOUT ULTRALOW-DOSE ASPIRIN, KS Sharp1, SA Cratty1, JF Randolph, MB Brooks, KL Warner. College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Improved long-term survival in dogs with IMHA has been achieved when ultralow-dose aspirin (ULDAsp, 0.5 mg/kg/day PO) is combined with glucocorticoids and azathioprine. Whether this survival benefit solely reflects antithrombotic influences on platelets, or modulatory effects on vascular endothelium, systemic inflammation, or drug protein-binding, remains unclear.

This study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of ULDAsp as an antithrombotic agent in the dog using a relevant in vitro platelet aggregation methodology. Our hypothesis was that ULDAsp would inhibit in vitro platelet aggregation in clinically healthy dogs.

Impedance platelet aggregation was studied in 19 dogs without and with ULDAsp administered orally once daily for 2 days. Blood was collected into 3.2% sodium citrate (1:9 dilution) 24-hrs after the last treatment. Each dog had a platelet count ≥250,000/μl. Blood was maintained at 37 °C during aggregation assessments. Agonists evaluated included 20, 10, and 2 μmol/L ADP and 10, 5, and 2 μg/ml bovine collagen. Onset (seconds) and rate (ohms/second) of the aggregation response and maximum aggregation (ohms) were recorded. Aggregation parameters were normally distributed. Differences with and without ULDAsp were determined using a paired T-test with a =0.05. ULDAsp significantly delayed aggregation-onset elicited with ADP by 54-104%, but no change occurred with collagen. ULDAsp significantly slowed and attenuated the maximum aggregation response by 23-25% and 25-29%, respectively, with ADP and higher concentrations of collagen.

Findings substantiate that ULDAsp impairs platelet aggregation in healthy dogs. This data will serve as a platform for future functional assessment of platelet reactivity in dogs with IMHA.

ABSTRACT #31
HEMOSTATIC EFFECTS OF CRYOPRECIPITATE IN DOGS WITH DISSEMINATED INTRAVASCULAR COAGULATION, P Vilar, R Ball, N Westendorf, MC Izbik, L Marin, and CG Couto. The Ohio State University, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Columbus, OH.

Hemorrhagic thrombocytopenic complications (e.g disseminated intravascular coagulation-DIC) severe acute hemorrhage) are frequently observed in trauma patients and in those undergoing
prolonged surgery, even in those with no previous hematostatic abnormalities. The severity of bleeding and prognosis are not well correlated with the prothrombin time (PT) or activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT) (Winbreg B et al; 2007). Thromboelastography (TEG®) is able to assess in vivo hemostasis using a whole blood sample, since it evaluates most of the components that play a role in the formation of the hemostatic plug in vivo (i.e. blood cells, platelets, clotting factors). TEG has been proposed as the hemostasis test of choice for monitoring patients receiving plasma components for coagulopathies (Johansson P; 2007). Based on data from previous studies (Fries D et al; 2005, 2006) that showed improvement in clot formation during thrombocytopenia after administration of fibrinogen concentrates, we evaluated the use of canine cryoprecipitate (CRYO) in 3 dogs with postoperative bleeding due to DIC in an attempt to reestablish normocoagulable conditions. Patients were monitored using TEG®. Blood samples were collected via a central venous catheter into a 2.7 ml Vacutainer tube containing 3.2% buffered sodium citrate, and TEG® was done using citrated native technique, as we previously described (Vilár P et al; 2008). Three hypocoagulable (TEG,R/R > mean +2SD, and/or TEGple,C,Mag < mean-2SD dogs with postoperative bleeding associated with DIC were transfused with 50–70 ml/kg of CRYO (containing approximately 300 mg/dl fibrinogen). Two dogs had been splenectomized for hemangiosarcoma and 1 had gastric dilitation-duodenal ulcer following transfusion. Equipment revealed normal coagulable tracings and increased hematocrits in all cases less than 24 hours post-CRYO; no additional blood component transfusions were needed. No clinical thromboembolic complications were detected in any dog. TEG® showed excellent clinical correlation with the bleeding status in all dogs. TEG® is a useful test for monitoring transfusion and therapy in patients with coagulopathies; CRYO infusion should be considered in dogs in DIC.

**ABSTRACT #32**

**EXTENDED CANINE BLOOD TYPING BY GEL COLUMN TECHNIQUE.** RJ Kesler1, J Reese1, D Chang1, A Hale2, U Giger1. 1Section of Medical Genetics, University of Pennsylvania (Penn Vet), Philadelphia, PA. 2Animal Blood Resources International (ABRI), Stockbridge, MI.

To ensure blood compatibility, safety, and efficacy of transfusions in dogs, typing for the major antigenic blood type DEA 1.1 is recommended by using one of several well established methods. The role of extended typing for other canine blood types is more controversial. Despite their clinical importance, and the typing procedures have been hampered by the limited availability of typing reagents and difficulties in both performing the tube typing protocol and interpreting those results due to weak agglutination reactions. Our goal was to develop and standardize a laboratory method for extended typing using polyclonal reagents that minimizes the use of reagent while maximizing sensitivity, specificity, interpretability, and reproducibility.

We utilized available polyclonal typing reagents (ABRI) at optimized concentrations with the saline or canine anti-antiglobulin gel columns (novel GEL, DiaMed, Switzerland) similar to the commercially available gel column DEA 1.1 typing technique (standard GEL). All dogs were also typed using the conventional tube method according to the manufacturer’s instructions (TUBE). A total of 54 dogs including 22 patients and 32 blood donors at Penn Vet were typed for DEA 1.1, 2, 3, 4, and 7, as well as the dal red cell antigen. Agglutination reactions were graded on a scale of 0 to 4+ and reactions ≥2+ were considered positive.

Of the 43 dogs typed for DEA 1.1, 23 were positive for DEA 1.1 using the standard GEL as well as with the novel GEL method (with antiglobulin) using polyclonal DEA 1.1 and 1.X reagents. Twenty of those 23 were also DEA 1.1 positive with the TUBE. Two of the 3 remaining were positive with the TUBE for 1.X but only 1+ for 1.1 (suggesting a DEA 1.2 type). In addition, 2 dogs tested DEA 1.1 positive using the novel GEL method, but not the standard GEL or TUBE method. All samples tested negative for autoagglutination (in saline:antiglobulin).

All 54 dogs were typed for DEA 3, 4, and 7 using the standard TUBE and novel GEL (saline) method. Only 4 dogs were found to be DEA 3 positive with the TUBE, 3 of which were also positive with the novel GEL method. All dogs tested 3+ or 4+ for DEA 4 via both methods. Twelve dogs tested positive for DEA 7 with TUBE, half of which were also positive with the novel GEL; an additional 2 dogs were positive by the novel GEL method alone. All 36 dogs typed for the dal antigen were positive (no Dalmatians were tested). Only 1 dog was positive for all tested red cell antigens. In conclusion, this gel column technique was able to detect the DEA 1.1, 3, 4, and 7 as well as the dal antigen using available polyclonal antibodies. The agglutination reactions for extended typing were stronger and more readily interpreted with the novel GEL than the TUBE method. Few discrepancies between the TUBE and GEL methodology remain and require further investigation.

**ABSTRACT #33**

**PEUSDOMONAS FLUORESCENS CONTAMINATION OF CANINE AND FELINE PACKED RED BLOOD CELL UNITS.** RJ Kessler, S Young, DA Oakley, S Rankin, U Giger. Departments of Clinical Studies and Pathobiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

While rigorous screening programs have drastically reduced the risk of infectious disease transmission in human and veterinary blood banking, bacterial contamination of blood products has emerged as a major cause of morbidity and mortality in human transfusion medicine. In particular, packed red blood cells (pRBCs) and platelet concentrates stored at 4°C and 20°C, respectively, have been found to be contaminated with Streptococcus spp (platelets), Yersinia spp, and Pseudomonas spp (pRBCs). In veterinary medicine, there has been only sparse mention of bacterial contamination of canine and feline blood products. We describe here the discovery of a *P. fluorescens* (Pf) contamination of a unit of feline pRBCs which led to further investigations of experimentally Pf-contaminated units and utilization of a semi-quantitative real-time 16S bacterial ribosomal DNA PCR test (16S PCR) for blood product screening.

A unit of feline pRBCs that turned black on the 22nd day of storage at 4°C was removed from the blood bank and further examined. There was red cell lysis and cytology showed many free bacteria, however, aerobic culture of the blood at 37°C was negative. Real-Time 16S PCR testing was strongly positive, and isolated DNA was sequenced and identified as *Pf*. An aliquot of the unit grew when cultured at 20°C (room temperature). Extensive evaluations failed to identify a source of this contamination, nor has a similar contamination or color change been observed with any other stored pRBCs in our blood bank in the year prior to or in the 4 months after this incident.

Units of canine pRBCs (25 ml each) were inoculated with 0, 5, and 25 μl of Pf-rich pRBCs from the sentinel feline unit and stored at either 4°C or 20°C for 48 hr. Some units were then cultured from 4°C to 20°C after 48 hr. Prior to and immediately post-inoculation all 16S PCR results were negative; separately spiked 25 μl pRBCs only became positive after adding ≥100 μl Pf-rich pRBCs. Only Pf-spiked pRBC units became 16S PCR positive (≥48 hr [25 μl at 4°C]; 48 hr [25 μl at 4°C and 5 μl at 20°C]). A color change as early as 24 hr; cultures confirmed the presence of a pure culture of Pf. One spiked unit (5 μl at 4°C) that was 16S PCR negative at 48 hr became positive within 4 hr at 20°C.

In conclusion, Pf appears to have the unique capacity to grow in feline and canine pRBCs slowly when stored cold and rapidly at room temperature. Screening of blood products with 16S PCR is a simple, rapid, and sensitive test method to detect bacterial contamination before a gross color change is noted or bacterial culture results are positive, and thus may be useful for routine screening of pRBCs. While a source of contamination and potential accidental exposure to 20°C for our sentinel unit was not determined here, aseptic collection and processing methods and temperature controlled storage along with regular visual evaluation of units is recommended.

**ABSTRACT #34**

**COMBINATION OF INFLAMMATORY AND HEMOSTATIC MARKERS IN MORTALITY MODEL FOR CRITICALLY ILL CANINE ICU PATIENTS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVES EFFICACY.** M Kielgaard-Hansen1, B Winbreg1, AL Jensen2, E Rozanski3, AT Kristensen1. 1Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark. 2Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, MA.

Key inflammatory and hemostatic markers have been identified as possible prognostic markers in critically ill canine patients; serial
measurements of Protein C and Antithrombin (AT) was reported to correlate to survival of septic dogs (deLaforcade et al., 2008) and the level of IL-6 correlated to survival time in dogs with SIRS and sepsis (Rau et al., 2007). However, studies combining inflammatory and hemostatic markers are rare. Recent human studies have reported significant improvement in prognostic efficacy by addition of simple hemostatic and/or inflammatory markers to traditional risk assessment scores (e.g. SOFA and SAPS-II). The objective of the present study was to investigate the effect of combining key inflammatory and hemostatic markers in prognostic models for critically ill canine ICU patients.

Fifty critically ill dogs admitted to the ICU at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, MA (April to July 2006) were included prospectively. Citrated whole-blood, serum and citrated plasma were obtained by standardized procedures. Tissue-factor Thromboelastography (TEG [MA, G, R, K and 2]) and platelet count was performed within 30 minutes, while serum and plasma was stored and analyzed in batches for AT, D-dimer, Protein C, Protein S, PT, aPTT, Plasminogen, Plasminogen inhibitor, C-reactive protein (CRP) and IL-10. All methods were validated for use in dogs. Twenty-eight day survival was recorded.

Multiple logistic regression analysis was performed with survival as outcome variable based on A) Inflammatory markers, B) Hemostatic markers and C) all markers, using backwards exclusion and forward inclusion methods (P<0.01). Area under receiver operator characteristic curves (ROC-AUC) was used to evaluate and compare model discriminative efficacies, and optimized sensitivity and specificity were assessed.

Two models were excluded (missing data). Mortality was 42% (20/48). Final models and results were (significant parameters included, ROC-AUC, [sensitivity and specificity], respectively: A) CRP, [0.71], [0.75, 0.68], B) MA, G, AT (0.80), [0.70, 0.89] and C) MA, G, AT, PT, aPTT, CRP, [0.91], [0.75, 0.93]. Model C) had significantly better discriminative efficacy than A) Inflammatory markers, B) Hemostatic markers and C) all markers (P<0.046), while no difference was found between A) and B) (P=0.32).

In conclusion, prognostic models for 28-day mortality was developed by means of key inflammatory and hemostatic markers, available and validated for use in dogs. Significantly improved discriminative efficacy was observed when both inflammatory and hemostatic markers were included in the model. Future studies refining prognostic modeling in critically ill dogs are recommended to include key markers of both inflammation and hemostasis.

ABSTRACT #36

Metabolism and Excretion of Oral Meloxicam in the Cat. Thoulon F1, Narbe R2, Johnston L2, Ingwersen W3, Watson P4, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health. 1Reims, France 2Ingelheim, Germany 3Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

The objective of this study was to investigate the metabolic pathways and routes of excretion of oral meloxicam in the cat. Many nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are metabolised by the hepatic glucuron transferase enzyme pathway (i.e. glucuronidated), before excretion. Cats are relatively and variably deficient in this enzyme activity, making prolongation of NSAID half life and toxic accumulation a possibility. Meloxicam is metabolised via oxidation in all other species previously studied. A mean oral dose of 0.75 mg/kg or 397.55 kBq/kg of oral [14C]-meloxicam was administered to 3 fasted male cats. The cats were fed 4 hours after administration. No concurrent medication was administered. Urine, faeces, vomit and cage washes were collected over the following 144 hour period. Blood was collected pre-dosing and at 3 and 12 hours post-dosing. Metabolites were identified by HPLC/MSMS. Where possible a metabolic structure was proposed for each metabolite detected.

Only the unchanged parent compound was identified in plasma. In urine 5 major metabolite peaks were detected and in faeces 4 major metabolite peaks were detected, which were identified by HPLC/MSMS as products of oxidative metabolism. No conjugated metabolite was detected. Elimination occurred early (34% during the first 24 hours, 61% during the first 48 hours).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Recovered dose</th>
<th>in first 48 hours</th>
<th>Meloxicam Metabolites Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faeces</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The results indicate that the major route of excretion of meloxicam in the cat is faecal. The findings indicate that, as with other species investigated, the main pathway of biotransformation of meloxicam in the cat is oxidation. This results in predictable pharmacokinetics, making meloxicam suitable for long-term administration in the cat.

ABSTRACT #37

Cloning of the Calcium-Sensing Receptor from the Feline Parathyroid Gland. A Gal, T Ridge, TK Graves. University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Urbana, IL.

Gain- or loss-of-function mutations in the plasma membrane-bound calcium-sensing receptor (CaSR), which is responsible for detecting extracellular concentrations of calcium ion, can result in aberrant calcium regulation. Such mutations cause familial benign hypocalcuriac hypercalcaemia, neonatal severe primary hyperparathyroidism, and autosomal dominant hyperparathyroidism in people. To enable future study of these disorders in cats, we cloned and sequenced CaSR mRNA from the feline parathyroid gland.

Total RNA was extracted from cat parathyroid gland, and reverse-transcribed cDNA was used for PCR amplification of the CaSR. Plasmids containing CaSR amplicons were transferred to E. coli, which were grown on selective media. Sequenced inserts were used to design specific exonic CaSR PCR primers. Peripheral blood leukocytes of 5 healthy normocalcemic cats were used for amplification and sequencing of the six CaSR exons.

The feline CaSR has one positive reading frame and consists of 3243 base pairs. Its overall homology to homology to canine, bovine...
and human CaSR is 92%, 90% and 91%, respectively. The amino acid sequence is as follows:

\[
\text{E} \quad \text{Zini}^1, \text{M} \quad \text{Osto}^2, \text{M} \quad \text{Franchini}^3, \\
\text{KW} \quad \text{Sears}, \text{KJ} \quad \text{Drobatz},
\]

696. 2009 ACVIM Forum Abstracts

higher AGP and MCP-1 (P < 0.05). Controls received saline (n = 6). On day 10, adiponecin and pro-inflammatory markers were measured in plasma. The number of neutrophils did not differ in the liver and omental fat sections. Statistical differences between groups were determined with non parametric tests. Myeloperoxidase was also used to quantify neutrophils in liver and omental fat sections. Statistical differences between groups were determined with non parametric tests. Whole body insulin sensitivity did not differ between lipid- and saline-infused cats. Compared to cats on saline, cats infused with lipids had 50% higher plasma adiponectin (P < 0.05) and 2–3 times higher AGP and MCP-1 (P < 0.01 and P < 0.05, respectively). Lipid-infused cats had decreased resistin and GLUT1 mRNA and increased GLUT4 in the omental fat. GLUT1 mRNA was decreased and PPARγ2 increased in subcutaneous fat. Adiponectin and PPARγ1 expression did not differ in any tissue. Although hyperlipidemia induced systemic inflammation in cats, whole body insulin sensitivity was not impaired. Increased circulating adiponectin levels may have contributed to preventing insulin resistance, possibly by increasing GLUT4 and PPARγ2 transcripts and decreasing resistin expression in subcutaneous or omental fat. The source of increased plasma adiponectin is unknown.

ABSTRACT #39

ROLE OF HYPERGLYCEMIA IN THE PATHOGENESIS OF PANCREATITIS IN CATS. E. Zini1, M. Osto2, M. Franchini3, KW Sears, KJ Drobatz, Fresenius Kabi, Switzerland.

Pancreatitis is commonly diagnosed in cats and humans with diabetes mellitus. It is characterized by infiltration with neutrophils and macrophages and by varying degrees of fibrosis. Based on studies in diabetic humans, various hypotheses have been put forward to elucidate mechanisms of disorders of calcium regulation in cats.

ABSTRACT #38

HYPERTRIGLYCERIDEMIA DOES NOT IMPAIR WHOLE BODY INSULIN SENSITIVITY IN CATS, POSSIBLY THROUGH INCREASED CIRCULATING ADIPONECTIN. E. Zini1, D. Konrad2, M. Osto3, M. Franchini4, M. Ackermann5, TA. Lutz6, CE. Reusch7. 1Clinic for Small Animal Internal Medicine, 2Institute of Veterinary Pathology, 3Institute of Veterinary Physiology, 4Institute of Veterinary Pathology, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Obesity and hyperlipidemia impair insulin sensitivity in human type 2 diabetes mellitus, partly due to activation of a mild inflammatory response. Because obesity-induced insulin resistance predisposes cats to diabetes and hyperlipidemia is a frequent concurrent finding, we propose that excess lipids impair insulin sensitivity in this species. We hypothesize that hyperlipidemia may be accompanied by decreased circulating adiponectin and increased pro-inflammatory markers, such as \( z_2 \)-acid glycoprotein (AGP) and monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) and, in insulin sensitive tissues, by decreased mRNA of adiponectin, glucose transporter-4 (GLUT4), peroxisome proliferative activated receptor and GLUT1.

Healthy cats (n = 6) were infused with lipids (Lipovene0.1%, Fresenius Kabi, Switzerland) for 10 days to clamp their blood triglycerides at the approximate level of untreated feline diabetes (265–620 mg/dl). Controls received saline (n = 5). On day 10, adiponecin and pro-inflammatory markers were measured in plasma. An intravenous glucose tolerance test was performed and whole body insulin sensitivity was calculated. Specimens were collected from subcutaneous and omental fat, liver and skeletal muscles. Tissue mRNAs of glucose metabolism-related genes were quantified. Statistical differences were determined with non parametric tests. Whole body insulin sensitivity did not differ between lipid- and saline-infused cats. Compared to cats on saline, cats infused with lipids had 50% higher plasma adiponectin (P < 0.05) and 2–3 times higher AGP and MCP-1 (P < 0.01 and P < 0.05, respectively). Lipid-infused cats had decreased resistin and GLUT1 mRNA and increased GLUT4 in the omental fat. GLUT1 mRNA was decreased and PPARγ2 increased in subcutaneous fat. Adiponectin and PPARγ1 expression did not differ in any tissue.
(500 mg/dL and 369 mg/dL) groups; however, median BG in all 10 dogs at the time insulin treatment began (328 mg/dL) was significantly lower than at admission (400 mg/dL; p = 0.025). There was no significant difference between LI and RI groups in the median length of time the dogs had been treated with insulin therapy prior to admission of the dogs (2.1 months for LI and 2.0 months for RI, respectively). It is concluded that LI is a safe and effective alternative to RI treatment in dogs with DKA.

ABSTRACT #41
EVALUATION OF DETEMIR IN DIABETIC CATS MANAGED WITH A PROTOCOL FOR INTENSIVE BLOOD GLUCOSE CONTROL. K Room1, JS Rand2, Max Planck Institute for Informatics, Germany. 2Centre for Companion Animal Health, Uni of Queensland, Australia.

There are no reported studies of long-term use of detemir in diabetic cats. The aim of this study was to report outcomes using detemir and a protocol aimed at intensive blood glucose control with home monitoring in diabetic cats, and to compare the results to a previous study using the same protocol with glargine.

Eighteen cats diagnosed with diabetes mellitus were included in the study. Cats diagnosed with acromegaly were excluded. Data were provided by owners who joined the online German Diabetes-Katzen Forum, and followed an intensive blood glucose regulation protocol for a minimum of 5 months or until remission was achieved. Detemir was administered twice daily and a low carbohydrate diet was fed. The insulin dose was adjusted aiming for venous BG to reach 7.35 (24 and 44 hours, respectively). Similarly, beta hydroxybutyrate concentration was not significantly different between LI (4.4 mM/L) and RI (4.7 mM/L) groups at the time of admission and there was no significant difference in the time it took for beta hydroxybutyrate concentration to reach 2.0 mM/L (29 and 40 hours, respectively). Length of hospitalization was not different between LI (85 hours) and RI (108 hours) groups. Adverse effects to insulin therapy were not identified in any of the dogs.

It is concluded that LI is a safe and effective alternative to RI treatment in dogs with DKA.

ABSTRACT #42
DETERMINATION OF THE CONCENTRATIONS OF TRILESTANE AND KETOTRILOSTANE THAT INHIBIT EX VIVO SYNTHESIS OF CORTISOL IN CANINE ADRENAL TISSUES. AL McGrane1, EM Whitley2, DM Boothe3, EN Behrend1, HP Lee1. 1Departments of Clinical Sciences, 2Pathobiology and 3Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

Interest has been stimulated recently regarding use of trilostane in the treatment of canine hyperadrenocorticism. Trilostane competitively inhibits 3β-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, an essential enzyme in the cortisol production pathway. Pharmacodynamic data for trilostane in dogs is lacking, and the potency of ketotriolostane, a metabolite of trilostane, relative to trilostane in dogs is unknown. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the ex vivo ability of trilostane and ketotriolostane to inhibit cortisol secretion as a model for future study of the drug and to determine whether trilostane or ketotriolostane is more potent in dogs.

For each trial (n = 4), adrenal gland tissues were sliced, placed in culture and stimulated with ACTH for the first 3 hrs. From 3–7 hrs of incubation, slices were incubated with ACTH alone (none) or with one of 5 different concentrations of trilostane or ketotriolostane (150–1,400, 1,400–2,400, 700–2,000 mg/mL and K1–K5=40, 240, 1,200 and 2,000 ng/mL). In each trial of each compound used in 6 tubes (total 24 tubes each for trilostane and ketotriolostane). At the end of 0, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 hrs, tubes were harvested, and media and tissue slices were divided for different assays (cortisol and potassium concentrations, respectively). An adrenal slice exposed to each drug concentration was submitted for histopathology to judge tissue health. For each drug concentration, % inhibition between 3 (maximal secretion) and 7 hrs (maximal inhibition) in secreted cortisol concentration per mg tissue was calculated and compared using an ANOVA. Significance was set at p < 0.05.

All tissue slices were judged to be healthy. The mean % inhibition when no drug was present was 2.8%. The mean % inhibition ranged from 19.5%–77.3% for T1–T5 and from 36.1%–65.2% for K1 through K5. When comparing % inhibition between the 5 trilostane concentrations and no drug, a significant difference was detected (p < 0.0001). The % inhibition was significantly less when no drug or the lowest concentration of trilostane was present compared to T2 through T5. When comparing % inhibition between the 5 ketotriolostane concentrations and no drug, a significant difference was detected (p < 0.005). The % inhibition was significantly less when no drug was present compared to all ketotriolostane concentrations.

Both trilostane and ketotriolostane inhibit cortisol secretion in the ex vivo model. Ketotriolostane appears to be more potent than trilostane.

ABSTRACT #43
PLASMA ACT PRECURSORS (PRO-OPIOMELANOCORTIN AND PRO-ADRENOCORTICOTROPIN) IN CATS WITH HYPERADRENOCORTICISM. G. Benhekroun1, D. For nel Thibaudeau1, M. Dubord1, M. Le Chevoir1, C. Petit1, O. Dossin1, F. Fracons1, F. Garnier1, C. Maurey-Gueniec1 and D. Rosenberg1. 1Departments of Clinical Sciences, 2Pathobiology and 3Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

Feline hyperadrenocorticism (FHC) is a rare condition. Pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism (PDHC) is observed in approximately 80% of cases. Most of the cases are associated with diabetes mellitus. Diagnosis of FHC is quite difficult. First, clinical signs are non specific, except for the non systematic feline skin fragility syndrome. Secondly, the specificity of all tests validated for cats is questionable as well. Recently, an ACTH precursor (POMC/proACTH) assay has been validated in cats (Benchekroun et al., J Vet Intern Med 2008; 22: 794). The aim of this preliminary study is to evaluate prospectively the plasma concentration of
ACTH precursors in a small cohort of cats with PDH and estimate its usefulness in its diagnosis.

Three groups of cats were defined. Group 1 included cats with PDH. The diagnosis of FH was based on clinical data and biochemistry only. Low-dose dexamethasone suppression test (LDDST). PDH was demonstrated by adrenal and pituitary gland CT scan. Group 2 and 3 included diabetic and apparently healthy cats respectively. For the two groups, FH was excluded by LDDST or Urine Cortisol:Creatinine Ratio (UCR).

Whole blood was collected from the cats on EDTA-tubes; after immediate centrifugation at 4 °C, plasma was promptly frozen (–80 °C) until assay.

Six cats were included in group 1. 5 cats had a large pituitary tumor with a height ranging from 6 mm to 27 mm. No pituitary tumor was visualised in the remaining cat. Plasma ACTH precursor concentrations ranging from 229 to 1412 pmol/L were measured in PDH cats with large tumors; the remaining cat of group 1 had an ACTH precursor concentration <53 pmol/L. Group 2 and 3 included 8 and 13 cats respectively. Plasma ACTH precursors ranged respectively from <53 to 96 pmol/L and from <53 to 99 pmol/L.

Although being found in a small number of cats, these results suggest that large corticotropic tumors are associated in that species with large plasma concentration of ACTH precursors like in dogs. No plasma POMC/pro-ACTH concentration above 100 pmol/L suggest that large corticotropic tumors are associated in that species.

At baseline, no differences between groups were detected for any variable. Throughout the study, controls dogs remained free of neurologic disease, and had test variables that remained within reference ranges. Two hypothyroid dogs developed CNS signs during the study, associated with necropsy evidence of brain infarction. At 12 and 18 months, the CSF total protein, VEGF, and S-100beta, and fractional albumin concentrations as well as AQ were significantly higher (p<0.05) in hypothyroid dogs than controls. Among test variables assayed in blood the only significant difference was a higher S-100beta concentration in hypothyroid dogs (p=0.003) compared to controls at 18 months.

Chronic hypothyroidism results in multiple alterations compatible with BBB disruption that may be asymptomatic, which may have clinical implications for pharmacologic treatment of coincident conditions. Further studies are needed to identify risk factors for the development of clinically apparent CNS dysfunction in hypothyroid dogs with cerebrovascular disease.

ABSTRACT #46


Hyperthyroidism is a common disease of older cats and is insidious in onset. Recent studies have suggested that persistent organic pollutants (POPs) may be implicated in the development of this disease. POPs are ubiquitous halogenated aromatic industrial pollutants that have many effects on reproductive and thyroid function. The most toxic POP is 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD). When given to pregnant rats 2,3,7,8-TCDD decreases T4 concentrations leading to a sustained excessive secretion of TSH followed by hyperplasia of the thyroid follicular cells in the offspring. POPs are thought to induce many of their endocrine disrupting effects by binding to the cytoplasmic aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR). It is possible to quantify POP binding to the AhR in a patented cell-culture system (CALUX®; Chemical Activated Luciferase Gene Expression), allowing an estimation of the total burden of POPs in a sample. This retrospective pilot study tested the hypothesis that cats accumulate POPs throughout their lifetime and that this accumulation is related to development of hyperthyroidism.

AhR induction was measured in fat samples collected from cats either at post mortem (senior cats; n=17) or at the time of ovariohysterectomy (young cats; n=6). The luminescence detected in the CALUX® assay was used to generate results expressed as a toxic equivalence (TEQ) benchmarked to a 2,3,7,8-TCDD standard curve. Total thyroxine and TSH concentration were measured in all cats; blood samples were collected within 6 months of death or at the time of neutering, depending on the group. Senior cats were further divided into three groups; euthyroid (T4<55 nmol/l) with TSH concentration below the limit of quantification of the assay (<0.03 ng/ml); Undetectable TSH group; n=6), euthyroid cats with detectable TSH concentrations (>0.03 ng/ml; Detectable TSH group; n=5) and cats with hyperthyroidism confirmed at necropsy (Hyperthyroid group; n=6). Thyroid histopathology was performed in all senior cats and nodular hyperplastic changes were graded as described previously. Where data were available, the percentage daily weight loss was calculated for each senior cat in the months prior to death.

Percentage weight loss and TEQ pg/g fat were compared between groups using the Kruskal Wallis test. Normal distribution was assessed using the Kolmogorov Smirnov test. The TEQ pg/g fat was normally distributed when logarithmically transformed. Correlations between normally distributed continuous variables were tested using the Pearson’s Correlation coefficient.
Abstract #47
PREVALENCE OF HYPOCOBALAMINEMIA IN CATS WITH HYPERTHYROIDISM
AK Cook*, JM Steiner*, JS Suchodolski†, JE Robertson‡, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. 1IDEXX Laboratories, West Sacramento, CA.

Serum cobalamin concentrations are routinely measured in cats with suspected gastrointestinal disorders, and hypocobalaminemia is commonly associated with exocrine pancreatic insufficiency and diffuse distal small intestinal disease. In human medicine, abnormalities in serum cobalamin concentrations are commonly noted in geriatric individuals and those with thyroid disease, but similar associations have not been reported in feline patients. The goal of this study was to determine the prevalence of hypocobalaminemia in cats with spontaneous hyperthyroidism.

Serum cobalamin concentrations were measured using an automated chemiluminescence assay in 76 cats with total thyroxine (T4) concentration greater than 80 ng/dl (range: 80-302 ng/dl; median 119 ng/dl). Cobalamin concentrations ranged from <150 ng/L to >1000 ng/L, with a median value of 409 ng/L. Thirty one cats (40%) had a serum cobalamin concentration below the reference range of 290-1500 ng/L. There was no correlation between serum cobalamin concentrations and T4 concentrations. In addition, the mean T4 concentration for hypobalaminemic cats and those with serum cobalamin concentrations within the reference range were not significantly different.

This study indicates that hypobalaminemia is a common finding in cats with hyperthyroidism. The mechanism is unknown, but possible explanations include compromised cobalamin uptake due to changes in gastrointestinal transit time or changes in cobalamin requirements or metabolism. It is unknown at this time if serum cobalamin concentrations normalize when a euthyroid state is achieved, or if some cats remain cobalamin deficient following successful therapy for their hyperthyroid state.

Abstract #48
HYPERTENSION IN HYPERTHYROID CATS: PREVALENCE, INCIDENCE, AND PREDICTORS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT
LD Morrow1, VJ Adams2, JE Elliott1, HM Syme1

Hypertension and azotemic chronic kidney disease (aCKD) can co-occur in cats with hyperthyroidism and have also been detected after initiation of treatment. The aims of this study were to determine the prevalence of hypertension in cats at first diagnosis of hyperthyroidism, to estimate its incidence after treatment for hyperthyroidism and to identify predictors of the development of hypertension in hyperthyroid cats.

Hypertension was diagnosed when total plasma thyroxine concentration was greater than 55 nmol/L. Systolic blood pressure (SBP) was measured using the indirect Doppler method and the mean of five consecutive measurements was calculated. Hypertension was diagnosed when a cat had SBP greater than 170 mm Hg on two separate occasions or when it had SBP greater than 170 mm Hg on one occasion and compatible ocular signs. Hypertrophy was defined by the presence of ingesta precluded visualization of the margo plicatus, and there was no evidence of concurrent intestinal pathology.
Hospital records were examined, and 22 horses with a primary gastric impaction treated between 2005 and 2008 were identified. The median age of horses was 8 years (range 8 months to 25 years). Twelve of 22 horses were geldings, 9 of 21 were mares, and 1 of 21 was a stallion. Half (50%) of the patients were Warmblood riding horses. This is comparable to the hospital population (54%). Finn-horses (27%) appeared to be overrepresented compared to the hospital population (17%). Fourteen of 22 horses presented on an emergency basis. The most common symptoms were inappetence (59%) followed by acute colic (32%) and recurrent colic (32%). On admission, 36% of horses were tachycardic and 36% had subjectively decreased gastrointestinal borborygmi. The most common laboratory findings included leucopenia (29%), granulocytosis (29%) and hyperbilirubinemia (29%).

All horses were euthanized with enteral fluid therapy with or without analgesia and laxatives. The median dose of fluids administered per day was 5 doses of 2–10 liters of isotonic electrolyte solution (range 1 to 8 doses). The mean length of treatment until resolution was 2.1 days (range 1 to 5 days). The median duration of hospitalization was 5 days (range 2 to 9 days). The majority of horses (91%) survived to discharge. One horse was euthanized due to gastrointestinal tract rupture and one due to a non-resolving impaction. The condition reoccurred in two cases; one of these horses was euthanized and the other one was treated successfully a second time. Primary gastric impaction as a reason to be a condition with clinical signs of inappetence and mild abdominal discomfort. It has a good prognosis. Enteral fluid therapy may be of value in treating gastric impactions.

**ABSTRACT #51**

**EFFECT OF VOLATILE Fatty Acid MIXES ON EQUINE NONGLANDULAR MUCOSA BIOELECTRIC PROPERTIES: PATHOGENESIS OF GASTRIC ULCERS IN HORSES.** RE Reese,1, PM Andrews,2, SB Elliott,1, AM Saxton3
1, University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, Knoxville, TN. 2Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, Baton Rouge, LA. 3University of Tennessee, College of Agriculture, Animal Science, and Natural Resources, Knoxville, TN.

Gastric ulcers are common in horses and volatile fatty acids (VFAs), fermentation products from the action of bacterial bacteria on high grain diets, have been implicated in their cause. The purpose of this study was to measure non glandular (NG) tissue bioelectric properties in an Ussing Chamber system following exposure to normal drinking solution (NRS), a VFA mixture containing sub-threshold VFA concentrations found 2 hours after feeding a sweet feed diet (0.5 Kg/Kg BW) and 3 VFA mixtures containing high acetic (40 mM), high butyric (40 mM) and high propionic (40 mM) acids in NRS, at pH 1.5, 4, or 7. After NRS or VFA exposure, tissues were examined under light microscopy for histopathologic evidence of cell swelling and necrosis.

Horses (n=10) were euthanized and NG gastric tissues obtained within 30 min. Tissues were then mounted in an Ussing Chamber system and NRS or VFA mixtures, at pH 1.5, 4 or 7 added to the mucosal side of the chamber and NRS, at pH 7 was added to the serosal side. Tissues were allowed to acclimate for 30 min, then pH on the mucosal side was adjusted to pH 1.5, 4 or 7 and exposed for 330 mins. Tissue short circuit current (Isc) and potential difference (PD) were measured every 15 mins and resistance (R) and conductance (G) calculated. After exposure, tissues were removed from the Ussing Chamber and placed in 10% formalin and stained with hematoxylin and eosin for histopathologic examination.

NG mucosa exposed to HCl alone (pH 4 and 1.5) in NRS caused an immediate significant decrease in PD, followed by a decrease in Isc. Resistance (R) and conductance (G) decreased. When exposed to the sub-threshold VFA mixture (<20 mM), showed no significant change in PD or Isc, when compared to tissues exposed to NRS at the same pH. However, NC mucosa exposed to VFA mixtures containing high acetic, propionic and butyric acids, caused an immediate significant decrease in PD and Isc. Results suggest that a sub-threshold mixture of VFAs, found after feeding a grain diet (0.5 Kg/Kg BW) do not cause bioelectric changes in the equine NG mucosa other than that caused by HCl alone. However, higher concentrations of VFAs in gastric juice from excessive grain feeding, at pH<4.0 results in changes in barrier function and may lead to gastric ulcers. Histopathologic changes of cell swelling were noted only in tissues exposed to the VFA mixtures containing high VFA concentrations. This study confirms that when stomach VFA concentrations are at or below threshold (<20 mM), tissue barrier function is maintained; whereas if gastric juice VFA concentrations exceed threshold concentrations (>20 mM), as found after feeding grain in excess of 0.5 Kg/Kg BW, damage may occur in NG mucosa resulting in ulcers.

**ABSTRACT #52**

**STUDY OF THE VARIABILITY OF ENDOSCOPIC DUODENAL BIOPSIES IN HEALTHY HORSES AND IN HEAVES-AFFECTED HORSES FED WITH DIFFERENT DIETS.** P Moreau, P. Hélie, T. Munoz, J.-P. Lavoie, D. Jean. Faculté de médecine vétérinaire, Université de Montréal, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC, Canada.

Endoscopic duodenal biopsies are currently used in equine medicine to evaluate small intestinal diseases. However, there is limited information concerning the normal duodenal histology of horses. A recent study reported minimal to moderate infiltration of inflammatory cells in the duodenal lamina propria of healthy horses. Diet, anti-inflammatory drugs or systemic inflammatory diseases are factors possibly contributing to mucosal inflammatory cell infiltration. The objectives of the study were: 1) to evaluate duodenal histology in healthy horses fed with different diets and 2) to compare duodenal histology in healthy horses with that of horses with heaves, a condition associated with systemic inflammation.

Glucose absorption tests, endoscopic duodenal biopsies and rectal biopsies were performed on six healthy horses fed with three different diets (sweet feed/hay, fat and fibre/hay, sweet feed/alfalfa pellets). Ten horses with heaves were evaluated during symptomatic and asymptomatic periods, when fed with different diets (sweet feed/hay or sweet feed/alfalfa pellets), and with or without inhaled corticosteroids administration. Morphology (villous stunting, epithelial injury, crypt distention, lactic dilatation, mucosal fibrosis, lymphoid follicles) and inflammation (lymphocytes, eosinophils, plasma cells, macrophages and neutrophils in epithelium and/or lamina propria) were assessed in a blind fashion by a board certified pathologist. Inflammatory cell infiltration was graded as minimal, mild, moderate or severe.

Glucose absorption tests and rectal biopsies were considered normal in all horses and were not different with types of food, diseases (heaves) or inhaled corticosteroids. Duodenal biopsies showed minimal to moderate infiltration with lymphocytes/plasma cells (43% of biopsies), eosinophils (11%), mixed eosinophils and lymphocytes/plasma cells (27%) with variability between horses and for a same horse, but not associated with different types of diets, heaves or corticosteroids.

In conclusion, variability of duodenal histology in horses was confirmed, but neither types of diets, heaves or inhaled corticosteroids were identified as significant factors of variability.

**ABSTRACT #53**

**SUB-EPITHELIAL FIBROSIS IS PRESENT IN THE PERIPHERAL AIRWAYS OF HEAVES-AFFECTED HORSES.** EI Setlakwe, M Leclère, JP Lavoie. Université de Montréal, St-Hyacinthe, QC.

It has been proposed that extra-cellular matrix remodelling, when present, could either serve as a protective mechanism or a contributing factor to airway obstruction or airway hyperresponsiveness. The aim of this study was to evaluate, using morphometric techniques, whether sub-epithelial fibrosis is present in the peripheral airways of heaves-affected horses. Peripheral lung biopsies acquired under thoracoscopic guidance were obtained from 6 heaves-affected horses and 5 controls, both before and after a 30 day antigenic exposure. All horses had been kept in an antigen poor environment for at least 3 months prior to the study. Lung function parameters were derived from an airways of heaves-affected horses.

Lung biopsies were microscopically examined using picrosirius red, a collagen specific histological staining technique. Collagen area in the sub-epithelial layer, e.g. the region between the airway smooth muscle and the epithelial layer, was measured and corrected for airway size using standard morphometric techniques.
At baseline, all horses had a normal lung function, while only heaves-affected horses developed airway obstruction after antigenic challenge. In comparison with controls, horses with heaves had a nearly doubled collagen deposition in the airway sub-epithelial layer before challenge. Further, an increase in sub-epithelial fibrosis was observed in diseased horses after the 30 day antigenic challenge.

Sub-epithelial fibrosis is present in the peripheral airways of heaves-affected horses and is unchanged by a 30 day continuous antigenic challenge. Further studies will be required to determine the role of fibrosis in equine obstructive lung disease.

ABSTRACT #54
FUROSEMIDE DOES NOT AFFECT TRANSVASCULAR FLUID FLUXES ACROSS THE LUNG IN EXERCISING HORSES. M. Vengust1, C. Kerr2, H. Staempfli2, J. Pringle3, JA Nicol, R. Le´guillette

O2 uptake, were sampled simultaneously 5 minutes apart. During exercise in Con and FurTr and at fatigue reached 14.1 (12.6–16.4 mm Hg) in Con and 14.1 (12.6–16.4 mm Hg) in FurTr (P=0.7).

At the standard dose furosemide is given as premedication to race horses, it appears that changes in pulmonary transcapillary pressures during exercise are major contributors to pulmonary transvascular fluid fluxes. For this study it is hypothesised that furosemide treatment would attenuate transcapillary fluid fluxes in horses during high intensity exercise.

Six Standardbred horses were exercised twice on a high-speed treadmill (Såto Sweden) at 80% VO2 peak until fatigue. Horses were randomly assigned treatment with 250 mg of furosemide (FurTr) or placebo (Con) intravenously 4 hours prior to exercise, with controls exercised immediately. Resting arterial and mixed venous blood, as well as CO2 elimination and cardiac output (Q) were measured using Fick equation. Erythrocyte and plasma fluid fluxes, and transvascular fluid fluxes across the lung were calculated using two-way repeated-measures ANOVA (P<0.05).

At rest furosemide had no effect on Q, erythrocyte and plasma fluid flux, and transvascular fluid flux across the lung. During exercise Q increased in Con and in FurTr, with Q being lower in FurTr at fatigue (301.8 (mean)+8.5 (SE) L/min) compared to Con (336.5±15.6 L/min) (P<0.006). Fluid flux from erythrocytes increased during exercise in Con and FurTr and at fatigue reached (14.6±2.3 L/min) and (11.8±2.2 L/min), respectively (P=0.2). There were no plasma fluid fluxes observed in either group. Transvascular fluid flux from the pulmonary circulation increased and at fatigue reached 14.1±3.5 L/min in Con and 11.8±3.4 L/min FurTr (P=0.7).

To address this question we measured lung mechanics ex-vivo using 5 horses’ lungs. The lungs were obtained from an abattoir, then only their cranial lobes were used and their central airway (first generation) was cannulated. Two retrograde catheters were then blindly inserted respectively in a larger first generation bronchus, as well as a smaller third generation bronchus. One alveolar capsule was also glued to the surface of each lobe. The lobes were then suspended in a sealed box and subjected to quasi-sinusoidal pressure changes. A pneumotachograph was inserted at the outlet of the main bronchus and used to measure airflow and calculate volumes. Five pressure transducers were used to measure transpulmonary, central airway, peripheral airway, and alveolar pressures. The lungs were ventilated in the box at 3 different transpulmonary pressures (Ptp) (15, 20, 30 cmH2O) and frequencies (10, 20, 30 breaths/min). Total lobar resistance (RL) and elastance (EL) were calculated. Individual resistances to airflow from the central airway (Rc), the two different size catheterized airways (RpLarge and RpSmall) and lower tissue elastance (Et) and resistance (Rt) were calculated and expressed as relative values of RL. The diameter of the catheterized airways was measured using a standard method after the lung mechanics.

The measured diameter of the catheterized airways was 5.7 mm (±0.9 SD) for the larger airways and 2.5 mm (±1.1 SD) for the smaller airways.

Effect of an increase in Ptp: The following results were obtained when Ptp was increased from 15 cm H2O to 30 cm H2O at the different respiratory rates mentioned above:

- RL and EL are increasing significantly for all respiratory rates. The relative contribution of Rs, RpLarge and RpSmall to RL significantly decreased for all respiratory rates. Conversely, the relative contribution of Rt to RL significantly increased for all respiratory rates.
- Furthermore, the relative contribution of first and third generation peripheral airway to RL was not significantly different for all respiratory rates and Ptp values.

Effect of an increase in respiratory rate: The change in respiratory rate from 10 breath/min to 25 breaths/min had no significant affect on RL, Rs and Rp. The increase in EL with increasing respiratory rate was not significant.

The effect of Ptp on lung mechanics was predominant on the change in respiratory rate. The most important contributor to RL is Rt. The relative contributions of Rs, RpSmall and RpLarge to RL decrease when Ptp increases, whereas the relative contribution Rt to RL does the opposite.

ABSTRACT #56
EFFECTS OF PROLONGED INHALED CORTICOSTEROID TREATMENT ON CELL-MEDIATED IMMUNITY IN HORSES. Julie Davuville, M. Julia B.F. Flamino, Jean-Pierre Lavoie 1Faculte´de Me´decine Ve´te´rinaire, Universite´ de Montreal, Saint Hyacinthe, QC, Canada. 2College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

A single therapeutic dose of systemically administered corticosteroids significantly modulates cell-mediated immunity in horses. Thus, inhaled medications have been used in an attempt to attenuate systemic side effects when the prolonged administration of corticosteroids is necessary for the treatment of chronic inflammatory pulmonary diseases. The objective of this study was to determine whether a prolonged administration of inhaled corticosteroids altered the cell-mediated immunity in horses.

Ten adult horses with heaves were divided into 2 groups: 5 horses received therapeutic dosages of inhaled fluticasone while 5 others received no medication. Nine months after the beginning of treatment, the following parameters were measured in peripheral airway, using flow cytometry: lymphocyte subpopulation distribution (CD4+ T lymphocytes, CD8+ T lymphocytes, B lymphocytes), lymphocyte function-associated antigen-1 (LFA-1) and major histo-compatibility complex (MHC) class II expression on lymphocytes and monocytes, and in vitro lymphocyte proliferation when stimulated by pokeweed mitogen or concanavalin A. Values of treated and untreated horses were compared using a Student t-test. A complete blood count was performed to evaluate total leukocyte subpopulations before (T0), and after 2, 6 and 11 months of treatment. A repeated-measures linear model, with group as between-subject factor and months of treatment as within-subject factor, was
used and comparisons of means were conducted with the sequential Bonferroni procedure. Results of the different immunologic tests were comparable between groups (p > 0.05). Moreover, no significant differences were observed in the leukocytes subpopulations, neither between groups nor within groups between different time points. In addition, none of the horses developed signs of infection that could have resulted from immunosuppression. These results suggest that prolonged administration of inhaled fluticasone is not associated with major alteration in cell-mediated immunity in horses.

**ABSTRACT #57**

**EHV-1 POSITIVE PBMC FRACTIONS DURING CELL-ASSOCIATED VIREMIA FOLLOWING EXPERIMENTAL INFECT**

S Wilsterman, LV Ashton, RJ Callan, DP Lunn, S Rao, LS Goehring
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Viremia during Equid Herpesvirus type 1 (EHV-1) infections is a prerequisite for horses to develop neurological disease. Cell-associated viremia occurs in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), which consist of 4 cell subsets: CD4, CD8, B lymphocytes and monocytes. The goal of this study was to identify the virus-infected PBMC subsets during EHV-1 viremia.

PBMC were collected from 2 independent infection studies between days 4–9 post infection. The first study included 8 cross-bred yearling horses, infected with EHV-1, strain Ohio 03. The second study used 7 cross-bred yearling ponies, and EHV-1 strain AB4. PBMC were isolated, labeled using subset-specific monoclonal antibodies, and separated into 4 fractions by using a magnetic bead technique. Fractions from each animal on each collection day were submitted for quantitative PCR analysis using 2 PCR assays, PCR EHV1 gB provided viral genome copy numbers detected in each sample, and PCR Ignein /-actin estimated the number of nucleated cells in a sample. Results were expressed as qualitative data, absence or presence of viremia in a fraction, and as quantitative data as viral genome copy numbers/2.5x10^6 cells. Multivariable linear regression analysis was used to determine the association of ‘cell subset’ and ‘day post infection’ with EHV-1 gB copy number. The viral load of the monocyte cell population, and ‘day 4’ were used as references for ‘cell subset’ and ‘day post infection’, respectively. Poisson regression was used to analyze the average number of viremic days in each fraction.

Neurological disease was mild and transient in 3 horses, and absent in all ponies. Duration of viremia in horses (days 5–9) was longer than in the ponies (days 5–7), and was undetectable in 2 horses, and in 1 pony. Total horse viremic days for each subset were 17 (CD8), 7 (B lymphocyte), 3 (monocyte) and 2 (CD4). Virus quantity was significantly higher in CD8 when compared to the reference. Viral load in CD4 and B lymphocytes was not significantly different from the monocyte reference. Total pony viremic days were 12 (CD8), 10 (B lymphocytes), 7 (monocytes) and 5 (CD4). In the pony study virus quantities were not different between CD4, B lymphocytes and monocytes. CD4 lymphocytes consistently contained fewer viral genome copies than the reference.

Differences in number of viremic days, virus preference and quantity within a PBMC subset may depend either on the strain that was used for infection (Ohio 03 versus AB4), or on the host (horse versus pony). Both experiments show that the CD8 subset contained the highest cumulative viral load followed by B lymphocytes, monocytes and CD4. The results on subset preferences do not suggest a mechanism on how endothelial cells become infected. Future studies will be necessary to clarify this mechanism.

**ABSTRACT #58**

**THE EFFICACY OF NITAZOXANIDE AS AN ANTIVIRAL AGENT FOR THE TREATMENT OF EHV-1 INFECTION IN HORSES**

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College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

There is currently no specific antiviral medication for the treatment of EHV-1 myeloencephalopathy. The purpose of this study was to determine whether or not treating horses with nitazoxanide (Navigator®) paste prior to and during infection with EHV-1 was efficacious in protecting the treated horses against clinical disease, and whether or not this treatment diminished the nasal shed of virus or delayed the extent of EHV-1 viremia.

16 yearling horses were randomly assigned to a treatment (n = 8) or control group (n = 8). Horses were verified EHV-1 seropositive prior to the experiment. The treatment group was treated with 25 mg/kg of nitazoxanide by mouth twice per day starting two days prior to EHV-1 infection for a total of 25 days. The control group received a placebo. All horses were challenged with a 5x10^5 PFU of EHV-1 (Ohio 03). Horses were evaluated daily by a veterinarian who did not have knowledge of the treatment groups, a clinical score was determined (0 = no abnormalities). Viremia and the nasal shed of virus were determined using quantitative PCR for the viral glycoprotein B gene. Clinical score data was analyzed using a Wilcoxon non-parametric test. Physical exam parameters, viremia, and nasal shedding were analyzed by linear regression.

There were no significant differences in the clinical scores or physical exam parameters between the treatment and control groups following EHV-1 infection. The log peak titer of viremia was lower in the treatment group but not significantly different. There were no significant differences noted between the treatment and control groups in regard to the peak nasal titer, the duration of nasal shed of virus or the duration of viremia.

The treatment of horses with nitazoxanide does not significantly decrease viremia, nasal viral shed or ameliorate the clinical signs associated with EHV-1 infection.

Previously presented at Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases.

**ABSTRACT #59**

**REPEATABILITY AND REPRODUCIBILITY OF TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASONOGRAPHIC RENAL LOCI AND DIMENSIONS IN THOROUGHBRED HORSES. ACE Draper1 and GD Hallowell2. 1Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre, Halton, Buckinghamshire, UK. 274, Threadcutters Way, Shepshed, Leicestershire, UK.**

Transabdominal renal ultrasonography is the most widely utilised imaging modality for the investigation and diagnosis of renal disease but to the authors’ knowledge no reference ranges or reports of repeatability and reproducibility have previously been published in horses. The aims of this study were to report intercostal space (ICS) visibility of Thoroughbred kidneys, normal reference ranges for various kidney dimensions in longitudinal (Long) and transverse (Trans) section which includes total kidney, cortex, medulla and pelvis length, and renal length and width dimensions and to calculate repeatability and reproducibility of these dimensions using transabdominal ultrasonography. Seven Thoroughbred horses (500–30 kg) were scanned in triplicate by two scanning technicians over three consecutive days. Images were analysed on three separate occasions by one observer (to assess repeatability) and once by a second observer (to assess reproducibility). Repeatability was also assessed using a questionnaire sent to 10 clinicians; this consisted of 10 ultrasound images (5 normal and 5 abnormal kidneys) from clinical cases (diagnosis was confirmed by post-mortem examination). Statistical analysis included ANOVA, repeated measures ANOVA and post-hoc Bonferroni test and paired T-test. Both kidneys were visible in the paralumbar fossa (PLF) and 17th, 16th, 15th ICS, with the right kidney rarely visible in 14th ICS. Mean values (±SD) were obtained for all renal dimensions and renal length and width are displayed in table 1. There were significant differences between renal dimensions in different ICS on both left and right sides (p < 0.03) except between the 17th and 16th ICS on both the left and right sides. Good repeatability and reproducibility was demonstrated from the horses examined with an intra-class correlation coefficient (ICC) of > 0.9 for all renal dimensions. Reproducibility of normal and abnormal renal dimensions from the questionnaire was also deemed to be excellent (ICC > 0.93) as was identification of normal versus abnormal. In conclusion a normal reference range for various renal dimensions in Thoroughbred horses has been established. Excellent repeatability and reproducibility of renal measurements and identification of abnormal versus normal mean that this is a valuable clinical modality for examination of this organ.
Table 1. Dimensions of the left (L) and right (R) kidneys displayed as mean (±SD).

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ABSTRACT #60
RENAI BIOPSIES IN HORSES: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 71 CASES. GA Tyner1, S Lindborg1, A Gruntman2, CA Reynolds1, MA Oyama1, D Brown1, J Rush2, E Rozanski3, P Fox3, D Ader1, R Williams4, K MacDonald4, R Malakoff5, KE Schober6, ML O'Sullivan7, GE Singletary1, 1University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. 2Tufts University, North Grafton, MA. 3The Animal Medical Center, New York, NY. 4Veterinary Specialists of Rochester, Rochester, NY. 5Veterinary Emergency Clinic, Toronto, ON. 6The Animal Care Center, Rohnert Park, CA. 7Angell Animal Medical Center, Boston, MA. 8The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. 9Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON.

Owners’ perceptions and priorities regarding quality of life (QoL) are important considerations given the unknown efficacy of many commonly administered medications, stress of hospital visits, difficulties providing home care, and personal choices involving euthanasia. We sought to better understand these issues through questionnaire-based study of owners of 182 cases with a variety of health problems from 8 sites, Appetizer, owner interaction, sleep patterns, and pitter habits were deemed significantly more important to QoL than pet-pet interaction, play habits, and desire to go outdoors. Concern over pet suffering was significantly greater than life expectancy. Using an 11-point scale ranging from 0 (low QoL, long lifespan) to 10 (high QoL, short lifespan), owners desired a median balance between these priorities of 8. 94% of owners were willing to trade survival time for, 54% of these were willing to trade up to 6 mo. On univariate analysis, factors associated with willingness to trade 6 mo included owner age, site, clinician, ISACHC class, stress of hospital visit, number of cats in the household, and current medications. On multivariate analysis, factors associated with increased willingness to trade were study site and cats receiving medications, and older age of owners. Owner concerns whether stress of administering medications at home would decrease QoL increased with number and frequency of medications. These results indicated that QoL is more important to owners of cats with heart disease than longevity. The various priorities and concerns of cat owners should be taken into account in order to provide optimal care.

ABSTRACT #62
VALIDATION OF PLATELET FACTOR 4, SOLUBLE P-SELECTIN, β-TROMBOGLOBULIN, AND 11-DEHYDRO-TROMBONE B2 ELISAS IN THE FELINE POPULATION. SB Bordelon1, AM Heaney2, OL Nelson2, TB Wills3, KM Meurs4. Washington State University – College of Veterinary Medicine, Pullman, WA.

Arterial thromboembolism (ATE) is a common complication of feline cardiac disease and identification of cats at risk for ATE is important. In human patients traditional markers of coagulation with one or more of the following: platelet factor 4 (PF4), soluble P-selectin (sP-selectin), beta-thromboglobulin (β-TG), or 11-dehydro-trombuxane B2 (11-dehydro-TXB2) have been used to identify patients at risk for thromboembolism. We hypothesized that human ELISAs for PF4, sP-selectin, β-TG and 11-dehydro-TXB2 could be used to establish normal values for these markers in cats. The objective of this study was to validate human ELISAs for PF4, sP-selectin, β-TG and 11-dehydro-TXB2 in the feline population. Twenty-five cats were determined to be free of systemic and cardiac disease via physical examination, echocardiography, electrocardiography, blood biochemistry, blood biochemistry, and total T4 levels. Three milliliters of blood was collected from each cat and placed into CTAD tubes. Samples were centrifuged to obtain citrated (sP-selectin) and platelet poor plasma (PF4 and β-TG). Urine samples for 11-dehydro-TXB2 were collected into C&S tubes. Intra- and inter-assay variability was determined for each ELISA.

The β-TG ELISA did not detect β-TG in any of the cats. Intra-assay variability for PF4, sP-selectin and 11-dehydro-TXB2 was 1–33%, >3 >1000%, and 14–18%, respectively. Inter-assay variability for PF4, sP-selectin and 11-dehydro-TXB2 was 6–110%, 3–89%, and 10–44% respectively.
We conclude that these ELISAs for PF4, sP-selectin, β-TG, and 11-dehydro-TXB2 are not useful in cats. However, the devastating nature of feline ATE warrants further investigation into markers that may identify cats at risk for thromboembolism.

ABSTRACT #63
PLASMA PECAM-1 AND ENDOTHELIN-1 CONCENTRATIONS ARE ELEVATED IN CATS WITH HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY. KE Jandrey, JW Norris, K Huang, MD DS Schwartz, VMC de Oliveira, PRR Melo, AM Mazini, P Claus, GT Goldfeder, AC Ferreira, MMHA Larsson. Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia, USP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

The purpose of this study was to determine the plasma concentrations of platelet/endothelial cell adhesion molecule-1 (PECAM-1) and endothelin-1 (ET-1) in normal cats and cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). Our hypothesis was that cats with HCM have increased concentrations of both variables when compared with normal cats.

Platelet rich plasma and platelet poor plasma (10 μg/ml PGE1, 1% aprotinin, and 2 mg/ml leupeptin) from normal cats and cats from a research colony with familial HCM were prepared from anticoagulated blood from 70 cats, which were evaluated in 2008. ET-1 concentration was determined by ENzyme Linked ImmunoSorbent Assay (ELISA) assay previously validated for use in cats. Recombinant human ET-1 was used to generate a standard curve for assay calibration. Plasma PECAM-1 concentration was measured by Western blots analysis using a polyclonal antibody and densitometry (arbitrary units) was quantified by Image J analysis (NIH Shareware).

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The mean normal cat plasma PECAM-1 concentration (n=5) was 1276±684, and was 2939.9±976.9 (p=0.015) in the group of cats with HCM (n=7). The mean normal cat plasma ET-1 concentration (n=9) was 5.6±0.98 fmol/ml and was 6.55±1.25 fmol/ml in the cats with HCM (n=4; p=0.001).

All cats with PECAM-1 and ET-1 likely indicate that cats with HCM have platelet and endothelial up-regulation. An increase in the concentration of these plasma proteins may be an indication of increased risk of thromboembolism.

ABSTRACT #65
PULSED TISSUE DOPPLER IDENTIFIES PRECLINICAL LEFT VENTRICULAR MYOCARDIAL DYSFUNCTION IN OBSESE DOGS. DS Schwartz, VMC de Oliveira, PRR Melo, AM Mazini, P Claus, GT Goldfeder, AC Ferreira, MMHA Larsson. Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia, USP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

Human overweight subjects without overt heart disease show changes on left ventricular (LV) function, detected by tissue Doppler imaging (TDI), even in the absence of coronary heart disease or other comorbidities, but this effect on dogs is not well established.

We sought to investigate preclinical effects of obesity on left ventricular function of dogs, using pulsed TDI. LV myocardial Doppler derived systolic (Sm), early (Em) and late (Am) diastolic velocities were obtained by transthoracic echocardiography from 16 obese dogs and 30 non-obese, classified by body condition scoring. Other echocardiographic and Doppler parameters were assessed.

Obese presented significantly lower Sm at anular interventricular septum (IVS) (0.0719±0.0229 vs 0.0915±0.0247; P=0.012); Em/Am at IVS (1.14±0.35 vs 1.38±0.370, P=0.020); Em at anular left ventricular free wall (LVFW) (0.103±0.0256 vs 1.20±0.0267, P=0.048); Em/Am at anular LVFW (1.320±0.303 vs 1.576±0.336, P=0.115) and increased Sm at mid LVFW (median=0.085, P25=0.07, P75=0.0917 vs median=0.0065, P25=0.06, P75=0.077, P=0.029), a decreased Sm at anular LVFW (0.126±0.0378 vs 0.154±0.0473, P=0.049), and an increased E/Em (10.398±2.915 vs 8.648±2.267, P=0.029), suggesting an increased LV filling pressure. Obese and controls were comparable regarding other longitudinal and radial velocities.

Obese dogs without overt heart disease present preclinical left myocardial systolic and diastolic function changes detected by pulsed TDI. Even without a predisposition of dogs to ischemic heart disease, obesity has an impact on ventricular function.
ABSTRACT #67

B-TYPE NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE AND CYCLIC GUANOSINE MONOPHOSPHATE LEVELS INCREASE WHEREAS NITRIC OXIDE BIOLABILITY DECREASES WITH INCREASING DEGREE OF MYXOMATOUS MITRAL VALVE DISEASE. SG Moegaard1, T Falk1, T Teerlink2, HH Gjønnesdottir3, S Sigurardottir1, CE Rasmussen1, LH Olsen4, 1University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg, Denmark, 2VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) is a widespread heart valve disease in dogs, and a lot of research has focused on identifying biomarkers in asymptomatic stages which could be beneficial in the future diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of MMVD. Among several potential biomarkers the natriuretic peptides have so far been the only ones showing significant changes in several studies of both asymptomatic and symptomatic dogs. The aim of this study was to measure plasma cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) concentration in dogs with different degrees of MMVD. cGMP is a second messenger for both natriuretic peptides and nitric oxide (NO). We therefore studied the association between cGMP and both N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) and the L-arginine/asymmetric dimerisylarginine (ADMA) ratio (a measure of NO bioavailability).

Five groups consisting of 1) Cavalier King Charles spaniels (CKCS) with no or minimal mitral regurgitation (MR), 2) CKCS with mild MR 3) CKCS with moderate to severe MR, 4) dogs in heart failure due to MMVD (different small breeds) and 5) Cairn Terriers with no or minimal MR were subjected to a clinical examination, blood sampling and echocardiography. Plasma BNP increased with increasing MR and it was significantly elevated in the CKCS with moderate to severe asymptomatic MR (P < 0.05) and further elevated in the heart failure dogs (P < 0.0001). Plasma cGMP concentration also increased with increasing MR and it was highly correlated with BNP (P < 0.0001). However, cGMP was only significantly increased in the heart failure dogs (P < 0.01). The cGMP/BNP ratio decreased with increasing MR and the decrease was significant in the heart failure dogs (P < 0.05). The L-arginine/ADMA ratio decreased with increasing MR which was also significant in the heart failure dogs (P < 0.005). Furthermore, both cGMP and L-arginine/ADMA ratio levels differed between the CKCS and the Cairn terrier breeds (P < 0.05). These results confirm that BNP increases already in the moderate to severe asymptomatic stages of MMVD. The increase in BNP is closely correlated to an increase in cGMP, however, the cGMP/BNP ratio decreases with heart failure, which indicates that the dogs may have developed natriuretic peptide resistance. Finally, the decrease in the L-arginine/ADMA ratio suggests that there is a decrease in NO bioavailability in the heart failure dogs which could then again have a negative influence on the cGMP concentration. These results are very interesting considering the promising diagnostic results with Pimobendan, which is a phosphodiesterase inhibitor that may restore cGMP and improve endothelial function.

ABSTRACT #68

TRANS-THORACIC THREE-DIMENSIONAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC EVALUATION OF NORMAL CANINE HEART VALVES. A Hsu, WP Thomas, William B. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA.

With its unique ability to display and spatially orientate the heart’s structures in three dimensions, we sought to determine if three-dimensional echocardiographic (3DE) views of the four canine heart valves (mitral=MV, tricuspid=TV, aortic=AV, pulmonic=PV) could be obtained consistently, and to determine the quality of the 3DE images and whether they provided views and information not obtainable by the standard two-dimensional echocardiographic (2DE) examination. In this pilot study, 50 dogs (Philips ie33; 2D: 8 MHz transducer; 3D: X3 or X7 transducer) were performed in 12 normal dogs which were restrained in lateral recumbency on a table designed to allow ventral transducer placement. A continuous electrocardiogram (ECG) was obtained during all examinations. Standard 2DE views were used to assess the four valves, including a right parasternal long-axis view (MV, TV, AV), a right parasternal short axis view at the level of the mitral valve (MV), a right parasternal short axis view at the level of the heart base (AV, PV), a left apical four chamber and/or five chamber view (MV, TV, AV), and left cranial long axis and short axis view (AV, TV). 3DE data sets included full volume 4 beat acquisitions as well as live 3DE images of the valves. 3DE images of the valves were obtained and then evaluated and manipulated on a separate dedicated workstation. Valves were evaluated in each view and quality was graded subjectively using the following scale: 1=poor; 2=fair; 3=good; 4=excellent. Images of the mitral valve were most consistently obtained (12/12), with a quality grade of 3 or 4 in 10/12 dogs. The tricuspid valve was imaged in most dogs (10/12), with 3 dogs receiving a quality grade >2. The aortic valve was imaged in every dog (12/12), with 5 dogs receiving a quality grade >2. Moreover, the pulmonic valve was the most difficult to view, with only 3/12 dogs with a valve that could be evaluated, all of which received a grade of 2.

These preliminary results indicate that trans-thoracic 3DE images of the canine heart valves can be obtained and evaluated within the context of the routine cardiology evaluation and provide unique views complimentary to the 2DE examination. Good to excellent images of the MV were consistently recorded. High quality images of TV, AV, and PV were more difficult to obtain.

ABSTRACT #69

CARDIAC TROPONIN I IS ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERITY OF MYXOMATOUS MITRAL VALVE DISEASE, AGE, HEART RATE AND C-REACTIVE PROTEIN IN DOGS. I. Liungqvist1, K. Höglund1, A. Tidholm1, L. H. Olsen1, M. Borgarel1, F. Venge2, J. Häggeström3, 1Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden, 2Albano Animal Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, 1University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 4Kansas State University, USA, 2University of Upsala, Sweden.

Analysis of cardiac troponin I (cTnI) may increase the knowledge of cardiac remodeling in dogs with myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD). An age- and gender dependent variation in cTnI has been shown in rats, dogs and humans, and cTnI is known to be related to systemic inflammatory response. The role of inflammatory mediators in the progression of cardiac remodeling in MMVD is unknown. The aims of the study were to investigate whether plasma levels of cTnI and C-reactive protein (CRP) were associated with severity of MMVD, and to investigate potential associations between cTnI and signalment variables in dogs with MMVD.

Prospective evaluation by physical examination, electrocardiography, blood pressure measurement, and echocardiography was performed in 81 dogs. Plasma cTnI was analysed by a high sensitivity assay (Beckman Coulter AccuTnI) with a lower limit of detection of 0.001 ng/ml (10% CV at 0.014 ng/ml), and plasma CRP was analysed by a canine CRP ELISA (TriDelta Development Ltd).

Healthy dogs (n=11) had a median cTnI of <0.001 ng/ml (interquartile range (IQR) <0.001–0.004), dogs with mild MMVD (n=39) had a median cTnI of 0.003 ng/ml (IQR 0.001–0.024), dogs with moderate MMVD (n=13) had a median cTnI of 0.014 ng/ml (IQR 0.008–0.029), and dogs with severe MMVD (n=18) had a median cTnI of 0.043 ng/ml (IQR 0.031–0.087). Cardiac troponin I concentrations differed significantly between healthy dogs and dogs with moderate MMVD (P<0.001), between healthy dogs and dogs with severe MMVD (P<0.001), between dogs with mild and severe MMVD (P<0.001), and between dogs with moderate and severe MMVD (p<0.002). Multiple regression analysis indicated a major effect of age, heart rate, CRP concentration, and left ventricular end diastolic diameter corrected for body weight on cTnI concentration. Age was the variable that contributed most to the model R². C-reactive protein levels did not differ significantly between severity groups, but increased significantly with increasing age.

In conclusion, plasma cTnI concentration was found to increase with increasing severity of MMVD, and cTnI concentration increased with increasing age, heart rate, left ventricular end diastolic diameter, and CRP concentration in dogs. C-reactive protein concentration was not associated with severity of MMVD.

ABSTRACT #70

EVALUATION OF A MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENT FOR MITRAL VALVE REGURGITATION. C. Kerker-Head1, T Johnson1, J Wilson1, J Wilson1, M Batalion1, M Horish1, 1North Grafton, MA. 2Lahey Clinic, Burlington, MA. 3Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH. 4Cardiosolutions Inc, Stoughton, MA.

Mitrval valve regurgitation (MR), due to myxomatous degeneration of the valve leaflets or secondary to dilated cardiomyopathy, is
common in older people and older dogs. Medical management can provide some relief, but mitral valve surgery via cardiopulmonary bypass has been required to improve long term outcome. Percutaneous (transcatheter) beating heart mitral valve repair offers an alternative to open heart surgery. This study was designed to test the feasibility of a novel intracardiac implant system designed to ameliorate MR by enhancing functional valve coaptation (valve-valve or valve-device) during systole.

Following IACUC approval, mature healthy female sheep (65-75 kg; n=6) and pigs (50-65 kg; n=17) were anesthetized to permit fluoroscopic and intracardiac echocardiographic (ICE) guidance of a transcatheter (femoral vein) delivery system. Transseptal atrial puncture was employed to gain access to the left atrium and left ventricle. A steerable 14-French delivery catheter was used to deploy the implant, which consisted of a cylindrical (9×40-mm) collapsible Nitinol wire scaffold enveloped within a silicone polyurethane sheath. The implant was suspended within the mitral annulus by a single Nitinol support wire anchored to the ventricular apex wall using either a screw-in or an umbrella design. Procedural success was recorded and animal health, cardiac function and implant stability were assessed post-implantation using physical exam, echocardiography, fluoroscopy, and necropsy (range 23-328 days post-implantation).

System design modifications and increased operator expertise culminated in a successful, uncomplicated, and repeatable implantation of the device. When compared with sheep, the pigs' cardiac anatomy and physiology (e.g., fewer moderator bands, easier transseptal approach, vigorous recovery) facilitated the implantation procedure. Procedure duration declined from 240 minutes to 45 minutes. Intraoperative and postoperative fluoroscopy and eco-cardiography documented optimal positioning of the implant within the mitral annulus and coaptation with the mitral leaflets with minimal mitral regurgitation. Seven animals succumbed to death and were necropsied. The remaining 4 dogs, 3 were lost to follow-up and one was euthanized due to the valve leaflets detached from the implant. This novel implant, documented to achieve functional valve coaptation (valve-valve or valve-device) in systole with minimal regurgitation and cardiac pathology offers a potential percutaneous treatment for human and canine MR patients. Efficacy studies are warranted.

This novel implant, documented to achieve functional valve coaptation (valve-valve or valve-device) in systole with minimal regurgitation and cardiac pathology, offers a potential percutaneous treatment for human and canine MR patients. Efficacy studies are warranted.

These results suggest that dogs with CS who undergo TVHWE and survive to discharge have a good mid-term prognosis. Dogs with elevations in ALT or pre-operative evidence of worms in the pulmonary artery may have increased mortality rates.

ABSTRACT #72 MODULATION OF INFLAMMATORY AND OXIDATIVE STRESS MARKERS IN CORONARY ARTERY SMOOTH MUSCLE CELL MODEL. B. Bauman1, B. Ge2, J. Robinson2,3, R. Yau1, A. Yau2, C. G. Frondoza1,4. 1Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS. 2Nutramax Laboratories, Inc., Edgewood, MD. 3Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. 4State University, Syracuse, Inc.

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is the leading cause of heart failure in certain breeds of dogs. DCM is associated with inflammation and oxidative stress, but the pathogenesis of the disease is not yet well understood. Mediators implicated in the pathogenesis of DCM include cytokines, prostaglandins, nitric oxide, and reactive oxygen species. To help clarify the molecular events involved, we evaluated coronary artery smooth muscle cells (CASMCs) cultured in vitro. Using this model, we determined whether cytokine-induced inflammation and oxidative stress can be inhibited by silybin phosphatidylcholine complex (SPC) and epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG). These natural products are known to have anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties. SPC has been shown to be bioavailable in dogs and cats and is commercially available (Marian® and Denamarin®, respectively). Induction of inflammation was assessed by gene expression analysis of cytokines and COX-2, as well as production of prostaglandin E2 (PGE2). Induction of oxidative stress was monitored by analysis of superoxide dismutase (SOD) gene expression.

Phenotype expression was monitored by immunostaining for α-actin. CASMCs were pre-incubated with clinically relevant concentrations of SPC (298 ng/ml), EGCG (0.4 µg/ml) or control media alone for 24 hours. Cells were then incubated with a combination of IL-1β (10 ng/ml) and TNF-α (1 ng/ml) control media alone. Expression of cytokines (IL-1β and TNF-α), COX-2, and SOD was determined by semi-quantitative RT-PCR while PGE2 production was measured by ELISA. Statistical significance was set at p<0.05 using one-way ANOVA and the Tukey post-hoc test.

CASMCs proliferated in monolayer culture and maintained their phenotype, as indicated by intense immunostaining for α-actin. Cells responded to cytokine activation by more than a 40% increase in expression of IL-1β, TNF-α, COX-2, and SOD. Activation significantly increased production of PGE2. Pretreatment of CASMCs with SPC or EGCG reduced gene expression of cytokines, COX-2, and SOD. Pre-treatment also reduced PGE2 production to near baseline levels. Results from this study demonstrate that SPC and EGCG inhibit the induction of inflammation and oxidative stress markers in vitro. The CASMC model serves as a tool to identify agents that may be beneficial in reducing inflammation and associated oxidative stress in veterinary practice.
fascicularis) and marmoset monkeys. In conscious animals,ystolic, diastolic, mean arterial blood pressure (MAP) and pulse/min were determined 15 times within approx. 9 min per individual. This session was performed during three consecutive days. After procedural habituation the MAP (in mmHg, mean±SD) in C. jacchus was 94.9±4.3, in M. fascicularis males 96.2±3.4 and 86.9±3.0 in females. Importantly, these data correspond to those reported for invasive techniques. Mean intraindividually coefficient of variation for systolic, diastolic, MAP and bpm ranged between 2.6 and 10.1%, demonstrating the high precision and feasibility even in conscious animals. Direct comparison to telemetry revealed that HDO accurately detected drug related cardiovascular changes. Under anaesthesia, a significant decrease in pulse rate and blood pressure could be determined. Due to its accuracy and precision, HDO may be regarded as an alternative approach to invasive surgeries in animal models used for cardiovascular research. HDO is applicable to large number of animals and day-by-day routines.

**ABSTRACT #74**

PREVALENCE, HERITABILITY AND GENETIC CORRELATIONS OF CONGENITAL SENSORYNEURAL DEAFNESS AND PIGMENTATION PHENOTYPES IN 4143 BORDER COLLIES. **Luisa De Risio**, Julia Freeman, Sarah Blott, Alberta de Stefani, Lara Matiaszek, Tom Lewis. The Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, UK.

The objectives of the present study were to estimate prevalence, heritability and genetic correlations of congenital sensorineural deafness (CSD) and pigmentation phenotypes in Border Collies.

Full litters of purebred Border Collies that presented to the Animal Health Trust (1994–2008) for assessment of their hearing status by brain stem auditory evoked response (BAER) at 4–10 weeks of age were included. Heritability and genetic correlations were estimated using restricted estimate maximum likelihood.

4143 puppies (1951 female, 2192 male) met the inclusion criteria. Of these, 4043 (97.59%) had normal hearing status, 84 (2.03%) were unilateral deaf (UD) and 6 (0.15%) were binaurally deaf (BD). Iris color was brown bilateral in 3890 puppies (1.57 UD, 0.18% BD), blue unilaterally in 158 puppies (8.86% UD, 1.27% BD), and blue binaurally in 95 puppies (9.47% UD, 7.37% BD). White pigmentation of the head was estimated visually at >50% in 111 dogs (19.82% UD, 7.21% BD) and <50% in 4032 dogs (1.54% UD, 0.20% BD). 366 puppies (5.19% UD, 2.19% BD) had merle coat color. The sire and dam hearing status was known (based on BAER results) in 3491 and 3801 dogs respectively (3482 and 3776 normal, 5 and 21 UD, 4 and 4 BD respectively). Heritability of deafness (normal/unilateral/bilateral) was estimated as 0.37. The genetic correlations of deafness with iris color, percentage of white pigmentation of the head, and merle coat color were 0.63, 0.12, and 0.24, respectively.

These results indicate that there is significant genetic effect on CSD in border collies, and that some of the genetic regions determining deafness also influence other pigmentation phenotypes.

**ABSTRACT #75**

INVESTIGATION OF A NEW ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY (EEG) ELECTRODE IN SEDATED AND AWAKE DOGS. **FMK James**, C Kerr, A Bersenas, J Parent, L Grovum, D Allen, R Poma. Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON.

The new subdermal wire electrode (SWE) was compared with the traditional gold cup electrode (GCE) and needle electrode (NE), in six sedated and awake dogs.

Eight EEG channels were recorded during twenty-minute video-EEG recording sessions (at 0.5, 2, 4, 6 and 8 hours) in this prospective, randomized, and blinded trial. Non-physiological artifacts were identified. Duration of non-physiological artifact was summed per channel. The number of unaffected channels (NUC) was also noted.

After multivariate analysis of NUC, there were main effects of electrode type and sedation over time, with median SWE (NUC=2.8, 95% confidence interval: 0.84–5.7) significantly different than GCE (7.87, 7.44–7.94) and NE (7.6, 6.61–7.89) medians (p<0.05). After 4 hours, and regardless of the electrode type, the NUC decreased in awake dogs, but not in sedated dogs. The duration of non-physiological artifact was significantly different between SWE and the other two electrodes, the medians for SWE, GCE, and NE at the 8-hour recording sessions being 61.55 (95% confidence interval: 21.81–173.65), 1.33 (0.47–3.75), and 21.01 (6.85–64.42) sec, respectively (p<0.05).

In conclusion, choices of EEG electrode and level of sedation do not affect the overall recording quality in EEG sessions lasting up to 4 hours. With longer EEG recording sessions, caution should be used in selecting EEG electrodes and sedation state, although the difference between electrodes may not be clinically significant.

**ABSTRACT #76**

CEREBROSPINAL FLUID NEUROTRANSMITTER CONCENTRATIONS IN DOGS WITH ISCHEMIC INFARCTION OF THE BRAIN. **SR Platt**, R Barber*, L De Risio*, M Kent*, J Eagleson†, SJ Schatzberg. †University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine, Athens, GA, USA. *Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, UK.

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) concentrations of excitatory (glutamate) and inhibitory (GABA) neurotransmitters may reflect central nervous system excitotoxicity. Excitotoxicity is a component of the purported pathophysiology of cerebrovascular accidents, specifically ischemic infarction. Although CSF glutamate levels have been evaluated in dogs with epilepsy, spinal disease and brain tumors, neurotransmitter concentrations have not been documented in dogs with ischemic infarction (stroke) of the brain. Such information could provide therapeutic targets for clinically affected dogs. The objective of this study was to compare CSF neurotransmitter levels in dogs with clinically confirmed ischemic infarction to those of normal dogs.

Cerebellomedullary cisternal CSF was collected from 10 healthy beagles with normal brain MRI and from 12 various dog breeds which had clinical signs and cerebral MRI consistent with ischemic infarction. The medical records of the clinical dogs were searched to determine duration of disease at time of CSF tap and prior use of anti-inflammatory medications. The CSF samples (20 μl) were analyzed for glutamate (GLU), aspartate (ASP), glycine (GLY), and GABA. The data were analyzed with PROC GLM in SAS and significance was set at P<0.05.

There were no significant differences between the mean glutamate concentrations of all clinically affected dogs and normal dogs. However, there were significant differences between the mean CSF glutamate levels for dogs clinically affected for <5 days (0.28 μmol/l) when compared to those affected >5 days (0.09 μmol/l) and to normal dogs (0.1 μmol/l) (P=0.03). There were also significant differences in the mean glycine concentrations detected between normal dogs (1.64 μmol/l) and those which had experienced ischemic infarction (1.09 μmol/l) (P=0.0099). There were no differences detected between the GABA concentrations of any of the groups assessed. There was no effect of the use of anti-inflammatory medications on any of CSF neurotransmitters.

The results of this preliminary retrospective study suggest that glutamate—mediated excitotoxicity may be involved in the pathogenesis of canine cerebral ischemic infarction within the first 5 days of disease. The reduction of glycine concentrations may also play an important role. Glutamate elevation is a potential future treatment target for dogs with cerebral ischemic infarction.

**ABSTRACT #77**

RISK FACTORS FOR POST-MYELOGRAPHIC SEIZURES IN DOGS – 503 CASES. **Ronaldo C. da Costa**, Howard Dobson2, Aleisha Lusk1, Joane Parent1. 1The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada, Université de Montréal, St-Hyacinthe, QC, Canada.

The reported incidence of post-myelographic seizures in dogs using iohexol has been highly variable, reaching up to 21.4% on a recent report. Most studies, however, investigated relatively small populations of dogs. Since our experience appeared different, we...
retrospectively investigate the incidence and risk factors of post-myelographic seizures in a large patient population.

Medical records of dogs that had a myelogram performed between March 2002 and December 2004 were reviewed. Data relating to breed, sex, age, weight, volume and dose per kilogram of iohexol (240 mg/ml), site and number of injections, location of the lesion, duration of anesthesia, time from injection to recovery, whether or not surgery immediately followed the myelogram, whether acepromazine was used immediately before or after anesthesia, and presence or absence of seizures were collected. Multiple statistical analyses were performed (univariate exact conditional analysis, Fisher's exact tests, and logistic regression with conditional tests).

The files of 503 dogs were evaluated. Only 15 dogs (2.98%) suffered a post-myelographic seizure. Although several factors influenced the seizure occurrence, due to spill constraints only a few will be described here. The size of the dog was an important factor. Thirteen out of 140 large (>20 kg) dogs (9.29%) and two out of 124 medium (<9<20 kg) dogs (1.61%) had a seizure. No small (<9 kg) dogs (out of 239) had seizures. Large dogs were 3.53 times more likely to have a post-myelographic seizure (P<0.001) than small dogs. The location of contrast injection was also important. Out of the 424 dogs that were injected into the lumbar cistern, 6 suffered a post-myelographic seizure (1.42%), while this occurred in 6 out of 62 (9.68%) dogs injected into the cerebellomedullary (CBM) cistern. Dogs that were injected into the CBM cistern were significantly (P=0.001) higher risk of seizures and were 7.46 times more likely to develop seizures than those injected into the lumbar cistern. Multiple injections in the lumbar region increased the seizure risk (P=0.002), but not in the CBM cistern (P=0.36). The total volume of iohexol was highly significant in increasing the seizure risk (P<0.0001). The mean total volume of iohexol for dogs that had a seizure was 11.73±5.52 ml, while for dogs that did not have a seizure it was 4.57±4.13 ml. For each 1 ml increase in iohexol volume, the seizure risk increased by 1.263 (95% CI 1.11 to 1.33). The location of the spinal lesion was also important. Dogs with cervical lesions had a higher seizure risk (P=0.004) and were 4.65 times more likely to develop seizures than dogs with lesions in other spinal regions.

We conclude that the overall seizure risk is low in small and medium breed dogs with lumbar iohexol injections. Large breed dogs with cervical spinal disease and injection of large volumes of iohexol in the CBM cistern have a significantly higher seizure risk.

ABSTRACT #78

EFFECTS OF PALLIATIVE PHARMACOTHERAPY ON SURVIVAL AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN 50 DOGS WITH PRIMARY INTRACRANIAL NEOPLASMS. JH Rossmeisl, JL Robertson, JC Jones, KL Zimmerman. VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Blacksburg, VA.

This prospective study intended to evaluate effects of palliative therapies on survival and quality of life (QOL) in dogs with brain tumors. We hypothesized that survival and QOL for forebrain tumors would be superior to tumors elsewhere.

All dogs had clinical and CT/MRI evidence of a brain mass, were discharged from the hospital, and had histopathologic confirmation of a brain tumor upon death. Animal-, treatment-, and tumor-related factors were examined for survival effects, with treatments standardized based on clinical and tumor-related factors. Therapies included phenobarbital (Group 1), prednisone (Group 2), and phenobarbital and prednisone (Group 3). The impacts of tumors on behavior, physical status, and human-animal interactions were assessed by serial client QOL questionnaires.

Fifty dogs with 19 meningiomas, 10 gliomas, 9 pituitary macroadenomas, 8 choroid plexus tumors, and 4 neuronal tumors were included. Multivariate analysis identified tumor location, signs/severity, and pre-treatment QOL scores as significant prognostic variables. The rates of mortality in Groups 2 (hazard ratio 16.9, 95% CI 1.3–225.1; P=0.03) and 3 (hazard ratio 12.9, 95% CI 1.7–99.3; P=0.01) were significantly greater compared to Group 1, and Group 1 dogs survived longer (median 212 days, 95% CI 178–343 days). No differences existed between groups in QOL scores for days 14–90 post-treatment, although these QOL scores improved in all groups compared to pre-treatment values.

Palliative treatments resulted in short-term QOL improvement in all groups. Dogs with mild neurologic dysfunction due to forebrain tumors can survive for prolonged periods.

ABSTRACT #79

THE PHARMACOKINETICS OF LEVETIRACETAM IN DOGS CONCURRENTLY RECEIVING PHENOBARBITAL. SA Moore, KR Munana, MG Papich, JA Nettifee-Osborne. North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC.

Levetiracetam (LEV) is commonly used as an add-on medication in dogs with refractory epilepsy, although the pharmacokinetics of LEV when given in conjunction with other antiepileptic drugs has not been evaluated in the dog. The objective of this study was to determine if the pharmacokinetics of LEV change when administered in conjunction with phenobarbital (PB). Six healthy dogs were administered a single oral dose of LEV (16.7–27.8 mg/kg). Blood samples were collected at baseline and intermittently for 24 hours. The study was repeated after the same dogs received oral PB (2.0–3.3 mg/kg) twice daily for 21 days. All dogs achieved steady state concentrations of PB. Plasma LEV levels were evaluated by high pressure liquid chromatography. Pharmacokinetic data was analyzed using a compartmental model. Peak concentration (Cmax) of LEV administered alone was 32.39 µg/ml±6.76, compared to 18.22 µg/ml±8.97 when given with PB. The elimination T1/2 in dogs given alone and dogs given LEV and PB concurrently was 3.43±0.47 and 1.73±0.22, respectively. Clearance increased from 124.93 ml/hr/kg±26.93 for LEV alone to 252.99 ml/hr/kg±43 for LEV and PB in combination. Volume of distribution was 611.59 ml/kg±76.74 for LEV alone compared to 697.75 ml/kg±85.43 for LEV with PB. Concurrent PB administration significantly alters the pharmacokinetics of LEV in the dog, indicating that dosage adjustments may be necessary when he drug is administered to dogs in conjunction with PB.

ABSTRACT #80

METABOLISM AND ACTION OF NELARABINE IN GLIOMA CELL LINES. L Zipovik, PJ Dickson, CO Rodriguez Jr. University of California-Davis, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Davis, CA.

Nelarabine, pro-drug of ara-G, is phosphorylated in the initial rate-limiting step by cytosolic deoxycytidine kinase (dCK) and mitochondrial deoxyguanosine kinase (dGK) to ara-GMP. This moiety is then quickly converted to the active 5′-triphosphate, araGTP, which competes with the natural endogenous nucleotide, dGTP for incorporation into the replicating DNA strand. Incorporation of ara-GTP into the DNA results in replication block and subsequently inhibition of DNA synthesis leading to apoptosis.

In phase I and II human clinical trials, the most common adverse effects were non-hematological, neurological toxicities, suggesting ara-G penetration the blood brain barrier. These data, combined with the knowledge that tissues from the central nervous system have the highest specific activity of dGK in the body, led us to hypothesize that ara-G would have efficacy in the treatment of tumors of the central nervous system.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate and compare the intra-cellular pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of Nelarabine in glioma cell lines of canine, murine and human origin. Short term growth inhibition was assessed with MTT assay. Accumulation of intracellular ara-GTP was quantitated by HPLC. Repeated measure ANOVA and Student’s t test were used to assess for significance.

The IC50 for murine (4C8) was 100µM at 72 h. The IC50 for canine (JT3-BG) and human (U87) was 0.77 µM at 24 h. The accumulation of intracellular ara-GTP was similar between the cell lines. Nelarabine appears to have efficacy against glioma cell lines of canine, murine and human origin. Its efficacy in vivo remains to be determined.

ABSTRACT #81

EXPRESSION OF MATRIX METALLOPROTEINASES AND RECEPTORS IN MICROGLIAL CELLS IN DIFFERENT INTRACRANIAL DISEASES. V M Sengel‡, C Puff, W Baumgarth, A Tipold. Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, Institute of Pathology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany.

Microglial cells are the brain resident tissue macrophages and are closely associated with active central nervous system (CNS) pathology. They are known be activated by a large variety of stimuli...
Severe MRI abnormalities were seen in 17 dogs with the occurrence of vertebrobody abnormalities was significantly higher in the Doberman Pinscher (P = 0.04). The severity of disc degeneration (P = 0.005) and ventral compression (P = 0.05) were significantly higher in the higher age category. There was a significant difference in disc degeneration, ventral and dorsal compression (P < 0.0001; P < 0.0001, respectively) according to the location of the dog at intervertebral disc spaces, with increasing abnormalities for the more caudal intervertebral disc spaces (P < 0.0001; P = 0.0192; P < 0.0001, respectively). The correlation coefficient between severity of disc degeneration and spinal cord compression was 0.52 (P = 0.0003).

The results of this study indicate that MRI abnormalities are commonly seen in the caudal cervical vertebral column and spinal cord of clinically normal Doberman Pinchers and Foxhounds. This suggests that such lesions are part of the normal, or at least, common aging process of spinal degeneration.

ABSTRACT #83
COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS IN LARGE AND GIANT BREED DOGS WITH CERVICAL SPONDYLOMYELOPATHY: 58 CASES. Ronaldo C. da Costa, Rita Echandi, Dustin Beauchamp. Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

Computed tomography (CT) is routinely used in the diagnosis of cervical spondylomyelopathy (CSM); however, no report presents CT findings in a large population of dogs with CSM. The purpose of this study was to compare the CT findings in large and giant dogs with CSM.

Medical and radiology records were searched for cases of canine CSM between 2003 and 2008. Inclusion criteria included a definitive diagnosis of CSM achieved by myelography and CT myelography (CTM) in large or giant dogs with clinical signs of cervical spinal disease.

Fifty eight dogs met the inclusion criteria. Twenty-three were large breed dogs and 35 giant breed dogs. Among the large breed dogs, 11 were Dobermans, 3 Weimaraners, 3 mixed large breeds, 2 Dalmatians, 2 Labrador retrievers, 1 Greyhound, and 1 German shorthaired pointer. Their median age was 7 years (mean 7.1 years). There were 11 males and 12 females. Among the giant breed dogs, 18 were Great Danes, 8 Rottweilers, 7 Mastiffs, 1 Great Pyrenees, and 1 Bernese mountain dog. Their median age was 2.5 years (mean 4.1 years). There were 21 males and 14 females.

CTM findings in large breed dogs revealed that 11 dogs had a single site of spinal cord compression, while 12 dogs had multiple sites. The main site of compression was at C6-7 in 14 dogs, C5-6 in 7 dogs and C4-5 and C2-3 with one dog each. The main cause of compression was disk-associated in 19 dogs, and osseous with or without ligamentous hypertrophy or synovial cysts in 4 dogs. The direction of compression was ventral in 19 dogs, dorsolateral in 2 dogs, dorsal in 1 dog and lateral in 1 dog. The severity of the spinal cord compression was graded as severe (> 50% cord diameter), moderate (between 25–50%) and mild (< 25%). The main compression was severe in 2 dogs, moderate in 14, and mild in 7 dogs. Four of the 23 dogs had spinal cord atrophy.

CTM findings in giant breed dogs showed that 30 dogs had multiple sites of compression, while 5 dogs had a single site. The main compressive site was at C6-7 in 13 dogs, C5-6 in 8 dogs, C4-5 in 5 dogs, C2-3 in 2 dogs, and C3-4 in 1 dog. Six dogs had 2 or 3 compressive sites of similar severity. Osseous compressions were also observed at C7-T1 in 8 dogs, and T1-T2 or only T2 in 5 dogs. The primary cause of compression was osseous in 27 dogs (2 dogs had concurrent synovial cysts), disk-associated in 4 dogs, and a combination of disk and osseous compression in 4 dogs. The direction of compression was lateralized in 18 dogs, dorsolateral in 5 dogs, dorsal in 3 dogs, ventral in 5 dogs, and a combination in 4 dogs. The main spinal cord compression was a flattening as severe in 9 dogs, moderate in 19 dogs, and mild in 7 dogs. Seven dogs had spinal cord atrophy.

Results indicate that giant dogs often have multiple compressions, usually caused by malformed or osteoarthritic articular processes that cause lateralized compression. Additionally, an important number of giant dogs had secondary osseous compressions at C7-T1 and T1-T2 sites.
ABSTRACT #84
CERVICAL ARTHROPLASTY IN DOGS WITH DISC ASSOCIATED CAUDAL CERVICAL SPONDYLOMYELOPATHY AND CERVICAL DISC HERNIATION: PRELIMINARY STUDY IN TWO CASES. PF Adamo*, G Burns. Bay Area Veterinary Specialists, San Leandro, CA.

The purpose of this preliminary study was to determine whether cervical arthroplasty tolerated in dogs with disc associated Caudal Cervical Spondylomyelopathy (CCSM) or cervical disc herniation.

Two dogs diagnosed with disc associated cervical myelopathy using MR imaging were included in this study. Dog 1: a 4 year old MN Doberman Pincher 31 kg, with acute onset of cervical pain and ataxia. Dog 2: an 8 year old MN mixed breed 22 kg, with a 4 month history of progressive ataxia/tetraparesis. MRI findings showed acute myelopathy secondary to C6-C7 disc herniation in dog 1; and chronic myelopathy secondary to C5-C6 disc disease in dog 2.

Both dogs were surgically treated with standard ventral slot and spinal cord decompression followed by the insertion of the Titanium alloy version (Ti-6AI-4V-ELI) of the canine cervical artificial disc, previously tested by Adamo et al. – in vitro study. Post-operatively cervical radiographs were taken, a cast was applied for 6 weeks and serial neurologic examinations with cervical radiographs were taken at 2 and 6 weeks (both dogs) and at 12 weeks and 6 months (dog 1).

Dog 1 had a complete neurologic recovery; dog 2 showed significant improvement at 2 months post-op. On immediate post-operative radiographs the implant was well seated in the slot providing good distraction. In all post-operative cervical radiographs, distraction was maintained with no evidence of ventral bridging spondylodis. At the treated site.

Cervical arthroplasty was well tolerated in both dogs, maintained distraction and prevented bridging spondylodis. This procedure warrants further study.

ABSTRACT #85

We propose a reference value for the F ratio for the sciatic and ulnar nerve of dogs adjusted for the length of their limbs. Eleven healthy dogs with no clinical signs of peripheral nerve or spinal cord diseases were studied thus far.

F ratios were calculated for the sciatic nerve with supramaximal stimulation at the hock, popliteal fossa and hip. F ratios were calculated for the ulnar nerve with supramaximal stimulation at the carpus and the elbow. The formula F=ML/2M was used to calculate the F ratio. Dogs were divided into three groups based on total limb length which was measured from the hip to the fourth digit in hind limbs and from the proximal scapular spine to the fourth digit in forelimbs. Small dogs had a total limb length less than 400 mm, medium dogs greater than 400 mm and less than 600 mm and large dogs greater than 600 mm. The mean value for each group was calculated and the following reference values proposed (+ standard deviation): small hock=4.7±2.6, small stifle=2.7±1.0, small hip=1.7±0.9, medium hock=3.7±0.8, medium stifle=3.7±0.6, medium hip=1.9±1.2, large hock=1.9±0.1, large stifle=0.9±0.1, large hip=0.9, small carpus=5.3±1.2, small elbow=3.3±1.6, medium carpus=4.2±0.4, medium elbow=1.8±0.4, large carpus=4.2±0.4, large elbow 1.6±0.1. These preliminary results suggest the necessity to consider limb length when calculating the F ratio. This study is ongoing and will include one hundred dogs to improve the reliability of these reference ranges.

ABSTRACT #86
PERIPHERAL NERVE PATHOLOGY IN CANINE DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY WITH MUTATION IN SUPEROXIDE DISMUTASE 1 GENE. GD Shilton1, GC Johnson2, GS Johnson2, DP O’Brien2, ML Katz3, JR Coates1. School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA. 1College of Veterinary Medicine, 2School of Medicine, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

Canine degenerative myelopathy (DM) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease which has recently been shown in several canine breeds to be a result of a missense mutation in the superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1) protein (Awano T et al, PNAS, 2009). Based on this mutation and similarities in disease phenotype, canine DM appears to be a spontaneously occurring model for human amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). In canine DM, spasticity and general proprioceptive pelvic limb ataxia occurs in dogs older than 8 years of age, and if euthanasia is delayed, clinical signs will ascend causing flaccid tetraparesis and other lower motor neuron signs. A similar course of clinical progression has been described in upper motor neuron onset human ALS. To determine if pathologic changes typical of denervation are present in muscle (fibers, sarcomeres and sarcoglycans), and nerve (peroneal) of dogs with advanced DM, specimens were collected either as biopsies or following euthanasia from Pembroke Welsh Corgi (5), Boxer (2), German Shepherd Dog (1), Kerry Blue Terrier (1) and Chesapeake Bay Retriever (1) dogs homozygous for the SOD1 mutation and 33% of DM with wild-type SOD1. Histopathological examination of sections stained with H&E showed that denervation atrophy of the stellate and other affected muscles persisted in all dogs. The most dramatic and consistent abnormalities were found in the Pembroke Welsh Corgi, in which denervation atrophy (+ + + + ) was present in all muscle specimens and nerve fiber loss (++ to ++ + +), myelin ovoids (+ + +), myelin splitting and ballooning (++++ to +++ +) and inappropriately thin myelinated fibers (++++ to +++ +) consistent with mixed axonal degeneration and demyelination. In some fibers, but milder changes (+ to +++) were present in peripheral nerves in the Boxer, German Shepherd Dog, Kerry Blue Terrier and Chesapeake Bay Retriever breeds with variable muscle atrophy (0 to ++ +). A longer disease duration in the Pembroke Welsh Corgi (24–48 months) versus other affected breeds (7–12 months) may explain the more extensive disease severity. In conclusion, this study provides pathologic evidence for peripheral nerve involvement in canine DM consistent with the clinical signs of lower motor neuron disease.

ABSTRACT #87
AN SODI MUTATION ASSOCIATED WITH DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY OCCURS IN MANY DOG BREEDS. JR Coates1, R Zeng1, T Awano1, LA Hansen1, S Khan1, GC Johnson2, JS Taylor2, SN Long3, DP O’Brien1, CM Wade4, ML Katz2, K Lindblad-Toh5, GS Johnson1. 1University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and 2Division of Animal Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. 3University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. 4Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, Cambridge, MA. 5Uppsala University, Sweden.

Canine degenerative myelopathy (DM) is a fatal neurodegenerative disease prevalent in several dog breeds. Typically, the initial progressive upper motor neuron spastic and general proprioceptive ataxia in the pelvic limbs occurs at 8 years of age or older. If euthanasia is delayed, the clinical signs will ascend causing flaccid tetraparesis and other lower motor neuron signs. We previously identified a missense mutation in the canine superoxide dismutase 1 (SOD1) gene and showed that homozygosity for the A allele of this SOD1c.118G>A mutation is a risk factor for DM in five dog breeds: Boxer, Chesapeake Bay retriever, German Shepherd dog, Pembroke Welsh corgi and Rhodesian ridgeback (Awano et al, PNAS, in press, 2009). We here report the results of genotyping 6407 individual dogs at SOD1c.118G.A mutation was a risk factor for DM in five dog breeds: Boxer, Chesapeake Bay retriever, German Shepherd dog, Pembroke Welsh corgi and Rhodesian ridgeback (Awano et al, PNAS, in press, 2009). We here report the results of genotyping 6407 individual dogs at SOD1c.118G.A.
Toceranib phosphate (Palladia<sup>TM</sup>, SU11654), an oral multi-kinase inhibitor, is under investigation for treatment of mast cell tumors (MCT) in dogs. Several studies were performed to characterize the pharmacokinetics (PK) of toceranib in dogs. Means of the following PK parameters were estimated following a 1.0 mg (free base equivalents, fbe)/kg IV dose administered to laboratory beagles: plasma clearance, 1.45 L/kg/h; volume of distribution at steady state, 29.7 L/kg; terminal half-life, 17.5 h. Following single oral doses of 3.25 mg (fbe)/kg administered to laboratory beagles, mean Cmax estimates ranged from 67.8–112 ng/mL and occurred between 5.5 and 7.0 h post-dose. Terminal half-life was 31 h. Oral bioavailability was estimated to be 76.9%. There were no statistically significant (p > 0.05) changes to any PK parameter due to the fed/fasted state or between days 0, 28, and 86 during 13 weeks of every-other-day dosing (3.25 mg/kg) to laboratory beagles. Toceranib concentrations were proportional with dose over the range studied here (2.0 to 6.0 mg/kg). The PK of toceranib in client-owned dogs of a variety of pure and mixed breeds with MCTs was similar to that in healthy laboratory dogs. In summary, toceranib exhibited moderate clearance, high volume of distribution, and a moderate elimination half-life. After a single oral dose at 3.25 mg/kg, the concentration vs. time curve showed broad, sustained exposure with measurable concentrations for more than 48 h. The PK parameters of toceranib described here support every-other-day administration at an initial dose of 3.25 mg/kg for the treatment of MCTs in dogs.
ting a combination of three different feline cytokines. Fifteen cats with primary or recurrent fibrosarcoma were included in the study. All cats had to be healthy based on blood work and physical examination and were staged by ultrasound and radiographs for signs of metastasis. A prior treatment with chemo-, radio- or an immunosuppressive therapy was not allowed. Following a wide surgical resection of the tumor an absorbable collagen sponge was implanted into the wound cavity. Each collagen sponge was loaded with equal amounts of plasmid DNA (pDNA), polyethyleneimine and a protecting copolymer (P60Y5C). The plasmids were coding for fELL-2, fEFN7 and fEGM-CSF, respectively. The dose of each plasmid was escalated in 4 different treatment groups starting with 75 µg to 600 µg per plasmid. Each cat was evaluated for treatment-related toxicity within the first 90 days after surgery and all occurring adverse events were registered and graded according to the VOCG-CTCAE scale. The most striking adverse event observed during the examination period was a drop in the lymphocyte count. Lymphocytes in cats treated with a dose of 600 µg/plasmid dropped by 75% compared to initial values. This was considered to be therapy-related but not life-threatening. In conclusion, a dose of 600 µg pDNA per cytokine is safe for the patient and feasible for a phase II clinical trial. The collagen sponge proved to be an easy to handle transfer medium for this nonviral gene therapy.

ABSTRACT #92
IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL DIFFERENTIATION OF CANINE PROSTATIC CARCINOMA. M. Fork1, P. Bock2, U. Kaim1, W. Baumgartner2, I. Nolte1. 1Small Animal Clinic, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, Germany; Department of Pathology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Hanover, Germany.

In distinction from human prostate carcinoma, the disease in the dog is thought to be mostly androgen independent. Therefore basal cells, androgen refractory ductal cells, and transitional cells are a possible origin of canine prostate carcinoma. In human medicine Prostatic Specific Antigen (PSA) and Prostatic Acid Phosphatase (PSAP) are markers commonly used for screening for prostate carcinoma.

The aim of this study was to identify the cells of origin of canine prostate carcinoma and to evaluate the use of PSA and PSAP in the diagnosis of the disease.

Nine samples of canine prostate carcinoma, nine samples of benign prostate hyperplasia and thirteen samples of transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) were evaluated using immunohistochemistry for PSA, PSAP, High Molecular Weight Cytokeratin (HMW-CK), staining for basal cells, Cytokeratin 7 (CK7), staining for urothelial cells and ductal cells, and Uroplakin III (UPH), being specific for urothelial cells. Castration status and in the case of TCC also gender were recorded.

In benign prostate hyperplasia there was a strong positivity for PSA and PSAP, canine prostate carcinoma was less likely to be positive for PSA and PSAP. In addition the staining was weaker in cells malignant compared to cells of benign prostatic tissue. No TCC was positive for PSAP, but there was positive staining for PSA in five samples of transitional cell carcinoma. No sample of prostate origin, benign or malignant, stained positive for UPH, and only five samples of TCC (38%) showed a positive staining for UPH. The staining for CK7 was significant more likely to be positive in samples of transitional cell carcinoma than in cells of prostatic origin. There was no significant difference in the staining for HMW-CK between either group.

We conclude that PSA is a more useful marker for canine prostate carcinoma than PSA. In addition the secretion of PSAP and PSA is reduced in prostate carcinoma of the dog. For differentiation between transitional cell carcinoma and prostate carcinoma, CK7 and PSAP are useful markers. Basal cells do not seem to play a major role in the development of canine prostate carcinoma. Uroplakin III is not useful for detecting transitional cell carcinoma.

ABSTRACT #93
FEASIBILITY AND SAFETY ASSOCIATED WITH SELECTIVE AND SUPERSELECTIVE INTRA-ARTERIAL CARBOPLATIN ± MELOXICAM DELIVERY FOR UROTHELIAL TUMORS IN DOGS. C. Weiss, A. Berent, Sorenmo K, Todd K, Soulen M, Solomon JA. Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Dogs with transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) are typically diagnosed with locally advanced tumors and up to 50% have distant metastasis at the time of diagnosis. Despite treatment most dogs will die within the first 12 months of diagnosis, often from progression of local disease. More effective local tumor control is necessary in order to improve outcome. Chemotherapeutic agents have activity in dogs with TCC, however these agents are associated with systemic toxicity, therefore preventing significant dose escalation. Intra-arterial delivery of chemotherapy and NSAIDs can provide increased intra-tumoral drug concentration and may therefore improve the anti-tumor activity. The investigators hypothesized that these treatments would be well tolerated and not result in any excessive morbidity or toxicity when compared with intravenous administration.

Twenty-two dogs received a total of 55 treatments (1-6 treatments/dog). All patients were placed under general anesthesia and vascular access to the femoral or carotid artery was obtained. Interventional radiology techniques were used under fluoroscopic guidance to gain selective or superselective access to the internal iliac or prostatic/caudal vesical arteries, respectively. Systemic doses of chemotherapy with or without meloxicam were administered and the animals recovered. The treatments were repeated following standard chemotherapy protocols.

Complications were mostly minor and identified following eleven (11/53) procedures. One dog developed presumptive sepsis after the first procedure and was euthanized one week later. Non-clinical myelotoxicity was identified following five (5/53) procedures.

Selective and superselective intra-arterial administration of chemotherapy with or without meloxicam is safe in dogs with naturally-occurring urothelial tumors.

Previously presented at ACVS, October 2008.

ABSTRACT #94
EFFECT OF INTRACAVITARY CHEMOTHERAPY FOLLOWING TREATMENT OF RECURRENT PLEURAL EFFUSION FOLLOWING PERICARDIECTOMY: EIGHT CASES. M. Ames, EA Rosefeld, LM Freeman, L. Barber, SM Cunningham, JE Rush. Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, MA.

Recurrent pleural effusion in dogs following surgical pericardectomy for idiopathic or malignant pericardial effusion is often a therapeutic challenge. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the survival time and side effects in dogs treated with intracavitary platinum-based chemotherapy after pericardectomy for treatment of pericardial effusion.

All dogs that developed recurrent pleural effusion following pericardectomy that were treated with intracavitary cisplatin or carboplatin were retrospectively evaluated. Dogs that had pericardectomy for treatment of either hemangiosarcoma or chemodecathoma were excluded. Data collected from the medical records included underlying diagnosis, survival time from the initial diagnosis of pericardial effusion, survival time following pericardectomy and evidence of side effects of chemotherapy. Survival times were compared with Kaplan-Meier survival curves and Cox proportional hazards analysis.

Eight dogs met the inclusion criteria. The median age at first diagnosis of pericardial effusion was 8.5 years (range 5.9–10.9 years). Six were large breed dogs (> 25 kg) and 2 were small dogs (< 10 kg). All dogs had pericardiectomies; 4 via lateral thoracotomy, 2 thoroscopically, and 2 via median sternotomy. The pericardial biopsy was definitive for mesothelioma in 3 dogs and for unclassified neoplasia (likely carcinoma) in 1, while 4 dogs had severe inflammatory pericarditis with notation by the pathologist that neoplasia could not be excluded. No dog had hypoalbuminemia. Six dogs received intracavitary cisplatin (50 mg/m2) following a therapeutic thoracentesis. Dogs were rolled to distribute the chemotherapy evenly. Dogs received intravenous saline diuresis (18.3 ml/kg/hr x 4 hours) in conjunction with cisplatin chemotherapy.

Dogs received between 1–7 cisplatin treatments (median = 3); treatments were repeated when effusion returned, but no more often than every 4 weeks. Three dogs received intracavitary carboplatin (300 mg/m2), one of which had first received 4 cycles of cisplatin. The median survival time from the first pericardial effusion was 11.5 months (range 2.5–96.0 months) and the median survival time from pericardectomy was 9.0 months, (range 1.5–60.0 months). Two dogs developed azotemia during treatment (creatinine values > 5.0 mg/dl) which resulted in discontinuation of chemotherapy. One
dog, treated with carboplatin, developed severe neutropenia (32 PMN/µl) and associated sepsis; this dog recovered with supportive care. There was no difference in survival time from initial diagnosis (p = 0.25) or from pericardiectomy (p = 0.29) based upon histopathological evidence of cancer.

Intraventricular chemotherapy was associated with few side effects, and represents a viable therapeutic option for dogs that have recurrent pleural effusion after pericardiectomy.

**ABSTRACT #95**

**TECHNIQUE FOR FLUOROSCOPIC NASOJEJUNAL TUBE PLACEMENT IN DOGS.** Beal MW, Mehler SJ, Staiger BA, Moore TW, Lam NK, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Nutritional support contributes to a positive outcome in the management of dogs with critical illness. The advantages of enteral nutritional support when compared to methods of parenteral nutritional support are well documented in humans. Dogs with critical illness are often in need of nutritional support, but are often intolerant of feedings into the stomach. Post-pyloric feeding avoids many of these tolerance problems. Surgical jejunostomy techniques are well established, however, the methods are invasive and complications are common. We hypothesized that fluoroscopic nasojejunal feeding tube (NJT) placement is a safe, rapid, and uncomplicated method for achieving sustained post-pyloric access for enteral nutritional support in normal dogs.

Six normal, male, beagle dogs (7–12 Kg) were anesthetized using standard techniques common to those utilized during gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures. Dogs were placed in left lateral recumbency and lidocaine was administered into the right nostril. A 0.035in, 206 cm, standard stiffness, hydrophilic guide wire with a straight, flexible tip (HGW) was advanced through the nostril and into the stomach. A 5F 100 cm berenstein catheter (BC) was advanced over the HGW and into the stomach and used to guide it across the pylorus. The HGW was then advanced as far into the jejunum as possible. The BC was removed and an 8F end-hole and multi-fenestrated feeding tube was advanced over the HGW into the jejunum. Gradual NJ feeding escalation was performed over the ensuing 48 hr and NJT location was monitored radiographically (0 hr, 48 hr, 72 hr) to assess for migration. At 72 hr, emesis was induced to determine the effect of emesis on NJT location. Tube migration was determined by measuring the location of the tip of the tube in relation to the caudal duodenal flexure (CDF). Dogs were monitored for gastrointestinal complications, mechanical complications with the tube, and self-removal. A paired t-test was used to compare tube locations at different time points. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

NJT placement was successful in all dogs. Median time to crossing the pylorus and the HGW was 11.3 min (range 2–28). Median total procedural time was 34.1 min (range 26–49). Median initial location of the tip of the NJT was 20 cm beyond the CDF (range 14–37). Complications of tube placement included mild epistaxis in two dogs. Three dogs removed the NJT tube within the first 48 hr. In the remaining 3 dogs, no significant tube migration occurred between 0 hr and 72 hr. Emesis induction resulted in oral migration of the NJT into the descending duodenum in one dog.

Fluoroscopy guided NJT placement is a safe, rapid, uncomplicated, minimally invasive technique for gaining post-pyloric access for enteral nutritional support in dogs. Further evaluation of NJTs in clinical patients will be necessary to better assess NJT tolerance and tube migration.

**ABSTRACT #96**

**TECHNIQUE FOR PERCUTANEOUS RADIOLOGIC GASTROJEJUNOSTOMY IN THE DOG.** Beal MW, Mehler SJ, Staiger BA, Moore TW, Lam NK, Brown JAJ, College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Nutritional support contributes to a positive outcome in the management of dogs with critical illness. Post-pyloric feeding may obviate tolerance problems associated with gastric feedings in critically ill dogs. Surgical jejunostomy techniques are invasive and complications are common. We hypothesized that percutaneous radiologic gastrojejunostomy (PRGJ) is a safe and uncomplicated technique for gaining post-pyloric access for enteral nutritional support in dogs.

Six normal, male, beagle dogs (7–12 Kg) were anesthetized using standard techniques common to those utilized during gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures. The dogs were positioned in right lateral recumbency and an orogastric tube allowed for gastric insufflation. Fluoroscopy was utilized to identify a location caudal to the left 13th rib for placement of 3 gastrointestinal suture anchors (GSA) into the stomach in a triangular pattern, creating a gastropty. An 18 g puncture needle was advanced through the center of the triangle created by the GSA. A 0.035in, 150 cm, standard stiffness, hydrophilic guide wire with a straight, flexible tip (HGW) was passed through the puncture needle and into the stomach and a 5F angled guiding catheter was then passed over the HGW and used to direct the HGW across the pylorus and duodenum, and into the jejunum. Serial over-the-wire dilation of the body wall facilitated placement of an 18F peel-away introducer through which an 18F 8F 58 cm dual-lumen gastrojejunal feeding tube (GJT) was advanced over the HGW and into the jejunum. Gradual jejunal feeding escalation was performed over 48 hr. Tube location was determined radiographically at 48 hr, 96 hr, after emesis induction at 96 hr, and at the time of tube removal (days 16–18). Location of the distal tip of the jejunal portion of the tube was noted in reference to the caudal duodenal flexure (CDF). A paired t-test was used to compare tube locations at different time points during the study.

Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05, with Bonferroni correction for multiple comparisons. Dogs and GJT were monitored for complications.

PRGJ was successful in all dogs. Median time to traversing the pylorus with the HGW was 23.5 min (range 14–93). Median total procedural time was 55 min (range 42–126). The distal tip of the GJT was located median 35 cm (range 27–40) past the CDF at initial placement (0 hr). No procedural complications were noted. No significant tube migration was noted at any time point or after induction of emesis. 5/6 dogs completed the study period (96 hr). 1/6 dogs removed the tube on day 3. Mild gastrostomy site redness and discharge was noted in all dogs.

PRGJ in the dog is a safe, minimally invasive technique that allows for gastric decompression and jejunal feeding without the need for surgical intervention.

**ABSTRACT #97**

**DIETARY ω3-LINOLENIC ACID SUPPORTS ARACHIDONIC ACID ENRICHMENT OF FELINE RED BLOOD CELL MEMBRANES.** L Trevizan1, M Hoernis1, KE Bigley2, JE Bauer2.

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Conversion of linoleic acid (LA) to arachidonic acid (AA) in cats is limited due to low ω6-desaturase activity. However, it is unknown whether this enzyme can be induced by feeding high dietary concentrations of its LA substrate. It is also unknown whether bypassing the ω6-desaturase step by providing large dietary amounts of LA precursors will enable AA synthesis. The objective of this study was to evaluate the in vivo accumulation of AA after feeding specific fatty acid precursors and measuring the incorporation of their fatty acid metabolites into feline red blood cell (RBC) membranes. It was hypothesized that feeding a GLA enriched diet would bypass the ω6-desaturase step resulting in AA synthesis via chain elongation and ω5-desaturation, with its subsequent incorporation into RBC membranes. It was also hypothesized that 6 desaturase may be directly induced by providing the dietary AA precursor, ω3-linolenic acid (GLA), will enable AA synthesis. The objective of this study was to evaluate the in vivo accumulation of AA after feeding specific fatty acid precursors and measuring the incorporation of their fatty acid metabolites into feline red blood cell (RBC) membranes. It was hypothesized that feeding a GLA enriched diet would bypass the ω6-desaturase step resulting in AA synthesis via chain elongation and ω5-desaturation, with its subsequent incorporation into RBC membranes. It was also hypothesized that 6 desaturase may be directly induced by providing the dietary LA precursor. To test these hypotheses, adult female cats (n = 29) were divided into three groups and fed complete and balanced diets containing high LA (HL, n = 10), high GLA (GLA, n = 10), or adequate LA (LL, control, n = 9). The diets were similar in caloric density, total protein, total fat, carbohydrate, vitamins, and minerals and differed only in their fatty acid compositions. Diets were fed for 56 days according to metabolic body weight (100 × Wkg1/2) to maintain body condition scores (BCS) of 5/9 with water provided ad libitum. Food consumption was recorded daily and body weights (BW) and BCS were determined weekly. After 56 days, blood samples were collected via saphenous vein into EDTA-containing tubes. Red blood cell ghosts were prepared from the samples and total lipids were extracted. Membrane phospholipids were fractionated via thin layer chromatography and fatty acid profiles were determined by gas chromatography. The Shapiro-Wilks test was used to determine normal distribution of fatty acid data and
one-way ANOVA was performed followed by Tukey (\(p < 0.05\)) multiple comparisons. It was found that high dietary LA concentration did not result in RBC AA enrichment vs. control suggesting no induction of -6 desaturase activity. However, chain elongation of LA was observed with the accumulation of 20:2n-6 and the presence of the \(\Delta-5\) desaturase product, 20:3n-6 (\(A_5, 11, 14\)) in the HL group. Most notably, feeding high dietary GLA was successful at bypassing the \(-6\) enzymatic step yielding increased amounts of AA. These findings support the presence of a functionally active \(-5\) desaturase enzyme in cats and that diets containing high amounts of GLA may be suitable for feline species.

**ABSTRACT #98**

ADIPOKINE EXPRESSION AND SECRETION BY CANINE ADIPOCYTES: REGULATION OF INFLAMMATION VIA ADIPOKINE PRODUCTION BY LPS AND TNFα. VH Ryan1,2; AJ German5; IS Wood1, L Hunter1; PJ Morris3; P Trayhurn3.

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The aim of the current study was to examine the expression of key inflammation-related adipokines in canine adipose tissue and adipokine expression and secretion determined in canine adipocytes.

Adipose tissue samples were collected from adult Staffordshire Bull Terriers of both genders immediately after euthanasia which had been performed for reasons unrelated to the research. The expression of inflammatory adipokines was assessed in a previously validated canine primary adipocyte culture system. Gene expression was assessed using real-time polymerase chain reaction methodology, whilst ELISA techniques were used to examine adipokine protein secretion into culture medium. The study was performed according to the University of Liverpool Guidelines on Animal Ethics and all tissue used was otherwise to be discarded.

Adiponectin, leptin, IL-6, monocyte chemotactic protein 1 (MCP-1) and TNFα were expressed and secreted in all the major adipose tissue depots of dogs, but there were no major depot differences in mRNA levels. Each adipokine examined was expressed in adipocytes differentiated in culture and secreted into the medium (leptin was not detected). IL-6, MCP-1 and TNFα were also expressed and secreted by preadipocytes; adiponectin and leptin were, however, only expressed after the induction of adipocyte differentiation. The inflammatory mediators LPS and TNFα had a major stimulatory effect on the expression and secretion of IL-6, MCP-1 and TNFα; there was a \(> 5000\)-fold increase in IL-6 mRNA level with LPS. IL-6 release into the medium was increased \(> 50\)-fold over 24 h with both LPS and TNFα, while MCP-1 release was increased 23- and 40-fold by TNFα and LPS, respectively. In contrast, there was no effect or a small reduction in adiponectin and leptin mRNA level with the inflammatory mediators. Dexamethasone stimulated leptin gene expression, had no effect on adiponectin expression, but decreased the expression and secretion of IL-6 and MCP-1. The peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma (PPARγ) agonist rosiglitazone stimulated the expression of both adiponectin and leptin, and inhibited the expression of IL-6, MCP-1 and TNFα; however, only MCP-1 secretion was reduced.

These results demonstrate that canine adipocytes express and secrete key adipokines. It is concluded that canine adipocytes are highly sensitive to inflammatory mediators, these inducing major increases in the production and release of inflammatory adipokines.

**ABSTRACT #99**

EXERCISE AND ACTIVE CLIENT MOTIVATION IMPROVE RATE OF WEIGHT LOSS IN OBSESE DOGS. A Chauvet1, J Laclar2, SL Holden3, D Elliott3, AJ German4, 1Veterinary Neuro Services, Sarasota, FL; 2Jim LaClair’s Dog-Friendly Dog Training, Sarasota, FL; 3Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, Merseyside, UK; 4Royal Canin USA.

Obesity is a now a major concern in companion animals, and management strategies can either utilize dietary energy restriction or drug therapy. Lifestyle changes, involving increasing activity levels, are usually recommended as an adjunct to weight management, but there is little information on how this impacts success. The hypothesis of the current study was that including an organized exercise program using an underwater treadmill would improve weight loss on a conventional weight management regime.

Eight client-owned obese dogs (condition score 9.0, 9 of various breeds and genders, were enrolled in a weight loss program using a high protein diet and lifestyle changes. An exercise regime was devised for each dog based on regular lead-walking and treadmill exercise. During the 3-month program, dogs were re-examined at 33, 54 and 86 days; at each stage, body weight, thoracic girth, and abdominal girth were recorded. The percentage weight loss over the program was compared with a matched control group enrolled at a weight management referral clinic and using an equivalent diet for weight loss.

Mean (± standard deviation, SD) percentage of starting weight lost was 7.4±2.20%, 10.8±1.88% and 18.9±5.44%, at 33, 54 and 86 days, respectively. The overall mean rate of weight loss for the whole 3-month trial was 1.5±0.43% per week. Both thoracic and abdominal girth also significantly over the course of the weight loss program (\(P < 0.0001\)) for both. The median number of treadmill exercise sessions per dog was 13 (range 5 to 17). Median session duration was 30 minutes (range 8 to 37), median speed was 1.2 mph (0.2 to 3.5 mph), and median distance walked was 0.60 miles (range 0.03 miles to 1.70 miles). The session speed (\(P = 0.0023\)), session duration (\(P = 0.0001\)) and distance travelled per session (\(P = 0.0010\)) all increased significantly over the course of the study.

Cases lost significantly more weight than their respective controls (56 days: median 11.4% [range 8.1–13.1%] vs. 7.3% [range 3.0–12.8%], \(P = 0.0043\); 86 days: median 15.5% [range 14.3–25.3%] vs. 9.7% [range 4.6–18.5%], \(P = 0.0047\)). These results demonstrate that canine adipocytes express and secrete key adipokines. It is concluded that canine adipocytes are highly sensitive to inflammatory mediators, these inducing major increases in the production and release of inflammatory adipokines.

**ABSTRACT #100**

COMPARISON OF DIETARY STRATEGIES ON THE PERCEPTION OF HUNGER DURING A FIELD FELINE WEIGHT LOSS STUDY. T. Bisot2, E. Seryt1, S. Vidal1, M. Deboise1, G. Egron1, M. Hugonnard4, S. Lardy1, A.J. German5, Y. Biostre3, 1Royal Canin, Ain Maenas, France; 2Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Lyon, 3Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Liverpool, UK.

Various dietary strategies exist for inducing weight loss in obese cats, but success in field trials is worse than expected from colony-based studies. The purpose of the current study was to examine the efficacy of three different dietary strategies on the perception of hunger by owners and the rate of weight loss in a controlled field weight loss program.

48 overweight (body condition score (BCS) \(\geq 5\)), healthy adult neutered cats completed a 20-wks weight loss trial. Three dietary strategies, intended to promote satiety and weight loss, were evaluated. DietA (ME: 2940 Kcal/1000 Kcal as fed, prot.: 116 fat: 51, TDF: 78, starch: 15 g/1000 Kcal, respectively) and DietC (ME: 3060 Kcal/kg, prot.: 115 fat: 36, TDF: 81, starch: 62 MJ, respectively) were dry diets, whereas dietB was a mixed ration: dietA and a moist diet (ME: 550 Kcal/kg as fed, prot.: 137 fat: 36, TDF: 27, starch: 56, water: 1512 g/100 Kcal). On day 0, cats underwent physical examination, BW and BCS measurement. Target body weight (TBW) was estimated from current BCS. Cats were then randomly-allo- cated to the 3 diet groups, and owners instructed to feed their cat 30 to 35 Kcal/kg TBW/day based on the BCS. On weeks 4, 12 and 20, cats were weighed; if the rate of weight loss was \(< 0.5\) or \(> 2\%) per week, energy allocation was re-adjusted. Hunger was assessed with a questionnaire, enabling calculation of a begging behaviour score (from 1 = no begging to 4 = permanent begging), begging manifesta- tion scores (incentive vocalisation, excessive begging, food stealing, and aggression; scored as 0 or 1), and a global begging score (sum of both). Data were analysed using a repeated-measure ANOVA design, with cats, weeks and diets as main factors. All re- sults are expressed as mean±sem.

Cats remained healthy and consumed all their food. Mean weight loss (%) over 20 weeks was similar amongst groups (11.0±1.3%, 10.9±1.2% and 11.9±1.7%, respectively). Mean rate of weight loss and energy allocation was not different amongst groups. Begging behaviour, the sum of begging manifestations, and the global begging score were significantly (\(p < 0.001\)) higher with diet C than with diets A and B. At week 12, significantly more owners regarded food
allowance as insufficient on diet C than on diets A and B (64% vs. 31%, 39%, respectively).

Diet A and B performed better than diet C, based on their lower begging scores and owner perception of excess hunger. This confirms that diets formulated to induce satiety can help limit hunger during weight loss program, and are therefore likely to improve chances of success.

Royal Canin, Veterinary Diet, Feline Satiety Dry, Aimargues, France; 2Royal Canin, Veterinary Diet, Feline Obesity Wet, Aimargues, France; 3Hill’s Prescription Diet, Feline R/D Dry, Topeka, KS, USA.

Previously presented at European Society of Veterinary Comparative Nutrition in Vienna, September 2008.

ABSTRACT #101
INFLUENCE OF DIETARY PROTEIN SOURCE AND CONTENT ON FECAL QUALITY AND GENE EXPRESSION OF WATER AND ELECTROLYTE TRANSPORTERS OF COLON IN MINIATURE POODLES AND GERMAN SHEPHERDS, L. Nery,1,2 V. Leray,1 C. Tourrier,1 B. Biourge,3 L. Martin,1 H. Dumoulin1 and P. Nguyen1.
1Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Nantes, France, 2University of Turin, Italy, 3Royal Canin, Aimargues, France.

When compared to smaller dogs, large dogs are prone to producing poor quality feces, that could be partially attributed to higher colonic fermentations. Fermentation of undigested proteins could have deleterious effects on the colonic mucosa and affect colonic functions. One of them is water and electrolyte absorption. Highly digestible protein sources, such as wheat gluten, lead to a low protein residue in the colon. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of dietary protein source and amount on fecal quality and expression of proteins involved in colonic absorption, as water channel (aquaporin 8; AQP8), and electrolyte channel (Na+/K+ ATPase, as well as cyste fibrosis transmembrane conductance regul- ulus (CFTR)) in the colon of large and small dogs.

Eleven female dogs (5 Miniature poodles: MP, 4.9±1.5 kg BW, and 6 German shepherds: GS, 26.6±2.4 kg BW) were used. Two diets varying in protein source and level were tested in a crossover study. Diets were isoenergetic with similar fat, TDF and ash content. Main protein sources and levels were wheat gluten meal at low protein level (LP; CP=14.3% as fed) and poultry meal at high protein level (HP; CP=34.8% as fed). The study design comprised two 14-d experimental periods and a 24-d washout period. Feces were scored (1=dry feces to 5=liquid diarrhea) daily for 7 days. Biopsies from proximal, mid, and distal segments of the colon were performed at the end of each experimental period. mRNA expression of two variants of AQP8 (AQP8v1 and AQP8v2), Na+/K+ ATPase, and CFTR were measured by RT- real time PCR by comparison with GAPDH expression. Fecal score data were analyzed using Kruskal Wallis test and gene expression data were normalized and analyzed with repeated measures ANOVA.

Fecal score was higher in GS than MP dogs whatever the diet (p<0.001 for LP and p<0.01 for HP) and in HP fed dogs whatever the breed (p=0.05 for MP and p<0.01 for GS). A trend for higher mRNA expression of AQP8v1 was found in MP, compared with GS dogs, when fed HP diet (p<0.09). A trend for higher expression in the distal colon, associated with a breed effect was also observed (p<0.15). Similarly an effect of breed biopsy location was observed in AQP8v2 expression in dogs fed HP (p<0.09); expression was higher in the distal colon of MP dogs. mRNA expression of AQP8v1 and AQP8v2 was constant in GS dogs. No effect of breed, diet or biopsy location was found for Na+/K+ ATPase nor CFTR expression.

Poorer fecal score in large compared to small dogs could be partially attributed to lower water channels mRNA expression in the distal colon. This divergence between the two breeds appeared to decrease when feeding highly digestible protein at low level. To improve fecal score in large sensitive dogs modulation of protein source and content could therefore be an adequate nutritional strategy.

ABSTRACT #102
INFLUENCE OF EMPRICAL ANTIMICROBIAL CHOICE ON OUTCOME FOLLOWING SEPTIC PERITONITIS IN DOGS, I. Keir, A. Mateus, J. Wignal, A. Boag.

Despite advances in veterinary medical practice, canine sepsis is still associated with a mortality of greater than 50%. With any bacterial infection antimicrobial therapy is the cornerstone of treatment, along with drainage and debridement or removal of infected fluids and tissue. Studies in humans have shown that inappropriate initial empirical antimicrobial therapy is associated with a poorer outcome even when the antimicrobial therapy is subsequently changed based on culture results. Current human recommendations also advise the instigation of antimicrobial therapy within 1 hour of a diagnosis of sepsis.

Medical records of the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, Royal Veterinary College were reviewed retrospectively from 2003 to 2008 for dogs with a diagnosis of septic peritonitis. Data collected from the record included choice of empirical antimicrobial therapy, time from admission to first antibiotic therapy, bacterial culture and sensitivity results and any change in antimicrobial therapy made after culture results. Antimicrobial therapy was defined as appropriate if at least one of the drugs included in the empirical antibiotic treatment was effective against the pathogen(s) isolated. Survival was defined as alive at time of discharge. Chi squared analysis was used to compare the survival of patients receiving appropriate anti-microbial therapy with those receiving inappropriate therapy. Fisher’s exact test was used to analyze the effect of the time from admission to commencing empirical antimicrobial therapy.

A total of 51 records were available with empirical antimicrobial and culture data available in 38 cases. The overall survival rate was 51/51 (100%). Dogs that received appropriate empirical antimicrobial therapy had a survival to discharge rate of 61%; dogs that received inappropriate empirical antimicrobial therapy had a survival to discharge rate of 55%. No statistical difference was found between the rate of survival and appropriate empirical antimicrobial selection (p=0.191). The administration of antimicrobials within 1 hour of admission to the hospital did not impact on survival to discharge (p=0.437).

Factors affecting outcome in canine septic peritonitis are likely multi-factorial. In our study we use of appropriate empirical antimicrobials and timing of antimicrobial administration were not significant factors, however considering the small number of cases, the possibility of a type II error should be considered.

ABSTRACT #103
DETECTION OF FLUOROQUINOLONE RESISTANCE LEVEL IN CLINICAL CANINE AND FELINE ESCHERICHA COLI PATHOGENS USING RAPID AND EARLY REAL-TIME PCR ASSAY. BW Shaheen1, DM Booth1, C. Wang2, CM Johnson1, B. Kaltenboeck1, 1Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, 2Department of Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

Fluoroquinolones are used to treat infections caused by Escherichia (E.) coli in canine and feline veterinary patients, particularly those infecting the urinary tract. The gyrA gene is a primary target causing fluoroquinolone resistance in Gram negative coliforms, with mutations in codon 83 and 87 generally associated with high fluoroquinolone-resistance in the canine and feline clinical E. coli isolates. The purpose of this study was to develop a fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) quantitative PCR that can precisely and specifically identify enrofloxacín-resistance in the canine and feline clinical E. coli isolates that carry mutations in codon 83 and 87 of gyrA. A total of 70 isolates were randomly selected that represent different levels of resistance to enrofloxacín between May and December 2008. Isolates were collected from 4 different regions: West, South, Midwest, and Northeast. We then tested 5 infected urine specimens to challenge the real-time PCR assay with urine specimens containing the following colony forming unites (CFU): 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, and 0 CFU/ml. The susceptibility to enrofloxacín was determined by a standard micro-dilution test and according to CLSI guidelines and interpretive standards. Quantitative determination of E. coli was performed by real-time FRET-PCR in a LightCycler (Roche Diagnostics). This real-time quantitative PCR assay is rapid, economical, and sensitive compared to cultured antimicrobial susceptibility testing. The assay identified as low as five genome copies per reaction. For the 70 isolates tested, the sensitivity (correctly predicting true positives, that is either intermediate or high level resistance) was 87.5% (95% CI=75% to 95.3%) (n=42/48) whereas specificity (correctly identifying true negatives or suscepti-ble) was 100% (95% CI=87.3% to 100%) (n=22/22). Furthermore, we were able to accurately differentiate between the wild type and
ABSTRACT #105
EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL BIOMARKERS FOR CANINE SEPSIS. AM Cruse, JA Yoder, SK Nordone, HS Marr, and AJ Birkenheuer. North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

Sepsis is a complex clinical syndrome defined as the presence of systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) with documentation or suspicion of concurrent infection. Early recognition and treatment of sepsis has been shown to be crucial for the improvement of patient outcome. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the expression of three potential biomarkers of canine sepsis. Potential biomarkers were selected based upon increased expression in murine and zebrafish models.

Whole blood samples were collected from client-owned dogs presenting to the NCSU-VTH between February-October 2008. The patient populations included dogs with sepsis (n=12), systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) without documented infection (n=9), cancer (n=30), and healthy controls (n=25). Each sample was evaluated for FLT-4, KLF-1, and Tmem150 (TM6P1) mRNA expression using real-time polymerase chain reaction. Relative expression was assessed compared to an internal control gene (β-actin). Differences were compared using a one-way ANOVA.

FLT-4 expression was significantly up-regulated (p<0.001) in dogs with sepsis and SIRS compared to dogs with cancer. FLT-4 expression was significantly up-regulated (p<0.001) in dogs with sepsis compared to healthy dogs. However there was no difference in FLT-4 expression between dogs with sepsis and SIRS. Tmem150 expression was down regulated (p<0.05) in dogs with SIRS compared to healthy dogs. No other significant differences in gene expression were detected between groups.

FLT-4, also known vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 3, is involved in lymphangiogenesis and may be a useful marker for the diagnosis of sepsis and/or SIRS. Further studies with larger numbers of animals are needed to determine if FLT-4 can differentiate between sepsis and SIRS patients.
of this study was to identify prognostic factors for the survival of cats with panleucopenia.

Medical records of 244 cats diagnosed with panleucopenia between 1990 and 2007 were evaluated retrospectively with regard to history, signalment, as well as clinical and laboratory findings. Cats that tested positive for feline panleucopenia virus (FPV) via electron microscopy, polymerase chain reaction (blood, feces), antigen ELISA (feces), or that had histopathological lesions consistent with panleucopenia at necropsy were included.

Survival rate was 51.1%. No significant correlation was found between outcome and living conditions (indoor versus outdoor cat), age, vaccination status (vaccinated versus unvaccinated cats) or severity of clinical signs. Cats that died from the disease had significantly lower leucocyte and thrombocyte counts at time of presentation when compared to surviving cats. The relative risk of death for patients with a leucocyte count of <1000/µl was 1.77 times as high as in patients with a leucocyte count of 1000–2500/µl (p=0.038), and 1.85 times as high as in patients with a leucocyte count of >2500/µl (p=0.001). Furthermore, the likelihood of a fatal outcome was lower in cats with a serum albumin concentration <30 g/l or the serum potassium concentration was <4 mmol/l.

In conclusion, leucocyte and thrombocyte counts as well as albumin and potassium serum concentrations at time of presentation can be used as prognostic markers in cats with panleucopenia.

ABSTRACT #108
PREVALENCE OF PROTECTIVE ANTIBODY TITERS FOR DISTEMPER VIRUS AND PARVOVIRUS IN DOGS ENTERING A FLORIDA ANIMAL SHELTER
ES Lechner1, P C Levy2, CH Edinboro3, EJ Dubovoi4, R Caliguiri5, and JK Levy6.
1University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, Gainesville, FL. 2University of Florida Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program, Gainesville, FL. 3Exponent Inc. Health Sciences Group, Menlo Park, CA. 4the Animal Health Diagnostic Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 5Alachua County Animal Services, Gainesville, FL.

Outbreaks of canine distemper virus (CDV) and canine parvovirus (CPV) are common in animal shelters, resulting in death of thousands of dogs each year. The purpose of this study was to determine the proportion of dogs entering an animal shelter with protective antibody titers (PAT) for CDV and CPV and to identify predictive factors associated with these titers.

CDV and CPV antibody titers were measured in 431 dogs on admission into a Florida animal shelter. Overall, 65% had insufficient CDV and/or CPV titers at admission. Only 35% of the dogs had PATs for both CDV and CPV, 8% had PATs for CDV but not CPV, 32% had PATs for CPV but not CDV, and 25% lacked PATs for either virus. In univariate analyses, dogs 1 year of age or older, neutered dogs, and dogs reclaimed by owners were more likely to have CDV and CPV PATs. In multivariate analyses, age and neuter status were significant predictors for CDV PAT, while age was a significant predictor for CPV PAT. Dogs with PATs for one virus were more likely to have PATs for the other virus.

Crowding, stress, and random co-mingling of dogs from different sources are common at shelters and contribute to risk for disease outbreaks. In this study, most dogs did not have protective antibody titers to CDV and/or CPV at the time of admission to the shelter. This supports current guidelines to vaccinate all dogs immediately upon admission to shelters, regardless of source, age, or physical condition.

ABSTRACT #109
DETECTION OF CANINE PARVOVIRUS TYPE 2C BY A COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE IN-HOUSE RAPID TEST. Nicola Decaro1, Costantina Desario1, Melissa J. Beall1, Marco Campolo1, Maria Loredana Colaianii1, Anthony A. Dimarco2, Canio Buonavoglia1. 1Department of Public Health and Animal Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Valenzano (Bari), Italy, 2IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, Maine, USA.

Canine parvovirus (CPV) is one of the main pathogens causing haemorrhagic gastroenteritis and mortality in pups. In addition to the recognized variants CPV-2a and CPV-2b, a third variant, CPV-2c, emerged in Italy in 2000 and quickly spread to the canine pop-
ABSTRACT #111
ASSESSMENT OF REPRODUCTIVE TRACT DISEASE IN CATS AT RISK FOR ENTERIC TRICHROMONAS FOETUS INFECTION. SG Gray, SA Hunter, MR Stone, JG Grookin, North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC.

The purpose of this study was to determine if T. foetus infection can be demonstrated in reproductive tract tissue from cats housed under conditions of intense breeding and for which a high prevalence of intestinal T. foetus infection has been identified.

The sample population consisted of purebred, cattery-housed cats undergoing elective ovariohysterectomy or castration and for which reproductive tract tissue, feces, and a reproductive history were submitted. Reproductive tract tissue was examined for T. foetus by light microscopy, immunohistochemistry, and PCR.

History of reproductive tract disease was evaluated for statistical association with identified or reported exposure to intestinal T. foetus infection.

Sixty-one cats from 36 catteries met the inclusion criteria. 25% (15/61) of cats and 67% (22/33) of catteries were identified with active or reported T. foetus infection. Light microscopic, immunohistochemical, or molecular evidence of T. foetus infection of the reproductive tract was not found in any cats including; 15 with intestinal T. foetus infection, 29 residing in a cattery in which T. foetus infected cats were identified, and 8 for which gross or light microscopic evidence of reproductive tract disease was identified. Despite intense breeding and a high prevalence of reported reproductive problems, there were no differences in total number of litters, number of litters per breeding, kitten mortality, or birth defects between cats or catteries infected with T. foetus and those for which T. foetus infection was not identified.

In this study, there was no evidence that the feline reproductive tract is colonized by T. foetus. Accordingly, it is unlikely that reproductive tract infection with T. foetus plays a significant role in overall disease transmission or response to treatment.

ABSTRACT #112
USE OF SNAP® 4Dx® ASSAY TO MONITOR TICK-BORNE INFECTION IN MINNESOTA: A 4-YEAR STUDY. B. Thatcher1, M. Beall1, K. Cyr2, B. Stillman3, M. Ebertz3, R. Chandrashekar1. 1IDEXX Laboratories, Inc, Westbrook, ME. 2Lakeland Veterinary Hospital, Baxter, MN.

In an effort to study the prevalence as well as efficacy of treatment and prevention of canine tick-borne diseases, we have been conducting a prospective study in Baxter, Minnesota. A total of 1809 dogs were tested by SNAP® 4Dx® between July 2004 and June 2008. The majority of the dogs were sampled as part of routine wellness exams (1630, 90.1%), while 179 (9.9%) were suspected of anaplasmosis and/or borreliosis at time of presentation. Serological trends were assessed by calculating the percentage of positive results for each condition by year. Confidence intervals about the means were calculated using normal approximation with an alpha of 5%. Overall, there appeared to be a decline in the number of dogs seroreactive for Borrelia burgdorferi since 2005 (39.4% in 2005 vs. 30.3% in 2008), coincident with the adoption of rigorous vaccination and treatment protocols. Similar to earlier findings (Beall et al. 2008), dogs suspected of clinical anaplasmosis and/or borreliosis were more likely to be seroreactive to both organisms (40.6%) compared to healthy dogs (21.1%). However, the number of dogs seroreactive to both A. phagocytophilum and B. burgdorferi appeared to be on the decline from 30.7% in 2005 to 21.3% in 2008 with an overall decrease in the number of clinically ill dogs from 17.4% in 2005 to 3.1% in 2008. Twenty-four dogs suspected of anaplasmosis and/or borreliosis from the previous study were followed from 2005 to 2008 to assess health, risk of re-infection, and serologic reactivity. None of the dogs reported relapses that would be consistent with chronic anaplasmosis or borreliosis; 42% became seronegative by SNAP® 4Dx® for at least one of the infections. Data from this canine field population suggests that the awareness of tick-borne diseases has encouraged the use of rigorous preventive and treatment strategies resulting in fewer seroreactive dogs as well as fewer dogs with clinical disease.

ABSTRACT #113
PREVALENCE OF HEMOPLASMA DNA IN FIELD-CAUGHT MOSQUITOES IN COLORADO. PC Lin, JR Hawley, BG Bolling, LM Eisen, MR Lappin. College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Mycoplasma haemofelis, ‘Candidatus M. haemominutum’, and ‘Candidatus M. turicensis’ (haemoplasmas) are common blood-borne organisms in cats. In dogs, M. haemominutum and ‘Candidatus M. haemotaparvarum’ also exist. Other mammalians also harbor hemoplasmas including M. wenyonii in cattle. Transmission of hemoplasmas by arthropods has been suspected in cats, however, results of flea transmission studies have been inconclusive. The purpose of this study was to determine whether canine or feline hemoplasma DNA could be amplified from mosquitoes. Aedes vexans mosquitoes caught in 2006 and 2007 as part of a West Nile Virus surveillance study were used. 100 sample pools containing approximately 50 mosquitoes each were selected from one of four field sites in Fort Collins, Colorado that were chosen based on probable clasper proximity to dogs and cats. Mosquitoes were pulsed and DNA extracted using a modified Qiagen protocol. Polymerase chain reaction for hemoplasma DNA was performed using a previously published assay and positive amplicons were sequenced.

Of the 100 mosquito pools, 5 pools (5%) had a band on gel electrophoresis consistent with a hemoplasma and adequate DNA for sequencing. Spiroplasma spp. DNA (a bacterium that infects insects) were amplified from four pools and DNA most consistent with M. wenyonii were amplified from the fifth pool.

Amplification of M. wenyonii DNA suggests that the positive mosquitoes had ingested blood from a large animal, likely cattle. Further study is needed to determine whether mosquitoes could be a mechanical vector for feline or canine hemoplasmas.

ABSTRACT #114
TOPICAL IMIDACLOPRID AND MOXIDECTIN PREVENTS FLEA TRANSMISSION OF BARTONELLA HENSELAE IN CATS. CA Bradbury, MR Lappin. Colorado State University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences, Fort Collins, CO.

Bartonella species are common pathogens in cats and people and are considered significant zoonotic agents especially in immunocompromised people. The most common species isolated from cats are Bartonella henselae and B. clarridgeiae which are both transmitted by fleas. The purpose of this study was to determine whether monthly topical administration of imidacloprid and moxidectin would lessen flea transmission of B. henselae and B. clarridgeiae in cats.

Eighteen specific pathogen free cats were housed in three groups of six. The three enclosures were separated by mesh so as to allow fleas to pass among groups yet prevent cats from contacting one another. One group was inoculated intravenously with B. henselae and another infection was confirmed in all cats based on positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay results, the cats were housed in the middle enclosure. The B. henselae infected cat group was flanked by a group that was administered topical imidacloprid and moxidectin monthly for three months and by a group that was not treated. On days 0, 30, and 60, 100 fleas per cat were placed on each of the six cats in the B. henselae infected group. Blood was collected from all cats weekly for Bartonella spp. PCR, serology and culture.

While B. henselae infection was ultimately confirmed in all of the untreated cats by blood culture and PCR assay results, none of the treated cats became infected in this setting. Monthly topical imidacloprid and moxidectin prevents flea transmission of B. henselae in cats.

ABSTRACT #115
OUTCOME AND PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN DOGS WITH CANINE LEISHMANIASIS IN A NON-ENDEMIC COUNTRY. K. Hartmann1, K. Gieseck, C. Sauter-Louis2. Medizinische Klinikerlink, 1Clinic for Ruminants, Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, Germany.

Due to increasing numbers of dogs that are imported from or have been visiting Mediterranean countries, canine leishmaniasis has become a very important infectious disease in Germany. So far,
the disease is not yet endemic, and autochthonous infections are rare. The aim of this study was to find out, (1) which clinical and laboratory parameters can be used as prognostic factors, (2) whether height of antibody titers is a prognostic factor in a country in which re-infection is unlikely, and (3) whether treatment of asymptomatic dogs leads to a better prognosis.

Data of 93 dogs infected with *Leishmania infantum*, that had been presented to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Munich, and whose owners answered a detailed questionnaire, were evaluated retrospectively.

Most of the dogs had been imported from endemic countries (78%) and were mixed-breed (34%) with a median age of 7.5 years. Most common problems were lethargy (69%), skin lesions (63%), proteinuria (55%), lymphadenopathy (52%), and hyperalimentation (52%). There was no correlation of antibody titers and severity of clinical signs at presentation or survival time. However, there was a significant correlation between survival time and presence of proteinuria (*p* < 0.001) and presence of lymphopenia (*p* = 0.016). Also, treatment was correlated with a longer survival time (*p* = 0.017), even in asymptomatic dogs, and treated dogs lived about two years longer than non-treated.

In conclusion, height of antibody titers does not correlate with prognosis. More useful parameters to predict shorter survival are proteinuria and lymphopenia.

**ABSTRACT #116**

**THE USE OF COMPUTER TOMOGRAPHY IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SEPTIC ARTHRITIS/OSTEOMYELOYSIS IN THE NEONATAL FOAL.** Mary Rose Paradis, Mauricio Solano, Amy Tickwell, Louise, Amanda Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, N. Grafton, MA.

Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis is a recognized sequela to bacteremia in the neonatal foal. It manifests as lameness with increase joint effusion. Historically diagnosis of osteomyelitis has been made by radiographic examination of suspected joint or growth plate but radiographic evidence of osteomyelitis often lags behind the clinical signs. The hypothesis of this study was that computer tomography (CT) would detect bone lesions earlier and more reliably than radiography in the neonatal foal. Twenty foals between the ages of 8 hours to 36 days who were presented to the hospital with lameness secondary to septic arthritis/osteomyelitis during the foaling seasons of 2002-2006. Clinical information was collected for each foal. A total of 54 joints (34 clinically affected and 20 normal) were evaluated by radiographs and CT. Foals enrolled in the study had radiographs and CT of the affected joint and contralateral normal joint within 5 days of each procedure (mean = 1 day). The images were evaluated by 2 board certified radiologists (individually and blinded) for the presence of osteomyelitis. Descriptions of the lesions were noted. It was found that investigators were more likely to agree on the presence of osteomyelitis from CT on normal and abnormal joints (Kappa 1 and 0.86 respectively) than normal and abnormal radiographs (Kappa 0.714 and 0.476). CT was 1.7 times more likely to detect osteomyelitis than radiography. Our conclusion was that osteomyelitis lesions in foals with septic arthritis are more likely to be seen earlier with the use of CT than radiographs. This could have an effect on both the treatment choices and prognosis for affected foals.

**ABSTRACT #117**

**ENDOCRINE ENERGY RESPONSE IN SEPTIC FOALS: INSULIN, LEPTIN AND ADIPOGENIN.** RJIM Barsnick1, S. D. A. LIN, LEPTIN AND ADIPOGENIN AND ENDOCRINE ENERGY RESPONSE IN SEPTIC FOALS: INSULIN, LEPTIN AND ADIPOGENIN.

Anorexia and hypoglycemia are common clinical findings in critically ill septic foals. The therapeutic plan for hypoglycemic foals often requires the administration of parenteral glucose or parenteral nutrition. A number of septic foals develop glucose intolerance (hyperglycemia, glycosuria), and insulin is frequently administered to affected foals. These complications, we believe are the result of sepsis-mediated dysregulation of hormones involved in energy homeostasis (insulin, leptin and adiponectin). The goal of this study was to investigate the association of insulin, leptin and adiponectin with sepsis, severity of disease, glyceremia, triglyceridemia and mortality in foals.

We measured the plasma concentrations of aforementioned hormones using validated immunoassays in 44 septic, 62 sick non-septic (hospitalized for other diseases) and 19 healthy neonatal foals. Septic was defined as a sepsis score > 11.

Insulin concentrations were higher in healthy foals than in sick non-septic and septic (*p* < 0.01) foals. Septic foals had lower serum glucose and higher triglyceride concentrations than healthy foals (*p* < 0.01). Among the septic foals, non-survivors had lower glucose and higher triglyceride values than survivors (*p* < 0.05), but no difference was found with insulin concentrations. A number of septic foals had a poor insulin response to hyperglycemia (normal or low insulin concentrations).

Leptin and adiponectin concentrations were not different comparing septic, sick non-septic and healthy foals. However, plasma leptin and adiponectin concentrations between septic foals were significantly lower in septic foals that died (*p* < 0.05).

These results indicate that endocrine dysregulation of the energy metabolism in septic foals is frequent and likely important in the pathogenesis of sepsis. The lack of insulin response to hyperglycemia and leptin and adiponectin concentrations in septic foals support energy impairment and are potential prognosticators of survival.

Our findings are clinically applicable in the evaluation, prognosis and treatment of critically ill foals.

**ABSTRACT #118**

**OPSORIZATION OF RHODOCCUS EQUI WITH HIGH ANTIBODY PLASMA DECREASES BACTERIAL VIABILITY AND PROMOTES PHAGOCYTE ACTIVATION.** DR Dawson1, MJ Flaminio1, D Nydam1, JE Graham1, M Cynamon2, TJ Divers1, 1Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY, 2University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, KY.

Susceptibility to *Rhodococcus equi* pneumonia in foals is exclusive to the first few months of life. Once infection is established, virulent *R. equi* survive and replicate inside macrophages. There are conflicting published data about the actual effect of intravenous high antibody plasma transfusion in the prophylaxis of *R. equi* disease in foals. In this study, we evaluate the effect of commercially available high antibody plasma on bacterial viability and phagocyte activation in *vitro*. We hypothesized that opsonization of virulent *R. equi* would decrease bacterium viability inside macrophages and increase phagocyte activation. We used a virulent *R. equi* (strain 103S) construct that expressed luciferase (*R. equi*-LUX). Luciferase activity in live *R. equi* reflects both the number of viable organisms, and the metabolic activity of the bacteria. Opsonization of *R. equi*-LUX with plasma decreased bacterial luciferase activity in comparison to non-opsonized bacteria (*p* < 0.0001). A similar suppression was also observed in bacteria phagocytized by monocye-derived macrophages after 24 hr culture (*p* = 0.006). The opsonization of *R. equi*-LUX increased oxidative burst activity in phagocytes (*p* < 0.0001). TNF production increased in macrophages infected with opsonized versus non-opsonized bacteria (*p* < 0.0001). The effect of opsonization in *R. equi*-LUX was associated with antibody and heat-resistant factors. Low opsonization (10%) significantly decreased bacterial viability and increased phagocyte activation, and greater levels of opsonization (40%) revealed further advantages. It is possible that passively transferred antibodies against *R. equi* affect bacterial viability before macrophage invasion in vivo. These data suggest a possible role of colosrum and plasma antibody in protection of foals.

**ABSTRACT #119**

**PLASMA ENDOTHELIN CONCENTRATIONS IN SEPTIC AND NON-SEPTIC NEONATAL FOALS.** L.R. Cost1, S.E. Eades1, A. Polkes2, R.J. MacKay2, R.M. Moore2, 1Equine Health Studies Program, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 2Large Animal Clinical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Endothelins are endogenous peptides known by their potent spasmogenic action of smooth muscles, but shown to have diverse...
roles in physiological and pathophysiological processes. The best studied isofrom, endothelin (ET)-1, has been implicated in the pathophysiology of vascular, cardiac, respiratory and inflammatory conditions.

The purpose of this study was to compare plasma ET-1 concentrations among neonatal foals considered healthy, sick but unlikely septic and sick and likely septic.

Plasma ET-1 concentrations were determined in samples collected at the University of Florida and Louisiana State University from a total of 137 foals including 119 ill foals (divided into two age groups: <7-d-old and ≥7-d-old) and 18 normal foals. Foals were divided into 3 disease groups: Group 1 = healthy, Group 2 = sick but unlikely septic (i.e., sepsis score less than 11), and Group 3 = sick and likely septic (sepsis score greater or equal 11). Differences among groups were tested for significance using a Kruskal-Wallis test, followed by Dunn test to separate group medians.

Plasma ET-1 levels were significantly higher in Group 3 foals than in foals from Groups 1 or 2 (P < 0.001). Overall, younger foals (< 7-d-old) had significantly higher plasma ET-1 levels than older foals (≥7-d-old) (P < 0.05). Within Group 3, the median and interquartile range for ET-1 in plasma from foals < 7-d-old was 5.58 pg/ml (IQR = 3.52 to 8.96, n = 39) and was 4.74 pg/ml (IQR = 1.67 to 8.77, n = 10) for those ≥7-d-old. Within Group 2, the median and interquartile range for ET-1 in plasma from foals < 7-d-old was 2.16 pg/ml (IQR = 0.48 to 5.26, n = 47) and 0.33 pg/ml (IQR = 0.10 to 0.43, n = 23) for those ≥7-d-old. The median ET-1 in plasma from foals in Group 1 was 1.48 pg/ml (IQR = 0.75 to 2.70; n = 18). Moreover, plasma ET-1 concentrations appeared to be affected by the presence of enteritis, hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy, and maturity (premature birth or term foal). These results suggest a pathophysiological role of ET-1 in equine neonatal sepsis.


ABSTRACT #120
THROMBOELASTOGRAPHY (TEG): AN INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUE FOR EARLY DETECTION OF HEMOSTATIC ABNORMALITIES IN FOALS WITH SEPTICEMIA. JL Mendez, P Vilar, MC Mudge, CG Couto. The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, OH.

Hemostatic abnormalities are common in neonatal foals with severe septicemia, and frequently result in secondary complications such as disseminated intravascular coagulation and multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. Newborn foals with severe septicemia have recently been shown to have widespread intravascular fibrin deposits with evidence of hypercoagulability (Cotovio 2008). Conventional hemostasis profiles do not detect hypercoagulability reliably. Thromboelastography provides data about the entire hemostatic system, from clot formation to fibrinolysis. Early detection of hypercoagulability by TEG should allow for interventional therapy and may change the outcome in hypercoagulable septic foals. The purpose of this study was to evaluate and compare TEG parameters in sick septic and non-septic neonatal foals.

Blood samples were collected from 18 foals (< 2 weeks) upon admission to the Emergency Service into citrated tubes; they were placed in the thrombelastograph (TEG) cup and recalculated by adding CaCl2, 30-90 minutes after sampling. Group 1 included septic foals (n = 9) with a positive blood culture and/or sepsis score > 11 and a focus of infection, and Group 2 included sick non-septic foals (n = 9) with sepsis score < 10 and no evidence of systemic inflammation. CBC, fibrinogen, prothrombin time and activated partial thromboplastin time were performed. Specific TEG parameters including R-time, K-time, angle “γ”, maximum amplitude “MA” and G-value, were compared between groups.

There were significant differences (p < 0.05) in TEG parameters; foals with septicemia had shorter K-time, wider “γ”, increased “MA” and G-value, changes consistent with hypercoagulability.

In conclusion, TEG can be used to accurately detect early hemostatic changes such as hypercoagulability in septic foals.

ABSTRACT #121
EFFECTS OF DOBUTAMINE AND ATROPINE AND ACETYLPROMAZINE ON AORTIC VALVE FUNCTION IN THE HORSE. GD Hallowell1, TJ Potter2 and IM Bowen1. 1School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, UK. 2Royal Veterinary College, North Mymms, UK.

Echocardiograms are performed on horses after drug administration for stress echocardiography and sedation and therefore an understanding of the effects of these agents on valve function is important for image interpretation. The objective of this study was to evaluate the effects on aortic valve function of administration of the sedative acetylpromazine (ACP) and atropine and dobutamine in horses subjected to stress echocardiography, to ascertain if these agents induced or masked the echocardiographic appearance of aortic valve prolapse (AVP).

For evaluation of ACP, echocardiography was performed on eight healthy Thoroughbred (TB) research horses that were sedated for routine dental work. For evaluation of atropine and dobutamine, images from eight TB or TB cross horses that were presented for investigation of poor performance were examined. Following a detailed clinical investigation none of the horses with poor performance were subsequently found to have underlying cardiac dysfunction.

Two dimensional and Doppler echocardiographic views were obtained before and after acetylpromazine and atropine-dobutamine stress echocardiography. Changes in internal cardiac dimensions, presence and extent of AVP (and physiological aortic regurgitation (PAR)) were recorded.

Acetylpromazine administration did not affect the occurrence of AVP (25% to 33%; p = 0.46). There was no effect upon occurrence of PAR (p = 0.75). However although there were no significant differences in jet length or width, there was an increase in jet area (p = 0.02) identified.

The occurrence of AVP increased from 25 to 75% with atropine and dobutamine administration (p = 0.02). PAR was noted in 75% of horses prior to drug administration, in 63% post-atropine administration and in 100% post-dobutamine administration (p = 0.26). There was no significant difference in the length (p = 0.73), width (p = 0.75) or area (p = 0.21) of the regurgitant jet following drug administration.

In conclusion it appears that the administration of dobutamine and atropine changes aortic valve competency leading to an increased occurrence of AVP and PAR. Acetylpromazine may increase the degree of PAR. Changes due to the direct effects of these agents should be taken into account on interpretation of echocardiographic results.

ABSTRACT #122
INTRAVENOUS 99m-TECHNETIUM LIPOSOMES IN HORSES: A SAFETY AND BIODISTRIBUTION STUDY. C Underwood1, A.W. van Eps1, P. Laverman2, G. Storm3, L. van Bloois3, S.R. van Tomme3, M.W. Ross3, T.P. Schaer1. 1University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA. 2Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, Nijmegen, NL. 3Utrecht Institute for Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Utrecht, Utrecht, NL.

Liposomes are phospholipid nanoparticles that can extravasate at sites of increased vascular permeability. They can be used for targeted drug delivery and diagnostic imaging. This study is the first to describe the intravenous administration of 99mTc labeled polyethylene glycol (PEG) coated liposomes in normal horses.

The liposomes were prepared via the film hydration method. Labeling of the glutathione liposomes was performed using 99mTc-hexamethyl-propylene-amine-oxime (99mTc-HMPAO). An assay was developed to establish the 50% serum hemolytic complement activity (CH50) in horses, as complement-mediated reactions are a common adverse effect in other species. In vitro CH50 assays were performed prior to liposome injection. Seven horses were administered 0.4 μmol kg-1 99mTc-HMPAO PEG-liposomes and 2.5 μmol kg-1 unlabelled PEG-liposomes intravenously. Clinical parameters,
hematology, plasma biochemistry and serum complement activity were monitored serially. Scintigraphic imaging was performed at 1, 12, and 21 hours post-infusion. Three of the horses were euthanized at 23 hours. The percentage of injected dose per kilogram of tissue (%ID/kg) was calculated for multiple organs. Results were analyzed using ANOVA and Friedman tests.

Complement assays required the addition of C3 depleted human serum to the standard hemolytic assay to obtain a CH50 value. No significant changes were observed. Histological, hematological or biochemical changes occurred following liposome administration, although one horse developed mild transient urticaria and mild agitation during the infusion. Scintigraphic studies revealed a prolonged vascular phase that lasted to 21 hours, with increased radiopharmaceutical uptake in the liver, lungs, spleen and kidney. There was a repeatable pattern of organ distribution. Evaluation of tissue samples revealed the highest concentrations within the lung, kidney, liver and spleen, with significantly increased 99mTc activity in the lung and spleen compared with blood. The mean circulatory half life of the 99mTc-PEG liposome was 11.51±2.2 hours.

There were minimal adverse effects associated with intravenous liposome administration in normal horses. This study establishes normal scintigraphic findings after administration of 99mTc-PEG liposomes. Liposomes have significant potential in horses, as a diagnostic tool and for targeted drug delivery, particularly in the management of refractory infections and neoplasia.

**ABSTRACT #123**

**PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS FOR HYPER-INSULINEMIA IN CLINICALLY NORMAL HORSES IN CENTRAL OHIO**

J Muno, L Gallatin, R. Geor, G. Anderson, K. Anderson, K. W. Hinchcliff, 1The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. 2Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. 3University of Melbourne, Australia.

Obesity is common in horses and is a risk factor for insulin resistance. However, other risk factors for insulin resistance in horses have not been well documented. The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence and risk factors for hyperinsulinemia in clinically normal, adult horses.

A convenience sample of 300 horses (138 mares, 143 geldings and 19 stallions) aged 19 to 30 years were drawn from 18 farms in central Ohio. Plasma insulin and glucose were measured after a 10–12 hour period of grain and grass withholding. Body condition score, height, weight tape, neck circumference and management practices were recorded. A univariable logistic regression and a multivariable logistic regression analysis were performed to identify odds ratios for hyperinsulinemia.

The prevalence of hyperinsulinemia, (≥15 μU/L) was 22.3% (67/300). A number of factors including breed, age, body condition score, girth circumference, not feeding grain and lack of access to pasture were associated with hyperinsulinemia in the univariable analysis. Multivariable analysis revealed that increasing age (odds ratio per year of increasing age 1.1, 95% CI 1.03–1.17) and body condition score (odds ratio 2.43, 95% CI 1.6–3.7) increased the risk for hyperinsulinemia while access to pasture (odds ratio 0.34, 95% CI 0.14–0.86) decreased the risk. Breed, sex, exercise, and measures of neck and girth circumference were not associated with risk of hyperinsulinemia.

This study demonstrates that when accounting for common management factors, only indirect measures of obesity and increasing age are independently associated with increased risk of hyperinsulinemia.

**ABSTRACT #124**

**SEASONAL VARIATION IN PLASMA INSULIN AND GLUCOSE CONCENTRATION IN NORMAL HORSES IN CENTRAL OHIO**

J Muno, L Gallatin, R. Geor, G. Anderson, K. W. Hinchcliff, 1The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. 2Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. 3University of Melbourne, Australia.

Some tests of endocrine function in horses, including the dexamethasone suppression test and plasma adrenocorticotropin hormone have seasonal variation. The purpose of this study was to determine if plasma insulin and glucose concentrations vary with season in healthy horses in central Ohio.

Twenty-nine healthy horses, as determined by physical examination, were evaluated at three-month intervals over a one-year period. Plasma insulin and glucose concentrations were measured after a 10–12 hour period of grain and grass withholding. Body condition score, height, weight tape and neck circumference were measured at the same time. Friedman’s test and Wilcoxon’s signed rank test were used to compare the overall and individual differences between the four seasons in the values of insulin and glucose. The type I error rate was 5%.

There was an effect of season on the concentration of both insulin and glucose (P<0.001). The concentration of insulin in summer was lower (median 4.6 μU/mL, range 1.2 to 22.6) than any of the other three months (P<0.001). There was no significant difference between any of the other seasons (autumn 13.4, range 4.3 to 271.7; winter 13.6, range 5.3 to 401.7; spring 12.5, range 2.0 to 412.4). The concentration of glucose in autumn was less than in any of the other three seasons (P<0.001), and the concentration in summer was less than in spring (p=0.041).

This study demonstrates that an apparent seasonal variation exists in the plasma concentrations of both insulin and glucose in normal horses. This information may modify the interpretation of laboratory findings indicative of insulin resistance.

**ABSTRACT #125**

**EFFECTS OF A SUPPLEMENT CONTAINING CHROMIUM AND MAGNESIUM ON INSULIN SENSITIVITY IN HORSES WITH EQUINE METABOLIC SYNDROME**

K Chameroy, N Frank, SB Elliott, R. C. Boston, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN (Chameroy, Frank, Elliott); and the Department of Clinical Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Kennett Square, PA (Boston).

Chromium and magnesium are commonly recommended as supplements for horses with equine metabolic syndrome (EMS), which is a clinical syndrome comprised of obesity, regional adiposity, insulin resistance, and laminitis. The aim of this study was to determine whether a combination supplement containing chromium, magnesium, and herbs would alter physical measurements and insulin sensitivity in horses affected by EMS. Fourteen horses with resting hyperinsulinemia (>30 μU/mL) and/or abnormal combined intravenous glucose-insulin tolerance test results were randomly allocated to treatment (n=8) and control (n=6) groups. Treated horses received the supplement once daily in 0.5 lb oats for a total of 16 weeks. The supplement evaluated contained 5 mg chromium as yeast and 8.8 mg magnesium oxide/proteinate. Frequently sampled intravenous glucose tolerance tests and physical measurements were performed at 0, 8, and 16 weeks.

Body weight and neck circumference measurements remained unaffected by treatment in this study. Glucose and insulin data from one horse in the treatment group were excluded because pain associated with recurrent laminitis affected results. Mean±SD (n=13) insulin sensitivity was 0.64±0.62×10-4 mol/min·mU-1 for horses included in this study and no effect of treatment was detected over time. Other measures of glucose and insulin dynamics and resting blood glucose, insulin, and triglyceride concentrations also remained unaffected by treatment.

We conclude that the specific formulation evaluated, given once daily in the feed for 16 weeks did not alter physical measurements or glucose and insulin dynamics in horses with EMS.
ABSTRACT #127
EFFECTS OF SAMPLING TIME AND HAY FEEDING ON BLOOD GLUCOSE, INSULIN, AND ADRENOCORTICOTROPIN HORMONE (ACTH) CONCENTRATIONS IN HORSES. NS Chambler, Tuëth F, Elliott SB, N Frank, RC Boston. Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

Ideal sampling conditions for glucose, insulin, and adrenocorticotropin hormone (ACTH) measurements have not been established for horses, so this study was undertaken to measure interday and intraday variability, and to determine whether horses should be deprived of feed or fed hay prior to sampling.

Six healthy crossbred mares were compared with 6 horses with hyperinsulinemia assigned to the control group, but hyperinsulinemia (maximum: 43.3 μU/mL) was detected in the remaining mare when hay was fed.

Serum insulin concentrations remained below 30 μU/mL for 5 of 6 mares in the control group, but hyperinsulinemia (maximum: 43.3 μU/mL) was detected in the remaining mare when hay was fed. Overall mean interday coefficients of variation were 6%, 43%, and 20% for glucose, insulin, and ACTH, respectively. Hay feeding was associated with significantly (P<0.05) higher serum insulin concentrations in the 6 healthy (8.2 vs 2.2 μU/mL) and insulin resistant (56 vs 39 μU/mL) horses across the 4-day testing period. Significantly higher mean serum insulin concentrations were also detected when hay was fed to healthy (9.5 versus 2.3 μU/mL) and insulin resistant (78.8 versus 19.1 μU/mL) horses across 12 h.

Serum insulin levels were markedly elevated (43.3 vs 20.3 μU/mL) and significantly higher in nuchal (P<0.009) and tail head AT biopsies were collected via skin incision. All tissues were snap-frozen and stored at ~80°C. For each depot, total RNA was extracted and cDNA analyzed via real-time quantitative PCR to quantify expression of TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-6, plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1), and monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1). Data were analyzed using a Kruskal-Wallis test with a Dunnnett’s post test (p=0.05). No differences in expression of TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-6, PAI-1, or MCP-1 were noted between IR and IS groups for each depot. However, when data from IR and IS groups were combined for each depot, the expression of IL-1β (p=0.009) and IL-6 (p=0.023) was significantly higher in nuchal ligament AT than in other depots, suggesting that this AT depot has different biological behavior in the horse and is more likely to adopt an inflammatory phenotype than other depots examined. Importantly, these data indicate that omental adipose tissue (and other visceral fat depots) may not be as important to the pathophysiology of obesity in the horse as in other species.

ABSTRACT #129
PRO-INFLAMMATORY CYTOKINE AND CHEMOKINE EXPRESSION PROFILES OF VARIOUS ADIPOSE TISSUE DEPOTS OF INSULIN-RESISTANT AND INSULIN-SENSITIVE LIGHT BRED HORSES. Burns TA, Geor RJ, Mudge MC, McCutcheon LJF, Belknap JK. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH; Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Insulin resistance has been associated with predisposition to laminitis in horses and ponies. In humans and rodents, omental adipose tissue (AT) expresses pro-inflammatory cytokines and adipokines at significantly higher levels than subcutaneous or retroperitoneal AT, in correlation with the degree of insulin resistance. While this has been postulated to also be a factor contributing to insulin resistance in horses, no published data currently support or refute this hypothesis. This study characterized the expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines in several AT depots of insulin-resistant (IR) and insulin-sensitive (IS) horses. Eleven mares (8 Quarter horses, 2 Thoroughbreds, and 1 Standardbred), categorized as IR (insulin sensitivity [SI]=0.38±0.31 L/min/mU1) or IS (SI=2.59±1.21 L/min/mU1; n=5) or IS (SI=2.59±1.21 L/min/mU1; n=6) based on results of an insulin-modified frequently-sampled intravenous glucose tolerance test were studied. No statistically significant differences in weight, body condition score, neck circumference, girth, or ultrasonographic retroperitoneal fat thickness were noted between groups. Omental, retroperitoneal, and mesocolonic AT was collected concurrently via laparotomy and insulin resistant and tail head AT biopsies were collected via skin incision. All tissues were snap-frozen and stored at ~ 80°C. For each depot, total RNA was extracted and cDNA analyzed via real-time quantitative PCR to quantify expression of TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-6, plasminogen activator inhibitor-1 (PAI-1), and monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1). Data were analyzed using a Kruskal-Wallis test with a Dunnnett’s post test (p=0.05). No differences in AT expression of TNF-α, IL-1β, IL-6, PAI-1, or MCP-1 were noted between IR and IS groups for each depot. However, when data from IR and IS groups were combined for each depot, the expression of IL-1β (p=0.009) and IL-6 (p=0.023) was significantly higher in nuchal ligament AT than in other depots, suggesting that this AT depot has different biological behavior in the horse and is more likely to adopt an inflammatory phenotype than other depots examined. Importantly, these data indicate that omental adipose tissue (and other visceral fat depots) may not be as important to the pathophysiology of obesity in the horse as in other species.

ABSTRACT #130
AN ANIMATED MODEL OF RETICULORUMEN MOTILITY. JL Gookin, DM Foster, AM Harvey. North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC.

Akin to the heart, faithful contraction of the ruminant forestomach is required to sustain life. Reticulorumen motility mediates the mixing of fiber with fermentative bacteria, regulates the rate of nutrient intake and delivery, permits offloading of ~60 liters of fermentative gases per hour, and enables these animals to eat in seasons.
haste and re-masticate their food at leisure and in greater safety. An understanding of reticulorumen motility is important to the assessment of ruminant health, optimal production, and in recognition, diagnosis and treatment of disease. Teaching reticulorumen motility can be challenging because real-time images of the contraction events are largely unavailable. Didactic material is based mostly on written descriptions, line drawings, or pressure tracings obtained during a contraction sequence. These approaches make learning reticulorumen motility dry and tedious and fails to leave the student with an appreciation for the integrated nature and periodicity of the contraction events. Our goal was to develop an animated model of reticulorumen motility. We hypothesize that first-year veterinary students will prefer use of the animated model over traditional instructional methods for learning.

An animated model of the reticulorumen was created using Adobe® Flash. Illustration components were created in Adobe® Illustrator and exported into Flash; 4 different sequences of motility were then created by manipulating the Illustrator paths frame by frame within Flash. Each sequence was saved as a scripted movie clip and placed in an interactive interface with a main menu for user access and control of each animation. An interactive overview of the associated anatomy with labels that can be turned on/off is accessible for reference and self testing. The program contains 4 animated learning modules: primary reticulorumen contraction, secondary reticulorumen contraction with eructation, rumination, and rumination superimposed on primary and secondary contraction sequences. Contraction events are depicted with real-time periodicity or can be rate-controlled using a slider bar. Written description of the contraction events accompany each module. This project is the first to use animation as an alternative to traditional instructional methods for teaching reticulorumen motility. Use of this model may translate into an improved understanding of reticulorumen motility and, subsequently, improved problem-solving skills.

ABSTRACT #131
A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF 106 CASES OF BOVINE LYMPHOSARCOMA. AJ Burton1, DV Nydam1 and TJ Divers2.
1Dept of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences and 2Dept of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Prevalence of infection with the Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV) in the USA is high, with 83.9% of dairy operations testing positive for BLV. BLV is endemic in the USA, and 9% of cattle infected with BLV go on to develop neoplasia (lymphosarcoma). There are many publications discussing the transmission, epidemiology, testing and tumor reporting on large numbers of clinical cases of cattle affected with lymphosarcoma. Ante mortem diagnostic tests were based upon localization of clinical disease. The proportions of false negatives for ante mortem diagnostic tests were as follows: PLN aspirate, 57% (C.I. 34–78), PLN wedge biopsy, 0% (C.I. 0–23), surgical abdominal exploration and biopsy, 0% (0–0), abdominocentesis, 60% (C.I. 35–87), pleurocentesis, 20% (C.I. 1–72), pericardiocentesis, 33% (C.I. 4–78) and cerebral spinal fluid tap, 85% (C.I. 54–96). In cows that had a full necropsy (n = 83) the most frequently identified locations of a lymphosarcoma tumor were the heart (66%), abomasum (59%), uterus (37%), kidney (31%) and epidural space (27%). Retrobulbar tumors were identified in only 10%.

This study has identified more kidney tumors and fewer retrobulbar tumors, in contrast to the frequently cited ‘classical’ predilection sites (abomasum, heart, uterus, epidural space and retrobulbar). A higher percentage of cows exhibited PLN enlargement (54%) than previously estimated (35%). Abdominocentesis, PLN aspirate and cerebral spinal fluid taps were found to be fairly insensitive tests while PLN biopsy and surgical exploration and biopsy found to be sensitive tests for lymphosarcoma.

ABSTRACT #132
DETERMINATION OF DAIRY COWS HEMATOLOGICAL REFERENCE INTERVAL BY 3 METHODS AND EVALUATION OF CONFOUNDING FACTORS. D Francoz, SM Buczinski, M Moreau, C Bédard, Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Canada.

The purpose of this study was to establish hematological reference intervals in dairy cows in Québec to compare them to those established by Schalm in 1965, and to evaluate the effect of herds and physiological stage on hematological values.

Blood samples were obtained from 45 healthy Holstein cows between 1 to 60 days in milk (DIM), 21 between 61 to 180 DIM, 21 between 181 and 300 DIM and 19 dry cows, randomly selected in 4 different farms. White blood cells counts were obtained using an Advia 120 analyzer. Fibrinogen concentration was determined by heat precipitation technique. Serologic testing for bovine leukosis virus (BLV) was performed by ELISA. A bootstrap resampling method (BRM) was performed yielding 1000 samples from the study cohort to validate reference intervals (95%) estimated by parametric (PM) and nonparametric (NPM) methods. Statistical inferences for between class comparisons were done under a probability value of 5%.

Farms of origin and DM categories had significant effect on monocyte and fibrinogen levels, respectively. However, values remain within the interval references. BLV status had a significant effect on leukocyte (p = 0.003), lymphocyte (p < 0.001) and basophil (p = 0.003) counts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blood parameters</th>
<th>Mean [Schalm's reference interval]</th>
<th>1.96SD</th>
<th>+1.96SD</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>97.5</th>
<th>2.5</th>
<th>97.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>NPM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BRM</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference interval for all selected cows (n = 106)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fibrinogen g/L [2.0–6.0]</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Leukocyte 10³/L [4.0–12.0]</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutrophil segmented 10³/L</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocyte 10³/L [2.5–7.5]</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monocyte 10³/L [0.0–0.8]</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eosinophil 10³/L [0.0–2.4]</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basophil 10³/L [0.0–0.2]</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference interval for BLV-negative cows (n = 75)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leukocyte 10³/L [4.0–12.0]</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocyte 10³/L [2.5–7.5]</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basophil 10³/L [0.0–2.2]</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.1</td>
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</table>
Based on BRM, NPM appears more adequate for the determination of reference intervals. On the opposite to BLV status, farms of origin and DMI categories do not seem important confounding factors when establishing reference interval. As recently reported, reference intervals have changed over the time when comparing to those established in 1965.

ABSTRACT #133
CORRELATION OF SERUM CARDIAC TROPOIN I AND MYOCARDIAL DAMAGE IN CATTLE WITH MONENSIN TOXICOSIS. A Varga1,2, KE Schober 2, CH Holloman 2, PC Striebinger 1, J Lakertz 1, DM Rings 2, MH Forbes 2, W Pritchard 2
1William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, University of California, Davis, CA. 2The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

Cardiac troponin I (cTnI) is a sensitive and specific biomarker of myocardial injury in people and small animals. Little is known about the diagnostic use of cTnI in cattle. We hypothesized that serum cTnI correlates to myocardial function and histopathologic lesions in cattle with monensin-induced myocardial injury.

Ten cows received one dose of monensin orally; 30 mg/kg (n=1) or 50 mg/kg monensin (n=8) (Group A) or 30 mg/kg (n=1) (Group B). Repeated measurements of serum cTnI and echocardiographic variables were performed until study termination at 80 hours (Group A) and 144 hours (Group B) post dosing. Semi-quantitative histopathologic examinations of the heart (90 fields in 9 target areas) with regard to the magnitude of myocardial injury was established and the total heart score per cow was compared to maximum cTnI concentration measured after monensin administration. Five hearts from healthy cows served as controls.

Increased cTnI concentration (>0.07 ng/ml) was found in 9/10 cows. cTnI was significantly associated with left ventricular shortening fraction (r²=0.51, p=0.02) and myocardial histopathologic lesion score (r²=0.49, p=0.021). All cows (n=7) with evidence of myocardial necrosis had a cTnI concentration ≥1.04 ng/ml. cTnI is released in proportion to the severity of myocardial damage in cattle with monensin toxicity. cTnI may become a useful diagnostic tool in the non-invasive assessment of myocardial injury in cattle with naturally-occurring cardiac disease.

ABSTRACT #134
VALIDATION OF THE I-STAT® STALLSIDE IMMUNOASSAY FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF BOVINE CARDIAC TROPONIN I AND ITS CLINICAL RELEVANCE. A Varga, JA Angelos, JM Cornish, MC Chigerwe. William R Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, University of California, Davis, CA.

Measurement of cardiac troponin I (cTnl) is the reference method for non-invasive diagnosis of myocardial injury in humans and small animals. Increased circulating cTnI concentrations also have been associated with non-cardiac diseases. The objective of this study was to validate the I-STAT analyzer for the detection of bovine serum cTnl and to measure cTnl levels in cattle with cardiac and non-cardiac diseases.

Purified bovine cTnl was diluted in cTnl-free serum from a healthy cow. Precision, linearity and recovery were assessed using the I-STAT (HeskaCorporation,CO) immunoassay. At concentrations 0.5, 1, 2, 8 and 32 ng/ml the mean intra-assay precision was 11±6.1% and mean inter-assay precision 13±4.9% (coefficient of variation). The assay demonstrated good linearity of serial dilutions from a concentration of 2 to 32 ng/ml and mean cTnl recovery was 100.5±26.7%. Thirty healthy cattle had serum cTnl concentrations between 0 and 0.01 ng/ml.

In our study cows with non-cardiac primary diseases such as left displaced abomasum, had cTnl concentrations≤0.29 ng/ml, while cows with cardiac diseases such as endocarditis, had significantly higher cTnl concentrations.

These preliminary data suggest that the I-STAT immunoassay has sufficient test performance to detect bovine serum cTnl concentrations. Cattle with myocardial diseases have higher cTnl concentrations as compared to cows without primary cardiac diseases, but those concentrations are still significantly higher than in healthy cattle. Further studies are required to evaluate the relationship between cTnl concentration and clinical outcomes in cattle.

ABSTRACT #135
RGD-CONJUGATED HELICAL ROSETTE NANOTUBES INHIBIT CHEMOTAXIS AND CELL SIGNALING OF CATTLE NEUTROPHILS. LMH Anh1, H Fenniri2, SS Suri1 and B Snash1
1Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada. 2National Institute for Nanotechnology, Edmonton, Canada.

Bovine respiratory disease complex is the most common disease that causes significant economic loss, typically in feedlot cattle. Current treatment methods are focused on reducing inflammatory responses, control of airway reactivity and improvement of pulmonary functions without potential side effects. Neutrophils are the key contributors in acute lung inflammation. However, activated neutrophils live longer and cause excessive tissue damage upon migration into lungs. Therefore, modulation of their migration and lifespan are attractive approaches in treatment strategies of bovine respiratory disease. Nanotechnology holds significant potential to design new compounds to our ability to manipulate at the nanoscale. We used helical rosette nanotubes, which are a class of model, biologically inspired, water soluble and metal-free tubes. We used helical rosette nanotubes (RNT) conjugated to arginine-glycine-aspartic acid (RGD-RNT) to study their effects on neutrophil chemotaxis and cell signaling. Bovine neutrophils exposed to 5% RGD-RNT reduced their migration in response to FMLP (formyl-Methionyl-Leucyl-Phenylalanine), compared to the non-treated group (P<0.001). This inhibitory effect was the same as that of groups treated with ERK1/2 inhibitor (UO126) and p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38 MAPK) inhibitor (SB203580). In addition, the phosphorylation of ERK1/2 and p38 MAPK for the first time were quantified by sandwich ELISA to elucidate the mechanism of neutrophil migration. The phosphorylation of both the ERK1/2 and p38 was inhibited at 5 minutes by RGD-rosette nanotubes (P<0.05). Furthermore, integrin αvβ3 is possibly involved in migration of bovine neutrophils. These experiments provide the first evidence that RGD-rosette nanotubes suppress phosphorylation of ERK1/2 and p38 MAPK and inhibit chemotaxis of bovine neutrophils.

ABSTRACT #136
EXPERIMENTAL INFECTION OF COLOSTRUM-DEPRIVED CALVES WITH BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS TYPE-1 ISOLATED FROM FREE-RANGING WHITE-TAILED DEER ( ODOCOILEUS VIRGINIANUS ). EA Raizman, RM Pogranichny, M Levy, M Negron, WG Van Alstine. School of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

Bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) is a pestivirus associated with important economic losses to the cattle industry in the United States. The role of wildlife as a reservoir for the virus is unclear. The objective of this study was to determine if calves could be experimentally infected with a BVD type 1 virus isolated from free ranging White-tailed deer (TWD), develop lesions and shed the virus.

Twelve colostrum-deprived male Holstein calves (8 infected and 4 controls) were used in this study. Both groups were housed in an isolation unit. After a 7 day period of acclimation, the experimental group was challenged intranasally with a 2 ml inoculum containing 10^6 TCID50/ml BVDV type 1 isolated from free ranging White-tailed deer (TWD), develop lesions and shed the virus. Whole blood, saliva, nasal and rectal swabs were collected on days 0, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 21 post inoculation (DPI). Whole blood, saliva, nasal and rectal swabs were collected on days 0, 3, 7, 10, 14 and 21 DPI for virus isolation, virus neutralization, ELISA and Real Time PCR (RT-PCR) assays. On day 14 DPI, 4 calves from the infected group and 2 control calves were euthanized. Multiple tissue samples were collected for histopathology. The same protocol was used on day 21 for the remaining 4 infected and 2 control calves. The experimental protocol was approved by the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee.

Several calves develop intermittent diarrhea before inoculation with BVDV. The most important microscopic lesions were thymic atrophy and lymphoid depletion of the Peyer’s patches in all 8 infected calves. No significant lesions were identified in the control calves. RT-PCR was positive in the bulky coat of 8/8, in the nasal samples of 7/8 and in the saliva samples of 2/8 infected calves. The rectal samples were negative at all times for the 12 calves. On virus
neutralization assay, 4/8 animals developed antibodies against BVDV and on ELISA assay 3/8 animals were positive for BVDV. All samples from the control calves remained negative.

These results support our hypothesis that colostrum-deprived calves can be successfully infected with a BVDV type 1 isolated from WTD and that infection results in the development of typical lesions in lymphoid tissues. Furthermore, positive identification of BVDV in nasal and saliva samples suggests that shedding of the virus in the environment is possible.

**ABSTRACT #137**

EVIDENCE FOR TRANSPLACENTAL PASSAGE OF BLUETONGUE VIRUS SEROTYPE 8 IN SHEEP. Kirschvink N.1, Bolkhaerts B.1, Baricalla C.1, Wiggers L.1, De Leeuw I.1, Vandenbussche F.2, De Clercq K.3, Saegerman C.3 1Animal Physiology, Veterinary Department, University of Namur, Belgium; 2Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre, Department of Virology, Brussels, Belgium; 3Epidemiology and Risk Analysis applied to Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liège, Belgium.

Serotype 8 of bluetongue virus (BTV8) emerged in summer 2006 in Northern Europe and strongly spread in 2007. Transplacental passage of the BTV8 has recently been documented in naturally infected cattle, but not yet in sheep. This study aimed at assessing within one sheep flock whether a natural BTV8 infection passes the placental barrier. 309 pregnant ewes belonging to the flock of Namur University were followed since summer 2007 and pregnancy diagnosis, which was performed by ultrasonography 6-8 weeks after conception. 185 ewes had developed clinical signs of BTV8 during or shortly prior to gestation in summer 2007. Lambs occurring at 4 periods: November 2007 (70 ewes, 121 living lambs, 16 aborted fetuses), January 2008 (40 ewes, 65 living lambs, 0 aborted fetuses), March 2008 (141 ewes, 215 living lambs, 8 aborted fetuses) and May 2008 (44 ewes, 74 living lambs, 2 aborted fetuses). At lambing, blood was sampled and serum was prepared from all ewes and all lambs prior colostrum intake in order to perform BTV antibody detection (ELISA, Id-Vet France). At the age of 2–4 weeks red blood cells (RBC) were sampled from lambs when they were BTV-antibody positive at birth. Abortions occurring during the last 3 weeks of gestation were recorded. Aborted lambs underwent necropsy and if possible, their spleen was sampled. RBC and spleen were analyzed by RTqPCR for BTV8 detection.

All ewes were BTV-positive (ELISA) at lambing and 9 lambs had BTV antibodies at birth before colostrum intake. The RBC of 7 of those lambs were also positive for BTV8 by RTqPCR. The seven ELISA and RTqPCR positive lambs were all born in November 2007. 1 lamb born in January 2008 and 1 lamb born in March 2008 had BTV antibodies but were RTqPCR negative. Lambs born in May 2008 were all negative for BTV antibodies. Among the 26 aborted animals, the fetuses were most often in an advanced state of decomposition. Only 10 spleens could be analyzed by RTqPCR. 4 samples from fetuses aborted in November 2007 and March 2008 were positive for BTV8, the only 2 samples from abortions in May 2008 were negative, other samples did not provide conclusive results. These data provide evidence that BTV8 passes the placental barrier in sheep. It has to be determined to what extent this way of virus transmission contributes to the overwintering phenomenon of BTV8.

**ABSTRACT #138**

LONG TERM FOLLOW-UP OF RAMS’ SEMEN QUALITY AFTER NATURAL INFECTION WITH BLUETONGUE VIRUS SEROTYPE 8. Kirschvink N.1, Bolkhaerts B.2, Raes M.2, Kirschvink N.2 1Epidemiology and Risk Analysis applied to Veterinary Sciences, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liège, Belgium; 2Animal Physiology, Veterinary Department, University of Namur, Belgium.

Bluetongue virus (BTV) is reported to induce transient infertility in ruminants. Serotype 8 of BTV emerged in 2006 in Northern Europe and infected ~50% of the Belgian sheep population in 2007. Whilst recovery of normal semen quality in BTV8-infected rams occurs within 2-4 months after infection (Kirschvink et al., 2007; Vet J), long term follow up of naturally infected rams has not yet been described. The aim of this field study was to assess in 2008 the semen quality of rams that underwent a natural BTV8 infection in 2007 and whose semen quality had been monitored in 2007 and 2008. 11 healthy rams tested prior to the BTV8 outbreak in Belgium were used as controls (C) and 20 rams with natural infection by BTV8 in 2007 were included in this study. BTV-infected rams were tested in 2007 between 5 days and 2 months after development of clinical signs of disease (Clinical BTV8) as well as 6 to 12 months later (BTV8 recovery). Semen was evaluated for motility (score ranging from 0–5), spermatozoa concentration and viability (% of normal living [NL]; normal death [ND]; abnormal death [AD] spermatozoa). Results are shown as mean±SD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Controls (n=11)</th>
<th>Clinical BTV8 in 2007 (n=20)</th>
<th>BTV8 recovery in 2008 (n=20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motility score</td>
<td>4.5±0.2</td>
<td>1.2±1.5*</td>
<td>4.3±0.4*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conc (10⁶ sperm/ml)</td>
<td>3.2±0.7</td>
<td>1.2±1.1*</td>
<td>3.2±0.6*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% NL spermatozoa</td>
<td>75±6</td>
<td>21±27*</td>
<td>75±9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% ND spermatozoa</td>
<td>21±7</td>
<td>49±20*</td>
<td>23±11*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% AD spermatozoa</td>
<td>4±3</td>
<td>30±18*</td>
<td>4±3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*significantly different from respective control-value;

*significantly different from respective Clinical BTV8-value; p<0.05

These results show (1) an important impact of serotype 8 BTV on rams’ semen quality within 5 days and 3 months after development of clinical disease and (2) that BTV8-infected rams show a fully recovered normal semen quality within 6 to 12 month after infection.

**ABSTRACT #139**

PREVALENCE OF BVDV ON ALPACA FARMS IN EASTERN AND MIDDLE TENNESSEE. TM Buchheit, SR Van Amstel, KV Thomas, M Abd-Eldaim. The University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, Knoxville, TN.

The purpose of this study was to survey the seroprevalence to BVDV and possible presence of persistently infected (PI) animals in alpaca herds. Blood was collected from 244 alpacas in 5 herds with a negative BVDV vaccination history. All animals in each herd were tested for the presence of antibodies to BVDV by use of immunofluorescence assay (IFA) and for the presence of viral RNA by conventional polymerase chain reaction assay using reverse transcriptase RT-PCR. Overall, antibodies to BVDV were detected in 1.6% (4/244) of the samples which is similar to most other BVDV prevalence studies. Two herds had at least 1 BVDV-positive animal with a titer ≥1:80, with 3 of the 4 seropositive alpacas from the same herd (Farm 1). All 244 samples were found virus-negative by PCR. No animals younger than 2 years of age were found to be seropositive and none of the BVDV-positive animals were pregnant at the time of testing. Only one of the herds tested had cattle on the farm, however, none of the alpacas in this herd tested BVDV-positive. No suspected PI animals were identified. The presence of 3 seropositive animals on Farm 1 may be due to unrestricted comingling of animals. In conclusion, although no animals with viremia were identified in the area, BVDV should still be considered as a cause of recurring illness, ill-thrift, low birth-weight or premature cria and abortion.

**ABSTRACT #140**

SEROPREVALENCE OF BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHEA IN NEW WORLD CAMELIDS IN SWITZERLAND AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN IN THE BOVINE POPULATION. M. Mudry1, M. Meylan1, R. Zanon1, G. Schtpuech Regula2, P. Zanolli1. 1Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Berne, 2Swiss Veterinary Office, Berne, Switzerland.

Infection with the Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) is common in the Swiss cattle population, with seroprevalence rates of 60-90% and 0.6% of persistently infected (PI) animals. The economic benefits of BVDV eradication in Switzerland have been extensively discussed. However, the seroprevalence of BVDV in New World camelids in Switzerland is unknown. In the current study, 204 camelids (20 alpacas and 185 llamas) were tested for the presence of neutralizing antibodies to BVDV by a neutralization assay. All samples from the control calves remained negative. Other samples did not provide conclusive results. The presence of 3 seropositive animals on Farm 1 may be due to unrestricted comingling of animals. In conclusion, although no animals with viremia were identified in the area, BVDV should still be considered as a cause of recurring illness, ill-thrift, low birth-weight or premature cria and abortion.
ABSTRACT #141
TUBERCULOSIS CAUSED BY MYCOBACTERIUM MICROTI IN NEW WORLD CAMELIDS. P. Zanolari1, N. Robert1, G. Pölfner2, K. Lyashchenko3, M. Meylan1, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Berne, Berne, Switzerland. 1Department of Medical Microbiology, Luzern, Switzerland. 2Chembio Diagnostic Systems, Medford, NY.

Tuberculosis is one of the world’s leading infectious causes of death among humans, with one third of the world’s population currently being infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis. In ruminants, tuberculosis is mainly caused by M. bovis and rarely by M. tuberculosis. The disease is significant not only because of economic losses but also because of its zoonotic potential. Infection with Mycobacterium microti, a member of the M. tuberculosis complex, has been reported in several species, including humans. The goal of the present study was to describe the clinical and pathological findings in 11 New World Camelids (NWC) infected with Mycobacterium microti. The records of 11 animals (10 llamas and 1 alpaca, aged 4 to 18 years) from 6 different herds with a history of wasting and weakness admitted to the Clinic for Ruminants and/or the Institute for Animal Pathology within a timeframe of 7 years (2001–2008) were reviewed, and the clinical findings, clinicopathologic abnormalities, diagnostic imaging findings, and necropsy results were described. Clinical signs were limited to weight loss, recumbency and anorexia in the late stages of the disease. Two thirds of the animals showed increased breathing effort or respiratory distress. Palpable lymph nodes were enlarged in 4 animals. No consistent hematologic abnormalities were identified. The comparative intradermal tuberculosis test with bovine protein purified derivate (PPD) and avian PPD was negative in all animals. Abdominal and/or thoracic ultrasound and thorax radiology revealed abnormal findings such as enlarged mediastinal, mesenteric and/or hepatic lymph nodes only in advanced cases. The presence of granulomatous lesions in various lymph nodes, in the lungs, pleura, mediastinum, peritoneum and mesenterium, liver, spleen, pancreas and/or kidneys was confirmed at necropsy in all animals. Infection with M. microti was confirmed by bacteriological culture and/or spoligotyping.

An infection caused by M. microti should be considered as a differential diagnosis in chronic debilitating diseases with or without respiratory signs in NWC. However, the clinical diagnosis remains challenging, particularly in the early stages of the infection. As cases of M. microti infection have been reported in immunocompromised hosts, patients, the zone of Blakley. It should be kept in mind when dealing with the disease in NWC and the owners of affected animals should be informed about the potential health hazard related to clinical and subclinical infection in NWC.


ABSTRACT #142
PHARMACOKINETICS OF INTRAVENOUS ENROFLOXACIN AND ITS ACTIVE METABOLITE CIPROFLOXACIN IN HOSPITALIZED HORSES. JL Davis, MK Sheats, MG Papich. North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC.

Enrofloxacin is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic with excellent activity against gram-negative enteric bacteria, as well as some staphylococci, and Mycoplasma, Chlamydia, and Rickettsia spp. Enrofloxacin is metabolized to ciprofloxacin, which is believed to produce an additive effect on antimicrobial activity. The pharmacokinetics of enrofloxacin administered via various routes of administration have been reported in multiple studies using healthy adult horses. However, there are no reports of the pharmacokinetics of this drug when used in sick, hospitalized horses that are frequently on multiple medications and may have hepatic or renal compromise. The purpose of this study is to examine the pharmacokinetics of enrofloxacin and its active metabolite ciprofloxacin in hospitalized horses using a population sampling method.

Data from nineteen horses was available for analysis. Horses were being treated for post-operative colic (n = 5), other gastrointestinal diseases (n = 5), liver disease (n = 4), musculoskeletal diseases (n = 4), and pneumonia (n = 1). Heparinized plasma samples were collected from horses after 3 or more doses of 5 mg/kg intravenous (IV) enrofloxacin once daily, to approximate steady state concentrations. Horses were assigned to a sampling schedule so that each horse had blood drawn at 5 time points for analysis. Samples were frozen at −70°C until analysis by high pressure liquid chromatography with fluorescence detection. Data was analyzed using a naive pooled approach with noncompartmental modelling.

Following intravenous administration, enrofloxacin had a mean±SD clearance of 2.1±4.62 mL/kg/min, and a plasma half-life (t1/2) of 9.55±5.14 hr. This represents a slower clearance and a longer half-life compared to other reports of IV enrofloxacin in horses. The volume of distribution was 1.25±0.34 L/kg, which is lower than other reported values. The combined total area under the curve (AUC) for enrofloxacin and ciprofloxacin was 71.4±48.5 hr*ug/mL and ciprofloxacin represented 12.4±8.3% of the total AUC. In the subset of horses with liver disease, t1/2 and clearance of enrofloxacin was 12.2±6.4 hr and 1.5±1.3 mL/kg/min, respectively, compared to 8.7±4.7 hr and 2.3±1.7 mL/kg/min, respectively, in horses without liver disease. These differences were not statistically significant (P > 0.05).

The pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic indicator of success for fluoroquinolone antibiotics is based on a ratio of the plasma AUC to the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the bacteria of >100–125. Based on the results of this study and this AUC/MIC ratio, enrofloxacin administered at 5 mg/kg IV q24h in hospitalized horses should be successful in treating bacteria with a MIC of <0.5 μg/mL.

ABSTRACT #143
LAMINAR LEUKOCYTE ACCUMULATION AND EPITHELIAL STRESS IN HORSES WITH CARBOHYDRATE OVERLOAD-INDUCED LAMINITIS. RR Faleiros1, CJ Nuovo1, PJ Johnson1, SJ Black2, JK Belknap3. 1Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. 2Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. 3University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. 4University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Laminar failure in laminitis results from a dysadhesion of the basal laminar epithelium from the underlying basement membrane.
We recently reported prominent laminar leukocyte infiltration prior to the onset of laminar epithelial stress in the developmental stage in the Black Walnut Extract (BWE) laminitis model. The purpose of this study was to characterize laminar leukocyte populations and the temporal relationship of leukocyte infiltration to laminar epithelial stress in the CHO model of laminitis, a model that more commonly results in laminar failure observed in clinical laminitis cases. Immunohistochemistry for calprotectin (CP, marker for neutrophils, classically activated macrophages, and stressed [not normal] keratinocytes) and CD163 (antibody specific for resident macrophages and monocytes in alternatively activated phenotype) was performed on laminar paraffin sections obtained: 24 h following water administration (CON, n = 8), and at onset of fever (10–20 hours, DTP group, n = 6) and at the onset of lameness (20–46 hours, LAM group, n = 6) following CHO administration. Minor histological changes (slightly abnormal PAS staining of basement membrane [BM]) were present in 3/6 horses in the LAM group. Similar to the BWE model, laminar epithelial stress (increased CP signal) occurred at the onset of lameness. Increases (P < 0.05) in laminar CP+ leukocytes and CD163+ monocytes/macrophages occurred in the LAM group (not DTP group) compared to CON group. The temporal pattern of laminar leukocyte infiltration and epithelial stress is markedly different in the two models, with leukocyte infiltration preceding epithelial stress in the BWE model, and both events occurring simultaneously in the CHO model. Importantly, the marked leukocyte infiltration in the CHO model prior to severe histologic changes in this model indicates that, in contradiction to previous reports, leukocyte infiltration may be a cause of and not a reaction to BM degradation and structural failure.

ABSTRACT #144
THE EFFECT OF TRACHEAL LAVAGE ADMINISTRATION ON LUNG FUNCTION IN HEALTHY KITTENS. EA Rozanski, G Buckley, MR Mazan, D Bedenice, AH Hofmann. Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, MA.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effect of tracheal lavage on lung function in healthy kittens. While tracheal wash sampling for evaluation of lung cytology and bacterial culture is considered routine, there are reports of respiratory embarrassment or failure and even death following this procedure in cats. Seven healthy kittens were recruited from consenting owners for study enrollment. The study was performed prior to routine castration or ovariohysterectomy. All kittens were healthy on examination. Cats were pre-mediated with ketamine (7 mg/kg mg), butorphanol (0.75 mg/kg), and diazepam (0.3 mg/kg) intramuscularly. Anesthesia was induced with propofol 2–4 mg/kg intravenously to effect. Cats were intubated with a standard 3.5 mm ID sterile endotracheal tube and ventilated with a 10 ml/kg tidal volume at 15 breaths/min and 30% inspired oxygen, using a Puritan Bennett 840 critical care ventilator. A standard volume history was created by 2 breaths to total lung capacity (25 cmH2O) prior to testing. Using commercial software, static compliance (Cst) and plateau pressure (Pplat) were measured. Additionally, cats’ oxygenation was assessed via pulse oximetry. All animals underwent a standard tracheal lavage with 3 aliquots of 2ml/kg sterile saline, followed by measurements. Repeat measures ANOVA was used to compared the effect of lavage. Tracheal lavage caused a significant decrease in Cst and significant increase in Pplat and desaturation.

Cst (mean ± SD) Pplat Pulse oximetry
Baseline 6±1.1 ml/cmH2O 6.1±0.3 cmH2O 99±1%
Post lavage 2.9±0.9 ml/cmH2O 9.6±2.1 cmH2O 93±4%

n=0.001 compared to baseline, b=p=0.01 compared to baseline.

The results of this study demonstrated that tracheal lavage in healthy cats is associated with an acute ‘restrictive effect’ on lung function most likely associated with airway closure or derecruitment (atelectasis) as the likely causes of mechanical dysfunction and hypoxemia.

ABSTRACT #145
UTILITY OF BIOMARKERS IN BRONCHOALVEOLAR LAVAGE FLUID FOR DISCRIMINATION OF ASTHMA AND CHRONIC BRONCHITIS IN CATS. LA Cohn, AE DeClue, TM Lee-Fowler, JE Eberhardt, CR Reiner. University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO.

Feline allergic asthma and chronic bronchitis are lower airway diseases that are often grouped together as one syndrome. We postulate that as in humans, the molecular mechanisms which trigger and sustain these diseases are not identical and that differences in biomarker signatures in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) exist. The study objective was to compare IL-4, IFN-γ, TNF-α and total nitric oxide (NO) in BALF from cats with naturally developing asthma (CLIN ASM) and chronic bronchitis (CLIN CB) and further compare them to research cats with experimentally induced asthma (EXP ASM), non-septic suppurative inflammation (RES SUPP) and healthy controls (RES NORM).

Ninety-seven cats were divided into five groups [CLIN ASM (n = 13), CLIN CB (n = 8), EXP ASM (n = 23), RES SUPP (n = 33), RES NORM (n = 20)] based on predefined BALF cytological criteria. Unconcentrated BALF supernatant was assayed for IL-4 and IFN-γ concentrations, TNF-α bioactivity and total NO. Statistical analysis was performed using a one-way ANOVA and post-hoc Tukey test, with a p < 0.05 considered significant.

Concentrations of BALF IL-4 and IFN-γ were below the limits of detection for most cats, precluding statistical analysis. No significant differences were detected between groups for TNF-α bioactivity. The group mean±SEM of BALF NO was significantly higher in CLIN CB (7.4±0.6 μM) compared to RES SUPP (5.0±0.4 μM; P = 0.002) and EXP ASM cats (4.6±0.2 μM; P = 0.001).

Using the currently available relatively insensitive methodologies, markers of the measured cytokines and NO are useful for discriminating local immune changes in the airways of pet cats with naturally developing asthma versus chronic bronchitis.

Previously presented at ECVIM in Belgium, September 2008.

ABSTRACT #146
COMPARISON OF INTRADERMAL SKIN TESTING AND ALLERGEN-SPECIFIC SERUM IMMUNOGLOBULIN E (IgE) IN EXPERIMENTAL FELINE ASTHMA. TM Lee-Fowler1, LA Cohn3, AE DeClue3, CM Spinka3, RD Ellebracht, CR Reiner1. 1Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2Department of Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

Reliably identifying clinically relevant allergen(s) for allergen-specific immunotherapy as a treatment for feline allergic asthma may be challenging. Poor correlation has been found between intradermal skin testing (IDST) and serum allergen-specific IgE; however, these studies evaluated atopic pet cats with unknown type(s), duration, timing and quantity of allergen exposure. We proposed to control these factors by using a feline model of allergic asthma induced by specific allergens to compare IDST and serum IgE tests. We hypothesized that IDST results would more closely correlate with the known allergen exposure than would allergen-specific serum IgE determination.

Thirteen cats were randomly assigned to saline (placebo), Bermuda grass allergen (BGA), or house dust mite allergen (HDM) groups for sensitization and challenge. On day 0 (prior to sensitization) and days 28 and 50 (post-allergen sensitization) IDST was performed and serum collected. Serum from each cat at each time point as well as pooled serum samples (BGA or HDM) had determinination of allergen-specific IgE using an FcεRI receptor based ELISA (Heska, CO); pooled samples were also analyzed using an enzymeimmunomunometric assay (VARL, CA). Half of each pooled sample was heat inactivated (HI) to selectively destroy IgE. Sensitivity (SE), specificity (SP), and positive and negative predictive values (PPV and NPV, respectively) were calculated. Prazsami-Kusterer (PK) testing using the pooled and pooled HI samples was performed.

Combined results for IDST found SE = 90.9%, SP = 86.7%, PPV = 63.3%, and NPV = 92.9%. For ELISA-based serum IgE testing, the SE = 22.7%, SP = 100%, PPV = 100% and NPV = 63.8%. The enzymeimmunomunometric assay did not detect sensitizing IgE, but
ABSTRACT #147

CHRONIC ADMINISTRATION OF feG-COOH IN EXPERIMENTAL FELINE ASTHMA. JM Eberhardt, AE DeClue, CR Reinerio. University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO.

Previously we demonstrated that a single dose of the immunomodulating tripeptide, feg-COOH, administered prior to allergen challenge partially dampens eosinophilic airway inflammation in experimental feline asthma. We hypothesized that chronic (2 weeks) administration of feG-COOH would decrease clinical signs and airway inflammation in experimentally asthmatic cats. Asthma was induced in 9 cats using Bermuda grass allergen (BGA). Cats were randomized to receive oral feG-COOH (1 mg/kg, q 24 h) or placebo (saline q 24 h) for 2 weeks followed by a 2 week washout before cross-over to the other treatment. A clinical scoring system was employed to grade clinical signs after allergen challenge. Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) and blood were collected 24 hours after allergen challenge. Differential cell counts were performed on BALF. Peripher al blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were cultured in vitro with BGA. Supernatant from BALF and PBMCs and plasma was harvested for determination of IL-4 and TNF-α concentrations using commercial ELISAs or TNF-α bioactivity using a cell killing bioassay. Repeated measures ANOVA was used to compare the treatment groups with a p<0.05 considered significant.

There was no significant difference between treatments in clinical scores (mean±SD: feG 1.0±1.1; placebo 1.2±1.1; p=0.386), BALF eosinophils (feG 33±18%; placebo 29±16%; p=0.479) or neutrophils (feG, 4.7±4.7%; placebo, 5.0±4.5%; p=0.504). No differences in cytokine concentrations were detected between treatments; however many samples were below the assay’s lower limit of detection. In conclusion, chronic administration of feg did not significantly decrease clinical signs or airway inflammation in cats with experimentally-induced asthma.

ABSTRACT #148

PROGRESSION OF CIRCULATING ANTIGEN AND ANTIBODY RESPONSES IN CATS EXPERIMENTALLY INFECTED WITH DIROFILARIA IMMITIS. K. Curtis1, L. Lopresti1, K. Chandrashekhar1, J. McCall1, DM Tillson2, AR Dillon3, IDEXX Laboratories, Westbrook, ME. 1TRS Labs, Athens, GA. College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University, Auburn, AL.

Cats can suffer complications from adult heartworm infections (Dirofilaria immitis) and emerging evidence demonstrates that immature adult heartworms, reaching the pulmonary arteries at approximately 2–4 months post-infection, can also cause significant lung pathology (Heartworm Associated respiratory Disease or HARD). To better understand the humoral immune response to D. immitis, 12 cats were infected by SC injection of 100 third stage larvae (L3) larvae per cat. Pre- and post-infection serum samples were collected from each cat at selected time points (days –1, 7, 14, 21, 28, 42, 56, 68, 75, 84, 112, 140, 168, 189, 217, 245 and terminal). The cats were necropsied 278–299 days post-infection and adult worms were recovered in 11 of 12 cats. Other imaging and histopathology data were collected.

Temporal serum samples obtained from each cat were tested for antibodies to two D. immitis recombinant antigens, HWAg-1 and HWAg-2. In addition, samples were tested for circulating antigenemia (polyclonal assay) using PetChek® HTWM PF Test Kit (IDEXX Laboratories). Eleven of 12 cats were HWAg-1 antibody positive 68 days post-infection and the remaining cat became HWAg-1 antibody positive on day 140 post-infection. 11 of 12 cats remained HWAg-1 antibody positive through end of the study. All but one cat was positive for HWAg-2 antibody, with the first positive tests occurring between 42–84 days post-infection. Ten of the 11 HWAg-2 antibody positive cats remained positive during the study except one cat that became negative by day 271. Both antibody assays became positive during the pre-cardiac stages of the heartworm life cycle. Circulating antigen was detected in 10 of the 12 cats and 1 cat died at day 140 with heartworms. Of the remaining 9 positive cats, 2 were first positive on day 140 (4.7 months) and 5 first positive on day 168 (5.6 months). One cat first became antigen positive on day 217. Using SoloStep® CH Heartworm Test (Heska), antigen was detected in 3 of the cats at day 168.

This study demonstrates that in cats with experimental infections, parasite antigenemia can be detected prior to heartworms reaching sexually maturity. Historically, the antigen has been detected only in the circulation of dogs and cats harboring mature female heartworms, but target antigens have been demonstrated in the cuticle of heartworms. These data suggest that disintegration of immature adult heartworms can result in detectible levels of antigen utilizing a PetChek® HTWM PF Test Kit, and less commonly using SoloStep® CH Heartworm Test. In summary, in this experimental model, D. immitis antigen was detectable in some cats at time points associated with dying immature adult heartworms and the initiation of HARD (days 140 and 168).

ABSTRACT #149

ISOMETRIC RESPONSES OF ISOLATED INTRAPULMONARY BRONCHOLES FROM CATS WITH AND WITHOUT ACQUIRED HEARTWORM INFECTION. AA Wood. The cats used in this study were purpose-bred cats utilized. Heartworm infected cats (n=7) received 100 third stage larvae subcutaneously, and 6 cats served as age matched controls. The left caudal lung lobe was collected at necropsy 278–299 days post-infection in heartworm cats. Surrounding lung tissue was removed, and four 2 mm rings of 4th generation intrapulmonary bronchioles (IPB) were mounted on a wire myograph (Danish Myotechnologies) interfaced with a physiograph. Three cycles of pre-contractions to 1μM acetylcholine (ACh) were performed, followed by concentration-response curves to the contractile agonists ACh, histamine (HIS), and 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT). To evaluate relaxation, IPB were constricted with 1μM 5-HT and concentration-response curves were generated to sodium nitroprusside (SNP) and isoprotenerol (ISO). Data were analyzed by 2-way analysis of variance, and p<0.05 was significant.

To determine if control cats, relaxation to ISO was significantly reduced by 2 concentrations. HW cats demonstrated significantly reduced responses to ACh for 2 cycles of pre-contractions and at the highest concentration of ACh in the curve. There were no differences between control and HW cats in responses to 5-HT, HIS, or SNP.

The slightly reduced response of IPB in HW cats to ISO may indicate some level of refractoriness to bronchiolar relaxation. These results suggest that despite perbronchiolar SM proliferation and increased bronchial wall to lumen ratios in cats with heartworms, a direct hyper-reactive response of the bronchiolar SM cannot be demonstrated as the major mechanism of HARD.

ABSTRACT #150

MATRIX METALLOPROTEINASE-2 AND -9 IN BRONCHO-ALVEOLAR LAVAGE FLUID OF DOGS WITH IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS. HP Heikka, MM Rajamaki. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland.

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic, progressive, interstitial lung disease of unknown etiology that mainly affects West Highland white terriers (WHWTs). Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are proteases participating in pathological processes of different pulmonary diseases. The aim of this study was to investi-
gate the role of gelatinolytic MMP-2 and -9 in bronchoalveolar lavage fluid of WHWTs with IPF.

Seven WHWTs with IPF (mean age 12 years, range 10–13) and 13 clinically healthy beagles (mean age 9 years, range 7–13) were included in the study. IPF was verified by clinical examinations and additionally by histopathology in 5 WHWTs. MMP-2 and -9 activities were analyzed by gelatinase SDS-page zymography, and the zymograms were evaluated for MMP activity with AlphaEaseFC software.

ProMMP-2 and -9 activities were significantly elevated in WHWTs compared with controls. Median proMMP2 was 0.72 (interquartile range 0.64–1.05) in WHWTs vs. 0.23 (0.11–0.43) in controls (P < 0.01). The corresponding figures for median proMMP-9 were 0.39 (0.29–0.48) and 0.05 (0.03–0.06) (P < 0.01). Mean arteriole and capillary thickness in lungs of WHWTs was 69.0 ± 15.2 mmHg vs. 92.5 ± 7.6 mmHg (P < 0.05). A trend towards a negative correlation between proMMP2 and PaO2 was detected.

Our results suggest that upregulated MMP-2 and -9 participate in the pathogenesis of canine IPF and that the level of MMP-2 increases during disease progression.

### ABSTRACT #151

**RECRUITMENT OF PULMONARY INTRAVASCULAR MACROPHAGES IN IMMUNE-MEDIATED HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA IN DOGS.** P Hodgson, A Carr and B Singh. Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada.

Immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) is a devastating disease in which macrophages, complement and antibodies attack the circulating red blood cells leading to their premature destruction. Dogs with IMHA have an increased incidence of pulmonary thromboembolism. The mechanisms of IMHA and the contributions of pulmonary pathophysiology to IMHA-induced mortality are poorly understood and consequently there is no effective treatment.

Inflammation, and increased expression of PECAM-1 in airway epithelium of WHWTs in IMHA dogs compared to the lungs from normal dogs. The expression of TLR4, which regulates sensitivity to endotoxin, was also increased in macrophages and vascular endothelium in the lungs from the IMHA dogs. Second, we examined recruitment of PIMs in a mouse model of IMHA. The mice were treated with Ter-119, an antimurine platelet antibody, and recruited in sepsis in rats. Recruited PIMs promote systemic pathophysiology and mortality. The objective of the experiments was to examine the recruitment of PIMs in dogs with IMHA and in a mouse model of IMHA.

First, we examined lung tissues from dogs (N = 16) that had died of IMHA and the normal dogs (N = 4). Lung sections stained with H&E showed large macrophage-like cells in pulmonary microvessels. Lung sections stained with antibodies against macrophages (MAC387), platelet-endothelial cell adherence molecule (PECAM-1) and Toll-like receptor-4 (TLR4). While MAC387 antigen is observed in granulocytes, monocytes and tissue macrophages while PECAM-1 is expressed on the monocytes, neutrophils, platelets and a subpopulation of T-cells and TLR4 in lungs of IMHA dogs and rats. Lung sections were stained with antibodies against macrophages (MAC387) and TLR4 in lungs of WHWTs. "PIMs are recruited in IMHA dogs and rats, but can be recruited in sepsis in rats. Recruited PIMs and increased expression of PECAM-1 in airway epithelium in the lungs of IMHA dogs compared to normal dogs. The expression of TLR4, which regulates sensitivity to endotoxin, was also increased in macrophages and vascular endothelium in the lungs from the IMHA dogs. Second, we examined recruitment of PIMs in a mouse model of IMHA. The mice were treated with Ter-119, an antimurine red blood cell antibody, which induced significant anemia, splenomegaly and recruitment of PIMs compared to saline-treated mice. These data show recruitment of PIMs and increased expression of inflammatory cytokines PECAM-1 and TLR4 in lungs of IMHA dogs. Furthermore, evidence of recruitment of PIMs in the mice provides us with a model to study the role of PIMs in IMHA-associated pulmonary pathophysiology in dogs.

### ABSTRACT #152

**CYCLIC AMP ATTENUATES FATTY ACID INDUCED APOPTOSIS IN AN IN VITRO MODEL OF HEPATIC LIPOTOXICITY.** K Ponzetti, CRL Webster. Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, N Grafton, MA.

In the last several years, it is becoming increasingly evident that lipid accumulation within hepatocytes can lead to hepatic failure. In humans, lipidosis (or steatosis) contributes to the hepatic pathology seen in alcoholic hepatitis and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). In cats, a syndrome of acute hepatic failure is accompanied by widespread lipidosis. Free fatty acids such as palmitate and oleate, which are increased in the liver of dogs with the hepatic lipidosis syndrome, are important mediators of lipidotoxicity. Reduced levels of the adenyl cyclase activator, forskolin, in hepatic mitochondria sensibilizes hepatocytes to apoptotic cell death. The aim of this study was to establish an in vitro model of fatty acid hepatotoxicity and to initiate investigations into potential therapeutic options. Rate hepatocytes were isolated by standard collagenase perfusion and placed in culture. Twenty-four hours later they were treated with 200 uM palmitate or 300 uM oleate. After 5–6hrs the cells were fixed and stained with Hoechst for morphologic determination of apoptosis by fluorescence microscopy. Whole cell lysates were prepared from treated hepatocytes and used for immunoblotting for the cleavage fragment of the effector caspase 3. Some cultures were pre-treated for 1 hr with one of two cAMP analogues either 100 uM chlorophenylthio-cAMP (CPT-cAMP) or 20 uM of the protein kinase A (PKA) independent cAMP analogue, 4-(4-chlorophenylthio)-2'-O-methyladenosine-3'-5'-cyclic monophosphate (2-Me-cAMP) and then processed for morphologic or biochemical assessment of apoptosis. There was a significant increase in apoptosis in palmitate and oleate treated hepatocytes, 2.51±0.38 and 3.31±0.56 fold increase over control. In conclusion, exposure of cultured rat hepatocytes to palmitate or oleate induces apoptosis. Increases in intracellular cAMP prevent fatty acid lipotoxicity in a PKA independent manner.

### ABSTRACT #153

**CULTURE-INDEPENDENT DETECTION OF BACTERIA IN FELINE INFLAMMATORY LIVER DISEASE.** D.C. Twedt1, S.D. Janeczko1, K.W. McCord 1, J.L. Dudak 1, J.M. Cullen 3, D.C. Twedt1, K.W. McCord 1, J.L. Dudak 1, J.M. Cullen 3, F. Fisher1, K.W. Simpson1, 1Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, 2Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 3North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

The etiopathogenesis of feline inflammatory liver disease (ILD) is unclear. We sought to determine the presence and distribution of bacteria within the livers of cats with ILD by use of culture-independent methods.

40 archived samples from cats with inflammatory hepatic changes and histologically normal livers were evaluated. Histopathological diagnosis was classified according to WSAVA guidelines. Unstained hepatic tissue sections were subjected to fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) with a 16S rDNA probe that recognizes bacteria in general (MURF) and a non-EUB probe used as a control. Antibodies against cytokeratins (clone AE1 and AE3) and laminin were used to enable unequivocal distinction between bile ducts and vascular structures respectively. Tissues were examined with a fluorescence microscope for the presence and location of bacteria. Histopathology was classified as non-specific reactive hepatitis (RH,12), neutrophilic cholangitis (NH,10), lymphocytic cholangitis (LC,7), cholestasis/obstruction (CO,6), probable lymphoma (LSA, 3), and neutrophilic hepatitis (NH, 2). Bacteria (EUB338) were observed in sections from 22/40 diseased and 3/14 normal livers (N) (P < 0.05). In 11 sections bacteria were restricted to the outer surface of the liver capsule (4RH, 3LC, 2N, 1NC, 1CO) and may represent contaminants. Intrahepatic bacteria were visualized within portal vessels or venous sinusoids of 9 (4NC, 3RH, 1NH, 1LSA, 1N), the bile duct of 1 (NC), and within the hepatic parenchyma near the capsule in 4 (1LC, 1NC, 1NH, 1RH). Bacterial colonization was localised in 3 sections with WHWT 1 cat with IPF and 1 cat with liver disease, predominately pancreatic and GI disease, was present in 12 of 14 cats with intrahepatic bacteria. Bacterial culture was positive in 12/24 samples (5 *E. coli*, 3 *Enterococcus*, 2 *Staphylococcus*, 1 *Actinomyces*, 1 *Streptococcus*). FISH and culture conformed in 15/24 cases. FISH and culture revealed *E. coli* in 3/3 NC with invasive bacteria. In 3/6 sections with capsular bacteria FISH and culture conformed, and 3 FISH positive samples were culture negative. The results of this study suggest that bacteria may play a role in the etiology of feline inflammatory liver disease. The localization of intrahepatic bacteria suggests translocation of enteric bacteria is a likely source of infection.
ABSTRACT #154
DEVELOPMENT OF A FLOW CYTOMETRIC PANEL OF T-LYMPHOCYTE BIOMARKERS TO EVALUATE THE IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE EFFECTS OF CYCLOSPORINE IN DOGS. T Archer, K Lunsford, A Mackin, C Fellman, J Stokes, L Pinchuk, S Pruett, C Langston. Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Starkville, MS.

Cyclosporine is a potent immunosuppressive agent used to treat many canine diseases. Optimal dosing regimens remain unclear, primarily because standard methods that monitor effectiveness of immunosuppression have not been established. Our study was designed to establish a comprehensive panel of biomarkers in the dog that could be used to monitor the immunosuppressive effects of drugs such as cyclosporine. For our panel, we used flow cytometry to measure expression of cytokines (IL-2, IL-4, & INF-y) and surface antigens (CD25 & CD95) on T-lymphocytes activated with concanavalin A and PMA/Ionomycin.

In an initial in vitro study, lymphocytes from 3 healthy dogs were incubated for different time periods in varying concentrations of cyclosporine to measure expression of cytokines (IL-2, IL-4, & INF-y) and surface antigens (CD25 & CD95) on T-lymphocytes. For our panel, we used flow cytometry to measure expression of cytokines (IL-2, IL-4, & INF-y) and surface antigens (CD25 & CD95) on T-lymphocytes activated with concanavalin A and PMA/Ionomycin.

Our results confirm consistent cyclosporine-induced suppression of selected biomarkers of immunosuppression. Further investigation of the effects of cyclosporine on these biomarkers in both normal dogs and clinic patients is warranted.

ABSTRACT #155
EVALUATION OF SERUM CONCENTRATIONS OF IMMUNOGLOBULIN A AND IMMUNOGLOBULIN M IN CHINESE SHAR PEIS WITH COBALAMIN DEFICIENCY. N Pinchuk, S Pruett, C Langston. Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Starkville, MS.

Immune globulin A (IgA) and immunoglobulin M (IgM) are the result of secretory function of the plasma cells. Serum IgA and IgM concentrations are the result of secretory function of the plasma cells. The aim of this study was to evaluate the serum concentrations of IgA and IgM in cobalamin deficient Shar Peis and Shar Peis with a normal serum cobalamin concentration. These results warrant further investigation of gastrointestinal immunoglobulin secretion in Shar Peis with cobalamin deficiency.

Our results confirm consistent cyclosporine-induced suppression of selected biomarkers of immunosuppression. Further investigation of the effects of cyclosporine on these biomarkers in both normal dogs and clinic patients is warranted.

ABSTRACT #156
GENETICAL ANALYSIS OF TOLL-LIKE RECEPTOR GENES IN GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS REVEALS POTENTIAL POLYMORPHISM ASSOCIATED WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE. A Kathrani1, A House1, D Werling2, B Catchpole3, A Murphy3, B Trojer4, N Grützer4, K Allenspach1. 1Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, 2Department of Pathology and Infectious Diseases and 3Department of Veterinary Basic Sciences, 4Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK and the Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

The identification of associations between specific polymorphisms in pattern recognition receptors such as Toll-like receptors (TLR) and human Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) has provided data that demonstrates the importance of these genes and their role in innate immune function in the pathogenesis of this disease. To date no studies have been performed to evaluate polymorphisms in pattern recognition receptors in canine IBD. The aim of this study was to investigate whether polymorphisms in canine Toll-like receptors (TLR) 2, 4 and 5 genes are associated with IBD in German Shepherd dogs (GSDs).

Munotational analysis of TLR2, TLR4 and TLR5 was performed in 10 GSDs with IBD. Genomic DNA was extracted from blood samples in EDTA and the coding region of TLR2, TLR4 and TLR5 amplified using a polymerase chain reaction (PCR). PCR products were sequenced (Geneservice, Cambridge, UK) and full-length sequences obtained from each dog. Sequence data was compared to the canine genome (www.ensembl.org/Canis_familiaris). Non-synonymous single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were identified in the canine TLR2 gene. Four non-synonymous SNPs (T23C, G1039A, A1527T and G1807A) were identified in the TLR4 gene and three non-synonymous SNPs (G22A, C100T and T1844C) were identified in the TLR5 gene.

The three non-synonymous SNPs in TLR5 were evaluated further in a case-control study using a SnapsSHOT multiplex reaction. Sequencing information from 21 GSDs with IBD from the UK were compared to two control groups consisting of 92 healthy GSDs recruited from the USA and 83 GSDs from patients treated for non-inflammatory disease at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals referral hospital (UK). All three SNPs were found to be in Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium. When the case population was compared to the healthy controls from the USA the G22A SNP was found to be significantly associated with IBD (p<0.0001). When the case population was compared to the GSDs with non-inflammatory disease from the UK the G22A SNP was found to be trending towards significance (p=0.058).

Our study suggests that the TLR5 SNP G22A could play a role in the pathogenesis of IBD in GSDs. Further studies are required to confirm the functional importance of this polymorphism in the pathogenesis of this disease.
ABSTRACT #157

URINARY LEUKOTRIENE E4 EXCRETION IS INCREASED IN DOGS WITH CHRONIC ENTEROPATHIES. M Im Hof1, M Schnyder2, S Hartnack3, F Stanske-Labesque4, N Luckshendler1. 1Division of Small Animal Internal Medicine and 2Department of Clinical Research and Veterinary Public Health, Vetsuisse Faculty of the University of Bern, Switzerland, and 3Grenoble University Hospital, Grenoble, France.

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and food-responsive diarrhea (FRD) are chronic entericopathies (CEC) that can only be differentiated by their response to treatment after exclusion of other diseases. Their severity can be scored with the canine IBD (CIBDAI) or the CEE clinical activity index (CCECAI). Cysteinyl leukotrienes (CysLTs) are proinflammatory 5-lipoxygenase-derived products that play a major role in the immune and inflammatory response. Leukotriene E4 (LTE4), the end product of CysLTs metabolism, is excreted in urine and is stable in this fluid. Its urinary quantification is therefore considered the best marker of in vivo CysLTs production in humans. The urinary LTE4 excretion is increased in human patients with IBD, and LTE4 levels are higher in patients with active IBD than in remission. The aims of this study were to evaluate the urinary LTE4 excretion in dogs with IBD, FRD and healthy controls, and to compare the LTE4 excretion with the activity of the disease using the CIBDAI scoring system.

Urine and CIBDAI were taken at initial presentation in dogs suffering from CCE. Due to their response to treatment, they were divided in FRD (responding to elimination diet alone) and IBD (need for supplementary immunosuppressive treatment). Quantification of LTE4 was performed by liquid chromatography-tandem mass-spectrometry. The levels of LTE4 were corrected to the urinary level of creatinine measured with a Jaffe kinetic-based assay. Comparison between dogs suffering from CCE and healthy controls was performed with a Mann-Whitney U test, whereas comparison between IBD, FRD and control dogs were made with a Kruskal-Wallis one-way ANOVA with Dunn’s test. Correlation between urinary LTE4 excretion and CIBDAI were analyzed using a Spearman rank test. P < 0.05 was considered significant.

15 IBD and 18 FRD patients were enrolled in the study together with 23 healthy control dogs. IBD dogs showed the highest urinary LTE4 excretion [median 79.9 pg/mg creatinine (10th–90th percentiles 9.8–665.0)] followed by FRD [median 31.7 pg/mg creatinine (10th–90th percentiles 6.2–169.4)] and control dogs [median 21.1 pg/mg creatinine (10th–90th percentiles 9.1–86.5)]. The urinary LTE4 excretion was increased when comparing CEE (IBD+FRD) and control dogs (P=0.024) as well as IBD and control dogs (P=0.018). A ROC-analysis revealed a specificity of 95.7% for a LTE4 excretion of 90.6 pg/mg creatinine. No correlation was detected between LTE4 excretion and the clinical activity of the disease as measured with the CIBDAI.

In conclusion, dogs suffering from CCE have an increased urinary LTE4 excretion. Cysteinyl leukotriene pathway activation could contribute to the inflammation associated with IBD in dogs. The comparison of urinary LTE4 excretion before and after treatment is currently performed.

ABSTRACT #158

HIGH THROUGHPUT PYROSEQUENCING REVEALS REDUCED BACTERIAL DIVERSITY IN THE DUODENAL MUCOSA OF DOGS WITH IBD. M Craven, *SE Dowd, S McDonough, KW Simpson. College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY and *Research and Testing Laboratory, Lubbock, Texas.

The enteric microflora is increasingly implicated in the etiopathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Recent work has revealed reduced bacterial diversity and a shift towards a Gram -ve flora in the inflamed intestine across species, but the relationship of individual components of the enteric flora to different disease syndromes and clinical response is unclear. We sought to determine if the duodenal mucosal flora of dogs with IBD differs from healthy dogs, and to gain insight into the relationship of the mucosal flora to clinical response to diet, antibiotics, or immunosuppression.

A culture-independent bacterial tag-encoded FLX 16S rDNA amplicon pyrosequencing (bTEFAP) approach was used to evaluate the microbiome of endoscopic duodenal biopsies from 16 dogs with a histopathological diagnosis of IBD (7MN 7FN 2MD, median age 5 yrs) and 14 clinically healthy (H) dogs (5FN, 6MN, 3F, median age 7.5 yrs). 10 dogs were food responsive (FR), 3 steroid responsive (SR), and 3 were partially responsive to a combination of food and antibiotics (FA). A total of 85,065 sequences (54776 from H, 30289 from IBD) were analyzed. The number of sequences per individual (median) was higher in H (3,912) than IBD (1,893) (P=0.007). Dogs with IBD had lower overall species diversity than H at all primary levels of taxonomy based upon rarefication (p<0.05). When evaluated by Genus, we observed marked differences in the proportions of sequences in 16S rDNA libraries from H vs. IBD (*p<0.001, p<0.01) for: Acinetobacter, Bacteroidales, Burkholderiales, Campylobacteriales, Clostridiales, Coriobacteriales, Enterobacteriales, Fusobacteriales, Lactobacillales and Mycoplasmatales.

Analysis by clinical response indicated differences in numbers of sequence between groups (H, FR and SA: Kruskal Wallis, P<0.003), and lower numbers in FR than H (p=0.007, see graph). Comparison of H and FR revealed most marked differences in proportions of Bacillales, *Erysipelotrichales, *Flavobacteriales, *Pasteurellales, *Pseudomonadales, * and Sphingobacteriales.

We conclude that duodenal inflammation is associated with decreased diversity of the mucosal flora, and altered relative proportions of dominant floral groups. Further work is required to determine whether differences in the mucosal flora impact the clinical response.

ABSTRACT #159

E. COLI ASSOCIATED WITH GRANULOMATOUS COLITIS OF BOXER DOGS FREQUENTLY MANIFEST RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS. M Craven, B Dogan, A Schukken, M Volkman, A Chandler, PL McDonough, KW Simpson. College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Granulomatous colitis of Boxer dogs (GCB) is associated with the presence of E. coli within colonic mucosa and macrophages. A pivotal role for E. coli in the pathogenesis of GCB is supported by clinical and histological remission following the eradication of invasive E. coli with enrofloxacin. To optimize therapy against GCB associated E. coli we sought to determine antibiotic resistance profiles of E. coli strains isolated from GCB, and compared them with those from healthy dogs.

E. coli were isolated from colonic biopsies of 14 Boxers with a histological diagnosis of GC and mucosally invasive E. coli (8M, 6F, median age 12 m), and from rectal mucosal swabs of 17 clinically healthy dogs (H, various breeds, 6M, 11F, median age 60 m). 10 to 15 isolates from each sample were evaluated for differences in overall genotype and phylogroup (A, B1, B2, and D) by RAPD- and triplex PCR respectively. The antimicrobial resistance profile of representative strains from each sample was determined by broth microdilution MIC (NARMS 2004 Annual Report).

Culture yielded 23 different E. coli strains from GCB (1–3/dog, median 2) and 34 strains from healthy dogs (1–3/dog, median 2).
The distribution of phylogroups was not significantly different (P=0.18) between GCB (5A, 7B1, 5B2, 6D) and H (2A, 10B1, 15B2, 7D). Resistance to antibiotics is shown in the table below (Fishers Exact, GCB vs H: *P<0.05, **P<0.01, ***P<0.001).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antibiotic</th>
<th>GCB H</th>
<th>GCB H</th>
<th>GCB H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clavamox</td>
<td>35*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>57*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ampicillin</td>
<td>49**</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>64**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cefoxolin</td>
<td>30***</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>50**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetracycline</td>
<td>48*</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>64*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A high proportion of Boxers with GC harbored E. coli strains that were resistant to macrophage penetrating antibiotics ciprofloxacin (43%), trimethoprim (57%) and tetracycline (64%). Empirical treatment of GCB before colonic biopsy was associated with resistance against the antibiotic used in 6/6 Boxers receiving enrofloxacin, 3/8 receiving TMPS, 3/9 receiving Clavamox, 2/10 receiving ampicillin and 1/10 receiving tetracycline.

We conclude that antibiotic resistance is common in E. coli from GCB and suggest that antibiotic selection should be guided by sensitivity testing rather than empirical wisdom.

ABSTRACT #160
DESCRIPTION OF PROTEIN-LOSING ENTEROPATHY IN YORKSHIRE TERRIER DOGS USING THE W.S.A.V.A. GASTROINTESTINAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM. SM Simmons, A Wunschmann, L Crews, PJ Armstrong, M Fee, and R Washabu.
University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine, St. Paul, MN.

Yorkshire terrier dogs are reported to be at increased risk for the development of protein-losing enteropathy (PLE). Few reports have been published that document clinical features, histopathologic lesions, or outcome in this disorder, and the few cases that have been reported have been evaluated with differing non-standardized classification systems.

The study objectives were (1) to describe historical, physical examination, clinical pathological, imaging, and histopathologic findings in a large group of Yorkshire terrier dogs with a diagnosis of PLE and (2) to use a standardized classification system for the evaluation of gut pathology.

Retrospective study. The diagnosis of PLE was made on the basis of gastrointestinal clinical signs, hyperalbinemia and intestinal histopathology in Yorkshire terrier dogs evaluated between 2002-2007 in which this information was available. Dogs that were proteinuric, had abnormal bile acids, or received glucocorticoids within two weeks prior to diagnosis were excluded from the study. Intestinal biopsies were interpreted according to standards for cytoarchitectural change and cellularity using the W.S.A.V.A. G.I. Histopathology Classification system.

30 dogs met the inclusion criteria (mean age 6.7 yrs, range 1–12 yrs; 20 spayed females, 8 neutered males, 2 intact males). The most common presenting complaints were diarrhea (n=20), vomiting (n=11) and abdominal distention (n=11). Most common physical abnormalities were ascites (n=15) and pleural effusion (n=14). Hyperalbinemia was often severe and ranged from 0.8–2.2 g/dL, mean 1.35 g/dL. Other abnormal laboratory results included hypogglobulinemia (n=14), hypomagnesemia (n=12), low serum creatinine (n=14), anemia (n=7) and thrombocytosis (n=7).

Small intestinal mucosal speckling was present in 2/4 dogs that had abdominal sonography performed. Histopathologic lesions commonly included lymphatic dilation (n=24) and crypt abscessation (n=10) with lamina proprial inflammation ranging from mild to severe (n=30). Clinical course of disease was variable and ranged from resolution of clinical signs with glucocorticoid therapy (n=12) to unresponsive disease (n=9) and peracute death resulting from thromboembolism (n=2).

Yorkshire terrier dogs with PLE can be severely affected with ascites and pleural effusion. Clinical outcomes are variable and prognosis therefore is guarded. Intestinal abnormalities in this disorder include lymphatic dilation, intestinal crypt abscessation, and variable increases in the cellularity of the lamina propria.

ABSTRACT #161
DOPPLER ULTRASOUND ANALYSIS OF GASTROINTESTINAL BLOOD FLOW FOR DIFFERENTIATING FOOD ALLERGIC FROM NON-FOOD ALLERGIC PRURITIC DOGS. J Hobbs, L Gaschen, S Merchant, F Gaschen. Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

Doppler ultrasound has been shown to be a non-invasive method of characterizing hemodynamic changes associated with food hypersensitivity in dogs with proven food allergies causing chronic enteropathy. The goal of this study was to identify whether or not dogs with cutaneous signs and documented food hypersensitivity also show changes in gastrointestinal hemodynamic responses in comparison to dogs with similar clinical signs but no food allergy.

Client-owned dogs with pruritis suspected of having a food allergy were included in this study. Transabdominal spectral Doppler analysis of the cranial mesenteric artery (CMA) was performed at time of initial presentation with the dog’s regular diet and following a 10 week long hypoallergenic dietary trial with IVD® Rabbit and Potato. The following parameters were recorded at 0, 20, 40, 60, and 90 minutes post-prandially: resistive index (RI), pulsatile index (PI), mean diastolic flow (MDV) and the systolic/diastolic ratio (S/D ratio).

Dogs were placed into either a food allergic (FA) or non-food allergic (NFA) group based on the dermatologic work up and response to the hypoallergenic diet. Dogs in the FA group were provoked with their original diet and re-examined at a third time point when clinical signs reoccurred. An ANOVA analysis of repeated measures was used to compare the Doppler parameters within groups between examinations and between groups at each examination.

Thirteen dogs were examined, 5 of which were confirmed to have skin disease due to food allergy. Eight dogs had pruritis due to other causes and did not respond to the dietary trial. This response to the hypoallergenic diet. Dogs in the FA group were provoked with their original diet and re-examined at a third time point when clinical signs reoccurred. An ANOVA analysis of repeated measures was used to compare the Doppler parameters within groups between examinations and between groups at each examination.

The co-administration of prednisone and ultralow-dose aspirin has been recommended for the management of various diseases, but the safety of this trial in combination in dogs has not been studied. The authors hypothesized that the gastrointestinal lesions associated with prednisone and ultralow-dose aspirin would be similar to those caused by prednisone alone, but both treatments would result in more severe lesions than placebo.

This was a randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled study involving eighteen healthy adult purpose-bred dogs divided into groups administered prednisone alone or prednisone with ultralow-dose aspirin on the gastro intestinal mucosa of healthy dogs. AH Graham. MS Leb. Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Blacksburg, VA.

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into three groups for 27 days of treatments: placebo, prednisone, and prednisone and ultralow-dose aspirin. Gastroduodenoscopy was performed prior to and days 5, 14, and 27 of treatment, and mucosal lesion scores assigned. Mucosal lesion scores were evaluated using a Kruskal-Wallis test. Clinical signs were compared using the Friedman’s Chi-square test (significance at p<0.05).

There were no significant differences in gastroduodenal lesion scores between groups at any time during the study, and there were no significant changes in gastroduodenal lesion scores over time within any group. Significantly more frequent diarrhea occurred in the prednisone and aspirin group during treatment, compared to baseline. No significant differences in clinical signs were found between any of the groups. Notably, although statistical significance was not reached, individual dogs in both the PN and PA group developed mucosal lesions consisting of hemorrhages (both), erosions (both), and a single small ulcer (PA), whereas the most severe lesions identified in the NN group were mucosal hemorrhages.

The concurrent use of prednisone and ultralow-dose aspirin did not increase the severity of gastroduodenal lesions compared to match either the presence or absence of pancreatitis. Co-administration of prednisone and ultralow-dose aspirin may increase the incidence of mild, self-limiting diarrhea in individual healthy dogs. The effect of this combination in older dogs with spontaneous disease was not determined from this study.

**ABSTRACT #163**

**SERUM TRIGLYCERIDE CONCENTRATIONS IN MINIATURE SCHNAUZERS WITH AND WITHOUT A HISTORY OF PANCREATITIS. PG Xenoulis, MD Levinski, JS Suchodolski, IM Steiner. Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.**

Miniature Schnauzers (MS) have been reported to be at increased risk for pancreatitis. One explanation for this might be the documented association of hypertriglyceridemia in this breed. Since severe hypertriglyceridemia has been described as risk factor for pancreatitis. An association between hypertriglyceridemia and pancreatitis has also been suggested for dogs, but a cause and effect relationship is less clear in this species. This is further complicated by the fact that hypertriglyceridemia can be the result rather than the cause of pancreatitis in some cases. The aim of this study was to compare serum triglyceride concentrations between MS with and without a history of pancreatitis.

Twenty-three MS with an initial diagnosis of pancreatitis and 44 age-matched healthy MS with no history of pancreatitis were included in this study. The diagnosis of pancreatitis was based on the presence of clinical signs associated with pancreatitis (e.g., vomiting, anorexia, abdominal pain) and a serum Spec cPL concentration >400 µL/L (the current cut-off value for pancreatitis). After recovery from the episode of pancreatitis, the owners of the dogs were asked to have a follow-up sample submitted. None of the 23 MS had any clinical signs of pancreatitis at the time the follow-up sample was collected, and none of the MS had any other known diseases that might affect lipid metabolism. Only the follow-up sample, which was obtained after clinical resolution of the initial episode of pancreatitis, was used for statistical analyses. This was done to exclude the possibility that hypertriglyceridemia in the initial sample had developed secondary to pancreatitis. Serum triglyceride concentrations were evaluated in the follow-up sample for all 23 MS and compared with those of the 44 age-matched healthy MS with no history of pancreatitis. Body weights were also compared between MS with and without a history of pancreatitis.

Follow-up samples from the 23 MS were collected within 2 to 41 weeks (median: 8.5 weeks) after the diagnosis of pancreatitis. There was no significant difference of the mean body weight of MS with and without a history of pancreatitis (p=0.438). The 23 MS with a history of pancreatitis, 18 (78.3%) had serum triglyceride concentrations above the reference range (odds ratio: 5.2; 95% confidence interval: 1.7-16.6; p=0.004). The median serum triglyceride concentration was significantly higher in MS with a history of pancreatitis (median: 555.0 mg/dL) than in MS with no history of pancreatitis (median: 83.5 mg/dL; p=0.006).

In conclusion, MS with a history of pancreatitis were significantly more likely to have hypertriglyceridemia than age-matched MS with no history of pancreatitis. These findings provide further evidence that hypertriglyceridemia may be a risk factor for pancreatitis in MS. Additional studies are needed to further clarify the role of hypertriglyceridemia in the development of pancreatitis in MS as well as other dog breeds.

**ABSTRACT #164**

**SERIAL EVALUATION OF CANINE PANCREATIC LIPASE (SPEC cPL(™)) IN DOGS WITH CLINICAL SIGNS OF PANCREATITIS. LM Prior MA Forman, J Shiroma, JE Robertson, RA Hostutler, CD Brown, J Buch, MedVet, Medical and Cancer Center for Pets, Worthington, OH. IDEXX Laboratories, West Sacramento, CA.**

Determining resolution of pancreatitis in dogs is currently based on a combination of improvement in clinical signs (e.g. vomiting, inappetence, diarrhea), examination findings (e.g. abdominal pain, fever), bloodwork parameters (e.g. neutrophilia, amylase, lipase, hyperbilirubinemia), and abdominal ultrasound. These findings are not specific to the pancreas. The Spec cPL assay is a quantitative measurement of pancreatic lipase and is currently used in the diagnosis of pancreatitis. The aim of this study was to determine if elevated Spec cPL values (>201 µg/L) decreased in dogs, as the clinical signs of pancreatitis (e.g. vomiting) resolved.

Seventy-one dogs were prospectively evaluated and categorized as Spec cPL 201–399 µg/L (Group 1), n=16 and ≥400 µg/L (Group 2), n=55. Fifty-nine dogs with Spec cPL >201 µg/L were retrospectively evaluated and utilized as a baseline control group. All dogs were treated by board-certified internists and evaluations included CBC, biochemical panel, Spec cPL and an abdominal ultrasound performed by a board-certified radiologist. Feces from dogs with Spec cPL ≥201 µg/L were evaluated, and Spec cPL tests (median 3 range 2-16) were performed during hospitalization and at recheck evaluations.

The median (range) age in Groups 1, 2 and was 8.9 (4.6–14.1), 9 (2.5–15.1), and 7 (1.4–15.6) years, respectively. The median (range) Spec cPL at presentation in Groups 1, 2 and was 306 (203–374), 661 (413–1000), and 37 (25–196) µg/L, respectively. Vomiting, reported at presentation, was present in Groups 1, 2, and 3 at 116 (69%), 37/55 (67%), and 49/59 (83%), respectively. In Groups 1 and 2, 9/11 (82%) and 30/37 (81%), respectively, had resolution of vomiting in a median (range) of 2 (1–83) and 2 (1–127) days, respectively. Median (range) Spec cPL in Groups 1 and 2, at resolution of vomiting was 28 (<30–528) and 521 (<30–1000) µg/L, respectively. At last recheck evaluation, median (range) Spec cPL in Groups 1 and 2 was 86 (<30–86) and 244 (<30–1000) µg/L, respectively. For dogs within resolution of vomiting in Groups 1 and median (range) of Spec cPL was 283 (77–489) and 364 (<30–1000) µg/L, respectively. Considering dogs with ≥3 samples, the Spec cPL did not decrease <200 µg/L, despite resolution of vomiting, in Group 1, 2/11 (18%) and in Group 2, 13/37 (35%).

In dogs with clinical signs of pancreatitis and elevated Spec cPL (>201 µg/L), a progressive decrease in Spec cPL was noted in dogs with resolution of vomiting and at final recheck evaluation. However, in a subpopulation of dogs the Spec cPL never returned to ≤200 µg/L, the established normal range, despite resolution of certain clinical signs of pancreatitis (vomiting).

**ABSTRACT #165**

**EVALUATION OF FELINE PANCREAS-SPECIFIC LIPOASE (SPEC fPL(™)) FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF FELINE PANCREATITIS. MA Forman, J Shiroma, PJ Armstrong, JE Robertson, and J Buch. MedVet, Medical and Cancer Center for Pets, Worthington, OH. IDEXX Laboratories. West Sacramento, CA, IDEXX Laboratories, Westbrook, ME.**

Pancreatitis appears to be a relatively common illness in cats but diagnosis is difficult due to vague clinical signs and clinicopathologic findings. Feline pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity (IPL) has been shown to be moderately sensitive for the diagnosis of pancreatitis; however test availability has been limited and sensitivity was established using a limited number of cats with pancreatitis. The Spec IPL test is a monoclonal ELISA which has recently become commercially available. The aims of this study were 1) to establish
the reference interval for the test in healthy cats and 2) to determine the sensitivity and specificity of the test in a large group of ill cats with and without pancreatitis.

Forty-one healthy cats and 141 cats with clinical signs consistent with pancreatitis were studied to determine the reference interval and the sensitivity and specificity of the Spec cPL test, respectively. The median ages of healthy and clinical cats were 5 (range 1–14) years and 11 (range 0.6–18) years, respectively. Based on a detailed history and examination, CBC, biochemistry panel, urinalysis, abdominal ultrasonography and clinical outcome, each clinical case was categorized by 2 board-certified internists, blinded to the Spec fPL results, into one of 6 categories (definitely not pancreatitis (DnP), n = 26; probably not pancreatitis (PrnP), n = 33; possibly not pancreatitis (PsP), n = 19; possibly pancreatitis (PsP), n = 29; probably pancreatitis (PrP), n = 25; and definitely pancreatitis (DP), n = 9). Individual Spec fPL data points (dots) and median values (line) are displayed in the table. Statistical significant difference from healthy cats is indicated (*, **).

The reference interval, determined from the central 95 percentile of results from healthy cats was 0.7–3.5 μg/L. A concentration ≥5.4 μg/L was determined to be consistent with pancreatitis, using the results to maximize sensitivity and specificity. With 5.4 μg/L as the diagnostic cut off, the sensitivity of the Spec fPL assay for feline pancreatitis (DP and PrP) was 79% and the specificity for cats characterized as PrnP and NP was 82%.

These findings support the use of the Spec fPL as a screening test for feline pancreatitis.

ABSTRACT #166
A MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL STUDY EVALUATING DIAGNOSTIC UTILITY OF SPEC cPL™ IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF ACUTE PANCREATITIS IN DOGS. K. McCord1, J. Davis1, F. Leyva1, P. J. Armstrong2, K. W. Simpson3, M. Rishniw4, M. A. Forman5, D. S. Biller1, Comparative Gastroenterology Society Members, D. Twedd1, 1Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO. 2University of Minnesota, Saint Paul, MN. 3Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 4MedVet Center for Pets, Worthington, OH. 5Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

Measurement of pancreas-specific lipase (PL) may aid the diagnosis of acute pancreatitis in dogs. This study evaluated the performance of a commercial immunoassay for canine PL (Spec cPL) in dogs with a clinical diagnosis of acute pancreatitis.

Cases with an initial differential diagnosis that included acute pancreatitis (APS), or did not include acute pancreatitis (CO), were solicited from Comparative Gastroenterology Society (CGS) members. For each dog the history, physical examination, laboratory findings (including total amylase and lipase), abdominal ultrasound and the clinical course were evaluated by a panel of 4 board-certified internists blinded to the results of the Spec cPL. A board-certified radiologist reviewed and graded each ultrasound image. Cases were categorized to one of five pre-defined groups (0–4): 0-not pancreatitis, 1-not primary pancreatitis, 2-possibly pancreatitis, 3-probably pancreatitis or 4-pancreatitis.

The 84 cases enrolled were categorized as follows (group, n): APS (n = 57), 0 (26), 1 (11), 2 (9), 3 (8) and 4 (3); CO (n = 27), 0 (25) and 1 (2). There was a high level of agreement in the assignment of cases to different groups by the evaluators (kappa 0.87). Spec cPL differed according to group (1-wayANOVA, P < 0.001) and was higher (P < 0.001) in dogs with suspected pancreatitis (groups 2, 3, 4) than those without suspicion of pancreatitis (groups 0APS, and 0CO), but not group 1 (P > 0.05) (Figure). Amylase and lipase activities did not differ between groups. Spec cPL sensitivity and specificity for cases with clinical score 0 (no pancreatitis), and 2,3,4 (pancreatitis), calculated using current cut off values of < 200 μg/L as negative and > 400 μg/L positive, yielded a 93% sensitivity and 78% specificity. The likelihood ratio of a negative test (0.029) was better than that for a positive test (1.3).

We conclude that Spec cPL is better able to discriminate dogs with suspected pancreatitis than amylase and lipase, and that dogs with a Spec cPL < 200 μg/L are unlikely to have clinical acute pancreatitis.

ABSTRACT #167
CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF INCREASED SERUM FELINE PANCREATIC LIPASE IMMUNOREACTIVITY CONCENTRATIONS IN CATS WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE. S. Bailey1, L. Benigni1, J. Eastwood1, O.A. Garden1, L. McMahon1, K. Smith1, J. M. Steiner2, J. S. Suchodolski2, K. Allenspach1. 1Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK, and 2Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of increased serum feline pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity concentrations (fPLI) in cats diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD); and to investigate the clinical significance and compare the clinical characteristics between cats with IBD with serum fPLI concentrations within the reference range (2.0–6.8 μg/L), within the questionable range (6.9–11.9 μg/L) and above the diagnostic cut off for pancreatitis (≥12 μg/L).

Medical records for 23 cats diagnosed with IBD and with serum fPLI concentrations available were retrospectively studied at the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. The cats were classified into three groups according to their serum fPLI concentrations.

Kruskal Wallis test and Fisher’s Exact test were used to analyze for any differences between the groups for continuous and categorical data, respectively. Of the 23 cats, 7 had a serum fPLI concentration within the reference range, 9 cats within the questionable range, and 7 cats above the diagnostic cut off for pancreatitis. The clinical outcome of cats with increased serum fPLI concentrations was not significantly different from cats with normal serum fPLI concentrations. No significant differences were identified between the three groups for age, serum ALT and ALP activities, feline IBD clinical disease activity index, pancreatic ultrasound findings, intestinal histopathology scores, treatment, or clinical response. However, cats with serum fPLI concentrations ≥12.0 μg/L had a significantly lower median serum albumin concentration (27.1 g/L) compared to cats with 400 μg/L positive, yielded a 93% sensitivity and 78% specificity. The likelihood ratio of a negative test (0.029) was better than that for a positive test (1.3).
ABSTRACT #168
SERUM D-LACTATE CONCENTRATIONS IN CATS WITH GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE. DP O'Brien1, RA Packer2, GE Moore2, CY Chang2, GA Zello1, S Abeysekara1, JM Naylor1,4, JM Steiner1, and JS Suchodolski2. 1University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. 2Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. 3University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan SK. 4Ross School of Veterinary Medicine, St Kitts. 5Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

The D-enantiomer of lactic acid is not normally found in any appreciable quantities in serum from mammals. However, recently, we found markedly increased serum D-lactate concentrations in two cats with enccepahlopathy and pancreatic and gastrointestinal disease, presumably due to an alteration of the gastrointestinal microbiota and bacterial production of D-lactate. The purpose of this study was to determine if serum D-lactate concentration is increased in cats with gastrointestinal disease and if those elevations correlate with specific neurologic or gastrointestinal findings.

Serum D- and L-lactate concentrations were measured by stereospecific high-pressure liquid chromatography using a 3-mm octadecylsilane-packed analytical column coated with N,N-dicyclohexyl-L-alanine as the chiral selector for the separation of lactic acid enantiomers. Serum samples from 30 normal cats were used as controls. Left-over serum samples from cats with abnormal gastrointestinal function test results, that were submitted to the GI Laboratory at Texas A&M University were randomly selected. Questionnaires were sent to veterinarians to survey for gastrointestinal and neurologic signs, and results of other laboratory tests. D-lactate and L-lactate concentrations were compared between normal cats and 100 cats with gastrointestinal disease and a completed questionnaire using a Wilcoxon rank sum test. Association of D-lactate concentration with tests of GI dysfunction and neurologic signs were evaluated with multiple regression and logistic regression analysis, respectively.

All 100 cats had a clinical history of gastrointestinal signs and/or abnormal gastrointestinal function test results. Only 3 cats had obvious neurological signs. D-lactate concentrations of cats with gastrointestinal disease (median and range: 0.41 and 0.01–8.33 mmol/L) were significantly higher than in healthy control cats (median and range: 0.22 and 0.05–0.87 mmol/L; P = 0.0069). L-lactate concentrations were not significantly different between the two groups. D-lactate concentrations were not significantly associated with serum concentrations of IPII, cobalamin, or folate or with the presence of neurologic abnormalities.

In this study, no association between D-lactate concentrations and neurologic signs were observed, although the number of cats with obvious neurologic signs may have been too small to detect such an association. The cat with the highest D-lactate concentration (8.33 mmol/L) was reported as depressed, listless and weak. Serum D-lactate concentrations were also not associated with other tests of GI function. We conclude that D-lactate concentrations are increased in cats with gastrointestinal disease, possibly due to disarrangements of the intestinal microbiota. These findings warrant further investigations into the role of alterations of the intestinal microbiota in patients with gastrointestinal disease.

ABSTRACT #169
ASSOCIATION OF SERUM COBALAMIN AND METHYL-MALONIC ACID CONCENTRATIONS IN DOGS. N Berghoff, KC Stupka, JS Suchodolski, JM Steiner. Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Cobalamin (Cb) is a co-factor for several enzymatic reactions in mammals, one of which leads to the conversion of methylmalonyl-coenzyme A (CoA) to succinyl-CoA. In human and veterinary patients with Cbl deficiency, the metabolite methylmalonic acid (MMA) accumulates and can thus be used as a marker for Cbl deficiency at the cellular level. The aims of this study were to calculate a reference range for MMA in dog serum and to determine the proportion of individuals with increased serum MMA concentrations in dogs with varying serum Cbl concentrations.

For determination of the MMA reference range, serum was collected from 43 healthy dogs. A total of 556 serum samples were obtained from submissions to the GI Lab. The samples were divided into 10 groups according to their serum Cbl concentration: <150, 150–250, 250–350, 350–450, 450–550, 550–650, 650–750, 750–850, 850–950, and >950 ng/L (n ≥40 for each group). Serum MMA was measured using an isotope-dilution GC/MS method. The reference range was calculated using the central 95th percentile. Groups were compared using a Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn's post tests. A χ²-test for trend was calculated to evaluate the association of serum Cbl and MMA concentrations. Statistical significance was set at p < 0.05.

The reference range for serum MMA was 414.7–1,192.5 nmol/L. Median and ranges for serum MMA concentrations for groups 1 through 10 were: 1,328.0 (492.0–24,795.0), 1,034.0 (469.1–3,003.0), 759.5 (378.9–4,064.0), 741.9 (397.2–2,447.0), 710.2 (405.0–1,396.0), 690.5 (398.6–1,733.0), 730.2 (391.7–1,807.0), 820.9 (332.0–1,523.0), 673.6 (343.1–1,765.0), and 733.0 (423.1–1,739.0) nmol/L, respectively. Median MMA concentrations were significantly different among the 10 groups of dogs (p < 0.0001). In dogs with Cbl <150 ng/L, median MMA concentration was significantly different from that of all other groups (p < 0.05 for all), except the “150–250” group. Median MMA concentration of the “150–250” group was significantly different from that of all other groups (p < 0.05 for all), except the “750–850” group. No significant differences were found among the remaining groups. Percentages of dogs with MMA concentrations above the upper limit of the reference range in groups 1 to 10 were 62.5%, 31.7%, 19.2%, 16.0%, 10.0%, 14.3%, 6.0%, 9.6%, 10.2%, and 12.5%, respectively. The χ²-test for trend was significant (p < 0.0001).

These data show that a large percentage of dogs with Cbl concentrations below the lower limit of the reference range (252–908 ng/L) have an increased serum MMA concentration. A significant trend for an increasing serum MMA concentration with a decreasing serum Cbl concentration was observed. Several dogs with Cbl of up to 450 ng/L had increased MMA concentrations, suggesting that a portion of dogs with Cbl concentrations in the low-normal range have evidence of Cbl deficiency. This may indicate a need to supplement these dogs with Cbl, despite a serum Cbl concentration within the reference range. It remains to be determined whether some dogs with high-normal Cbl concentrations have an increased serum MMA concentration.

ABSTRACT #170
COMPARISON OF GASTROINTESTINAL MOTILITY IN DOGS TREATED WITH METOCLOPRAMIDE, CISAPRIDE, ERYTHROMYCIN OR MAROPRANT USING THE SMARTPILL™. TW Cosgrove1, K Dame2, J Civil2, D Holmberg3, D Sacilowski3 and DC Twedt1. 1Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, 2Pfizer Animal Health, Kalamazoo, MI, 3SmartPill Corporation, Buffalo, NY.

The effects of the drugs metoclopramide, cisapride, erythromycin and maroprant on gastrointestinal (GI) motility in the dog are poorly described. The aim of this study was to determine the effect of these drugs on motility in normal dogs using the SmartPill™. 10 dogs were studied. The SmartPill™ is a noninvasive wireless sensor capsule that is given orally and transmits data on pressures, transit time, luminal pH and temperature as it passes through the stomach, small and large bowel. This instrumentation has been validated to evaluate GI function in humans. A computer software displays the data and calculates the integral under the pressure curve, which is the area under the curve (AUC) and a motility index (MI = AUC/time).

Ten normal adult dogs were used in a randomized, crossover, blinded design. All dogs received metoclopramide 0.5 mg/kg SQ TID, cisapride 0.5 mg/kg PO TID, erythromycin 1 mg/kg PO TID, maroprant 1 mg/kg SID and a saline placebo 1 ml/dog SQ SID. Drugs were administered daily for three days to obtain a steady
state and on day four the SmartPill™ was administered following a standard meal. All medications were continued until the SmartPill™ left the GI tract. There was at least 7-day washout period between treatments. Data was compared using a linear mixed model with 95% confidence interval. Significance was p < 0.05.

The transit times for each treatment had large individual variation within and between dogs. Gastric and large bowel parameters were not significantly different between drugs and placebo. Small bowel mean pressures and MI values were higher for the cisapride treatment group when compared to control (p < 0.05). The AUC and MI values for small bowel were higher for maropitant when compared to control (p < 0.05).

Using the SmartPill™ technology there were no major differences in gastrointestinal motility measurements between metoclopramide, cisapride, erythromycin, maropitant and placebo. However, both cisapride and maropitant may decrease the contraction pressure pattern in the small bowel without altering the transit time.

**ABSTRACT #171**

**VARIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH REPEATED MEASUREMENTS OF GASTRIC EMPTYING USING THE SMARTPILL™ PILL GLIDE AND SCINTIGRAPHY IN DOGS.**

School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

This study evaluated and compared the repeatability of measurements of gastric emptying (GE) using the SmartPill pH probe™ wireless capsule (SP) and scintigraphy in healthy dogs.

Six healthy adult dogs weighing 21.5 ± 1.8 kg were used. A 99mTc-methoxybenzyl iodide (MBI) label was used after per os administration of the SP. Serial abdominal images were acquired for 270 minutes. A dedicated remote receiver was used for data collection from the SP until SP was expelled in the feces. Each dog was examined 3 times 1 to 2 weeks apart with the above procedure.

The mean gastric emptying half-times measured by scintigraphy (T1/2-GEs) was 89 ± 14 minutes. The mean gastric emptying times measured by the SP (GET-SP) for each dog ranged from 385.3 to 669.7 minutes. The mean coefficient of variation (CV) was 11.8% for T1/2-GEs and 7.8% for GET-SP. The intra-class correlation coefficient was 69% for T1/2-GEs and 71% for GET-SP. A nested analysis of covariance showed that changes in scintigraphy do not cause significant variation in GET-SP, and GET-SP and scintigraphy are alike, suggesting that both methods are comparable for GE evaluation.

Intra-individual variability of GE in healthy dogs is similar to values reported in people. These variations must be considered in interpreting individual test results. Repeatability of SP-measurements is at least as good as that of scintigraphy, the current gold standard for evaluation of GE. SP is a valuable, non-radioactive, out-patient alternative to scintigraphy for assessment of GE in dogs.

**ABSTRACT #172**

**THE ESOPHAGEAL TRANSIT TIME OF TABLETS OR CAPSULES IN CATS FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATION WITH FLAVOR® PILL GLIDE OR PILL DELIVERY TREATS.**

MacPhail CM, Bennett AD, Gibbons DS, Lappin MR.
Colorado State University, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Fort Collins, CO.

Retention of tablets or capsules in the feline esophagus is known to be associated with local esophagitis and subsequent esophageal stricture formation. In previous work, tablets or capsules administered without water were found to be commonly lodged in the esophagus for greater than 5 minutes. Passage into the stomach can be facilitated by following dry-pilling with a 6 ml oral bolus of water or by coating medications with butter. The objective of this study was to evaluate the esophageal passage of tablets and capsules when administered with either a pill delivery treat (Pill Pockets®) or a one-step pill gun with flavored liquid (Flavor® Pill Glide).

Eight normal cats were enrolled in the study. Physical examination, serum biochemistry profile, and CBC were performed to ensure good health. Barium sulfate tablets, sized to 4 x 2 mm, and barium sulfate-filled #4 gel capsules were used in this study. Cats were placed in a specially designed plexiglass box and fluoroscopy was used to evaluate tablet or capsule passage from 0 to 30 seconds, at 60, 90, and 120 seconds, and then at one-minute intervals until the tablet or capsule was in the stomach. Four separate medication administrations were performed in each cat on different days: tablets with pill delivery treat (T-PP), tablets with Flavoxate® pill glide (T-FG), capsules with pill delivery treats (C-PP), and capsules with Flavoxate® pill glide (C-FG).

The percentage of successful passages into the stomach at 30 sec- onds was 62.5% for T-PP, 75% for C-PP, and 100% for C-FG. The percentage of successful passage at 60 seconds was 75% for T-PP, 87.5% for T-FG, 100% for C-PP, and 100% for C-FG. The average transit time was 59.3 sec for T-PP, 36.1 sec for T-FG, 24.5 sec for C-PP, and 15.9 sec for C-FG. The maximal time in the esophagus was 240 sec, 90 sec, 60 sec, and 29 sec for T-PP, T-FG, C-PP, and C-FG, respectively.

The results of this study demonstrate that either pill delivery method is acceptable for successful passage of tablets or capsules into the stomach of cats.

**ABSTRACT #173**

**GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE IN DOGS WITH EXCESSIVE LICKING OF SURFACES.**

V. Becuwe, M. C. Belanger, D. Frank.
J. Parent, P. Hélice. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC, Canada.

Excessive licking of surfaces (ELS) is often considered as an obsessive-compulsive disorder and treated with antidepressants. However, dogs with ELS respond poorly to this therapy. We hypothesized that ELS was a manifestation of nausea or discomfort, resulting from an underlying gastrointestinal (GI) disorder. The aims of the study were to 1) describe the ELS behavior, 2) perform a thorough clinical evaluation of the digestive system of dogs presented with ELS and 3) evaluate the outcome of this behavior after appropriate treatment of the underlying GI disorder.

Twenty dogs with ELS (L group) were divided in 2 subgroups of 10 dogs: L0 without and LD with digestive signs such as vomiting and diarrheea. Ten healthy dogs were assigned to a control group (C). Behavioral, physical and neurological exams were performed, prior to a complete evaluation of the GI system (CBC, serum biochemical profile, urinalysis, measurement of total serum bile acids and canine specific pancreatic lipase immunoactivity, fecal flotation by zinc sulfate, fecal culture, abdominal ultrasonography and upper GI endoscopy with biopsies). Based on results, a board certified internist recommended an appropriate treatment. Dogs were monitored for a subsequent 90 days during which the licking behavior was recorded.

The underlying GI disorders found in the L group included eosinophilic infiltration, lymphoplasmacytic infiltration, delayed gastric emptying, irritable bowel syndrome, chronic pancreatitis, gastric foreign body, giardiasis. Complete resolution of ELS was observed in 9/18 dogs. At day 60, the LD dogs had a better outcome for ELS improvement than the L0 dogs (P < 0.02). There was no significant difference in behavior of L dogs and C dogs.

GI disorders should therefore be considered in the differential diagnosis of excessive licking of surfaces in dogs.

Previously presented at ECVIM in Belgium, September 2008.

**ABSTRACT #174**

**HIGH RESOLUTION MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING OF THE CANINE BRAIN AT 7 TESLA: A COMPARISON STUDY WITH 0.2 AND 1.5 TESLA.**

B.T. Kang1, KJ Ko2, DP Jang3, JY Han4, CY Lim5, DI Jung6, JH Yoo1, C Park2, YB Kim7, EJ Woo8, ZH Cho9, HM Park2, EJ Lappin MR, Colorado State University, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Fort Collins, CO.

The purpose of this study was to describe the relevant canine brain structures using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at 7T. T2-weighted imaging was performed on five healthy laboratory beagle dogs using 0.2, 1.5 and 7T clinical scanners. The anatomic
features were subjectively evaluated by direct comparison of the images obtained from the three different magnetic fields. The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and contrast-to-noise ratio (CNR) were calculated and compared between 1.5 and 7T. The T2-weighted images at 7T were of poorer and lower CNR quality than at 1.5T. The SNR and CNR of the images at 7T were significantly increased up to 218% and 615% compared to the 1.5T images. If the image sequences could be optimized, 7T clinical MRI could provide a good experimental and diagnostic tool for the evaluation of canine brain disorders.

ABSTRACT #175
CLINICAL SIGNS, MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING FINDINGS AND SURVIVAL IN DOGS WITH INTRACRANIAL MENINGIOMAS AND GLIAL CELL TUMOURS. A de Stefani1, A Sparkes1, L S Garosi2, L De Risio3, F J Llambres3, SR Platt1, 1Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, Suffolk, UK. 2Davies Veterinary Specialists, Higham Gobion, UK. 3Department of Small Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

The aims of our study were to retrospectively assess possible associations between clinical signs, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) findings and survival in dogs with confirmed meningiomas and glial cell tumours. Our medical database was searched for dogs with intracranial neoplasia (1993–2004). Cases of meningioma (n = 31) or glial cell tumour (n = 27) with complete medical history, MRI and follow-up until time of death were included. Data were analysed using relevant non-parametric tests (chi-squared, Fishers Exact, Mann-Whitney, Spearman Rank, and Log-Rank Test). For all tests, significance was set at P < 0.05.

Fifty-eight dogs satisfied the inclusion criteria. Association among clinical signs (presence of seizure activity, altered mentation, blindness and compulsive gait) and tumour site, tumour volume (tumour to total brain volume ratio) and MRI findings (peritumoural oedema, intra-tumoural haemorrhage and peritumoural shift) were assessed. In addition, associations between tumour type and, tumour site, volume and MRI findings were evaluated. The influence of tumour site, tumour volume and tumour type on survival time was investigated. The tumour volume was significantly higher (P = 0.0006) for gliomas (mean 5.3%) than meningiomas (mean 2.5%). There was no significant difference in the prevalence of oedema or parenchymal shift between the tumour types, but gliomas were significantly (P < 0.03) more likely to have intratumoural haemorrhage (30% vs 6%). There was a significant (P = 0.002) difference in anatomical distribution between meningiomas (most common in parietal and olfactory lobes, 58%) and gliomas (most common in frontal and temporal lobes, 78%). Tumour site significantly affected the likelihood of seizure activity being observed (P = 0.004) or of a compulsive gait being present (P = 0.04), but did not significantly affect the likelihood of altered mentation or visual deficits. Survival analysis was performed on 35 dogs that underwent surgery followed by radiation therapy. The median survival time from time of diagnosis of dogs with gliomas (327d) was not significantly different (P = 0.26) from that of the dogs with meningiomas (486d) and no association between tumour site and survival (P = 0.6) or between tumour volume and survival (P = 0.14) was identified.

Association between tumour volume, MRI findings and anatomical distribution were identified in this study; however these variables did not influence survival in a subpopulation of dogs.

ABSTRACT #176
ORAL HYDROXYUREA THERAPY FOR DOGS WITH SUSPECTED INTRACRANIAL MENINGIOMA: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY (2004–2009). MA Cautela1, CW Dewey1, S Cerda-Gonzalez2, DJ Fletcher1, G Barone2. 1Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY; 2Long Island Veterinary Specialists, Plainview, NY.

Meningioma is the most common canine brain tumor and it can be both difficult and expensive to treat. Supportive therapy typically consists of oral glucocorticoid (GC) therapy and anti-seizure drugs. Survival times with supportive therapy are variable, but are typically between 1 and 4 mos. Standard modalities for definitive treatment of canine intracranial meningioma include surgical resection, megavoltage irradiation, or a combination of these options. Despite improved survival times with definitive therapies, owners often decide against these treatments due to both risk factors and cost. Hydroxyurea (HU) is an oral chemotherapeutic drug used with some success in human meningioma treatment. We have used oral HU in dogs (20 mg/kg SID) with suspected and confirmed meningiomas for several yrs. HU is inexpensive and has minimal adverse effects. Our clinical impression is that dogs treated with HU live longer than those treated with GC alone. The purpose of this investigation was to compare survival times between dogs with MRL-diagnosed intracranial meningioma treated with HU and GC and those treated with GC alone via a retrospective cohort study. Case record inclusion was restricted to dogs from our 2 hospitals that had not received either surgical or radiation therapy. Diagnosis of intracranial meningioma was based on MRI interpretation by a board-certified radiologist. Data derived from each record included signalment, clinical signs, mass location, and survival time from diagnosis. 43 records were identified, 33 HU/GC dogs and 10 GC dogs. Survival times were estimated for each group using the Kaplan-Meier product limit method and compared using the log-rank test (p < 0.05). A hazard ratio was also calculated. Survival was significantly longer in the HU/GC group (p = 0.025) with these dogs living 2.97 times longer than dogs in the GC group (95% CI 1.15–7.60). At the time of data analysis, the median survival times for HU/GC and GC groups were 28 wks and 14 wks, respectively. 8 dogs (24%) were still alive in the HU/GC group and none in the GC group.

In this study, oral HU use in dogs with suspected intracranial meningioma was associated with longer survival times than those previously reported for dogs treated with GC alone and significantly increased survival likelihood compared with the cohort GC-only group. Our results support the use of oral HU for dogs with intracranial meningioma.

ABSTRACT #177
IMMUNE CELL INFILTRATION INTO CANINE MENINGIOMAS. CL Mariani, T Davis, NJ Olby. North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

Meningiomas are the most common intracranial tumor in dogs. However, very little is known about the immune response to brain tumors in this species. Immune responses against tumor tissue may be beneficial for the host, resulting in delayed tumor growth or regression. Conversely, certain immune cell populations such as regulatory T cells (Tregs), may inhibit anti-tumor immune responses, facilitating tumor growth and progression. The immune system may also influence the expression of certain molecules contributing to tumor cell invasion, such as matrix metalloproteinas. Therefore, analysis of immune cell populations in tumor biopsy samples may provide useful prognostic information. In addition, the current therapy for canine meningiomas is inadequate, and novel treatments such as immunotherapy are needed to improve outcomes. Before exploring immunotherapeutic options, the populations of immune cells present in meningiomas must be characterized, which is the purpose of the current study.

Sections of meningioma tissue were obtained from archival formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded blocks. Immunohistochemical evaluation of CD3 (T cells), CD79a (B cells), FoxP3 (Tregs), CD18 (macroglobins), CD11d (dendritic cells), toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) and TLR9 was performed. Consistent populations of CD3+ T cells and CD11d+ cells were identified within and surrounding tumor tissue. In contrast, B cells and Tregs were rarely identified, although some samples showed clusters of positive cells. TLR4 and TLR9 positive cells were also noted. Further work to correlate these cell populations with outcome is underway. These observations may form the basis for intervention with immunostimulatory compounds such as TLR agonists.
ABSTRACT #178 
FLUORODEOXYGLUCOSE POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY AND MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING FINDINGS OF NON-SUPPURATIVE MENINGOENCEPHALITIS IN SEVEN DOGS. B.T Kang1, DP Jang2, CY Lim1, SH Gu1, DJ Jung1, JH Yoo1, C Park1, YB Kim2, EJ Woo2, ZH Cho2, HM Park1. 1Konkuk University College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul, South Korea. 2Gachon University of Medicine and Science, Neuroscience Research Institute, Incheon, South Korea. 3Gyeongsang National University College of Veterinary Medicine, Jinju, South Korea. 4University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA. 5Kyung Hee University Department of Biomedical Engineering, Yongin, South Korea.

The purpose of this study was to characterize the [18F]-2-deoxy-2-fluoro-D-glucose positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) findings of encephalitis in dogs and to assess the role of the FDG-PET in the diagnosis of meningoencephalitis. The medical records, magnetic resonance (MR) and FDG-PET images of five dogs with necrotizing meningoencephalitis (NME), one dog with granulomatous meningoencephalitis (GME) and one dog with meningoencephalitis of unknown etiology (MUE) were reviewed. The T2-weighted images (WI) and fluid attenuated inversion recovery (FLAIR) images were characterized by hyperintensity, whereas the signal intensity of the lesions in the T1WI images was variable. The metabolic changes in the brain FDG-PET corresponded well to the hyper- and hypointense lesions seen on the MR imaging. Glucose hypometabolism was identified in the NME, whereas hypermetabolism was noted in the GME. FDG-PET aided in the diagnosis of meningoencephalitis when the metabolic data was combined with clinical and MR findings. FDG-PET cannot be used alone to diagnose meningoencephalitis.

ABSTRACT #179 
STEREO RESPONSIVE MENINGITIS-ARTERITIS TREATMENT WITH THREE POTENTIAL DIFFERENT PROTOCOLS: CLINICAL SIGNS, LABORATORY AND LONG TERM FOLLOW UP IN 48 DOGS. A Negrin1, GB Cherubini2, HA Vok5, L Guitero1, S Anor1. Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain. 2Dick White Referrals, Newmarket, UK. 3The Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK.

The aims of this study were to describe the clinical signs, laboratory and follow up results, in particular the presence of pareses/ataxia and focal neurological signs, in 48 dogs affected by stereotaxic responsive meningitis-arteritis (SRMA) and treated with three different therapeutic protocols (Prednisolone, Prednisolone and Cytosine Arabinoside, Cilosporine and Cytosine Arabinoside). In addition, the association between number of relapses and drug protocols (dose and duration), number of relapses and outcome, and side effects and survival were investigated. A retrospective search was performed for dogs fulfilling the following criteria: presence of cervical/diffuse spinal pain, diagnosis of aseptic suppurative meningitis based on neurological examination, CSF analysis, serum and CSF negative PCR results for Toxoplasma gondii, Neospora caninum, Ehrlichia canis and Canine Distemper virus, peripheral blood leukocytosis, normal spinal radiographs and complete/partial resolution of clinical signs with immunosuppressive therapy. The same type and dose of each drug were used in all protocols. Long term follow up was obtained up to December 2008. A total of 46 dogs were included in the study. Boxers were the most prevalent breed (12), other breeds were not overrepresented. Mean age of onset of neurological signs was 14 months (4–84 months) and mean duration was 13 days (2–77 days). Clinical signs at presentation were: cervical pain (85%), pyrexia (73%), depression (56%), ataxia and thoracic limb paresis (11%). On CSF analysis, median WBC count was 355/mL (31–8200/mL). Dogs with multifocal spinal pain had a significant higher median WBC count than dogs with cervical pain only, while presence of paresis/ataxia was not statistically correlated with WBC count in CSF. Treatment protocols included: Prednisolone (Pred) (38 dogs), Pred and Cytosine Arabinoside (CA) (5 dogs) and Cilosporine (Cyclo) and CA (5 dogs). Remission of clinical signs was obtained in all cases at 1.5 months after treatment initiation, with a mean duration of 7.8 months. Eighty one percent (39/48) of cases were still alive and median life span since diagnosis was 16.7 months (8–83). Relapses of neurological signs were observed in 16/36 (44%) dogs treated with Pred, most of them (63%) 1–5 months after treatment initiation. All 5 dogs treated with Cyclo-CA relapsed 1 month after treatment initiation, while none of the 5 dogs receiving Pred and CA had relapses during treatment. This study suggests that slower tapering of Pred alone may be more effective in avoiding relapses; moreover, the combination of Pred+CA could be a promising alternative as it seems to be effective to prevent from relapses and to decrease side effects, as well as to ensure good survival rates.

ABSTRACT #180 
THREE-DIMENSIONAL TIME-OF-FLIGHT MAGNETIC RESONANCE ANGIOGRAPHY OF INTRACRANIAL VESSELS IN A CANINE MODEL OF ISCHEMIC STROKE WITH PERMANENT MIDDLE CEREBRAL ARTERY OCCLUSION. RJ Kang1, DJ Jung2, SH Gu1, CY Lim1, DJ Jung1, JH Yoo1, C Park1, YB Kim2, EJ Woo2, ZH Cho2, HM Park1. 1Konkuk University College of Veterinary Medicine, Seoul, South Korea. 2Gachon University of Medicine and Science, Neuroscience Research Institute, Incheon, South Korea. 3Gyeongsang National University College of Veterinary Medicine, Jinju, South Korea. 4University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA. 5Kyung Hee University Department of Biomedical Engineering, Yongin, South Korea.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the potential efficacy of 3-dimensional time-of-flight magnetic resonance angiography (TOF-MRA) to validate canine ischemic stroke model. Ischemic stroke was induced by permanent middle cerebral artery occlusion (MCAO) in five healthy beagle dogs. T2 turbo spin echo images and TOF-MRA were serially obtained three times with a 1.5-tesla magnetic resonance system: before, and 3 and 10 days after the MCAO. TOF-MRA of the dogs showed the main cerebral arteries and their branches. In three dogs, angiograms of the brain obtained at 3 days after the MCAO showed complete occlusion of the MCA; in addition, T2 hyperintensity was found unilaterally in the striatocapsular and cerebral cortex lesions. However, partial occlusion of the proximal part of the MCA was identified in the other two dogs, with T2 hyperintensity found only in the striatocapsular lesions. Because improvement of the ischemic lesions was observed in all dogs, without repercussion of the occluded vessels, recruitment of blood flow through collateral vessels was suggested. The occluded vessels were confirmed at necropsy. The results of this study demonstrate the potential of TOF-MRA to provide a detailed description of intracranial arteries and aid in the diagnosis of flow impairment in canine ischemic stroke.

ABSTRACT #181 
PREVALENCE OF CEREBRAL MICROBLEEDS IN AGED DOGS. D Insua1, ML Suarez2, G Santamarina1, A Gonzalez1, M Sarasa1, P Pesini1, S.L. Zaragoza, Spain. 1Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Santiago, Lugo, Spain.

Cerebral microbleeds are foci lesions that can be visualized on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Histo pathological analysis shows that these are hemosiderin deposits from red blood cells that presumably have leaked out of small brain vessels. Little is known on microbleed prevalence, risk factors, and clinical correlates in the general population. Recent studies with gradient-echo T(2)* MRI technique to detect hemosiderin components in the brain have reported that latent microbleeds are more frequent in Alzheimer Disease (AD) patients than in normal controls. Furthermore, histopathological studies have found that senile plaques are sites of pathological studies have found that senile plaques are sites of 

We have used the iron Perls staining to study the appearance and extension of microhaemorrhages in the brain of young (n=6), aged dogs without cortical amyloid deposits (n=7) and aged dogs with
cortical amyloid deposits (n=7). Five animals in this last group were
diagnosed with canine counterpart of AD characterized by cogni-
tive impairment, cortical amyloid deposits and neuronal loss. All
the brains were obtained by necropsies carried out in our VTH with
the explicit consent of the owners.

Extensive hemosiderin deposits were found in all the aged ani-
mal irrespective whether they did present or not cortical amyloid
pathology. These deposits were intensely stained and particularly
dense around the fiber tract of the internal capsule, the globus pal-
idum and the olfactory tuberacle. The caudate nucleus was also
considerably affected whereas the putamen used to be spared. Less
dense deposits spread along the diagonal band, the septum, anterior
commissure, and throughout the subcortical white matter. No ap-
preciable hemesiderin deposits were seen in the cortical grey matter.
A huge number of hemosiderin containing phagocytic microglia
was seen within the stained areas. Furthermore hemosiderins de-
posits, although lighter and smaller, were found in the same brain
regions of two young dogs.

These results showed that microbleeds have a great prevalence in
the dog. In addition they do not give support to the existence of a
mechanistic relation between this lesion and the presence of cortical
amyloid-β pathology.

ABSTRACT #182
PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS BETWEEN COX-2 INHIBI-
TOR ADMINISTRATION AND ACUTE CEREBROVASCULAR
DISEASE IN DOGS.
FA Wininger, RS Bagley, AV Chen
1University of Georgia College of Veterinarian Medicine, Athens, GA. 2Animal Health Trust,
Pullman, WA.

Reasons for the increased recognition of acute cerebrovascular
disease (ACVD) in dogs are currently being evaluated. ACVD in
humans have been associated with the theoretical hypertensive, pro-
 thrombotic effect of new generation NSAIDs. This purpose of this
study was test the hypothesis that the increased use of cyclooxy-
genase-2 inhibitor drugs in dogs may correlate with ACVDs.

A retrospective study of dogs with ACVD was performed to
determine if a relationship with NSAID administration existed.
67 dogs met the inclusion criteria of a presumptive ACVD diagnosis
based on clinical findings, cerebrospinal fluid cytology and MRI
findings. All dogs had a minimum of one blood pressure measure-
ment and a urinalysis. 33 of the 67 dogs had fibrin split products
and D-dimers measured in serum. An age and breed matched
cohort of an additional 67 dogs presenting for intracranial disease
was used as a control population. To be included in the NSAID
group, drug administration was within a year of presentation. Data
was analyzed using chi-squared analysis. 4 of 67 dogs with ACVD
had a NSAID administered within 5 days of presentation compared
to 7 of 67 in the non-ACVD group (chi-square=0.973, p-value=
0.324). The type, frequency and duration of NSAID administration
were highly variable. From the data evaluated no other risk factors
have currently been identified. Based on this preliminary informa-
tion, it is difficult at this time to determine a significant association
between ACVD and the administration of COX-2 specific NSAIDs
in dogs.

ABSTRACT #183
MULTIPLEX ANALYSIS OF CYTOKINES IN THE
CEREBROSPINAL FLUID OF DOGS AFTER STROKE:
R Barber1, S Platt1, J Barber1, L De Riso2, J Eagleson1, M Kent1,
MK Claiborne1, S Schatzberg1
1University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, Athens, GA. 2Animal Health Trust,
Newmarket, England.

Inflammation contributes to brain injury following human and
animal strokes, and elevated inflammatory cytokines in CSF
have been associated with clinical deterioration. As an initial charac-
terization, pro- and anti-inflammatory CSF cytokines/chemokines
were evaluated in dogs with stroke.

Cerebrospinal fluid was collected from 10 healthy beagles with
normal brain MRI and 18 various dog breeds with clinical signs and
MRI consistent with cerebrovascular infarction. Cerebrospinal fluid
was collected in glass or polypropylene tubes, immediately frozen
and stored at -80°C until use. Cerebrospinal fluid was evaluated
with a canine-specific multiplex immunoassay for GM-CSF, IFN-γ,
IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, IL-7, IL-8, IL-10, IL-15, IL-18, IFN-inducible
protein (IP)-10, keratinocyte chemoattractant (KC), monocyte
chemotactic protein (MCP)-1 and TNF-α (Millipore) using a Luminex 200 instrument.

GM-CSF, IFN-γ, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, IL-15, IL-18, IP-10 and
TNF-α were not detected in the majority of dogs, however KC
and MCP-1 concentrations were elevated significantly (p<0.001
and p<0.0001, respectively) in stroke dogs compared to normal dogs.

Among stroke dogs, cytokine levels were not significantly changed
by administration of anti-inflammatory medications (within two
weeks of CSF collection) or by time of CSF collection after infarc-
tion. KC elevations occurred in stroke dogs compared to normal
dogs when CSF was collected within 48 hours of stroke (p<0.05)
or greater than five days after stroke (p<0.01). IL-2 and IL-4 levels
were higher in CSF collected in polypropylene versus glass tubes in
stroke dogs (p<0.005 and p<0.05, respectively).

While additional inflammatory mediators in canine stroke re-
quire evaluation, this preliminary analysis identified elevation of the
chemokines KC and MCP-1 in stroke dogs consistent with post-in-
fect inflammation.

ABSTRACT #184
VALIDATION OF R&D SYSTEMS KITS TO DETECT CYTO-
KINE LEVELS IN CANINE CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID:
R Boggs, PM Harms, P Parks3, M Passage3, JK Jens2, E M
Snella2, K Kline3, CA Petersen2, PI Dickson4, Dierenfeld1, PM Boggiatto2, J Parkes3, M Passage4, JK Jens2,
1Departments of Animal Science, Veterinary Pathology,
2Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Iowa State University, Ames, IA;
3Department of Pediatrics, LA Biomed at Harbor-UCLA,
4Department of Pediatrics, LA Biomed at Harbor-UCLA,
Torrance, CA.

Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) type I and type IIIB are lysosomal
storage diseases caused by deficiency of lysosomal enzymes and
subsequent lysosomal accumulation of dermatan and heparan sul-
fates (MPS I) and heparan sulfate (MPS IIIB). The phenotypes
vary, although both forms are neuropathic in humans. Spontaneous
canine models exist and have been critical in developing therapies
for the corresponding human disease. There is interest in minimally
invasive methods and techniques to monitor response to therapy
that relies on authentic biomarkers and which can help to document
er response to protein or gene therapy based treatments. Non-spe-
cific immune activation in the CNS is also hypothesized to play role
in the pathology of these conditions. To investigate if CSF could be
used as a source of biomarkers, we evaluated normal and MPS I and
IIIB affected dog samples. Additionally, to confirm lack of immune
response, we also assessed samples of animals treated as part of a
previously reported intravenous and intrathecal recombinant enzyme
therapy for MPS I, in which animals showed tolerance as a result of a enzyme replacement protocol begun during the neo-
natal period.

ELISA Quantikine® IFNγ, IL-10, and DuoSet® IL-12/IL-23
p40 kits (R&D Systems) were validated for CSF by spiking CSF
samples with serial dilutions of the standard, resulting in 90-95% of
the spiked samples consisting of CSF. All spiked CSF samples
showed expected values when assayed. CSF samples of normal,
MPS IIIB affected, MPS I affected, and MPS I treated dogs were
then evaluated using these validated kits. These samples were also
assayed with TNF-α, a kit previously validated for canine CSF.

Cytokine levels for all samples were below the level of detection
for TNF-α, IFNγ, and IL-10. Efforts were made to extend the standard
curve to include lower values. However this was unsuccessful.
Slightly elevated levels were seen in 2 of 23 animals tested using the
IL-12/IL-23 p40; values ranged from 45 to 85 pg/ml, slightly above
the minimum detectible level of 31.25 pg/ml. The IL-12/IL-23 p40
positive CSF samples derived from a normal untreated dog and an
MPS I enzyme treated dog, so no trend as to IL-12 levels between
the various groups could be documented. The treated dog received
quarterly intrathecal injections of rHIDU, and showed elevated lev-
els of 85, 81, and 45 pg/ml over the first fifteen months of treatment,
though the levels decreased below the limit of detection by the 18th
month.

Validation of these kits for canine CSF will aid future research to
determine immune response in the nervous system. The kits are lim-
ited to detecting elevated levels of cytokines in CSF. Normal dog
CSF cytokine levels are absent or below the limit of detection with
these assays. Although the levels for this particular study were not
ABSTRACT #185
MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING FINDINGS IN 60 DOGS WITH CERVICAL SPONDYLOMYELOPATHY. Ronaldo C. da Costa1, Joane Parent1. 1College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. 2Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal, St-Hyacinthe, QC.

Medical and radiological records of dogs having cervical spondylomyelopathy (CSM) were searched between 2003 and 2006. Inclusion criteria was a definitive diagnosis of CSM achieved by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) in large or giant breed dogs with clinical signs of cervical spinal disease. Our goal was to report the frequency of spinal changes seen on MRI of CSM cases.

Sixty dogs met the inclusion criteria. Forty three (71.7%) were large breed dogs and 17 (28.3%) were giant breed dogs. Thirty one of the 43 large dogs were Doberman pinchers. Their median age was 6.5 years (mean 6.8) with 18 males and 13 females. The 12 large dogs were German Shepherds, 2 Dobermans, 3 mixed breed dogs, a Boxer, a German shepherd and 1 Pit Bull. Their median age was 9 years (mean 8.7) with 8 males and 4 females. Among the giant dogs, 9 were Great Danes, 3 Bernese mountain dogs, 2 Rottweilers, 1 Irish Wolfhound, 1 Mastiff and 1 Swiss Mountain dog. Their median age was 2.8 years (mean 3.6) with 14 males and 3 females.

MRI findings in Dobermans revealed that 15 dogs had a single site of spinal cord compression while 15 dogs had 2 or more compressive sites (1 dog had only intervertebral foraminal stenosis). The main compression was located at C6-7 in 15 dogs, C5-6 in 14 dogs, and C4-5 in 1 dog. The compression was caused solely by intervertebral disk protrusion in 20 dogs, disk protrusion and ligament hypertrophy in 5 dogs, disk protrusion and osseous compressions (facet arthritis or malformation) in 3 dogs, and purely osseous in 2 dogs. Eighteen of the 30 dogs with cord compression (60%) had spinal cord increased signal intensity (SCI) on T2-weighted images.

MRI findings in other large breed dogs revealed that 5 dogs had a single compression, while 7 dogs had 2 or more compressions. The main compression was located at C6-7 in 5 dogs, C5-6 in 5 dogs and C4-5 in 2 dogs. The compression was caused by disk protrusion in 6 dogs, disk protrusion and osseous compressions in 4 dogs, purely osseous in 1 dog, and a combination of osseous and ligament hypertrophy in 1 dog. Six out of 12 dogs (50%) had spinal cord SCI.

MRI findings in giant breed dogs showed that 6 dogs had a single compression, while 11 dogs had two or more compressive sites. The main compression was at C6-7 in 7 dogs, C5-6 in 6 dogs, and C4-5 in 4 dogs. The compression was caused by osseous malformation and/ or facet arthritis in 15 dogs, intervertebral disk protrusion in 1 dog, and a combination of disk protrusion and ligament flavum hypertrophy in 1 dog. Eight out of 17 dogs (47%) had SCI within the spinal cord.

The results show that large breed dogs (Dobermans and non-Dobermans) commonly have intervertebral disk-associated spinal cord compression (38 out of 42 dogs, 90%), with the compression most often located at C5-6 or C6-7 (92.8% of dogs). In contrast, most giant breed dogs (88%) had osseous compressions caused by lamina or pedicle malformation or facet arthritis. Increased signal intensity within the spinal cord was seen in approximately 50% of all dogs.

ABSTRACT #186
PHOSPHORYLATED NEUROFILAMENT NF-H AS A BIOMARKER OF SPINAL CORD INJURY IN DOGS. Hiroaki Kamishina1, Yui Kobatake1, Masaaki Katayama1, Yutaka Momota1, Jun Yasuda1, Reeko Sato1, Takashi Uemura2, Gerry Shaw1, Iwate University, Morioka, Iwate, Japan. 2Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University, Musashino, Tokyo, Japan. 3University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

Phosphorylated neurofilament NF-H is the major structural protein abundantly present in large-diameter axons of the spinal cord. Following injury, significant amounts of NF-H are expected to be released into the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and blood. The objectives of this study were to establish an ELISA assay that reliably quantifies canine NF-H in CSF and blood, and to evaluate the significance of NF-H as a biomarker of spinal cord injury (SCI) in dogs.

The specificity of the ELISA antibodies to canine NF-H was tested by immunohistochemistry and western blotting. Canine spinal cord NF-H was isolated and serially diluted samples were used to quantify the NF-H levels. CSF and plasma collected from 5 normal dogs and 20 dogs with SCI (acute thoracolumbar intervertebral disc disease) were used for NF-H measurements. In SCI dogs, plasma NF-H levels and hindlimb locomotor function were evaluated up to 3 months post-injury.

The assay was confirmed to specifically and quantitatively measure canine NF-H. NF-H was readily detectable both in CSF and plasma of SCI dogs, but undetectable in normal dogs. In most cases, NF-H levels correlated with hindlimb functional scores; dogs with higher NF-H levels had lower functional scores (severe signs), however, some exceptions were observed. Plasma NF-H level decreased by 4 weeks post-injury and returned to baseline by 3 months post-injury when maximum functional recovery was achieved. These findings suggest that measurement of NF-H arrows assessment of lesion severity and may aid in judging prognosis.
ABSTRACT #188
BREED SPECIFIC POLYMYSITHIS IN THE HUNGARIAN VIZSLA DOG. AC Haley1, SR Platt, M Kent, SJ Schatzberg, A Durham, S Cochrane, GD Shelton. 1University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine, Athens, GA. 2University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, Philadelphia, PA. 3Veterinary Emergency Clinic and Referral Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 4University of California, San Diego, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, La Jolla, CA.

Inflammatory myopathies are relatively common in dogs and may have a focal (masticatory muscle myositis) or generalized (polymysitis) distribution. Recently, a breed specific myositis presenting as pharyngeal dysphagia and masticatory muscle atrophy has been described in 14 Hungarian Vizsla dogs in the United Kingdom (Foale et al, BSAVA 2008). Here we report a similar syndrome in 5 Vizsla dogs from the North America. This retrospective study provides a preliminary clinicopathologic description and outcome in these 5 dogs.

Five Vizsla dogs presented to 5 different veterinary hospitals (1 general practice, 2 referral practices, 2 university practices) with clinical signs of dysphagia (3/5), masticatory muscle atrophy (4/5) and pain on opening the jaw (2/5). All dogs were male (4/5 castrated, 1/5 intact) and ranged in age from 1 to 9 years (mean 5.2 years). Creatine kinase activity (33,695 U/l; 61–394 U/l) and electromyography were performed in 2 dogs with no abnormalities. Pathohistopathologic examination of temporalis muscle was performed in 3 cases with multifocal areas of lymphocytic infiltration in 2 cases. Although cellular infiltrates were not evident in one case, bilateral multifocal hyperintensities in the temporals muscle was observed on T2-weighted magnetic resonance images (MRI). A complete necropsy was performed on the fifth case and chronic lymphohistiocytic and plasmacytic myositis and fibrosis was evident in the esophagus, myocardium and skeletal muscle. Immunosuppression with prednisone and azathioprine has not resulted in clinical improvement at 2 and 3 months follow up in 2 dogs. Two dogs were lost to follow up. In conclusion, this study, in combination with previously reported a 37% carrier frequency with 3% homozygous affected dogs from a field-trial population of 400 dogs. The aim of this present study was to determine the frequency of the mutation in other Labrador sub-populations, as well as closely and distantly related breeds.

ABSTRACT #189
MUTATIONAL ANALYSIS OF DYSTROPHIN-DEFICIENT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY IN CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIELS. G. L. Walmsley1, V. Arechavala-Gomeza2, M. Fernandez-Fuente2, N. Nagel3, R. Stanley1, K. Chandler1, F. Muntoni2, G. D. Shelton4 and B. L. Pierce1,2. 1Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Royal Veterinary College, London, UK; 2Dubowiz Neuro muscular Centre, UCL Institute of Child Health London, UK; 3Northdale Veterinary Practice, West Sussex, UK; 4Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA.

Canine dystrophic-deficient muscular dystrophy, analogous to Duchenne muscular dystrophy of humans, is a severe inherited degenerative disorder of striated muscle. This debilitating and ultimately fatal condition results in a progressive destruction of skeletal and cardiac muscle due to mutations in the gene encoding dystrophin, a structural protein that links the contractile apparatus to the sarcolemma. The disorder is seen in several canine breeds but the genetic cause has only been reported in the Golden Retriever, German Short-haired Pointer and Rottweiler. Here we present the findings of clinical, histopathological and molecular characterisation of this condition in Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

A 10 month old male neutered client-owned Cavalier King Charles Spaniel from the United Kingdom was presented with a chronic progressive history of lethargy, exercise intolerance and dysphagia. The dog was tetraparetic with poor skeletal muscle mass (body condition score=2.9), reduced spinal reflexes, macroglossia and restricted jaw movement. Investigations documented a marked elevation in creatine kinase activity (33,695 U/l; 61–394 U/l) and electromyography revealed spontaneous activity indicative of a primary muscle disorder (complex repetitive discharges and pseudomyotonia). Dystrophin-deficient muscular dystrophy was diagnosed on the basis of skeletal muscle histopathology, immunohistochemistry and immunoblotting using monoclonal antibodies to the dystrophin rod and carboxy terminal oligonucleotide primers designed for RT-PCR to amplify overlapping regions of dystrophin cDNA identified, following sequencing, an exon deletion and a frame-shift not present in control cDNA, that is predicted to result in premature termination of the protein product. Sequencing the associated genomic DNA confirmed the causative (and novel) mutation. The ability of antisense oligonucleotide induced exon skipping to restore the reading frame was demonstrated in vitro in cultured myoblasts from the affected dog. Sequencing of amplified DNA from an additional Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with dystrophin-deficient muscular dystrophy from North America identified the same mutation.

In conclusion, dystrophin deficient muscular dystrophy in the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel may provide an excellent model for Duchenne muscular dystrophy due to the potential application for trails of antisense oligonucleotide-mediated exon skipping – one of the more promising research directions for genetic therapy in this fatal disorder.

ABSTRACT #190
FREQUENCY OF THE CANINE EXERCISE INDUCED COLLAPSE (EIC) GENE IN DIVERSE BREEDS. K. Minor4, V. Patterson2, SD Gross1, MK Keating3, SM Taylor2, GS Johnson1, K Todd-Thompson4, JK Ekenstedt3, JM Mickelson1. 1University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, St. Paul, MN. 2Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. 3University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO. 4University of Texas San Antonio School of Medicine, San Antonio, TX.

A (G767T) dynamin 1 (DNM1) mutation in Labrador retrievers is highly associated with the syndrome of exercise-induced collapse (EIC). DNM1 is essential for synaptic vesicle endocytosis. We previously reported a 37% carrier frequency with 3% homozgyous affected dogs from a field-trial population of 400 dogs. The aim of this present study was to determine the frequency of the mutation in other Labrador sub-populations, as well as closely and distantly related breeds.

Breeds were chosen based on genetic marker clustering data, and/or breeds with readily available DNA samples with the goal of testing 200 or more dogs per breed. When possible, individuals selected were unrelated to the grandparent generation. In all Labrador sub-populations (conformation, pet, and service), homozgyous affected dogs and 30–40% carriers of the mutation were found. The mutation was also detected in Chesapeake Bay and Curly-coated retrievers (carrier frequency >10%) with clinically affected homozgyous individuals in both breeds. A few carrier Welsh Pembroke Corgis (n=10) were also identified but we have not found any affected Corgis to date.

The mutation was not observed in Golden, Flat-coat or Duck tolling retrievers, nor in a number of other less related breeds (Newfoundlands, American water spaniels, Portuguese water dogs, Jack russell terriers, Wheaton terriers, or Border collies). Ten Border collies (all mutation negative) had recurrent, unexplained collapse. The DNM1 mutation is prevalent in all Labrador sub-populations. A comprehensive program to carefully eliminate the mutant allele while still preserving genetic diversity and also accounting for reduction of other inherited diseases, could be implemented.

ABSTRACT #191
BRDU LABELING PATTERN OF THE ROstral MIGRATORY STREAM IN NORMAL CANINE AND FELINE NEURONS. M Lewis1, S Mallik1, T van Winkle1, DJ Watson2, CH Vite1. 1School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. 2Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

In the human and rodent brain, a track of proliferative cells known as the rostral migratory stream extends from the subventricu-
ular zone (SVZ) of the lateral ventricle towards the olfactory bulb. This is the migratory pathway for SVZ neural progenitor cells which eventually differentiate into olfactory interneurons. We have characterized the pattern of proliferative cells in the normal canine and feline brain using 5-bromo-2-deoxyuridine (BrdU) labeling. All procedures were approved by the IACUC. BrdU was administered intravenously to dogs (n=2, 75 mg/kg) or cats (n=5, 25 mg/kg) every 24 hr for 5 days. The dogs were perfused with saline followed by formalin and the brains were removed 1 or 5 days after the final BrdU infusion. Cats were perfused at 1 or 10 days followed the final BrdU infusion. Two additional dogs and one cat received a single dose of 75 mg/kg and were perfused 6 hr later. Animals that did not receive BrdU were used as controls. Frozen sagittal sections were prepared on a cryostat and stained with Nissl, hematoxylin and eosin, Luxol fast blue, anti-BrdU antibody, and anti Ki67 antibody. In canine and feline brains, a prominent, dense, continuous track of Nissl-stained cells was found, beginning in the subependymal layer at the base of the lateral ventricle, curving around the caudate nucleus and continuing ventrally to the olfactory peduncle. In brains from dogs and cats that received multiple doses of BrdU, we found BrdU-immunoreactive cells in the same track, continuously present from the ventral wall of the lateral ventricle to the rostral olfactory peduncle. The BrdU-labeled nuclei were single or in closely apposed small groups. These cells were not stained in control sections on which the primary (anti-BrdU) antibody was omitted. The pattern of staining was found in animals receiving one dose of 75 mg/kg, indicating cell division continuously along the track. Ki67 staining was identical to that seen in the BrdU stained sections. The distribution of dividing cells in the canine and feline brain is similar to the pattern of migrating subventricular zone neural progenitors in the rodent and human brains. The substantial size of this track in the dog and cats brain likely reflects the importance of the olfactory system in these animals. We will present our ongoing immunohistochemical studies in these and additional animals to describe the phenotype of these cells and the anatomical route and dimensions of the track.

ABSTRACT #192
INTRATHecal ENZYME THERAPY IN MUCopolysaccharidosIS CATS REDUCES STORAGE THROUGHOUT THE BRAIN. M Haskins1, P Wang1, S Walkley2, J Rhodes1, P O’Donnell1, C Bryan1, NM Ellinwood3, R Cahayag4, A Cheng5, C Henschel6, CA O’Neill2, J White4, CH Vite2. 1School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; 2Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY; 3Iowa State University, Ames, IA; 4BioMarin Pharmaceutical Inc., Novato, CA.

Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) is a lysosomal storage disease caused by deficient activity of the lysosomal hydrolase α-L-iduronidase (IDUA). The most common subtype in human patients has multisystemic disease including severe mental retardation associated with storage of glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) in the central nervous system (CNS). An orthologous cat model of MPS I has widespread storage of GAGs in the CNS. Approved clinical therapy for MPS I is weekly intravenous enzyme replacement with recombinant human IDUA (Aldurazyme; ALD) which is expensive and does not result in cure of the neurological disease. This study was designed to determine if intrathecal administration of ALD could alter the CNS lesions and how long the effect would persist. Twelve MPS I cats between 18 and 27 months of age were divided into 4 groups. The cats were anesthetized with IV propofol, intubated, placed in lateral recumbancy, and ~2 ce of CSF collected. Two of the three cats in each group received intrathecal injections of 0.1 mg/kg of recombinant human α-L-iduronidase (Aldurazyme-ALD) in 0.9% saline solution on a Monday, Friday, and Tuesday. The remaining cat was treated with an equivalent volume/kg of Eilots B vehicle. Group 1 was sacrificed 2 days following the last injection; groups 2, 3, and 4 at 1 month, 2 months, and 4 months, respectively. The 4-month enzyme and GAG data are being analyzed together with 2- and 4-month immunocytochemistry and all the quantitative ganglioside data. Three cats given ALD and one cat given vehicle alone developed abnormal posture with lowered forelimbs, almost resting on their elbows. IDUA was not detected in CSF or blood from 2-28 days post-treatment. Brain IDUA activities were 4.2- and 3.8-fold normal at 2 days, dropping to 17% and 29% of normal at 1 month, and to affected levels by 2 months. Brain GAG levels were dramatically reduced at 2 days and 1 month, and were 30% and 48% below affected levels at 2 months. Blinded interpretation of brain ganglioside (GM2, GM3) immunohistochemistry and unaltered cholesterol showed a qualitative reduction at 2 days. These preliminary data indicate a need to repeat intrathecal injections at 2-3 month intervals to maintain suppression of GAG storage.

ABSTRACT #193
NEURAL STEM CELL SOURCES IN ADULT DOGS. JH Lim, ND Colby, CL Mariani. North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

Understanding adult neurogenesis is important to fully understand the potential for regeneration within the central nervous system (CNS), and to identify neural progenitors that could be used clinically for transplantation. We investigated whether neurons could be isolated from the adult canine CNS and whether adipose tissue-derived stem cells (ADSCs) could be induced to differentiate into neural lineages.

Brain tissue was obtained from the dentate gyrus and the subventricular zone, and subcutaneous adipose tissue was collected from cadavers of adult dogs aged from 1 to 6 years. Following enzymatic dissociation, cells were cultured in appropriate media to produce neurospheres (brain tissue) or ADSCs (adipose tissue). Third passage ADSCs were induced to adipogenesis or neural progenitor cells in the rodent and human brains. The substantial size of this track in the dog and cats brain likely reflects the importance of the olfactory system in these animals. We will present our ongoing immunohistochemical studies in these and additional animals to describe the phenotype of these cells and the anatomical route and dimensions of the track.

ABSTRACT #194
DOGS WITH CORTICAL BETA-AMYLOID PATHOLOGY HAVE LESS SEROTONERGIC NEURONS IN THE ROSTRAL RAPHE NUCLEI THAN AGED MATCHED HEALTHY CONTROL DOGS. V Berneqo1, D Insua1, C Varela1, M Mendieta3, A Soria2, P Pesini2, D Insua1, C Varela1, M Mendieta3, A Soria2, P Pesini2, D Insua1, C Varela1, M Mendieta3, A Soria2, P Pesini2, 1Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Santiago, Lugo, Spain. 2Araclon Biotech Ltd. Zaragoza, Spain.

Neurofibromatosis dog brains, both normal and with cortical deposits. Understanding adult neurogenesis is important to fully understand the potential for regeneration within the central nervous system (CNS), and to identify neural progenitors that could be used clinically for transplantation. We investigated whether neurons could be isolated from the adult canine CNS and whether adipose tissue-derived stem cells (ADSCs) could be induced to differentiate into neural lineages.

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large in statistical terms, these two variables did not correlated significantly.

These results suggest that degeneration of the serotonergic neurons could be involved in the cognitive damage that accompanies AD, because the degeneration of the serotonergic neurons in AD is generally explained. It should be considered that in the loss of serotonergic neurons other mechanisms might be implicated.

ABSTRACT #195
EVALUATION OF THE CARCINOEMBRYONIC (CEA) AND CARCINOEMBRYONIC ANTIGEN (CA 15-3) ANTIGEN IN MALIGNANT MAMMARY TUMORS IN BITCHES. CM Oliveira, CVM Oliveira. FHM Jardini. School of Veterinary Medicine – University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

In last years, through the use of biomarkers produced in cancerous tissue, diagnostics and therapeutics of human breast cancer changed significantly. These markers used in diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring of the tumor are able to signal biological behavior of cancers. Several substances are related to human breast cancer being CEA and CA 15-3 currently used. However in veterinary medicine these substances are not used regularly and there is a curiosity to investigate whether those biomarkers may be recommended in animals in the same manner as in humans.

Serum samples of 39 bitches, aged from 5 to 13 years old, with mammary tumors were collected immediately before and 2 weeks, 6, and 12 months after surgery, and frozen (-20°C). Fragments of the tumors were collected during surgery and fixed in 10% formalin and included in paraffin up to 48 hours after excision. The animals had radiographs and ultrasound scans done 3, 6 and 12 months after surgery in order to look for metastasis. The serum quantification of CEA and CA 15-3 was done by sequential immunometric chemoluminescence. For the detection of CEA in mammary- and lymph node tissue a commercial test kit (Dako®, LSAB2) was used; fragment of human breast cancer was used as control. Microscopic evaluation was based on coloration grades of Hercep test.

In one of the serum samples of the 39 bitches, with a primary complex and metastasis, CEA and CA 15-3 were found. Those findings suggest that (1) none of the tumors produced the markers, (2) the markers were produced but not released, (3) biomarkers were in the blood but structural differences did not allow interaction with antibodies, or (4) other factors could interfere with biomarkers concentrations in the blood. There was no expression of CEA in 1:100 and 1:200 dilutions on the tumoral fragments, independent of their histological type. The negative result may be explained by (1) no expression of CEA, (2) no production of that protein, (3) production of the protein, but not detected by the antibodies, (4) the methodology did not allow an adequate interaction, or (5) the protein concentrations were inadequate to detect CA. Thus, findings observed in the present study showed that evaluation of CEA and CA 15-3, in serum and tumor tissue, were not adequate for dogs.

ABSTRACT #196
EXPRESSION OF HER-2/NEU PROTEIN IN MAMMARY TUMORS OF BITCHES. CM Oliveira. School of Veterinary Medicine – University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Mammary neoplasias in bitches make out an important portion of canine tumors. But different than in humans, early diagnosis has not been done and treatment usually has been limited to its excision. In humans knowledge of tumor markers, it is important to recognize markers for helping in diagnosis, in staging and as well as to evaluate prognosis, therapy and remission. Her-2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor-type 2) is one of these markers; it codifies synthesis of p185HER (Her-2/neu), a protein expressed in 30% to 40% of human breast cancers and is associated with a bad prognosis. Her-2 has raised some interest as an indicator to evaluate the sensibility to chemotherapy and it is associated to histology grade and survival rates. It is known that treatment with Herceptin® is only effective on tumors overexpressing Her-2 at their surface.

The objective of this study was to verify the expression of Her-2 in malignant and benign mammary tumors of bitches.

Fragments of tumors from 51 bitches where fixed in 10% formalin and included in paraffin, prepared and stained with Hematoxilin-eosin. Following tumors were identified: benign (n=10) and malignant (n=41). Detection of Her-2 was performed by immunohistochemistry (IHC) with streptavidine peroxidase kit. Results were classified in accordance to intensity of color and were denominated as negative (scores = 0 or 1) and positive (scores = 2 [weak] or 3 [strong]). From those 51 tumors, Her-2/neu was present in 76.5% of the cases (n=39) and absent in 23.5% (n=12). The positive cases that expressed that protein, 79.5% were from malignant tumors and 20.5% were benign. Of the 51 analyzed tumors, the expression of Her-2/neu was positive (scores = 2 or 3+) in 58.8% and negative (scores = 0 or 1+) in 41.2%. In conclusion benign and malignant tumors of bitches expressed Her-2-neu protein; however only malignant tumors presented strong positive expression of Her-2/neu.

ABSTRACT #197
CERULOPLASMIN CONCENTRATIONS IN DOGS WITH MULTICENTRIC LYMPHOMA UNDERGOING CHEMOTHERAPY. SRR Lucas, A. Merlo, RMS Miranda, TP Gasparrin. School of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science University of Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil.

Acute phase proteins (APPs) are synthesized under stimulation of cytokines such as IL-1, IL-6 and TNF-α, and represent a very fast and nonspecific response that occurs following inflammatory, infectious and neoplastic conditions in dogs. Ceruloplasmin (Cp) is a positive APP, responsible for the transport of copper and protection of cells and tissue against oxidant compounds. The aim of this study was to evaluate Cp concentrations at diagnosis and during chemotherapy in dogs with multicentric lymphoma (ML). Cp was measured using orto dianisine technique, in two groups of dogs: 10 healthy dogs (control) and 13 dogs with ML. All dogs were submitted to chemotherapy. (approved by the Bioethics Committee). Dogs with signs of concurrent disease or that were previously treated with prednisone were excluded from the study. Cp measurement was done before treatment and once a week, during the first month of chemotherapy, and each 3-week intervals until the relapse for dogs with ML, and until the 16th week in control dogs. ANOVA test followed by multiple Tukey’s tests were used to compare the groups. There was no difference between the mean of Cp concentration in dogs with ML at the diagnosis when compared to healthy dogs (p > .05). Levels of Cp decreased significantly at 4th week when compared to the first week, but Cp increase was not observed at the relapse. At all other times during the treatment, Cp concentrations for dogs with lymphoma were not significantly different from controls submitted to chemotherapy. As conclusion, Cp levels in ML at diagnosis were similar to healthy dogs, decreased when lymphoma remission was achieved and there was no change at the relapse.

ABSTRACT #198
FLOW CYTOMETRIC PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN CANINE B CELL LYMPHOMA. EC Marcus, SE Lana, AC Avery, Colorado State University, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Fort Collins, CO.

Recent studies suggest that length of survival can be predicted based on the type of non-neoplastic infiltrating cell populations in human B cell lymphoma. However, these trends have not yet been investigated in canine diffuse large B cell lymphoma. In addition, prognosis in canine B cell leukemia can be predicted by cell size, but similar information is not available for canine B cell lymphoma. The purpose of this study was to evaluate lymph node aspirates from confirmed cases of canine B cell lymphoma via flow cytometry to determine if correlation exists among the number macrophages and T cells present, B cells size, survival and disease free interval.

The study population included all dogs admitted to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital with B cell lymphoma within a two year period that had lymph node aspirates assessed via flow cytometry. Follow up data including disease free interval and survival duration from 43 cases of B cell lymphoma was collected and compared to immunophenotype data collected via flow cytometry. Relative size of B cells was determined by measuring geometric mean linear forward scatter.
Preliminary data analysis suggests a negative correlation between B cell size and disease free interval. B cell size may provide valuable prognostic information to clinicians and clients as they assess treatment plans for canine B cell lymphoma patients.

**ABSTRACT #199**

**DENANAMIN® FOR THE PREVENTION OF LOMUSTINE (CCNU) INDUCED HEPATOTOXICITY IN TUMOR BEARING DOGS: INTERIM ANALYSIS.** GM Hammond, MS Kent, AM Irish, TA Guerrero, CO Rodriguez, KA Skorupski. Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA.

Liver enzyme elevations occur in up to 86% of dogs treated with CCNU. Therapy may be prematurely discontinued, delayed, or the drug dose decreased due to liver enzyme changes or concerns about developing hepatotoxicity.

S-Adenosylmethionine (SAMe) and silybin are commonly used hepatoprotectants. Denamarin® incorporates both SAMe and silybin in a patented veterinary formulated product.

The goal of this clinical trial was to evaluate Denamarin as a hepatoprotectant in tumor bearing CCNU dogs undergoing CCNU therapy. Reported are the results of a planned interim analysis after the enrollment of 30 dogs.

A prospective non-blinded, randomized clinical trial was performed at the UC Davis VMTH. Dogs prescribed CCNU chemotherapy and that had a normal pre-treatment ALT were eligible. Dogs were randomly assigned to either Group 1, receiving Denamarin starting at the time CCNU therapy was initiated, or Group 2, receiving Denamarin only if they experienced a grade 4 hepatotoxicity.

The two groups had no differences in pre-treatment ALT, bilirubin or tumor type. The mean post-treatment ALT elevation for Group 1 and Group 2 dogs was 119 IU/L (p = 0.10) and 8151 IU/L (p = 0.046), respectively. Mean post therapy bilirubin elevation for Group 1 and Group 2 dogs were 0.4 mg/dl (p = 0.16) and 0.15 mg/dl (p = 0.07). Therapy alterations occurred in 3 dogs in Group 2, whereas one dog in Group 1 had chemotherapy altered due to liver enzyme elevations.

This data indicates that dogs receiving Denamarin may have less severe liver enzyme elevations after CCNU therapy and supports continued enrollment in this prospective clinical trial.

**ABSTRACT #200**

**EFFECTS OF MUTANT BETA-CATENIN ON HEPATOCYTE GROWTH HOMEOSTASIS.** Timothy J. Stein, DVM, PhD and Eric P. Sandgren, VMD, PhD. Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.

Beta-catenin, a dual-function protein integral to cell-cell adhesion and intracellular transmission of Wnt signals, is altered in numerous human cancers including hepatocellular carcinoma. The comparative hepatocyte growth assay is a transplantation-based growth assay developed to quantify the effects of genetic alterations on hepatocyte growth homeostasis. For this study the comparative hepatocyte growth assay was used to assess the effects of a mutant beta-catenin on hepatocyte growth homeostasis.

The comparative hepatocyte growth assay was used to quantify the effects of mutant β-catenin on the growth kinetics of transplanted hepatocytes in growth permissive and restrictive environments. Two populations of transgenic mice were generated for donor hepatocytes; one harboring a liver-specific inducible mutant β-catenin + marker transgene (hPAP), and the other carrying the marker transgene (LacZ). The growth of foci derived from hepatocytes expressing the mutant beta-catenin were compared to that of hepatocytes expressing only a marker transgene (LacZ). The growth of foci derived from hepatocytes expressing the mutant beta-catenin were compared to that of hepatocytes expressing only a marker transgene. The ability of mutant beta-catenin to give rise to clonal populations with extreme growth potential compared to normal hepatocytes was assessed through the determination of extreme outliers.

The expression of mutant β-catenin was unable to increase the growth of foci in growth permissive or restrictive environments. The production of foci with extreme growth potential was not different from control hepatocytes.

β-catenin does not affect measures of neoplasia assessed by the comparative hepatocyte growth assay. The contribution of beta-catenin to HCC is unique from that of other frequently identified genetic mutations in HCC, which have been shown to quantifiably effect hepatocyte growth homeostasis in this assay.

Previously presented at the Veterinary Cancer Society Conference, 2008.

**ABSTRACT #201**

**COMPARISON OF COMPLETE BLOOD COUNT VALUES FOR SAMPLES COLLECTED USING TRADITIONAL AND MICRO-SAMPLING TUBES.** JC Whittemore,1 B Flatland.2

1From the Departments of Small Animal Clinical Sciences and 2Pathobiology, University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, Knoxville TN.

Anemia caused by diagnostic sampling is the main indication for blood transfusion in human neonates. Diagnostic sampling may pose the same risk to dogs and cats given their size. Microsampling tubes may be used to decrease sampling volumes; their accuracy under clinical conditions has not been reported.

Samples were collected from clinically healthy dogs (14) and cats (15). Three mL of blood were collected from each animal and transferred into EDTA Vacutainers® (2.5mL) and Microtainer® tubes (0.5mL) by a licensed veterinary technician blinded to the study purpose. Complete blood counts were performed within 12 hours on all samples. Parameters evaluated were RBC, Hgb, Hct, MCV, MCH, MCHC, MPV, WBC, and plasma protein as well as neutrophil, lymphocyte, monocyte, eosinophil, basophil, and platelet counts. Results were compared by Pearson’s correlation coefficients, Passing-Bablok regression analysis, Bland-Altman plots, and either paired t-tests or Wilcoxon Rank Sum (MCV, MCH) using MedCalc 10.0.1.

All data were normally distributed except MCV and MCH. Pearson’s correlation coefficients were >0.9 for all analytes except monocytes (0.89), basophils (0.73) and eosinophils (0.77). There was no evidence of constant or proportional bias on Passing-Bablok regression analysis or Bland-Altman plots for any analyte. There were no significant differences on paired t-tests. Wilcoxon rank sum testing was significantly different (p = 0.002) for MCV; however, this difference was not clinically significant.

These results suggest that Microtainer® sampling tubes provide clinically equivalent complete blood count results to Vacutainers® while minimizing total diagnostic sampling volumes.

**ABSTRACT #202**

**AGING ASSOCIATED CHANGES IN BLOOD CELLS OF CATS.** S Yu, MF Locniskar. Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc., Topeka, KS.

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the aging effect on blood cells in healthy cats.

Complete blood cell count was measured with a CELL-DYN® 3700 (Abbott Diagnostics) in 108 healthy American Domestic Shorthair cats. The measurements included RBC, Hb, PCV, MCV, MCH, MCHC, platelet, WBC, and WBC differential (neutrophils, lymphocytes, monocytes, eosinophils, and basophils). Cat age ranged from 1.5 to 16 years at the beginning of the study. Of these cats, 42 were males (6 intact and 36 castrated) and 66 were females (28 intact and 38 spayed). Cats were fed a dry cat food for four weeks before the blood cell measurements. The dry cat food met the AAFCO Cat Food Nutrient Profiles for adult maintenance.

RBC (r = −0.62, p < 0.01), Hb (r = −0.57, p < 0.01), PCV (r = −0.61, p < 0.01), platelets (r = −0.40, p < 0.01), lymphocytes (r = −0.25, p = 0.010), and eosinophils (r = −0.36, p < 0.01) were negatively while MCV (r = 0.30, p = 0.002), MCH (r = 0.35, p < 0.01), and neutrophils (r = 0.28, p = 0.030) were positively correlated with age in cats. Age had no effect (p > 0.05) on MCHC, WBC, monocytes, and basophils.

These data suggest that cats have a tendency of macrocytic anemia when they get old. Although aging did not affect WBC, increased neutrophils and decreased lymphocytes and eosinophils may suggest altered immunity with aging of cats. The clinical implications of aging associated changes in blood cells need further investigation.
ABSTRACT #203
CLOPIDOGREL THERAPY IN DOGS WITH IMMUNE-MEDIATED HEMOLYTIC ANEMIA. RL Haviland, N Pacifico, D Bianco. Red Bank Veterinary Hospital, Tinton Falls, NJ.

Thromboembolic events (TE) are a common complication of canine immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA). Canine IMHA has a high mortality rate, especially during the first two weeks of therapy. Clopidogrel (Plavix®) is a second generation antiplatelet drug that may have a synergistic effect with aspirin. This study reports the use of clopidogrel with or without ultra-low dose aspirin therapy in client-owned dogs with primary IMHA.

Dogs were diagnosed with IMHA based on the presence of at least 4 of 5 criteria: spherocytosis, positive saline autoagglutination test, positive direct Coombs’ test, reticulocytosis, and hyperbilirubinemia. Secondary causes of IMHA were excluded based on history, physical examination, complete blood count, coagulation studies, serum chemistry, urinalysis, thoracic radiographs, abdominal ultrasound, and vector-borne disease testing. Dogs with severe thrombocytopenia or treated with heparin or unable to tolerate oral medications were excluded.

After informed owner consent was obtained, twelve dogs with primary IMHA were treated with clopidogrel using a single loading dose of 10 mg/kg PO on day 1, followed by a maintenance dose of 2 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks. Five dogs received concurrently ultra-low dose aspirin (0.5 mg/kg PO q24h for 4 weeks). All dogs received the same initial treatment, including corticosteroids, doxycycline, and gastroprotectant agents. Additional immunosuppressive therapy, such as azathioprine and cyclosporine, were used in few dogs after 1 week of therapy. All dogs were closely monitored for any evidence of TE, change in appetite, hemorrhagic, gastrointestinal or dermatologic adverse effects over a 6-month period. Physical examination, complete blood count and serum chemistry were performed at 1, 3, and 6 months.

All dogs survived to discharge. Two dogs relapsed within 6 months of therapy, and one of them was euthanized. No evidence of thrombosis or hemorrhage was identified at necropsy. The other eleven dogs were still alive at the conclusion of the study, and no evidence of TE was identified over a 6-month period. No hemorrhagic, gastrointestinal, or dermatologic adverse effects attributable to clopidogrel were noted in any dog. Clinopathologic abnormalities were considered secondary to immunosuppressive drugs. Clopidogrel, either alone or in combination with ultra-low dose aspirin therapy, was well tolerated in this group of dogs with primary IMHA. Larger prospective controlled studies should be performed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of clopidogrel therapy for prevention of TE in dogs with primary IMHA.

ABSTRACT #204
PLATELET P-SELECTIN (CD62P) EXPRESSION AND PLATELET-LEUKOCYTE INTERACTIONS IN CLINICALLY HEALTHY DOGS WITH AND WITHOUT ULTRALOW-DOSE ASPIRIN. SA Kruth, L Shearer, S Wood. Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Aspirin has been widely used in both human and veterinary patients for its anti-thrombotic properties. Several studies have evaluated the effect of aspirin on platelet function in dogs, with conflicting results. Clopidogrel is an effective anti-thrombotic therapy in humans, but has been minimally evaluated in dogs. The objective of this study was to assess the effect of various doses of aspirin and clopidogrel on platelet function in healthy dogs. Results were correlated with plasma drug metabolite concentrations.

Six healthy dogs were randomized to six treatment groups (aspirin: 0.5, 1.0, 2.0 and 10.0 mg/kg/d; clopidogrel: 2.0 and 4.0 mg/kg/d). Blood samples were collected on days 0, 3, and 7 and evaluated using optical aggregometry (ADP and PAF as agonists) and the platelet function analyzer (collagen-ADP and collagen-EPI cartridges). Day 7 plasma drug metabolite levels were measured using high performance liquid chromatography.

No statistically significant effect on platelet function was identified for the currently recommended anti-thrombotic aspirin dose (0.5 mg/kg/d) with either aggregometry or the PFA-100. ADP-induced aggregometry detected inhibition of platelet function by day 7 for the 1.0 and 2.0 mg/kg/d aspirin doses. No effect on platelet aggregation was detected for the 10 mg/kg/d aspirin dose. The PFA-100 detected significant inhibition of platelet function for all aspirin doses, except the 0.5 mg/kg/d dose, on both day 3 and 7 using the collagen-EPI cartridge. Inhibition of platelet function was also detected with the PFA-100 for the 2 and 10 mg/kg/d aspirin doses using the collagen-ADP cartridge. Both doses of clopidogrel yielded significant inhibition of platelet function with both methodologies (ADP agonist) on day 3 and 7.

Plasma drug metabolite levels for aspirin yielded variable results (0.5 mg/kg/d: 0.17–0.68 ug/mL; 1.0 mg/kg/d: 0.74–2.96 ug/mL; 2.0 mg/kg/d: 1.52–5.37 ug/mL; 10 mg/kg/d: 13.50–30.74). Some dogs had consistently low or high plasma metabolite levels regardless of the dose administered, suggesting variability in individual absorption. Measurement of drug metabolite levels for clopidogrel were less variable (2.0 mg/kg/d: 0.43–0.519 ug/mL; 4.0 mg/kg/d: 0.303–0.489 ug/mL), but displayed considerable overlap in the range of values between the two dose groups.

Currently recommended anti-thrombotic dosing of aspirin (0.5 mg/kg/d) is ineffective as measured by optical aggregometry and the PFA-100 analyzer in healthy dogs. Treatment with 1 mg/kg/d of aspirin was the lowest dosage to inhibit platelet function by both methodologies. Clopidogrel may be a reasonable anti-platelet therapy alternative. The anti-platelet effect of aspirin and clopidogrel was readily documented using the PFA-100. Ineffective anti-platelet therapy may be correlated with inadequate plasma drug metabolite concentrations. Plasma metabolite concentrations may subsequently be used to tailor anti-platelet therapy.

ABSTRACT #206
INFLUENCE OF RHFVIIa ON HAEMOSTATIC VARIABLES IN NORMAL AND FACTOR VII DEFICIENT DOGS. R Mischke1, B Dörsch1, M Diedrich 1, M . Institut für Immunologie, Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany. 1Institute of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmacy, Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany. 2Werlhof Institute for Haemostaseology, Hannover, Germany.

Recombinant human factor VIIa (rHFVIIa) is widely used as a haemostatic agent in human medicine. The objective of this study
was to investigate the influence of rhFVIIa on different haemostatic parameters in normal and factor VII deficient dogs.

RhFVIIa was injected in 2 different dosages (100 and 500 μg/kg body mass [BM]) to either normal or factor VII deficient Beagle dogs (n = 4–6). Factor VII:C activity, prothrombin time (standard test [PTST] and modified test [PTMT]), activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT), platelet count and haematocrit as well as antibodies against rhFVIIa were measured at different time points. Injections of rhFVIIa were well tolerated. The maximum values of factor VII:C activity which were measured 2 or 5 minutes after the rhFVIIa injection of 100 or 500 μg/kg were 4.5±0.25; 1 U/mL (1 U/mL is equivalent to 100% activity) and 22.0±2.0 U/mL in healthy dogs and 4.7±0.28; 1 U/mL and 19.1±1.3 U/mL in factor-VII deficient dogs. Terminal half-life values lay between 1 and 1.5 hours. The coagulation activity measured by PTST, which allowed a more differentiated monitoring of rhFVIIa treatment than PTMT, increased to values of approximately 1.5-times (after 100 μg/kg) or 3-times (after 500 μg/kg) the initial values (p < 0.001). A significant shortening of APTT from 14.7±0.27 s to 13.0±0.35 s was restricted to the group of healthy dogs receiving the high factor VIIA dosage and lasted for 1.5 hours. This group also showed the most remarkable effects on platelet count and haematocrit. Antibodies against rhFVIIa developed in nearly all the dogs.

In conclusion, PTST is a useful screening test to monitor rhFVIIa treatment in dogs. Factor VII:C activity values and PTST results measured after injection of 100 μg/kg rhFVIIa indicate that lower dosages should be effective for treatment of bleeding episodes in factor VII deficient dogs. High rhFVIIa concentrations have to be used to affect the APTT in dogs indicating a possible effect in haemophilic dogs.

ABSTRACT #207
EXERCISE-ASSOCIATED HEART RATE RECOVERY TIME IN NORMAL DOGS. R Manley, E Côté, LA Pack. Atlantic Veterinary College, Charlottetown, PE, Canada.

Heart rate (HR) recovery time (HRRT) is the interval from peak HR during physical exertion to spontaneous return to resting HR. It indicates cardiovascular health and mortality risk in humans. We sought preliminary data that define normal HRRT in dogs.

Sixteen healthy dogs of various somatotypes, ages, and both sexes were outfitted with an electrocardiographic event recorder (King of Heart Express, Alaris Medical). Each dog engaged in an exercise and cool-down protocol consisting of: 1 minute acclimation at the foot of a stairwell; climbing and immediately descending 6 flights of stairs (40 vertical feet; 12.25 m) at a brisk but comfortable pace, accompanied by a handler; and cool-down at the starting point. The procedures were repeated in triplicate with a minimum 30-minute rest period between each.

The procedure was tolerated by all dogs. The median resting HR prior to exercise was 110 beats/min. The median peak HR during exercise was 250 beats/min. Median duration of exercise was 52.5 seconds. The median HR decreased to 180 beats/min 40 seconds after onset of exercise; 145 beats/min 54 seconds after onset of exercise; and 135 beats/min 61 seconds after onset of exercise.

These results provide preliminary data that may be useful for assessing the cardiovascular function of dogs.

ABSTRACT #208
INFLUENCE OF AGE ON PULMONARY ARTERIAL PRESSURE IN HEALTHY BEAGLE DOGS: ANALYSIS BY RIGHT VENTRICULAR CATHETERIZATION, PULSED DOPPLER ECOCARDIOGRAPHY AND PULSED DOPPLER TISSUE IMAGING. E. Mercier1, M. Mathieu2, C. Clercx1, K. McEntee1,2.
1Department for Clinical Sciences B44, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Liège, Belgium; 2Laboratory of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

Pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) increases with age in healthy human subjects and this has been attributed to vascular resistance; but no data exists in dogs. Pulmonary hemodynamics can be assessed directly by right heart catheterization, or indirectly by conventional Doppler-echocardiography and Doppler tissue imaging (TDI). The aims of this study were to assess the influence of aging on pulmonary hemodynamics and hemorheological properties in healthy dogs and to compare measurements obtained by cardiac catheterization, with systolic time intervals of pulmonary flow and myocardial velocities of the tricuspid lateral annulus.

Fourteen healthy experimental beagle dogs from two age groups were used in the study; 8 young dogs aged 10 months to 5 years (mean: 2.7 years) and 6 old dogs aged 8 to 15 years (mean: 12.1 years). Hematometry, total protein and fibrinogen concentrations and whole blood viscosities were measured. PAP was maximal velocity, acceleration and ejection times were recorded by pulsed Doppler-echocardiography. Early (E’) and late (A’) diastolic myocardial velocities, isovolumic contraction velocity and systolic myocardial velocity of the free tricuspid annulus were measured by pulsed-wave TDI. Under general anesthesia, systolic (s), mean (m), diastolic (d) and occluded PAP, right atrial pressure and cardiac output were measured using a pediatric thermodilution Swan-Ganz catheter, while stroke volume, pulmonary vascular resistance (PVR), pulse pressure and compliance (C) were calculated. Values are given as mean±SE.

Hemorheological measurements were not different between the 2 groups. Systolic PAP (30.6±2.1 mmHg), mPAP (19.3±1.8 mmHg) and dPAP (13.4±1.4 mmHg) were higher in old dogs compared with young dogs (respectively 21.4±1.5 mmHg, 13.7±1.2 mmHg and 9.5±1.1 mmHg). This increase was attributed to a higher PVR and lower C. Acceleration and ejection times of pulmonary flow were not modified. The A’ wave was increased in old compared to young dogs (0.147±0.003 m/s vs 0.109±0.009 m/s, p = 0.02) and the E’/A’ ratio was decreased (0.90±0.05 vs 1.13±0.06, p = 0.01). Systolic, m and dPAP were correlated with age; PVR and C were inversely related. The A’ wave was correlated with age (r = 0.72, p < 0.005) and with sPAP.

Results of the present study show that (1) in healthy Beagle dogs, PAP increases with aging, (2) factors implicated in this increase are PVR and C, (3) systolic time intervals of the pulmonary flow are not sensitive to detect this increase, (4) the tricuspid free annulus late diastolic velocity increases with aging and is correlated with sPAP.

ABSTRACT #209
EVALUATION OF HDO® (HIGH DEFINITION OSCILLOMETER) – A NEW NIBP TECHNIQUE – IN COMPARISON TO INVASIVE MEASUREMENT (HSE -HYDRO SACHS ELECTRONICS) IN ANESTHETISED DOGS. Ch Baumgartner1, W Erhardt1, Ch Faltermeier2, J Reuter1, J Henke1, B Eimer2, J Haas3.
1ZPF (Center of Preclinical Research), Technical University of Munich, Germany, 2Medical Center for Small Animals, Hoerstein, Germany, 3FZMB Bad Langensalza, Germany.

Precise measurement of high and low blood pressure situations is mandatory also in veterinary medicine. Even more if cardiac output situation is affected, like in arrhythmia or shock, accurate blood pressure information can be a vital parameter for treatment decision and survival. So far available NIBP technologies had clear limitations. Invasive techniques are regarded as gold standard however, these are not applicable for day-by-day routines. High Definition Oscillometry (HDO) was evaluated against direct line as a potential non-invasive approach. To investigate accuracy in the above situations, 7 beagle dogs where put under anesthesia (propofol) and blood pressure was affected by using either phenylephrin, dopamine or isofluran. Systolic, mean, diastolic arterial blood pressure (SAP/
MAP/DAP and pulse/min (bpm) were determined 75 times within 120 Minutes per individual. Mean, standard deviation (SD) and standard error of the mean (SEM) were calculated. The agreement of non invasive SAP and DAP with the corresponding simultaneous invasive values was analyzed according to the Bland-Altman method. Mean difference (bias) and SD of the difference (precision) were calculated. A significant correlation for SAP was observed (r=0.895; p<0.001). Mean difference between the two methods was 0.18±0.91 mmHg. Also for DAP a significant correlation between the two methods was investigated (r=0.875; p<0.001), with a mean difference of 5.6±7.3 mmHg. As these results reflect all situations including severe arrhythmia, high and low heart rate (49–210 bpm) and blood pressure within 67–310 SAP, HDO may be regarded as a clear alternative for invasive methods.

ABSTRACT #210

ACTION DURATION-RELATED DIURETIC EFFECTS AND RENNIN-ANGIOTENSIN-ALDOSTERONE SYSTEM IN HEALTHY DOGS WITH A FUROSEMIDE. Y Hori, N Ohshtuma, K Kanai, F Hoshi, N Itoh, S Higuchi. Kitasato University, Aomori, Japan.

This study investigated the difference in action duration-related diuretic effects and activity of rennин-angiotensin-aldosterone (RAA) system to a furosemide as a model of short-acting and long-acting loop diuretics.

Six dogs were anesthetized and were randomized to placebo, intravenous bolus administration (IB), and chronic rate infusion (CRI) groups. This study was conducted with crossover study. Furosemide, which was dissolved in sterile saline, was infused for 8 hours in CRI group, or was injected at 0- and 4-h in IB group. Total dosage of furosemide was 4 mg/kg and total amount of sterile saline was equal to each group at 18 mL/head. Blood and urine samples were collected at baseline, 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8-h.

Compared with baseline, the IB group increased significantly the urine output at 1- and 5-h. In contrast, the CRI group increased significantly the urine output compared to baseline, and the increase persisted for 4 hours. Compared to placebo, the 8-h urine output and the 8-h sodium excretion were increased significantly in IB and CRI groups. Similarly, those of CRI group were significantly higher than those of IB group. Plasma aldosterone concentration was elevated significantly in IB group but not significant in CRI group.

Our results indicate that action duration may be a predominant cause of loop diuretics-related diuretic differences. In addition, persistent diuresis may cause mild and long-acting effects with minimal activation of the RAA system.

ABSTRACT #211

CHANGES IN THE PLASMA ANP AND NT-proBNP CONCENTRATIONS IN HEALTHY DOGS WITH AN ACUTE VOLUME OVERLOAD. Y Hori, N Sano, K Kanai, F Hoshi, N Itoh, S Higuchi. Kitasato University, Aomori, Japan.

This study investigated the difference in the secretory responses of plasma ANP and NT-proBNP to an acute volume overload in dogs.

Six healthy dogs were anesthetized. Lactated Ringer’s was infused intravenously at 90–100 mL/kg/h for 60 min as a volume overload. Subsequently, furosemide was administered as a preload reduction. The left ventricular (LV) pressures and pulmonary capillary wedge pressures (PCWP) were monitored at baseline and at 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, and 120 min. The plasma atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) and N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) concentrations were determined using a radioimmunoassay and enzyme immunoassay, respectively.

Volume overload significantly increased LV peak systolic pressure (LVPs), LV end-diastolic pressure (LVEDP), and PCWP. Preload reduction decreased the LVEDP and PCWP significantly. Volume overload increased the plasma ANP and NT-proBNP concentrations determined using a radioimmunoassay and enzyme immunoassay, respectively.

The different responses in the natriuretic peptides may reflect different mechanisms regulating their secretion. The plasma ANP level may be a more useful parameter for the non-invasive estimation of the changes in acute volume overload than the plasma NT-proBNP level, especially when the hemodynamic state changes rapidly.

ABSTRACT #212

ANALYTICAL VALIDATION OF A COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE FELINE N-TERMINAL PROHORMONE BRAIN NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE ELISA. A Carrier1, A Beardow1, G Farace1, K Yeung1, SJ Ettinger1, K Yee2. 1IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME, 2California Animal Hospital, Los Angeles, CA.

An assay for feline N-Terminal Prohormone Brain Natriuretic Peptide (NT-proBNP) has been available since 2007 initially as CardioScreen™ NT-proBNP (Guildhay Ltd., UK) and now as Cardiopep™ proBNP (IDEXX Laboratories Inc, USA). The assay was initially commercialized by Guildhay with a time to result (the start to finish time of the assay) of around 20 hours. However in the US the assay has always been offered with a time to result of around 7 hours and to our knowledge a complete validation of this faster protocol has not been presented to date.

An analytical validation of assay covers a number of areas including accuracy – how do samples run on the faster assay correlate to the same samples run on the original assay; dynamic range – what is the lowest and highest concentrations of feline NTproBNP that can be reliably detected by the assay; precision – how consistent is the assay both within a single run (intra-assay precision) and across multiple runs on different days (inter-assay precision); interferences – do lipids, hemoglobin or bilirubin effect the performance of the assay and finally the sample types that can be analyzed, i.e. can NTproBNP be successfully detected in both serum and plasma?

The accuracy of the new method compared to the old method is very good with a correlation of $r^2=0.95$ and a linear slope of 0.91, both of these show that there is little difference between the two protocols.

The dynamic range of the assay is determined by serially diluting spiked samples to determine the minimum and maximum concentrations that can be reliably measured. The dynamic range was determined to be between 20 and 1500 pmol/L.

Inter- and intra-assay precision was determined by running a set of spiked samples both in a single assay (minimum n=10) and in multiple assays (n=3). Inter- and intra-assay precision was found to be between 10 and 20% across the dynamic range of the assay.

Sputting samples with lipids, hemoglobin and bilirubin were all found to have no effect on the assay performance.

A set of 20 matched serum and plasma samples did not show good agreement. No consistent bias or trend, that would have allowed a mathematical correction to be applied, was observed. We thus concluded that interpretive guidelines generated for plasma should not be applied to serum.

Overall, the kit is robust and the shortened protocol is acceptable as there appears to be no effect on the overall assay performance.

ABSTRACT #213

MEASUREMENT OF CANINE B-TYPE NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE USING A HUMAN ANALYZER. K Cyr, A Beardow, G Farace. IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME.

Canine and human B-Type Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) are only moderately homologous (68%) and so it would seem unlikely that a human analyzer could be used to detect canine BNP. However there are regions of significant homology that might provide epitopes large enough to allow these assays to act as a semi-quantitative assay that could detect severe heart disease. To test this hypothesis we took an L-stat instrument (Abbott Laboratories, USA) and attempted to measure canine BNP either in spiked canine plasma or in real patient samples.

Samples spiked with synthetic human BNP-32 (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals, USA) showed expected results while samples spiked with synthetic canine BNP-32 (Phoenix Pharmaceuticals, USA) could not be detected even when spiked at levels of over 1000 pg/ml.
Samples from 4 dogs with cardiac disease (ISACHC class I or II) were tested pet-side and once again no measurable BNP was detected in any of the samples.

This combination of failures to measure canine BNP would indicate that the regions homology of the two peptides are not sufficient to allow the antibodies used in the I-Stat assay to detect canine BNP. This confirms the view that only a canine specific assay is needed to be able to detect canine BNP.

In conclusion, plasma AM has the potential to be a powerful indicator of PH in dogs with CHF.

ABSTRACT #216 PULSED TISSUE DOPPLER EVALUATION IN DOGS WITH IDIOPATHIC DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY. GG Pereira, GT Goldfeder, VCM Oliveira, EC Soares, MHMA Larsson. Universidade de Sao Paulo, Faculde de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia, Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil.

Idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs is recognized by myocardial lesions and dysfunction. We hypothesized that a pattern of regional myocardial dysfunction can be established by pulsed tissue Doppler in dogs with spontaneous DCM.

Forty four dogs were evaluated, being 22 with DCM and 22 healthy, with similar weight, for control purpose. Longitudinal myocardial velocities were obtained in mitral anular (basal), papillary muscle level (medial) and apical segments of left ventricular free wall (LVFW) and interventricular septum (IVS). Radial myocardial velocities were assessed in subendocardial and subepicardial regions of medial LVFW. Peak myocardial velocities resulting from ventricular systole (Sm), early (Em) and late (Am) ventricular filling were determined. According to cardiac rhythm, recordings of three (sinus) or five (atrial fibrillation) consecutive cycles were averaged. Unpaired t-test was employed to investigate differences between groups.

Peak radial subendocardial and subepicardial Sm velocities were lower in DCM group compared to control (0.010 ± 0.020 vs. 0.020 ± 0.027 m/s, respectively; p < 0.0001). Peak longitudinal Sm velocities were lower in basal and medial portions of LVFW (0.093 ± 0.033 vs. 0.166 ± 0.047 m/s and 0.091 ± 0.033 vs. 0.141 ± 0.044 m/s, respectively; p < 0.0001) and IVS (0.030 ± 0.021 vs. 0.136 ± 0.039 and 0.066 ± 0.026 vs. 0.104 ± 0.032 m/s, respectively; p < 0.0001). Peak diastolic waves were not significantly different.

Reduction in systolic longitudinal (basal and medial) and radial myocardial velocities represents the most significant pulsed tissue Doppler findings for DCM diagnosis in dogs.

ABSTRACT #217 EVALUATION OF LEFT VENTRICULAR SYSTOLIC AND DIASTOLIC FUNCTION USING PULSED TISSUE DOPPLER IN DOGS WITH CHRONIC MITRAL VALVE INSUFFICIENCY. LC Petrus; GT Goldfeder; VMC Oliveira, EC Soares, MHMA Larsson.

Thirty dogs with chronic mitral valve insufficiency, ISACHC class II and 30 healthy dogs were studied. The evaluation of the longitudinal myocardial function was assessed by the peak diastolic and systolic velocities in basal, medial and apical segments of left ventricular free walls (LVFW) and interventricular septum (IVS). 44 dogs were evaluated, being 22 with DCM and 22 with healthy. Dogs were evaluated in the four chamber view, and the pulsed tissue Doppler was used to measure the velocity of six regions: apical (a), medial (m), and basilar or anular (b) of the interventricular septum (IVS) and of the left ventricular lateral wall (LVWL). From each studied segment the maximum myocardial velocity of the rapid filling (Em), atrial contraction (Am) and systolic (Sm) waves were obtained, as well as the ratio between the waves of the mitral inflow (E) and myocardial (Em), registered during the same cardiac cycle (Em/Em ratio). Mean, median and standard deviation of the echocardiographic indices were calculated. Student t-test was used to compare each group of dogs. Therefore, this study aimed for determining the abnormalities of dogs with mitral valve insufficiency and investigating the influence of the ventricular filling pressure over the studied indices. Sm LVWLb; Sm LVWLM; Sm IVSb were lower in dogs with CMVI than in healthy ones, and Am LVWLb; Am IVSb; Am IVSm; Am IVSa; Em/Em ratio were higher in dogs with CMVI then in healthy ones. Statistical significant difference was not observed between both groups when the other echocardiographic indices were evaluated.

In conclusion, dogs with chronic mitral valve disease, ISACHC class II, may show abnormalities of the left ventricular systolic function, and this can be observed by means of the pulsed tissue Doppler, even in dogs with normal shortening fraction. Moreover, the high Em/Em ratio of dogs with CMVI compared to the value obtained from healthy dogs assures that this index is very trustful and representative of the left ventricular filling pressure, useful to rule out other causes of dyspnea. The velocity of Em and Am were higher in dogs with valve disease than in healthy dogs probably because, despite heart insufficiency class II of dogs with CMVI, there was not myocardial remodeling able to change the left ventricular diastolic function, even though it is a chronic disorder in advanced stage.
ABSTRACT #219
PATHOLOGICAL FINDINGS IN DOGS WITH MITRAL VALVE INSUFFICIENCY: BIOPSIES DURING OPEN HEART SURGERY WITH CARDIOPULMONARY BYPASS. M Nishida, M Uechi, T Mizuno, M Mizuno, K Harada, M Fujiwara, T Nakayama. Nihon University, Fujisawa, Kanagawa, Japan.

The aim of this study was to examine histopathological characteristics of myocardial and lung biopsy specimens taken from dogs with mitral valve insufficiency (MVI). Twenty-nine dogs with mild to severe MVI, aged 5–14 years, underwent mitral valve plasty with cardiopulmonary bypass between October 2007 and November 2008, and samples for biopsy were taken during surgery from the left atrial wall, the left ventricular free wall (between the anterior and posterior papillary muscles), ruptured chordae and/or the lung (at the apex of the left middle lobe). Specimens were fixed in 10% phosphate-buffered formalin before histopathological analysis. Histopathological examination of the left atrium (n=25) showed no abnormalities in 16 cases but revealed interstitial edema in 7, eosinophilic degeneration in 6, connective tissue hyperplasia in 3, inflammatory infiltration in 4, and myocardial fascicular atrophy in 3. The left ventricular wall (n=26) showed no abnormality in 24 cases, but interstitial edema was noted in 2. In the ruptured chords (n=16), 11 showed abnormal connective tissue degeneration, while 3 had abnormal eosinophilic degeneration with tissue disruption. In the lung specimens (n=12), no abnormality was found in 5 cases, but disrupted alveolar structure was seen in 1, alveolar septal thickening in 2 and heart failure cells in 5, indicating previous episodes of pulmonary edema. These results suggest that the heart and lung tissue structures are relatively well maintained in MVI until shortly before death.

ABSTRACT #220

Mitral valve plasty is one of the treatment options for mitral regurgitation (MR). Expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE) is a polymer, which has been widely used to make artificial chords. In this study, we report autopsy and histological findings in two dogs that underwent cardiopulmonary bypass for mitral annuloplasty using e-PTFE sheets and chordoplastic using e-PTFE sutures. Case 1 was a neutered, 7-year-and-5-month-old male Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with severe MR. Postoperative progress was favorable until 10 months later when the dog showed severe diastolic dysfunction with significantly decreased fractional shortening by echocardiography. The dog died unexpectedly at 23 months after surgery. Case 2 was a 10-year-and-3-month-old female Cavalier King Charles Spaniel with severe MR. Postoperative progress was also satisfactory, but the dog died at 26 months after surgery from respiratory failure caused by intrathoracic fibrosarcoma. By histopathological examination, the structural integrity of both atrial and ventricular muscle fibers was maintained in Case 1, with no evidence of degeneration, fibrosis or fiber disarray. In Case 2, mild fibrosis was noted at the base of the left ventricular papillary muscle, indicating an old myocardial infarct. In both cases, e-PTFE sheets and sutures were not damaged and well integrated in the surrounding, highly differentiated connective tissue. There was no evidence of reactive changes around e-PTFE. These results suggest that e-PTFE is excellent in tissue compatibility and durability and useful for canine mitral valve plasty.

ABSTRACT #221
INTRA- AND POST-OPERATIVE COMPLICATIONS IN 47 DOGS THAT UNDERWENT MITRAL VALVE PLASTY. T Mizuno, M Uechi, T Ebisawa, M Mizuno, K Harada, M Nishida, M Fujisawa, T Nakayama. Nihon University, Fujisawa, Kanagawa, Japan.

We previously reported that mitral valve plasty (MVP) under cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) is an effective treatment for mitral regurgitation (MR) in dogs (2007 ACVIM Forum). To assess the incidence of intra- and post-operative complications, we retrospectively reviewed 47 cases that underwent MVP with CPB at the Nihon University Animal Medical Center between August 2006 and September 2008. The subjects were 47 dogs (22 males and 25 females; age: 62–175 (123±25) months, bodyweight: 1.8–13.5 (5.7±3.0) kg). The mean age of the 10 dogs that died within 4 months after surgery was 109.9±21 (range: 115–175) months, which was significantly higher compared to those that survived beyond 4 months postsurgery [119±25 (range: 62–157) months]. The 4-month postoperative mortality was 29% for dogs aged 10 years or older and 11% for those younger than 10 years. The causes of death were surgical technical problems (2 cases), thrombosis (4 cases), pancreatitis (2 cases), pulmonary hypertension (1 case) and unknown (1 case). Of the 37 cases that survived for 4 months or longer, 4 cases had postoperative complications (thrombotic cerebral infarction, pulmonary infarction, cerebellar infarction and aspiration pneumonia; 1 case each). Thrombus formation (including those in the left atrium) was observed in 12 cases and was the most frequent cause of postoperative complication and/or death. These results suggest that prevention of thrombosis is an important strategy for improving the surgical outcome of MVP. For dogs over 10 years old, in addition, preoperative stabilization and postoperative management are critical, and earlier surgery is recommended.

ABSTRACT #222

Previously, we reported that dogs develop systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS), with elevations of the IL-6 and IL-10 levels, after cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) (2007 ACVIM Forum). SIRS can lead to serious complications such as multiple organ failure. In this study, the anti-inflammatory effect of methylprednisolone (MP) after cardiac surgery with CPB was evaluated. Fourteen dogs (bodyweight, 4.4–7.3 kg) were randomly assigned to a placebo (n=8) or a MP group (n=6) and underwent cardiac surgery with CPB between April 2007 and December 2008. Serum cytokine levels (IL-6, TNF-α and IL-10) were measured before surgery, at 5 minutes after heparinization, at 5 minutes after the onset of CPB, immediately after heart rebeating, at 15 minutes after protamine administration, and at 3, 6, 12, 24 and 48 hours after the end of CPB. Sialine (placebo) or MP (10 mg/kg) was administered...
intravenously, concurrently with heparinization before the onset of CPB. Blood IL-6 peaked at 3 hours after the end of CPB in both groups, although its level was lower in the MP group than that in the placebo group (708.4 ± 354.5 pg/mL vs. 346.7 ± 175 pg/mL). No intergroup difference was seen in IL-10 level at 3 hours after the end of CPB (placebo vs. MP, 57.1 ± 126.8 vs. 74.8 ± 128.1 pg/mL). There was no difference in TNF-α level between the groups. These results indicate that a single administration of methylprednisolone before CPB suppresses the elevation of IL-6 level following cardiac surgery.

ABSTRACT #223
RECOVERY OF ATRIAL FIBRILLATION IN THREE DOGS AFTER MITRAL ANULLOPLASTY UNDER CARDIOPULMONARY BYPASS FOR SEVERE MITRAL REGURGITATION. M Fujisawa, M Uechi, T Mizukoshi, T Ebisawa, M Mizuno, T Mizuno, K Harada, M Nishida. Nihon University, Fujisawa, Kanagawa, Japan.

In dogs with severe mitral regurgitation (MR), atrial dilation and/or structural changes in atrial myocardium often lead to atrial fibrillation (AF). We report three cases of successful defibrillation following open heart mitral repair surgery under cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) performed for severe MR and cardiomyopathy. Case 1 was a 7-year-old, male Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (CKCS) presenting with asciites. Body weight (BW) was 8.8 kg, systolic regurgitant murmur (SRM) was grade 5/6 (mitral area) and 4/6 (tricuspid area). Case 2 was a 12-year-old, female Miniature Schnauzer presenting with syncope. BW was 8.9 kg, SRM was grade 5/6 (mitral area). Case 3 was a 9-year-old, male CKCS with a history of asciites for 3 months. BW was 10.3 kg, SRM was grade 4/6 (mitral and tricuspid areas). AF was confirmed by ECG in all cases. All patients underwent CPB for mitral chordal reattachment and annuloplasty surgery, syncope in the left atrium and AF were confirmed. After return of spontaneous circulation, atrial and ventricular fibrillation occurred, but normal sinus rhythm was restored after defibrillation. AF was not observed for the following 3 months in all cases except for a transient recurrence in Case 1 at 1 week after operation. X-ray examination revealed reduced atrial and cardiac sizes in all cases. This study suggests that normal sinus rhythm can be restored by postoperative defibrillation in dogs with severe MR and AF, and that load reduction after mitral valve repair prevents the recurrence of AF.

ABSTRACT #224
LV 2D STRAIN ANALYSIS PRE- AND POST-BALLOON ANULLOPLASTY IN DOGS WITH PULMONARY STENOSIS. Y Fujii, H Takei, H Takanon, Y Wakaon. Azabu University School of Veterinary Medicine, Kanagawa, Japan.

Left ventricular (LV) deformation and paradoxical ventricular septal motion can alter coordination of LV regional dynamics in chronic right ventricular (RV) pressure overload. The purpose of this study was to assess the influence of right ventricular pressure overload on LV systolic motion using 2D strain parameters in dogs with spontaneous pulmonary stenosis (PS), and to see if these parameters change after successful balloon valvuloplasty.

Twenty-one clinically healthy beagles (control) and 9 dogs with PS were used. PS was severe in all PS dogs, based on Doppler pressure gradient (PG, 153.52 ± 65 mmHg). Post-balloon PG was 54.05 ± 30.9 mmHg. 2D strain parameters (radial strain [SR], strain rate [SRr], time to peak radial strain [SRT], radial displacement [DR], time to peak radial displacement time [DRT], radial displacement variation) were measured in the 6 segments of LV short-axis view. Eccentricity index (EI) and fractional shortening (FS) were also measured. FS, systolic and diastolic EI, DR, and SRT were significantly decreased in dogs with PS compared with control. In comparison of each segment, SR, SRT, DRT and radial variation in the septal segments were significantly decreased. No significant change was observed between pre- and post-balloon in 2D strain parameters except for segmental DRT. Based on these results, although LV dyssynchrony was improved, most of the 2D strain parameters did not change after successful balloon valvuloplasty. Impaired LV contraction dynamics would be due to not only pressure overload, but probably also other factors including right ventricular hypertrophy.

ABSTRACT #225
EFFECTS OF BISOPROLOL ON VENTRICULAR MYOCYTE ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY DURING CHRONIC HEART FAILURE. Y Nishimura, A Srithar, RL Hamlin, G Beddes, CA Barnes. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. 2Bayer Healthcare LLC, Shawnee Mission, KS.

Beta-blockers are known to reduce the occurrence of sudden cardiac death in patients with chronic heart failure; however, the electrophysiological mechanisms remain poorly defined. We hypothesized that chronic treatment with bisoprolol, a beta-1 selective adrenergic blocker, would attenuate heart failure (HF)-induced remodeling of ventricular myocyte electrophysiology. The canine RV tachypacing model of heart failure was used. After 12 weeks of RV tachypacing (LVFS 15±2.8%) dogs were randomized to 5 weeks of bisoprolol or placebo. A separate group of normal controls were used for all comparisons. Myocytes from the LV mid-myocardium were studied. Compared to normal controls, the placebo-treated HF myocytes exhibited significant prolongation of APD0 and APD90 at both 0.5 and 1 Hz (p<0.05). Bisoprolol treatment significantly attenuated the HF-induced changes in APD0 and APD90, to values that did not differ from normal controls. Heart failure did not alter the inward conductance of the inward rectifier current (I_in) although HF significantly reduced peak outward I_Ks (p<0.05). Bisoprolol treatment restored (p<0.05) peak outward I_Ks to values which did not differ from control. Bisoprolol treatment did not alter the HF-induced reduction in the transient outward K+ current (I_out). Chronic beta-1 selective adrenergic blockade normalizes the ventricular action potential in chronic HF. This effect may contribute to the reduced cardiac death observed with beta-adrenergic blockade during HF.

ABSTRACT #226
HEART RATE IN IRISH WOLFHOUNDS WITH LONE ATRIAL FIBRILLATION & ASSESSMENT OF DIGOXIN AS SOLE METHOD OF RATE CONTROL. M Dentino1, A Reddi2, JM Bright3, M Dentino. 1Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Ft. Collins, CO. 2Nephrology Associates, Evansville, IN.

There is a high prevalence of lone atrial fibrillation (AF) in Irish wolfhounds (IW), and it is possible that abnormally high heart rates over time may lead to dilated cardiomyopathy in affected dogs. Although digoxin is often prescribed for rate control in IWs with AF, it is not known whether this drug provides adequate rate control during, typical daily activities. This study was performed to determine whether average hourly heart rates (HRs) and peak hourly heart rates are higher in IWs with lone AF than in comparable IWs with normal sinus rhythm (NSR) and to determine whether administration of digoxin to IWs with lone AF would normalize HR. HR data was collected from 13 IWs with lone AF and 12 IWs with NSR, then Holter studies repeated after verifying therapeutic serum concentration (1.0–2.0 ng/ml) in each treated dog. Average and peak hourly HRs were compared using a mixed model repeated measures ANOVA to evaluate differences between groups (NSR vs AF) and between baseline and digoxin treatment within the AF dogs. The peak hourly HRs did not differ significantly in IWs with AF compared to normal IWs (AF 164.8 [SE=13.3] bpm vs NSR 159.0 [SE=13.8] bpm). However, the average hourly HRs were higher in AF dogs than normal dogs (AF 98.6 [SE=5.1] bpm vs NSR 72.5 [SE=5.3] bpm; P=0.007). Both the peak and the average hourly HRs were significantly reduced in IWs with AF after treatment with digoxin (peak baseline 138.9 [SE=14.1] bpm vs peak digoxin 138.9 [SE=14.1] bpm; P=0.022 and average baseline 98.6 [SE=5.1] bpm vs average digoxin 82.6 [SE=5.4] bpm; P<0.001). After treatment with digoxin the average hourly HRs of IWs with AF were not significantly different than those of normal dogs (AF digoxin 82.6 [SE=5.4] bpm vs NSR 72.5 [SE=5.3] bpm).

These results indicate that IWs with lone AF have significantly greater average hourly HRs than IWs with NSR and that these HR differences are resolved by administration digoxin. This study does not evaluate whether administration of digoxin alone will have the same HR lowering effect in IWs with AF when dilated cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure are present.
ABSTRACT #227
PERSISTENCE OF THE MYOSIN-BINDING PROTEIN C MUTATION IN APPARENTLY HEALTHY CATES OF DIVERSE LINEAGE
J.A. Abbott1, D.A. Bennett1, K.M. Meurs1, V. Hulme2, C. Hanmore3, S. Voss1, T.A. Rhoads4, C.R. Hostler5, B. Phillips4

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) in Maine coon cats is associated with a mutation of the gene that codes for myosin-binding protein C; we sought to determine the prevalence of this mutation (MYBPC-MCC) in apparently healthy cates of diverse lineage. Study subjects were identified during a community-based echocardiographic survey of apparently healthy cats. After DNA was extracted from buccal swabs, the region of the MYBPC gene containing the mutation was amplified by PCR and then sequenced. Based on identification of the constituent base pairs of codon 31 in exon 3, samples were classified as homozygous, heterozygous, or free of MYBPC-MCC.

One hundred three cats were echocardiographically examined. Within 10 months of echocardiographic examination, buccal swabs were obtained from 71 of these cats but it was not possible to isolate DNA from one of the samples. Of 70 cats for which results of DNA analysis were available, 66 (94%) were mix-breed, 2 (3%) were Siamese, and 2 (3%) were Himalayan. Forty-two (60%) were neutered or sexually intact males. MYBPC-MCC was identified in DNA samples from 2 male and 1 female (4.3%; 95% confidence interval: 0.9–12.0) young (<5 years) mix-breed cats, all of which were heterozygous for the mutation. Two cases were domestic short-hair cats; one male was a domestic long-hair. The genetically affected cates were echocardiographically normal.

The MYBPC-MCC mutation is present not only in the Maine coon cat population but also in mix-breed cats. The prevalence of the mutation in apparently healthy cats is close to 4%.

ABSTRACT #228
THE USE OF STRAIN, STRAIN RATE, AND DISPLACEMENT BY 2D SPECKLE TRACKING FOR ASSESSMENT OF SYSTOLIC LEFT VENTRICULAR FUNCTION IN GOATS: APPLICABILITY AND INFLUENCE OF GENERAL ANESTHESIA
A. Berli1, R. Jud1, K. Steininger1, C. Schwarzwald1

Although cardiovascular disease is not commonly encountered in goats, this species often serves as an animal model for human cardiovascular disease. The goal of this study was to investigate the applicability of 2D speckle tracking (2DST) for assessment of segmental left ventricular (LV) function in goats, describe the techniques, and determine the influence of general anesthesia.

22 healthy, female Saanen-goats (age 3.7±1.1 y, weight 59.8±1.05 kg [mean±SD]) were studied. The goats underwent a complete echocardiographic examination in an unsedated state in the standing position (control). All goats then underwent a second echocardiographic examination under general anesthesia and in sternal recumbency, 7.4±3.4 days after the first examination (treatment). Echocardiography was performed using a GE Vivid 7 echocardiograph with a 545 probe (1.9/4.0 MHz). The LV was imaged in two-dimensional gray scale mode from a right-parasternal window using a long-axis, 4-chamber view (LAX) and a short-axis view at the level of the papillary muscles (SAX-PM). The recording frame rate ranged between 70.2 and 103.8 frames/second. Analyses were performed off-line (GE EchoPAC v6.1.2) and blinded to treatment. Measurements included longitudinal, circumferential, and radial peak systolic strain (SL, SC, SR), peak systolic strain rate (SrL-S, SrC-S, SrR-S) as well as longitudinal and radial peak systolic displacement (DL, DR). All measurements were reported by the software as average over each of 6 wall segments. Two-way RM ANOVA with a Holm-Sidak post-hoc test was used to assess the effects of segment and treatment on the variables. The level of significance was p=0.05.

2DST analyses were feasible in 256 of 264 recordings (97%). In LAX view, SL and SrL-S decreased gradually and DL increased gradually from the apical to the basal segments. SL was unaffected by treatment, while SrL-S was significantly reduced during anesthesia.

In conclusion: (1) measured results are firstly useful as baseline values for PFT by BWBP in cats with FBD and suggest that there are no significant differences in TV (p=0.120), Penh (p=0.349) and Pause (p=0.363) between different age-range groups of FBD cats, (2) there are significant differences for TV, Penh and Pause variables between healthy cats and cats with FBD (compared with reference values in healthy cats previously reported by authors), and (3) there are significant differences for Penh and for Pause between healthy cats and cats with FBD in adult (Penh; p=0.02; Pause; p=0.006) and old (Penh; p=0.05; Pause; p=0.03) cats.
ABSTRACT #230
CLINICAL APPLICATION OF BAROMETRIC WHOLE-BODY PLETHYSMOGRAPHY AND BRONCHOPROVOCATION TESTS IN CANINE BRONCHIAL DISEASE. YA Jhuo, HP Huang. Department of Veterinary Medicine, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the application of barometric whole-body plethysmography (BWBP) and bronchoprovocation tests in diagnosis of feline bronchial disease clinically. Thirty-nine client-owned dogs were enrolled, 21 were clinically healthy and the other 18 were affected with bronchial disease. Diagnosis of feline bronchial disease was based on clinical manifestations (Feline Bronchial Disease Activity Scores), results of physical examination, routine blood examinations, thoracic radiographs, electrocardiography and echocardiography in each cat. Baseline parameters of BWBP (respiratory rate, tidal volume, minute volume against body weight, peak inspiratory and expiratory flows, inspiratory and expiratory time, and relaxation time), and enhanced peak (Penh) were recorded over a 5-minute period. Bronchoprovocation tests were carried out using a jet nebulizer containing carbachol solutions at concentrations of 0.005, 0.01, 0.02, 0.04, 0.06, 0.08, 0.1, 0.2, and 0.5% Saline (0.9% NaCl) and increased concentrations of carbachol solutions were nebulized for 1 minute and followed by 5 minutes until the carbachol-induced bronchoconstriction (Penh exceeded 300% of baseline, C-Pen300). Clinically healthy (n=6) and FBD-affected cats (n=4) were then further selected to determine the repeatability of BWBP on two independent occasions. Repeating tests were performed following the same procedure as described above at an interval of 2 weeks. Baseline BWBP parameters between clinically healthy cats and cats with bronchial disease were not significantly different. C-Pen300 was significantly higher in clinically healthy cats (0.352±0.196%) compared to cats with bronchial disease (0.063±0.0444%, P<0.0001). No correlation was found between the baseline BWBP variables and C-Pen300 in cats with bronchial disease. In the test of repeatability of BWBP, the concentrations inducing a 300% increase of Penh were similar (mean C-Pen300 Test 1: 0.326±0.229%; mean C-Pen300 Test 2: 0.258±0.212%; P=0.50). Results of two repeating tests were positively correlated (r=0.76, P<0.0001). These findings suggested that the results of BWBP assessment could be repeatable, and bronchoprovocation test could be applied as a diagnostic protocol for feline bronchial disease.

ABSTRACT #231
THE QUALITY OF CANINE BRONCHOALVEOLAR LAVAGE FLUID CYTOTOLOGY IS PRESERVED FOR UP TO 72 HOURS WITH OR WITHOUT AUTOLOGOUS SERUM. MH Patrick, T Wills, RK Sellon. Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Pullman, WA.

Cytological examination of bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid is the gold standard for diagnosing canine lower respiratory tract disease. BAL fluid is typically evaluated almost immediately to limit changes in cytological quality due to low protein medium, cellular release of enzymes, or delayed cell preparation. The preservation of BAL sample quality over time has not been previously evaluated. We hypothesized that addition of autologous serum to BAL samples immediately after collection would preserve cytological quality for at least 72 hours. Serum was collected from each of 14 healthy dogs prior to BAL. BAL samples were divided into 13 aliquots of 250 μL; one aliquot was analyzed immediately. Cells were counted via hemocytometer and cytological quality assessed by scoring the degree of nuclei staining and frequency of broken cells on cytopsin preparations. Autologous serum (50 μL; 5%) was added to 6/12 aliquots, and all aliquots were stored at 4°C for 24, 48, and 72 hours before analysis; the clinical pathologist was blinded to both serum treatment and storage time. Data were analyzed via ANOVA and paired t-test. There were no differences in cell count or sample quality at any of the time points between aliquots stored with or without serum. At 72 hours, the difference in the cell morphology between samples with serum versus those without serum approached significance. BAL samples remained of good diagnostic quality up to 48 hours. Adding serum may be useful for samples for which analysis will be delayed for more than 3 days.

ABSTRACT #232

Pulmonary thromboembolism (PTE) can be a life-threatening complication of critical illness. The purpose of this study was to evaluate clinical signs, underlying disease states, coagulation testing results, therapies, and outcome in dogs with confirmed PTE. The medical records and necropsy databases were searched for dogs with confirmed PTE between 2002 and 2008. Confirmation of PTE was made via necropsy, computed tomography (CT scan) with non-ionic intravenous contrast, selective angiography, or visualization of a pulmonary thrombus on echocardiography (Echo). Dogs with suspected but not proven PTE were excluded as were dogs with PTE in association with heartworm infection. Information recorded from the medical record included history, presenting complaint, presence of key clinical signs, antemortem suspicion of PTE, therapies directed against PTE, co-morbidity, coagulation testing, and outcome.

Thirty-five dogs with confirmed PTE were identified. Twenty-six were confirmed at necropsy, while five had thrombi visualized on Echo, and 4 had PTE identified on CT scan. Thirty dogs presented with respiratory distress and 13 had cough, including 3 with hemoptysis. Seven dogs had right-sided congestive heart failure, 1 dog presented for collapse, and 1 experienced sudden death. Twenty dogs were treated with supplemental oxygen, including 4 who were mechanically ventilated. In 62% of cases, PTE was suspected antemortem. 12 of these dogs received anticoagulant or thrombolytic therapy, consisting of various combinations of unfractionated heparin, low molecular weight heparin, coumadin, clopidogrel, urokinase, tissue plasminogen activator and streptokinase. A variety of co-morbidities were identified, most commonly neoplasia, corticosteroid use, and protein-losing nephropathy. Prothrombin time (n=17) was elevated beyond the reference range in 8 dogs, and aPTT (n=19) was elevated in 7. Platelet count (n=27) was decreased in 15. D-dimer concentrations were measured in 13 dogs; 3 dogs had negative D-dimer concentration (< 250 ng/mL). Five dogs had D-dimer levels of 250–500 ng/mL, 2 dogs had concentrations 500–1000 ng/mL, 2 dogs had concentrations 1000–2000 ng/mL and 1 dog had a concentration >2000 ng/mL. 30 dogs died or were euthanized, while 5 dogs were discharged. PTE was suspected antemortem in a higher percentage of dogs in this study than in previous reports. However, only 12 of 21 dogs with suspected PTE received anticoagulant or thrombolytic interventions. Additionally, in this population of dogs with confirmed PTE, D-dimers were not reliably elevated, with only 3/13 dogs having D-dimers >1000 ng/mL.

The clinical outcome associated with PTE remains poor. Future directions may include improving clinical suspicion for the disease in at-risk dogs, developing alternative means to aid antemortem diagnosis, and facilitating timely use of anticoagulant therapies.

ABSTRACT #233

In humans, nebulisation/aerosolization is a well-established route to drug delivery to the respiratory tract and to provide airway humidification in patients with respiratory diseases. Protocols for nebulisation generation and delivery are well standardized. Because the inherent lack of cooperation of animals, most of these human protocols are not applicable to veterinary medicine. Successful therapy with nebulisation may depend more on adequate drug delivery than drug efficacy. The aim of this study was to compare the tolerance and efficiency of four different techniques for nebulisation delivery in cats.

Nine adult healthy cats were used. Tolerance to each nebulisation technique was subjectively evaluated. For objective evaluation of
the efficiency of the nebulisation delivery, a cough challenge test was used. Capsacine was nebulised (ultrasonic nebuliser) following a dose-response protocol with increasing concentrations (3, 10, 30, 60, 90, 150, 300 and 500 μM) during 1 minute each and lasting 1 minute between concentrations. When more than 5 coughs were induced the response was considered positive. The test was always performed with the cats lightly sedated (acepromazine, 0.06 mg/kg + buprenorphine, 0.01 mg/kg, IM). In different days, the cough challenge test was repeated in all cats once with each of the following techniques for nebulisation delivery: (1) direct approximation of the nebulisation outlet to the mouth/nose of the cat (flow-by method, FB); (2) using a face mask (FM); (3) using a plastic-covered Elizabethan collar (EC); and (4) using a plexiglas chamber (18.5 l) (PC). The number of positive responses (NPR) and the concentration of capsacine that induced positive response (CCP) with the four techniques were statistically compared (Chi-square and Mann-Whitney test, respectively; P < 0.05).

The FM technique was the best tolerated, although the FB and FM techniques showed also acceptable tolerance. However, the EC technique resulted very stressful and the test must be suspended in 4/9 cats. The technique that induced positive responses at lower CCP was the FM (13.8±6.0 μM), followed by the FB technique (20.0±9.3 μM), the PC technique (23.8±10.2 μM) and the EC technique (40.0±9.4 μM), although the differences only were statistically significant when compared FM and EC techniques (P = 0.02). The FM technique induced positive responses in greater number of cats (NPR = 8), followed by the FB technique (NPR = 7), the PC technique (NPR = 5) and the EC technique (NPR = 3). Again, the differences only were statistically significant when compared FM and EC technique (P = 0.016).

In conclusion, FM is the most efficient technique for nebulisation delivery in cats, offering good tolerance and the best quantitative results. The FB nebulisation is less efficient but it may become practical if the FM is not tolerated. The PC technique offers a minor efficiency but it may be useful in very stressful or aggressive cats. The EC technique presents low efficiency and tolerance.

ABSTRACT #234

UTILITY OF TEPOXALIN, A DUAL LIPOXYGENASE AND CYCLOOXYGENASE INHIBITOR, IN CANINE CHRONIC AND/OR EOSINOPHILIC BRONCHITIS. CR Reinero, CH Chang, AE DeCue. University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO.

Eicosanoids like leukotriene B4 (LTB4), prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) and thromboxane B2 (TXB2) are inflammatory mediators in human chronic bronchitis. We hypothesized that canine chronic bronchitis is caused at least in part by products of the lipooxygenase and cyclooxygenase-2 pathways, and by selective inhibition with tepoxalin (Zubrin®), a parallel decrease in the number/percentage of airway inflammatory cells and concentrations of LTB4, PGE2 and TXB2 would be observed.

Twelve dogs with naturally developing chronic eosinophilic bronchitis were enrolled. For inclusion, dogs needed baseline thoracic radiographs, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) with > 370 cells/μl, > 5% neutrophils and/or > 5% eosinophils, negative BALF culture and owner consent. Tepoxalin was administered at 20 mg/kg PO once followed by 10 mg/kg daily for 2 weeks. At 2 weeks, thoracic radiographs and BALF collection were repeated. Concentrations of eicosanoid products were measured in BALF using commercial ELISAs. Data were analyzed using a paired t-test or a signed rank test with p < 0.05 considered significant.

A baseline mean ±SD BALF total cell number, % neutrophils and % eosinophils were 992±652 cells/μl, 30±18% and 33±32%; no significant difference was noted after Tepoxalin (1190±1233 cells/μl, 40±28% and 36±26%; respectively), BALF LTB4 was significantly greater [median (q1, q3); pre 0.84 (0.3, 1.2); post 1.2 (0.8, 2.2); p = 0.02] post-tepoxalin treatment but there was no significant difference in mean±SD PGE2 (pre 1.17±0.38 ng/ml; post 2.40±1.00 ng/ml; p = 0.22) or TXB2 (pre 0.05±0.02 ng/ml; post 0.07±0.03 ng/ml; p = 0.54).

In conclusion, in dogs with chronic and/or eosinophilic bronchitis Tepoxalin does not significantly diminish airway inflammation or reduce concentrations of local airway eicosanoid products.
ABSTRACT #237
COMPARISON OF WIRELESS AND CONVENTIONAL CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING SYSTEMS (CGMS) IN 4 DOGS. J. Riedel1, J. Seipel1, B. Vaske2, K. Rohn2, D. Simon1, I. Nolte1, 1Small Animal Clinic and Institute for Biometry and Epidemiology, Hanover School of Veterinary Medicine, Germany, 2Institute for Biometry, Medical School Hanover, Germany.

Diabetes mellitus is a common endocrine disorder in dogs and its therapeutic approach is still a challenge for veterinarians. Conventional and wireless Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems (CGMS) are useful tools for an optimal insulin treatment in dogs. The aim of this study was the comparison of the conventional and the wireless CGMS concerning their diagnostic value.

Three diabetic dogs and one healthy dog underwent simultaneous continuous glucose monitoring with a conventional and, concurrently, a wireless device. The measurement of one diabetic dog was continued for 5 days. Blood glucose values were determined at least three times a day and were used for the calibration for the CGMS. A comparison of both devices was performed using the Wilcoxon test. Differences of CGMS and blood glucose values were analyzed by the Friedmann-Test. p-values <0.05 were considered to be significant.

Diabetic dogs were represented by a Labrador Retriever, a Cocker Spaniel and a Dalmatian. The healthy dog was a Beagle. The glucose values measured by the conventional CGMS were significantly different compared to the wireless CGMS. Glucose values measured by the conventional CGMS were higher in comparison to the wireless type. Furthermore, significantly lower numbers of values were recorded by the wireless CGMS if compared to the conventional device. This is probably due to an increased rate of discontinuations during the measurement of the wireless device. There were no significant differences between blood glucose values and glucose values measured by the conventional and the wireless CGMS.

Because of the increased rate of discontinuations the results suggest that to date a continuous glucose monitoring is probably more reliable if it is accomplished with the conventional CGMS. Further studies are needed to confirm this conclusion by a more detailed comparison of blood glucose values and glucose values recorded by both CGMS devices.

Previously presented at InnLab 2009, Berlin, Germany.

ABSTRACT #239
URINARY MARKERS AND PLASMA IOHEXL CLEARANCE IN HEALTHY DOGS AND DOGS WITH PITUITARY-DEPENDENT HYPERADRENOCORTICISM. P. M. Smets1, J. P. M. Y. Smets1, E. Meyer5, B. E. J. Maddens1, S. Croubels1, H. P. Lefebvre1, S. Daminet1, 1Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium. 2Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire, Toulouse, France.

Proteinuria and systemic hypertension have been associated with progression of chronic renal disease in dogs. The objective of this study was to compare a selected set of glomerular and tubular markers, i.e. proteinuria and systemic hypertension, with untreated pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism (PDH) and with untreated pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism (PDH) have proteinuria and 50 to 80% have hypertension. Moreover, an increase in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) has been described in humans and several animal species receiving exogenous glucocorticoids. Still, the effect of PDH on renal function has not been documented.

Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare a selected set of glomerular and tubular markers, i.e. proteinuria and systemic hypertension, with untreated pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism (PDH). There were no significant differences between blood glucose values and glucose values measured by the conventional and the wireless CGMS.

In the H and the PDH dogs, the mean UPC±standard deviation (SD) was 0.1±0.05 and 2.1±1.3, the uALB/c 33.4±50.7 mg/ml and 2385.8±3236.7 mg/ml, the Clendo 1.8±2.0 and 2.6±0.7 and the Clexo 7.7 U/g, respectively. Based on a two sample t-test the UPC (p=0.005), uRBP/c (p=0.012), uNAG/c (p=0.047), Clexo (p=0.015) and Clendo (p=0.004) were all significantly higher in the PDH than in the H dogs. No significant difference was found for uALB/c, although increased ratios were observed in all PDH dogs.

In conclusion, results of this pilot study suggest the presence of glomerular and tubular renal dysfunction in PDH compared to H dogs, indicated by increases in UPC and GFR, and in uRBP/c and uNAG/c, respectively. Further research in a larger number of dogs is warranted to confirm these novel findings in order to gain a better insight into the effect of PDH on renal function.

ABSTRACT #240
EFFECT OF PHYTOESTROGENS AND MELATONIN ON ADRENAL STEROIDOGENESIS USING HUMAN ADRENAL CELLS AS A MODEL FOR CANINE HYPERADRENOCORTICISM. K. A. Fecteau1, J. W. Oliver2, H. Eiler2. 1Department of Comparative Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

Excessive secretion of adrenal sex hormones has been associated with clinical signs usually caused by cortisol in canine hyperadrenocorticism. Phytoestrogens and melatonin are effective in controlling hyperadrenocorticism in some dogs. The objectives of this study were to investigate: (1) the effectiveness of phytoestrogens, alone and in combination with melatonin, in blocking adrenal steroidogenesis at the cellular level and; (2) the effect phytoestrogens have on expression of aromatase which converts androgen to estrogen. Since human adrenal carcinoma cells but not canine adrenal cells are commercially available, human cells were used as a model for dog.

Cells were treated with 100 μM cyclic AMP (cAMP), cAMP plus phytoestrogen enterolactone (ENL), cAMP plus phytoestrogen enterocholanolone (END), ENL plus melatonin, and END plus melatonin for 24-hour incubation. These agents suppressed progesterone, 17-hydroxyprogesterone, androstenedione, aldosterone, and cortisol using radioimmunoassays. Treated-cell lysates were used for western blot immunoassay investigation of aromatase expression.

Results revealed a significant (P<0.05) decrease in cAMP-stimulated estradiol (207 vs 430 pg/ml), androstenedione (29.5 vs...
112.6 ng/ml), and cortisol (15.5 vs 57.3 ng/ml) concentrations when ENL was combined with melatonin and a decrease in estradiol (143.6 pg/ml), androstenedione (35.9 ng/ml), and cortisol (16.7 ng/ml) when ENL was combined with melatonin. Hormones were not significantly decreased when ENL or END was used alone. Androgen expression was decreased in phytosterogen and melatonin treated cells. Results suggest phytoestrogens plus melatonin act directly on adrenal cells lowering estradiol by decreasing aromatase as well as lowering cortisol and androstenedione.

**ABSTRACT #241**

**EFFECT OF LOW DOSES OF COSYNTROPIN ON COR- TISOL CONCENTRATIONS IN CLINICALLY HEALTHY CATS.** LG Martin1, AE DeClue2, EN Behrend1, LA Cohn2, DI Dismukes1, R Cohen1, HP Lee3. 1Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn, AL. 2University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO.

Use of low-dose ACTH stimulation testing may be important in diagnosing mild degrees of adrenocortical insufficiency and a new syndrome, relative adrenal insufficiency, which has been recognized in critically ill human and veterinary patients. In cats, the ACTH stimulation test utilizing a standard dose of cosyntropin (125 μg/cat, IV) is used for evaluation of adrenocortical function. A previous study has documented that lower doses of cosyntropin will stimulate maximal cortisol secretion in healthy cats. However, this study used per cat dosing as opposed to per body weight dosing. The purpose of this study was to determine the lowest dose of cosyntropin on a per body weight basis that will produce maximal cortisol secretion in clinically healthy cats.

Six dose-response trials were performed in 7 clinically healthy cats (mean ± SD weight 5.5 ± 1.1 kg) instrumented with vascular access ports (Norfolk Vet Products). Each cat was randomly given 5 doses (125 μg/cat, 10 μg/kg, 5 μg/kg, 2.5 μg/kg, 1 μg/kg) of cosyntropin (Cortrosyn®) and saline (control) IV with a 2-week wash out period between doses. Blood samples for determination of serum cortisol concentrations were obtained before and at 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, and 90 minutes after cosyntropin administration. Samples were centrifuged after clotting, and the serum was separated and stored at −20 ºC until analysis. Data were analyzed using a repeated measures ANOVA; post hoc comparisons were made using the Least Squared Means method. Significance was set at the p<0.05 level.

Mean serum cortisol concentration increased significantly after administration of all 5 cosyntropin dosages when compared to baseline (p<0.0001). After administration of 125 μg cosyntropin/cat, serum cortisol concentration peaked at 90 minutes. Mean serum cortisol concentrations peaked at 75, 60, 60, and 45 minutes following administration of 10, 5, 2.5, and 1 μg/kg cosyntropin, respectively. The peak serum aldosterone concentration subsequent to 125 μg/cat was similar to all other doses, except the 1 μg/kg dose. Higher dosages of cosyntropin appeared to result in more sustained elevations in serum aldosterone and a later time of peak response. No increase in aldosterone concentration occurred after saline administration.

In conclusion, 125 μg/cat and 10 μg/kg cosyntropin stimulated the highest serum aldosterone concentrations at 60 minutes post administration. Cosyntropin administered at doses of 5 and 2.5 μg/kg also produce maximal aldosterone secretion in clinically healthy cats, but time of peak concentration occurred at 45 minutes. Serum aldosterone concentration was reliably increased in all cats after the administration of each dosage. Cosyntropin should be used in subsequent studies to evaluate the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in healthy and adrenopathic cats, and cats with nonadrenal illnesses.

**ABSTRACT #242**

**DOSE RESPONSE OF ALDOSTERONE TO ACTH STIMULA- TION IN CLINICALLY HEALTHY CATS.** LG Martin1, AE DeClue2, EN Behrend1, LA Cohn2, DI Dismukes1, R Cohen2, HP Lee3. 1Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn, AL. 2University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO.

ACTH is involved in regulation of aldosterone secretion. Administration of exogenous ACTH to dogs causes a reliable increase in serum aldosterone secretion and can be used for evaluation of adrenal function. However, the aldosterone response to ACTH administration, the dose of ACTH which will stimulate maximal adrenocortical aldosterone secretion, and the time of maximal response has not been evaluated in cats. The purpose of this study was to determine the aldosterone response to 5 doses of cosyntropin in clinically healthy cats.

Five dose-response trials were performed in 7 clinically healthy cats (mean ± SD weight 5.5 ± 1.1 kg) instrumented with vascular access ports (Norfolk Vet Products). Each cat was randomly given 5 doses (125 μg/cat, 10 μg/kg, 5 μg/kg, 2.5 μg/kg, 1 μg/kg) of cosyntropin (Cortrosyn®) and saline (control) IV with a 2-week wash out period between doses. Blood samples for determination of serum aldosterone concentrations were obtained before and at 15, 30, 45, 60, 75, and 90 minutes after cosyntropin administration. Samples were centrifuged after clotting, and the serum was separated and stored at −20 ºC until analysis. Data were analyzed using a repeated measures ANOVA; post hoc comparisons were made using the Least Squared Means method. Significance was set at the p<0.05 level.

Mean serum aldosterone concentration increased significantly after administration of all 5 cosyntropin dosages when compared to baseline (p<0.0001). After administration of 125 μg cosyntropin/cat, serum aldosterone concentration peaked at 60 minutes. Mean serum aldosterone concentrations peaked at 60, 45, 45, and 30 minutes following administration of 10, 5, 2.5, and 1 μg/kg cosyntropin, respectively. The peak serum aldosterone concentration subsequent to 125 μg/cat was similar to all other doses, except the 1 μg/kg dose. Higher dosages of cosyntropin appeared to result in more sustained elevations in serum aldosterone and a later time of peak response. No increase in aldosterone concentration occurred after saline administration.

In conclusion, 125 μg/cat and 10 μg/kg cosyntropin stimulated the highest serum aldosterone concentrations at 60 minutes post administration. Cosyntropin administered at doses of 5 and 2.5 μg/kg also produce maximal aldosterone secretion in clinically healthy cats, but time of peak concentration occurred at 45 minutes. Serum aldosterone concentration was reliably increased in all cats after the administration of each dosage. Cosyntropin should be used in subsequent studies to evaluate the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in healthy and adrenopathic cats, and cats with nonadrenal illnesses.

**ABSTRACT #243**

**DETERMINATION OF THE OPTIMAL TIME FOR TESTING THYROID HORMONES DURING TREATMENT WITH METHIMAZOLE IN HEALTHY AND HYPERTHYROID CATS.** Rutland BE1, Nachreiner RF2 & Kruger JM1. 1College of Veterinary Medicine, 2Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH); Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Variation in the duration and magnitude of suppression of thyroid hormones, TT4 (total thyroxine), tT4 (free T4), TT3 (total triiodothyronine) and fT3 (free T3), over a 24-hour period during methimazole treatment, has not been characterized in hyperthyroid cats. The purpose of this study was to determine the optimal sampling time to monitor therapeutic efficacy. Four healthy cats, in a crossover study, were treated with increasing doses of methimazole until a steady state of thyroid suppression was achieved. Additionally, thyroid fractions (including cTSH, canine thyroid stimulating hormone) were randomly and serially monitored for 24 hrs post medication. Thyroid profiles from 461 hyperthyroid cats treated with methimazole were retrieved from the DCPAH database and retrospectively reviewed. Wilcoxin signed rank tests and two-way ANOVA were used to evaluate the difference between thyroid fractions in treated and untreated groups. Linear regression analysis evaluated relationships of all thyroid fractions to time post-pilling in the retrospective study. Cats were divided according to dosage (≥20 mg/kg/day), dosage interval (≥24 hrs), or fT4 < 55 nmol/L when correlations were performed.

All thyroid fractions were significantly suppressed and cTSH significantly elevated for the entire 24hours after once daily methimazole treatment in healthy cats (p-values < 0.05). In hyperthyroid cats, there was no significant relationship between time post-pill and thyroid fractions, even when dosing interval, dosage and T4 < 55 nmol/L were taken into consideration. There was no correlation between dose rate and TT4. In conclusion, timing of blood sampling after methimazole administration does not appear to be a significant factor when assessing response to methimazole treatment.
ABSTRACT #244
THE Efficacy AND SAFETY OF A NOVEL LIPOPHILIC FORMULATION METHIMAZOLE FOR THE ONCE DAILY TRANSDERMAL TREATMENT OF CATS WITH HYPER-THYROIDISM, KE Hill, MA Gieseg, DD Kingsbury, J Bridges, JS Suchodolski, and serum methimazole concentrations were recorded. At each chemical and urine parameters, total serum thyroxine concentrations signs, body weight, systolic blood pressure, haematologic, serum bio-
ABSTRACT #245
THE EFFECT OF A MULTI-STRAIN PROBIOTIC FORMULATION ON MARKERS OF GASTROINTESTINAL FUNCTION IN HEALTHY DOGS AND CATS, JS Suchodolski, JF Garcia, N Berghoff, N Grützner, CG Paddock, DJ Lanerie, JM Steiner. Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Probiotics are commonly recommended as an ancillary treatment for various gastrointestinal disorders. Administration of probiotics, due to their effect on intestinal microbial populations, could potentially lead to reduced concentrations of serum or fecal markers of gastrointestinal function. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effect of a commercially available multi-strain probiotic formulation (Proviable®, Nutramax Laboratories Inc.) on commonly used markers of gastrointestinal function. A subset analysis was performed for German Shepherd Dogs (n=10; n=6 placebo, n=4 AHC7) and for Labrador Retrievers (n=11; n=7 placebo, n=4 AHC7). In the German Shepherd Dogs, probiotic AHC7 significantly (P=0.026) reduced the time to diarrhea resolution (3.3 days) compared to placebo (7.7 days). In Labrador Retrievers, probiotic AHC7 also significantly (P=0.048) reduced the time to di-

ABSTRACT #246
EFFECT OF BIFIDOBACTERIUM ANIMALIS AHC7 ON RESOLUTION OF ACUTE DIARRHEA IN THE CANINE AND Feline, D. Minikhiem2, R. Kelley1, J. Park3, T. Boileau1, B. Kiely2, L. O'Mahony1, 2Procter & Gamble Pet Care, Lewisburg, OH, USA, 2Alimentary Health Ltd., Cork, Ireland, 3Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre, National University of Ireland, Cork, Ireland.

The effect of a canine-derived probiotic, Bifidobacteria animalis AHC7, on idiopathic diarrhea was evaluated in adult dogs. Forty-five dogs (n=24 placebo, n=21 probiotic) were recruited but only 31 (n=15 placebo, n=16 probiotic) met the inclusion criteria used for subsequent analysis. The most common reason for exclusion was an initial stool score <4. Attending veterinarians prescribed metroni-

ABSTRACT #247
EVALUATION OF INTRA-STOOL VARIABILITY OF THREE LACTIC ACID BACTERIA GENERAL IN DOGS BY QUANTITA-

Lactic acid bacteria are commonly used in probiotic formulations as they are thought to have beneficial effects by modulating the
intestinal microbiota. Quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR) allows detection and quantification of microbial genomic targets, and has been used for the quantification of bacterial groups in feces. To our knowledge, reproducibility of DNA extraction and intra-stool variation of lactic acid bacteria have not yet been described for qPCR from canine fecal samples. Therefore, the aims of this study were to evaluate the DNA extraction reproducibility and to determine intra-stool variability of three lactic acid bacterial genera assessed by qPCR in feces from dogs.

To test the reproducibility of the extraction method, DNA extraction was performed five times from four homogenized fecal samples. Additionally, feces from a total of eight dogs were used to evaluate intra-stool variability. Five sites were randomly sampled from each of the eight defecations (one from each dog). DNA was extracted from each of the samples using a phenol chloroform-based method. Separate qPCRs were performed for all samples using genus specific 16S rRNA gene primers for Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium, and Enterococcus spp. Standard curves using serial 1:10 DNA dilutions (range 2 to 0.0002 ng) containing species of these three bacterial genera were used to calculate the unknown bacterial genomic targets. Samples and standards were run in duplicates using a commercial real-time PCR thermocycler (iCycler iQ, Biorad).

These samples were evaluated for testing the reproducibility of the DNA extraction for each genus. Coefficients of variation (%CV) were calculated from the five extractions for each of the 3 genera: Bifidobacterium: median: 5.2%CV, range: 2.7%CV to 6.2%CV; Enterococcus: median: 7.1%CV, range: 5.9%CV to 8.4%CV; and Lactobacillus: median: 4.7%CV, range: 2.7%CV to 6.4%CV. Forty samples (eight defecations, five sites each) were analyzed to evaluate intra-stool variability for each genus. The %CV for the three genera: Bifidobacterium: median: 11.7%CV, range: 2.2%CV to 32.2%CV; Enterococcus: median: 6.3%CV, range: 1.8%CV to 11.1%CV; and Lactobacillus: median: 17.4%CV, range: 6.8%CV to 35.5%CV.

These results showed less than 10% variation among five different DNA extractions from the same fecal sample, thus showing that qPCR is a reproducible technique for the quantification of lactic acid bacteria in fecal samples from dogs. In this study we observed an intra-stool variability of up to 38.5%, which needs to be taken into account for future clinical studies.

**ABSTRACT #249**

**ABSENCE OF A BACTERIAL ASSOCIATION IN YORKSHIRE TERRIERS WITH PROTEIN-LOSING ENTEROPATHY AND CYSTIC INTESTINAL CRYPTS**

M. Crouzet, C. Duhamel, NB Sutter, KW Simpson. College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Yorkshire Terriers (YT) are predisposed (OR 4.2–10.1) to protein-losing enteropathy (PLE). Intestinal pathology of YT-PLE typically includes lymphangiectasia and mucosal lymphoctic plasmacytic infiltrates. Lesions described as “dilated intestinal crypts” (JVIM 14:298–307, 2000) or “mucoid cryptal ectasia” (JAAHA 39:187–191, 2003) consisting of cystic crypts filled with mucus and necrotic cellular debris, and with mucin loss. Cystic intestinal crypts have been reported in PLE. We sought to further describe the clinical and pathological features of YT-PLE and to explore a possible relationship between mucosal histopathology and mucosal bacteria.

14 YT with PLE were identified between 1999–2008 (8M, 6F: 4 prospective, 10 retrospective). Clinical features and outcome were available for 12 dogs and intestinal biopsies for 14 (8 endoscopic, 6 surgical). Mucosal histopathology was examined by a blinded pathologist (GED) and inflammatory infiltrates, lymphangiectasia and crypt abnormalities were scored as normal-0, mild-1, moderate-2 or severe-3. Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) with a eubacterial probe was used to ascertain the presence and distribution of bacteria in duodenal biopsies.

The median age and weight and bodyweight at presentation were 96 mo, and 3.1 kg, respectively. Vomiting (7), diarrhea (6) and inappetence (6) were the most frequent clinical signs. Bicavity effusions were present in 5 dogs, and ascites alone in 3. Hypoalbuminemia (< 3.1g/dl) were present in all 12 dogs (median 1.6g/dl), and hypoglobulinemia (<1.9g/dl) in 7 (median 1.7g/dl). Additional biochemical abnormalities included hypocalcemia (12), hypocholesterolemia (11) hypomagnesemia (9), hypokalemia (5) and hypochloremia (5). Hematological abnormalities included mild anemia (5), thrombocytosis (8), and neutrophilia (6), and neutrophilia with a left shift (n=3). Anti-thrombin III was low (<75%) in 4/6 dogs evaluated (mean 62%). Duodenal biopsies from all affected YT contained cystic intestinal cysts. Lymphangiectasia (median range; 2.0–3.3 crypt hyperplasia (2.1–3.3) and villus blunting (4 dogs), were less consistent features. Mucosal infiltration of lymphocytes and plasma cells (villus 2.1–3; crypt 3.2–3) and eosinophils (1.5,1–2) were common. Empirical therapy with corticosteroids (11/12), azathioprine (2/12), antibiotics, plasma and diuretics was associated with a poor outcome. 7/12 cases died or were euthanised within 3 m of diagnosis. Long-term survival occurred in 3 dogs, (36, 24, and 5 months) and 2 are alive at 3 and 4 m after diagnosis. FISH analysis showed no evidence of a bacterial association with crypt cysts or with mucosal inflammation.

We conclude that YT suffer a severe and often fatal form of PLE that is consistently associated with cystic intestinal crypts. The absence of a bacterial association suggests that this may be a primary morphogenetic disorder with or without a secondary environmental trigger. Further work is required to ascertain the etiopathogenesis of cyst lesions and their relationship to enteric protein loss.
ABSTRACT #250
SERUM fPLI AND SPEC fPL CONCENTRATIONS IN CATS WITH EXPERIMENTALLY INDUCED CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE. PG Xenoulis1, DR Finco2, JS Suchodolski1, JM Steiner1. 1Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. 2College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

Although feline pancreatitis occurs frequently, its diagnosis can be challenging mainly because of its non-specific clinical presentation and the fact that until recently a sensitive and specific test for the diagnosis of this condition was not available. In the past decade, two immunohasays, feline trypsin-like immunoreactivity (fTLI) and feline pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity (fPLI) were developed and are being utilized as tests for pancreatic function and pathology. More recently, a new assay for the measurement of serum concentrations of feline pancreatic lipase, Spec fPLI™, has been developed and validated. This assay shows the same performance characteristics as the original fPL assay. Renal failure, a major differential diagnosis in cats with clinical evidence suggestive of pancreatitis, has previously been shown to be associated with significant increase in serum fTLI concentrations, therefore reducing the specificity of this assay for feline pancreatitis. The aim of the present study was to investigate the effect of experimentally induced chronic renal failure (CRF) on serum fPLI and Spec fPL concentrations.

Leftover serum samples (stored at −80°C) from 18 cats with CRF induced by subtotal nephrectomy for an unrelated project were used for the present study. Serum fPLI concentration was measured in samples from all 18 cats and compared with those in 41 healthy cats. Serum Spec fPL was measured in 16 cats with experimentally induced CRF. To test the stability of feline pancreatic lipase in serum samples stored at −80°C, nine unrelaxed samples were tested before and after 44 months of storage at −80°C. There was no statistically significant difference of the mean serum fPLI concentrations for the 9 samples before and after 44 months of storage at −80°C (p=0.162). All cats with experimentally induced CRF had an increased serum creatinine concentration (>1.5 mg/dL; median: 2.9 mg/dL; range: 2.2–5.4 mg/dL) at the time of the study. Median serum Spec fPL concentrations was not significantly different between cats with induced CRF (median: 8.6 µg/L; range: 5.4–9.9 µg/L) and healthy cats (median: 7.4 µg/L; range: 5.0–15.2 µg/L; p=0.124). All cats with induced CRF had serum fPLI and Spec fPL concentrations within their respective reference ranges. There was no significant correlation between serum creatinine concentrations and fPLI concentrations (Spearman r=0.037; p=0.884) or Spec fPL concentrations (Spearman r=0.127; p=0.639).

In conclusion, there was no significant difference in serum fPLI concentrations between cats with experimentally induced CRF and healthy cats. These results suggest that serum fPLI and Spec fPL concentrations are not affected by CRF and that serum fPLI and Spec fPL concentrations can be used for the diagnosis of pancreatitis in cats with renal failure. Further studies involving cats with naturally occurring CRF or with acute renal failure are warranted to verify these results for these groups of patients.

ABSTRACT #251
IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF CANINE PANCREATA WITH LYMPHOCYTIC INFLTRATION. BM Bastrom1, SJ Newman1, JS Suchodolski2, JM Steiner1. 1Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. 2University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, Knoxville, TN.

Lymphocytic infiltration of the canine pancreas is more prevalent than previously thought. However, the significance of such lymphocytic infiltration of the canine pancreas is unknown. In order to further characterize the lymphocytic infiltrate, immunohistochemistry (IHC) for CD3+ (suggesting T cell lineage) and CD79+ (suggesting B cell lineage) was performed.

Pancreatic samples were collected from dogs during necropsy performed at either the Animal Medical Center in Manhattan, NY or at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University. Hematoxylin and eosin stained slides of the pancreatic samples were graded using a previously published canine pancreatic histologic grading scheme (Newman et al. J Vet Diagn Invest, 2006). Fifteen fixed samples of pancreatic tissue representing 15 individual dogs were selected based on a histologic grade of 2 or higher for lymphocytic infiltration (1) which is defined as 10–40% of the section being affected (grade 2) and more than 40% of the section being affected (grade 3). The 15 pancreatic samples were recut and stained with monoclonal antibodies against CD3+ and CD79+ antigens using standard IHC techniques. A board certified veterinary pathologist (JSN) examined the stained slides and estimated the percentage of lymphocytes that were CD3+ or CD79+.

Lymphocytes of the sections analyzed were mostly CD3+ (median: 60%; range: <5% to 95%), but not very commonly CD79+ (median: <5%; range: 0% to 50%), suggesting mostly lymphocytes of the T cell lineage.

The predominance of T lymphocytes could indicate a cell-mediated immune response similar to that found in human patients with chronic pancreatitis. Additional characterization of the T lymphocyte population is warranted to further study the pathophysiology of pancreatic lymphocytic inflammation in the dog.

ABSTRACT #252
PURIFICATION AND PARTIAL CHARACTERIZATION OF CANINE S100A12. RM Heilmann, JS Suchodolski, JM Steiner. Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Canine S100A12 (cS100A12), also known as calgranulin P6, MRp6, or calgranulin C; is a calcium-binding protein that is predominantly expressed in neutrophils and monocytes. Interaction of S100A12 with the receptor for advanced glycation end products (RAGE), a pattern recognition receptor with a central role in inflammation, has been shown to activate the NF-κB signal transduction pathway, leading to the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and TNF-α. A positive feedback mechanism involving RAGE expression has been suggested to result in amplification and perpetuation of inflammation in conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in humans. Moreover, the concentration of S100A12 in feces has been shown to be a sensitive and specific marker for gastrointestinal inflammation in humans with IBD. To date, only human, porcine, bovine, and rabbit S100A12 has been purified, and an immunoassay for the quantification of S100A12 is only available for humans. Therefore, the aim of this study was to develop a protocol for the purification of cS100A12 from canine whole blood and to partially characterize this protein as a prelude to the development of an immunoassay for its quantification in canine serum and fecal specimens.

Leukocytes were isolated from canine whole blood by dextran sedimentation. Canine S100A12 was extracted from the cytosolic fraction of the cells by three successive freeze-thaw-sonication cycles, and was further purified by ammonium sulfate precipitation, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, strong cation- and anion-exchange column chromatography, and preparative native polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Purified cS100A12 was partially characterized by determination of the molecular weight using automated fluorescence-based reducing gel electrophoresis (Protein 80 assay) on an Agilent Bioanalyzer 2100, estimation of isoelectric point by isoelectric focusing, estimation of specific absorbance, and N-terminal amino acid (AA) sequencing by Edman degradation.

Canine S100A12 was successfully purified from canine whole blood. Based on comparison to known molecular weight standards using the Protein 80 assay, the molecular weight of cS100A12 was estimated at 7,730. Isoelectric focusing revealed an isoelectric point of 6.0. The approximate specific absorbance of cS100A12 at 280 nm was determined to be 1.78 for a 1 mg/ml solution. The N-terminal AA sequence of the first 15 residues of cS100A12 was Thr-Lys-Leu-Glu-Asp-His-X-Glu-Gly-He-Val-Asp-Val-Phe-His, and showed 100% homology with the predicted protein sequence available through the canine genome project. Sequence homology for the 14 N-terminal residues of cS100A12 identified with those of feline, bovine, and human S100A12 was 78.6%.

We conclude that canine S100A12 can be successfully purified from canine whole blood using the method described. These findings will facilitate the development of an immunoassay for the quantification of cS100A12 in serum and feces from dogs.
ABSTRACT #253

ASSOCIATION STUDY OF SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE POLYMORPHISMS WITH COBALAMIN DEFICIENCY IN THE CHINESE SHAR PEI. N Gruenzner, MA Bishop, JS Suchodolski, JM Steiner. Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Based on a genome-wide scan using the canine minimal screening set-2 (MSS-2), cobalamin deficiency in the Chinese Shar Pei (Shar Pei) has recently been linked to a genomic locus in close proximity to two microsatellite markers on canine chromosome 13. The canine MSS-2 contains 327 microsatellite markers with an average marker spacing of 9 megabases (Mb), but no gaps larger than 17.1 Mb. However, these studies do not conclusively narrow down the region on chromosome 13 as the major locus for a gene or genes responsible for cobalamin deficiency in the Shar Pei. Also, not all genes that have been associated with cobalamin deficiency in humans or genes encoding for cobalamin binding proteins have been identified in the dog. The aim of this study was to scan the whole genome using single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNP) to identify genes or regions that may be associated with cobalamin deficiency in the Shar Pei.

Whole blood and serum samples were collected from a total of 42 unrelated Shar Peis. Serum cobalamin concentration (reference range: 252–908 ng/L) was measured and DNA was extracted from whole blood. A total of 49,633 SNPs were genotyped using the Affymetrix v2 Platinum canine SNP array. The analysis of genotype data was conducted by a whole genome association analysis toolset (Plink v1.0). A Bonferroni correction for multiple statistical comparisons was used to evaluate the significance of any potential association. Significance was set at a p-value < 0.000001 (p < 1.0 × 10^{-6}).

Undetectable serum cobalamin concentrations (< 150 ng/L) were observed in 14 of 42 Shar Peis (33.3%), and these Shar Peis were considered to be severely cobalamin deficient. The remaining 28 Shar Peis had serum cobalamin concentrations within the reference range. The SNP analysis revealed a total of 4 markers with a significant p-value of < 1.0 × 10^{-6}. These markers were located between 26,440,885–28,178,693 Mb on chromosome 13. In conclusion, SNP analysis revealed a cluster of SNP markers on chromosome 13, which were significantly associated with cobalamin deficiency in this group of Shar Peis. Interestingly, previous results from linkage studies using the MSS-2 have pointed to the same region of chromosome 13. Thus, the findings of this study provide further evidence that this region of chromosome 13 contains the causative gene or genes for this condition.

ABSTRACT #254

APOTOPSIS IN THE PATHOGENESIS AND TREATMENT OF CANINE INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE. AE Jergens, I Flagg, D Moore, R Denadel, MJ Wannemuehler. College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

Idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a common cause for chronic gastrointestinal disease in dogs. Abnormal cell death by apoptosis may result in the persistence of activated intestinal T cells that contribute to chronic mucosal inflammation and possibly promote impaired therapeutic responsiveness. The aim of this study was to compare rates of apoptosis in different intestinal compartments between healthy dogs and dogs with IBD, and to investigate whether lymphocyte apoptosis might predict the success of medical therapy. Fifty four dogs with IBD and 6 healthy control dogs were evaluated prospectively in the context of a controlled drug trial. Intestinal biopsies obtained by endoscopy were analyzed for their density and the proportion of apoptotic cells in the duodenum (apical villous [AV] and base [BV]) and in the colon (C). Intestinal lymphocytes expressing pro-apoptotic caspase 3 (Casp3) and anti-apoptotic B-cell leukemia/lymphoma 2 (Bcl-2) were assessed by immunohistochemistry and quantitated using light microscopy. TUNEL assays confirmed detection of fragmented DNA in tissue specimens. Correlation between Casp3/Bcl-2 expression and clinical response (CIBDAI score) to medical treatment was also determined. Results indicate that immunolabelling for Casp3 and Bcl-2 was predominately (> 90%) limited to the lamina propria (LP). Bcl-2 positive cells were increased in the LP of IBD dogs as compared to control dogs, with the greatest numbers observed in AV and BV compartments of dogs having the greatest disease severity. Casp3 expression was greater in the AV and BV of healthy dogs versus IBD dogs. Most (17/20) moderate-to-severe IBD dogs responded to standardized medical therapy. In IBD dogs, Bcl-2 expression was greatest in a subset of dogs least responsive to current gastroenterological condition. An increased expression of Bcl-2 and decreased Casp3 expression in LP lymphocytes of dogs with IBD indicate a reduced susceptibility to apoptosis of lymphoid cells. Up-regulated Bcl-2 expression may be of value as a biomarker in predicting the response to therapy.

ABSTRACT #255

FEASIBILITY OF A MODIFIED USSING AIR SUCTION CHAMBER FOR THE EVALUATION OF INTESTINAL MICROSOMAL FUNCTION IN ENDOSCOPIC BIOPSIES FROM DOGS AND CATS. J Ruheke, JV DeBiasio, JS Suchodolski, MW Musch, JM Steiner. Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Department of Medicine, University of Chicago, IL.

Chronic intestinal diseases in dogs and cats, such as inflammatory bowel disease, food hypersensitivity, and intestinal lymphoma are poorly characterized, and new diagnostic modalities are needed to better understand these disorders. Ussing chambers have been used to study intestinal membrane transport in many species. The conventional circulating chamber requires collection of large tissue specimens, and thus, such experiments have rarely been performed in small animal patients with spontaneous gastrointestinal disorders. A modified Ussing air suction chamber (MUAS) allows the use of small tissue pieces, which would allow the study of clinical patients with gastrointestinal diseases. The aim of this study was to evaluate the feasibility of a MUAS for evaluation of intestinal membrane function in endoscopic biopsies from dogs and cats.

Six duodenal biopsies from two dogs and three duodenal biopsies from one cat were collected during diagnostic gastroduodenoscopy and analyzed. Biopsies were transferred into the MUAS within 15 minutes of collection. To simulate physiological conditions, the wash reservoir was heated to 37 °C, oxygenated with 5% CO2, and energy was provided by adding 10 mM glucose and 10 mM sorbitol. After 20 min of equilibration, the voltage applied through the tissue was clamped to zero. Voltage and the membrane-generated short circuit current (SCC) were constantly recorded. To determine absorptive function, the mucosal side of canine biopsies was exposed to 40 mM glucose, followed by 500 μM phloridzin and the feline biopsies were tested with 500 μM phloridzin. Secretory function was tested on feline biopsies with 200 μM histamine and 200 μM serotonin by adding those chemicals to the serosal side. All biopsies showed reproducible responses to applied stimuli. The mean±SD conductance for canine and feline duodenal biopsies was 47.8±2.8 mS·cm^{-2} and 61.5±5.1 mS·cm^{-2}, respectively. Addition of 40 mM glucose to the mucosal side of the dog tissue increased SCC by 55.0±36.2 μA/cm² in comparison to SCC before stimulation (ASC). Application of 500 μM phloridzin was associated with a ASC of −63.6±14.5 μA/cm² in canine biopsies and −22.0±8.7 μA/cm² in feline biopsies. Addition of 200 μM histamine caused a reproducible ASC of 28.0±2.0 μA/cm² and that of 200 μM serotonin a ASC of 30.6±1.1 μA/cm² in the cat duodenum. These data demonstrate the feasibility of using a modified Ussing air suction chamber for evaluation of endoscopically collected canine and feline duodenal biopsies. Reproducible responses were observed after in-vitro exposure of biopsy specimens to glucose, phloridzin, histamine, and serotonin. Further studies to characterize tissue samples from small animal patients with spontaneous chronic intestinal disease with this technology are warranted.

ABSTRACT #256

COMPARISON OF GASTROINTESTINAL MOTILITY IN DOGS TREATED WITH IBEROGAST™ AND ONDANSETRON USING THE SMARTPILL™. AM Bradley, P Boscan, K Dowers, KW McCord, M Marquez and DC Twedt. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

There are a number of drugs used for the treatment of gastrointestinal (GI) motility disorders in humans but few have adequately been evaluated in the dog. Iberogast (stw 5) is a combination of a number of herbs and is reported to affect GI motility in humans.
Ondansetron is a 5-HT3 receptor antagonist used in dogs for antiemetic properties, but there are also a number of reports showing effects on GI motility in humans. The objective of this study was to determine the effects of Iberogast and ondansetron on GI motility using SmartPill technology. The SmartPill™ is a noninvasive wireless sensor capsule that is given orally and transmits data on gastric and small and large bowel pressures, transit time, luminal pH and temperature.

Ten healthy adult dogs were used in a cross-over placebo controlled design. All dogs received either ondansetron (0.5 mg/kg PO TID), Iberogast (1 ml PO TID) or placebo (saline 1 ml SQ TID) for three days prior to SmartPill administration and during motility record. On the fourth day a standard meal was fed, and the SmartPill was administered and motility data recorded until passage of the pill. There was a 7-day washout period between trials. Transit time (TT), pH, maximum pressure (MP), mean peak amplitude (MPA), contractions/minute (CPM) and motility index (MI, calculated AUC/time) for the stomach, small intestine (SI) and large intestine (LI). Data was analyzed using multivariable linear regression analysis with significance of p<0.05.

Total TT was statistically longer for Iberogast and ondansetron compared to placebo. Treatment with ondansetron led to significantly higher pH in each GI segment. Treatment had no significant effect on MP, MPA, CPM or MI. Both Iberogast and ondansetron increase TT, but given the lack of individual segmental parameter differences, the mechanism of action is unclear. Iberogast and ondansetron may be beneficial in the management of disorders in dogs associated with decreased GI transit time.

ABSTRACT #257
SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF BENIGN ESOPHAGEAL STRICTURES WITH BALLOON DILATION AND SUBMUCOSAL TRIAMCINOLONE INJECTION IN FIVE DOGS AND ONE CAT. B Mayer-Roenne, C Fraune, KA Ryan, FP Gaschen. Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

Development of benign esophageal strictures is an uncommon, but severe complication of general anesthesia, esophageal foreign bodies, severe prolonged vomiting and gastroesophageal reflux in small animals. Endoscopic dilation to regurgitation, weight loss and malnutrition. Successful treatment with balloon dilation has been described. Often multiple procedures are necessary for resolution of clinical signs.

Endoscopically guided submucosal triamcinolone injections at the stricture site are used in five dogs and one cat with esophageal strictures. In three dogs the injections were performed at the base of the stricture prior to balloon dilation. A dog with a small mucosal tear was noticed after injection. Subsequent dilation extended the tear both in length and depth, causing obvious bleeding. In two dogs and one cat triamcinolone was injected in the area of the stricture after balloon dilation without complications. All animals recovered well and were able to eat soft food without signs of regurgitation within twelve hours after the procedure. Three dogs had one balloon procedure; two dogs had two procedures; the cat had four procedures with three triamcinolone injections. Two dogs continued to show regurgitation when eating regular food and were maintained on slurry. Four animals had recheck esophagoscopy revealing resolution of strictures; their signs had subsided completely.

Submucosal intralesional triamcinolone injections are a well tolerated, adjunctive treatment for benign esophageal strictures in small animals. Controlled studies are necessary to assess whether this treatment improves outcome, and to evaluate the risks and benefits of performing injections prior to or after balloon dilation.

ABSTRACT #258
SMALL ANIMAL GASTROINTESTINAL ENDOSCOPY: A COMPUTER-AIDED INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM AE Jergens, A Gimman, NS Rappa, T Leisen, A Staniger. College of Veterinary Medicine and Information Technology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

Gastrointestinal endoscopy is routinely performed in dogs and cats having clinical signs of chronic gastroenteritis. Endoscopy allows for direct visual inspection of mucosal surfaces of the alimentary tract and facilitates targeted biopsy for histopathologic interpretation. At present, experience with learning these advanced diagnostic techniques is sporadic and insufficient for most veterinary students to obtain prior to graduation. There is a real need for a concise, readily-accessible, and well illustrated teaching resource that can be quickly and conveniently reviewed by students prior to performing endoscopic procedures in the clinics. The aim of this project was to develop a novel, computer-aided instructional program for veterinary students which demonstrates performance of routine gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures in dogs and cats. The computer-aided instruction program (e.g., Flash, a multimedia authoring package) consisted of four individual lessons (e.g., esophagoscopy, gastroscopy, enteroscopy, colonoscopy) written for use on PC and MAC platform personal computers. Each lesson was designed using a standardized template to include clinical indications, instrumentation/patient preparation, normal endoscopic appearances, abnormal endoscopic appearances, biopsy technique with sample submission, and clinical case studies. Lessons were written for ease of learning by endoscopists, and were written for ease of learning by endoscopists, and were written for ease of learning by students in clinical rotations.

ABSTRACT #259
USEFULNESS OF CONTRAST-ENHANCED ULTRASONOGRAPHY FOR CHARACTERIZATION OF FOCAL LIVER LESIONS. K Nakamura, H Ohta, M Yamashita, M Takiguchi. Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Graduate School of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan.

In six normal beagles and twenty dogs with spontaneous focal or multifocal hepatic lesions, contrast-enhanced ultrasonography was performed. Sonazoid, a newly developed second-generation contrast agent with the ability of real-time contrast imaging along with parenchymal imaging, was selected in this study. The protocol for the evaluation of all three phases (the arterial, portal and parenchymal phase) was established based on the results of normal beagles. The evaluation of echogenicity of hepatic nodules during the arterial, and parenchymal phase could differentiate malignant tumors from benign nodules with very high accuracy. In 17 of 18 dogs with malignant lesions, the nodule was hypechoic to the surrounding normal liver parenchyma during the parenchymal phase. This finding was significantly (P<0.01) correlated with malignancy with high sensitivity (100%) and specificity (94.4%). Moreover, the evaluation of the echogenicity during the arterial phase could differentiate nodular hyperplasia, hepatocellular carcinoma and hemangiosarcoma. Nodular hyperplasia, hepatocellular carcinoma and hemangiosarcoma showed characteristic echogenicity during the arterial phase (isoechogenic, hyperechoic, and hypoechoic compared to the surrounding normal liver parenchyma, respectively). No characteristic finding was seen during the portal phase. Contrast-enhanced ultrasonography with Sonazoid appears to improve the characterization of canine focal or multifocal hepatic lesions.

ABSTRACT #260

Association between high hepatic copper and neroinflammatory liver injury is acknowledged. Transition metal status of copper imposes oxidant challenge during ordinarily innocuous hepatic responses and augments injury associated with chronic hepatitis (CH). Etiopathogenesis of hepatic copper accumulation remains enigmatic in breeds other than Bedlington terriers, while study of
related Labrador Retrievers (LR) implicated breed predisposition. We have recognized increased incidence of pathologically elevated hepatic copper in dogs (diverse breeds) from 1998–2008, coincident with a pet food industry recommendation to replace cupric/cuprous oxide in feed formulations because of low bioavailability.1

Hepatic copper concentrations in LR (used as a sentinel breed) biopsies collected between 1980–2008 were segregated into 1980–1997 (T1) and 1998–2008 (T2). Copper quantification (μg/gm [dry matter basis], atomic absorption spectrometry) in formalin-fixed-deparaffinized tissue was validated against fresh liver. Cases were identified (institutional software), and tissue sections stained with H&E, Masson’s Trichrome, Reticulin, Prussian Blue, and Rhodamine to categorize CH (n=36) vs control (CT, n=36). Copper concentrations and age (median [range]) were compared using Wilcoxon Rank Sum. Gender was compared by contingency tables. P<0.05 determined significance. Relatedness of dogs or dietary management were not investigated.

Copper concentrations of CHT2 (1,150 [191–3,950] μg/gm) were significantly higher than control media alone (292 [130–630] μg/gm); likewise, copper concentrations of CTT2 (347 [101–981] μg/gm) were significantly higher than CTT1 (156 [104–398] μg/gm); P=0.009, P=0.003, respectively. There were no differences in age or gender.

Increased hepatic copper in LR with and without CH during T2 may reflect increased copper bioavailability and consequently increased copper delivery in revised feed formulations.


ABSTRACT #261
REDUCTION OF CYTOKINE-INDUCED PROSTAGLANDIN E2 AND CHEMOKINE PRODUCTION IN CULTURED CANINE HEPATOCYTES BY NATURAL PRODUCTS. AY Au1,2,3, JH Jasenwink1, CG Frondoza1,2,4, INutramax Laboratories, Inc., Edgewood, MD. 2Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. 3John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. 4Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.

Liver tissue is known to heal and regenerate with the critical participation of pro-inflammatory mediators and the growth factors that they induce. However, the evaluation of the liver’s ability to heal, which is a common ailment in dogs, can result in disease, fibrosis, and life-threatening tissue damage when left uncontrolled. Hepatocytes that comprise the bulk of liver tissue have been documented to produce pro-inflammatory mediators and growth factors. How the production of pro-inflammatory mediators by hepatocytes is regulated is still unclear. Moreover, the mechanism by which hepatocytes play a role in liver repair and regeneration is also poorly understood. We have utilized a culture system which facilitates cellular adhesion, proliferation, and maintenance of the hepatocyte phenotype. Using this model, we tested the hypothesis that primary canine hepatocytes can be activated with interleukin 1-beta (IL-1β) to produce pro-inflammatory mediators. We also determined whether this activation can be counteracted by the hepatoprotective natural products Curcumin (NMXC95™) and a melon-derived superoxide dismutase (MSOD) which is found in Oxstrin®.

Primary canine hepatocytes (5x10⁶ cells) were plated in wells coated with 0.1% rat type I collagen. Cells were pre-treated for 48 hours with: (i) control media alone, (ii) NMXC95™ (0.36, 3.68, or 36.8 μg/ml), or (iii) MSOD activity of 1400U/g (0.0143, 0.143, 1.43 μg/ml), and then activated for 72 hours with IL-1β (10 ng/ml). Phenotype analysis was verified by immunostaining for albumin and cytokeratin 8 (CK8). Production of pro-inflammatory mediators by primary hepatocytes was measured using cytokines activated with interleukin-1-β (IL-1β) and macrophage chemotactic protein-1 (MCP-1) were assayed by ELISA. Statistical analysis was performed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with significance set at p<0.05 using Student-Neuman-Keuls post-hoc analysis.

Hepatocyte cultures continued to produce liver phenotype markers albumin and CK8. Activation with IL-1β significantly induced pro-inflammatory PGE2, IL-8, and MCP-1 production 2- to 6-fold. Pre-treatment with both Curcumin and melon-derived SOD significantly reduced PGE2 production by as much as 50% to 60% of the activated control, respectively. These agents also reduced IL-8 and MCP-1 production. The present study shows that production of pro-inflammatory mediators by hepatocytes can be reduced by the hepatoprotective natural products NMXC95™ and MSOD.

ABSTRACT #262
SERUM PROTEIN ELECTROPHORESIS BETA-GAMMA BRIDGING IS A POOR PREDICTOR FOR HEPATIC DISEASE. MS Camus, PM Kramer, FS Almy, BE LeRoy. College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

Based on human studies conducted in the 1970’s, beta-gamma bridging (β-γ bridging) on protein electrophoresis is presented in both the human and veterinary literature as virtually pathognomonic for hepatic disease. However, the criteria for β-γ bridging are not defined and very few veterinary publications exist to support a relationship between β-γ bridging and liver disease. The goal of this retrospective study was to confirm or repudiate an association between the two by measuring the positive predictive value of β-γ bridging for liver disease. All electrophoretograms generated at the University of Georgia between 1994 and 2008 were evaluated for the presence of β-γ bridging. β-γ bridging was identified if there were 1) an albumin to globulin ratio below the established reference interval; 2) indistinct separation/demarcation between all β and γ globulin fractions or between β1 and γ1 fractions, with a negative shoulder slope of <5%; and 3) predominance of γ proteins. There were 237 electrophoretograms examined, of which 25 cases (11 dogs, 11 cats, 3 horses) met the inclusion criteria for a β-γ bridge. Of these cases, 8/25 (32%) had hepatic disease based on biochemistry, cytology, histopathology, and or necropsy findings, while 9/25 (36%) had a variety of infectious diseases. The positive predictive value of β-γ bridging for hepatic disease was determined to be 32.0% with a 95% confidence interval of 15.0–53.5% (p<0.000). The positive predictive value of this phenomenon for infectious disease was determined to be 36.0% with a 95% confidence interval of 18.0–57.5% (p<0.000). Though β-γ bridging can be found in some cases of hepatic pathology, it is not “pathognomonic” for liver diseases and is as frequently found with infectious diseases.

ABSTRACT #263
IN VITRO COMPARISON OF PLAIN RADIOGRAPHY, DOUBLE-CONTRAST CYSTOGRAPHY, ULTRASONOGRAPHY, AND COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY FOR MEASURING UROCYSTOLITH SIZE USING A BLADDER PHANTOM. K By, JM Kruger, J Kims, N Nelson, M Hauptman, CA Johansen. Michigan State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, East Lansing, MI.

Accurate estimation of stone size is a critical factor in determining whether urocrystals are amenable to removal by minimally invasive procedures. The purpose of this study was to compare the ability of plain radiography (PR), double-contrast cystography (DCC), ultrasonography (US), and computed tomography (CT) to accurately estimate the size a single urolith in an in vivo bladder phantom model.

The bladder phantom model consisted of a rubber balloon distended with a standard volume of 1% saline to simulate a urinary bladder. The balloon was positioned inside a 4-quart storage container on a 2 cm cushion of 2% gelatin and covered with a medium sized dog. Thirty canine urocrystoliths of varying size (1–11 mm) and mineral composition (calcium oxalate, struvite, and ammonium urate) were individually placed in the bladder phantom and imaged by the four imaging modalities. Two radiologists, blind to the stone size and mineral content, measured each stone at its greatest diameter using computerized calipers. Size estimates were then compared to actual stone size as determined by digital calipers.

Ultrasonography significantly overestimated urolith size by a mean of 2.9±5.8± SEM 0.36 mm (p<0.01) compared to other imaging modalities, regardless of mineral composition. Size estimates obtained by PR, DCC, and CT were not significantly different. In conclusion, US consistently overestimated sizes of solitary urocrystals; PR, DCC, or CT should be utilized whenever urolith size is a critical factor for determining treatment options.
ABSTRACT #264
INFLUENCE OF FOOD CONSUMPTION ON VARIATION OF UROINARY VOLUME, PH, ANALYTES, AND RELATIVE SUPERSATURATION FOR CALCIUM OXALATE AND STRUVITE IN HEALTHY ADULT MALE HOUND DOGS. B Young, JW Bartges, S Cox, T Moyers. University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, Knoxville, TN.

In healthy human beings, there is diurnal variation to urinary excretion of calcium and pH; however, this circadian rhythm has been found to be absent in some human beings that form calcium oxalate uroliths. We hypothesized that healthy, adult, male hound dogs would exhibit a diurnal variation for urinary mineral excretion, pH, and relative supersaturation for calcium oxalate and struvite.

Six healthy adult male hound dogs weighing 18.6 to 26.8 kg were evaluated. They were fed an adult maintenance, dry-formulated dog food at 8:00AM each day. Dogs ate all food within 2 hours; fresh tap water was available at all times. Dogs were housed in individual metabolism cages for urine collection. The urinary bladder of each dog was emptied by transurethral catheterization to begin the study, and at 12 hours and 24 hours after food consumption. Urine from each 12-hour period (AM=8AM to 8PM and PM=8PM to 8AM) was measured, and pH and concentrations of sodium (Na), potassium (K), chloride (Cl), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), phosphate (PO4), oxalic acid (Ox), citric acid (Cit), and ammonium (NH4) were determined. Results were entered into a computer program (EQUIL 1.51, College of Medicine, University of Florida) for estimation of relative supersaturation for calcium oxalate monohydrate (COMrss), calcium oxalate dihydrate (CODrss), and magnesium ammonium phosphate hexahydrate (struvite, MAPrss). Paired t-tests were used to compare results.

Differences were not found for urine volume, pH, or analytes between AM and PM: however, urine volume, pH, Na, K, Ca, NH4, Ox, Cit, and Cl tended to be greater and urine Mg and PO4 tended to be lower in PM when compared with AM, COMrss (AM: 5.25 vs PM: 3.27; p=0.025) and CODrss (AM: 2.27 vs PM: 1.39; p=0.025) were significantly greater and MAPrss (AM: 0.31 vs PM: 0.72; p=0.05) was significantly lower in AM when compared with PM.

Results of our study are similar to previous studies in healthy human beings and dogs with diagnosed struvite urolith-forming dogs. However, we found significantly greater and lower urinary concentrations of analytes and urine saturation for calcium oxalate and struvite. Our results suggest dietary conditions be considered when measuring urinary concentrations of analytes and urine saturation for calculogenic minerals, and provide a basis for comparing results with calcium oxalate urolith-forming dogs.

ABSTRACT #265
ALPHA 1-ACID GLYCOPROTEIN, SERUM AMYLOID A, AND MONOCYTE CHEMOATTRACTANT PROTEIN-1 IN CATS WITH IDIOPATHIC CYSTITIS. B Gerber, CE Reusch, E Zini. Clinic for Small Animal Internal Medicine, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

Feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC) is the most common diagnosis in cats with clinical signs of irritative voiding. The etiology of the disease is not known. It is suspected that FIC is a systemic disease rather than a disease restricted to the bladder. This is supported by findings like increased plasma catecholamine levels or an association with gastrointestinal tract signs in cats with FIC. In humans with idiopathic cystitis, for which the FIC model, similar associations were recognized. We hypothesized that in cats with non-obstructive FIC levels of the acute phase proteins alpha 1-acid glycoprotein (AGP) and serum amyloid A (SAA) and the chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) are increased and show a similar pattern of increase as cats with obstructive lower urinary tract disease (LUTD). The aim of the study was to evaluate AGP, SAA and MCP-1 in serum of cats with FIC and to compare the values with healthy control cats and cats with obstructive LUTD.

FIC was diagnosed by excluding other causes of LUTD using urinalysis with culture, evaluation of the lower urinary tract by radiographs and/or ultrasound and hematology and serum biochemistry parameters. Cats were considered obstructed if the bladder was distended and they were unable to urinate. AGP was measured with a commercial radial immunodiffusion test. SAA was measured with a commercial multi-species ELISA assay and MCP-1 was measured with a commercial canine CCL2/MCP-1 ELISA kit which was validated for cats. Results were compared using the Mann–Whitney-U test. Differences were considered significant at P<0.02.

Nine cats with FIC, 9 cats with obstructive LUTD of any cause and 9 control cats were included in the study. AGP was 360 ug/ml (200–600 ug/ml) (median and (range)) in control cats, 500 ug/ml (140–1400 ug/ml) in cats with FIC and 780 ug/ml (420–3200 ug/ml) in cats with obstructive LUTD. SAA was 0 ng/ml (5–5.2 ng/ml) in control cats, 0.5 ng/ml (0–23.4 ng/ml) in cats with FIC and 91.2 ng/ml (0–417.6 ng/ml) in cats with obstructive LUTD. MCP-1 was 56 pg/ml (21–73 pg/ml) in control cats, 204 pg/ml (54–806 pg/ml) in cats with FIC and 320 pg/ml (133–823 pg/ml) in cats with obstructive LUTD. All measured inflammatory proteins were significantly higher in cats with obstructive LUTD. Compared to control cats, AGP and SAA in cats with FIC were not significantly different, but MCP-1 was significantly higher. There was no significant difference in MCP-1 between FIC cats and cats with obstructive LUTD.

While AGP and SAA are not increased in cats with FIC, MCP-1 is increased similar to cats with obstructive LUTD, indicating that a systemic inflammatory reaction is present in FIC.

ABSTRACT #266
OXIDATIVE STRESS IN CATS WITH CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE. B Keegan and CB Webb. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Oxidative stress is an important component in the progression of chronic renal failure (CRF) in humans, and neutrophil function may be impaired by oxidative stress in these patients. This study was designed to test the hypothesis that cats with CRF have increased oxidative stress and decreased neutrophil function when compared to Control cats.

A biochemical profile, complete blood count, urinalysis, blood pressure, plasma antioxidant capacity, erythrocyte lysate superoxide dismutase enzyme (SOD) activity, whole blood reduced-to-oxidized glutathione ratio (GSH:GSSG), and neutrophil phagocytosis and oxidative burst were measured in 20 cats with CRF and 10 Control cats. Statistical comparisons (two-tailed t-test) are reported as mean±standard deviation.

While there was no difference in age or body weight between Control and CRF cats. The CRF cats had significantly greater serum BUN, creatinine, and phosphorus concentrations than Control cats, and significantly lower PCV and urine specific gravity than Control cats.

The GSH:GSSG ratio was significantly greater in the CRF group (140±197, 61.7±33; p<0.01), while the SOD level and antioxidant capacity were not significantly different between groups. Neutrophil oxidative burst following E. coli phagocytosis, measured flow cytometrically as an increase in mean fluorescence intensity (a unitless measure), was significantly greater in CRF cat than Control cats (732±253, 524±54; p<0.05).

The significantly greater GSH:GSSG ratio in CRF cats is consistent with an activation of antioxidant defense mechanisms in this disease state. It remains to be determined if supplementation with antioxidants beyond the level of Control cats would be of benefit in cats with CRF.
ABSTRACT #268

SEQUENTIAL EVALUATION OF ERYTHROCYTE ZINC PROTOPORPHRYIN IN CATS WITH CHRONIC RENAL DISEASE. CS. Prosser, MM. Kogika, BM Coelho, KK Kanayama, YABF Wirthl, MB Silva, PRE Mosko. School of Veterinary Medicine – University of São Paulo, Brazil.

Anemia may develop during the progression of chronic renal disease (CRD) in cats, and iron deficiency may be one of the causes. In the absence of iron, erythrocyte zinc protoporphyrin (ZPP) is formed during the final step of heme synthesis; in human medicine, ZPP has been used as a diagnosticator of iron deficiency. The aim of this study was to evaluate whether erythrocyte ZPP levels alter during the evolution of CRD in cats. Twelve domestic cats with CRD were evaluated for at least 50 days (range of 50 to 140) after the initial diagnosis. Animals were divided in three groups based on haematology: group I (#1-6; non-anemic CRD cats in stage II), group II (#7 and 8; anemic CRD cats, one in stage III and the other in IV, both receiving iron supplementation), and group III (#9-12; anemic CRD cats in stage III, treated with rHuEPO and iron). All cats were negative for FIV and FeLV, and had normal serum levels of bilirubin (hyperbilirubinemia interferes with ZPP measurement). Blood was collected in EDTA tubes and hematofluorometric method was used to determine the ZPP (ProtoFluor® Z-Helena Laboratories); ZPP values were obtained three times/sample prior to 6 hours post-collection.

The mean ZPP value of the control group was 38.39 μmol ZPP/mol heme (SEM=±1.98; min=18.67; max=72.33), with no statistically significant difference between younger and older normal cats (P=0.680). Mean ZPP measurements were 60.41 μmol ZPP/mol heme (SEM=±6.76; min=35.33; max=117.33) and 45.62 μmol ZPP/mol heme (SEM=±7.73; min=30.00; max=77.33) in group I and II, respectively. Differences were detected between control group and group I (t test; P=0.013), as well as between control group and group II (P=0.008); however there was no difference between groups I and II (P=0.11).

Anemic cats of group I showed significant increase of erythrocyte ZPP levels, suggesting that ZPP may have been produced instead of heme in consequence of iron deficiency. Similarly, non-anemic CRD cats (group II) showed higher level of ZPP than clinically normal cats; ZPP concentrations remained altered despite normal PCV and erythrocyte indices, indicating a degree of iron depletion. Development of iron-deficient erythropoiesis (microcytic anemia) may result only in late stages in cats, therefore ZPP may be an important tool to detect early iron depletion before anemia. Further studies are necessary to investigate the role of ZPP, serum iron and ferritin to confirm whether ZPP values correlate with the degree of iron deficiency in cats, and, therefore, recommended as a diagnostic tool to guide iron supplementation in clinical practice.

ABSTRACT #269

ENDOGENOUS ERYTHROPOIETIN LEVELS AND IRON UTILITY IN CATS WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE. S. Kanayama1, K. Tanaka, M. Nishida1, K. Harada1, M. Fujisawa1, M. Uechi1, Nihon University, Fujisawa, Kanagawa, 1Kanie Animal Clinic, Kanie, Aichi, Japan.

The aim of this study was to assess the changes in endogenous erythropoietin (EPO) and serum iron levels in cats with chronic kidney disease (CKD). The study included 14 healthy cats and 27 cats with CKD (stage 2 (n=8), stage 3 (n=7) and stage 4 (n=12), according to the International Renal Interest Society (IRIS) Staging). Investigated parameters were complete blood count, serum creatinine (sCr), rHuEPO, serum iron, total iron binding capacity, unsaturated iron binding capacity, and transferrin saturation (TSAT). The EPO level in healthy, stage-2, stage-3, and stage-4 cats was 15.6±4.25, 14.6±4.61, 17.6±7.41 (n=4), and 10.6±2.50 μIU/mL (n=9), respectively. There was a negative correlation between the logarithm of EPO (Log10 EPO) and serum creatinine level (r=−0.481; p=0.029). Stage 3 and stage 4 cats showed significantly lower levels of hematocrit, hemoglobin and red blood cell count than healthy and stage 2 cats (p<0.05 for comparison with stage 3, p<0.01 for comparison with stage 4). The serum iron level in stage-4 (18.0±6.32 μg/dL) was significantly higher than that in the healthy group (74.6±20.4 μg/dL; p<0.01). TSAT in stage 4 was significantly higher than that in the healthy group (p<0.05). These results indicate that erythropoiesis is compromised, as indicated by reduced iron utility, in cats with advanced CKD.

ABSTRACT #270


Chronic cadmium exposure in human patients has been associated with kidney damage and the development of tubulointerstitial nephritis, the predominant pathological lesion associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD) in cats. There are no published studies investigating any association between chronic cadmium exposure and CKD in cats.

Urine samples were collected by cystocentesis from clinically healthy, non-azotaemic (plasma creatinine <2.0 mg/dl), geriatric (<9 years old) cats and geriatric cats with previously confirmed CKD (persistent azotaemia and urine specific gravity <1.035). Any cats with concurrent diseases such as hyperthyroidism were excluded. Urinary cadmium concentrations were determined at a commercial laboratory using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) and urine creatinine concentration was measured using the kinetic jaffe method. The urinary cadmium: creatinine ratio was calculated to account for the concentration of the urine. Statistical analysis comparing the healthy and azotaemic groups was performed using the Mann-Whitney U test following...
ABSTRACT #271
GLOMERULAR FILTRATION RATE IN HEALTHY ENGLISH POINTER, ENGLISH SETTER AND GERMAN SHEPHERD DOGS. J Seguela 1, Y Queau 1, P Murgier 1, PC North1, JM Kruger2, PJ Venta2, J M MB Nabity, GE Lees, LJ Dangott, DC Grant. 1Estero, FL. 2College of Veterinary Medicine Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 3University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, MI.

A breed effect on glomerular filtration rate (GFR) has been hypothesized in dogs (Lefebvre et al., JVIM, 2004;18:415). The aim of this study was to compare GFR in healthy populations from 3 different breeds.

44 English Pointer (EP), 50 English Setter (ES), and 55 German Shepherd (GS) healthy dogs were recruited. GFR was measured by plasma exogenous creatinine clearance test. Intravenous administration of exogenous creatinine (40 mg/kg) followed by repeated blood sampling was performed. Effect of age, body weight (BW) and breed was analyzed by ANOVA.

The mean±SD age and body weight (BW) were for 4.3±2.9 y, and 21.1±2.5 kg for EP, 3.5±2.7 y, and 18.4±3.2 kg for ES, 4.9±2.8 y, and 29.4±4.0 kg for GS. The age was similar between breeds and the BW was higher for GS (P<0.001). GFR was 3.5±0.6, 3.4±0.8 and 2.5±0.7 mL/min/kg for EP, ES and GS, respectively. GFR was lower (P<0.001) in GS than in EP and ES. The GFR distribution was normal for EP and ES, and after inverse transformation, for GS. Tentative reference intervals were 2.3–5.1, 1.8–5.0 and 1.7–3.8 mL/min/kg for EP, ES and GS, respectively. GFR was lower (P<0.001) in GS than in EP and ES. The GFR distribution was normal for EP and ES, and after inverse transformation, for GS. Tentative reference intervals were 2.3–5.1, 1.8–5.0 and 1.7–3.8 mL/min/kg for EP, ES and GS, respectively.

In conclusion, establishment of breed-specific reference intervals for GFR in dogs is needed, although BW could be a confounding factor.

ABSTRACT #272
24-HOUR WATER CONSUMPTION IN HEALTHY CATS USING A FOUNTAIN VERSUS A BOWL. DC Grant. Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Blacksburg, VA.

Increasing water consumption has been recommended to reduce urine concentration and recurrence of urolithiasis and idiopathic cystitis in cats. Water fountains are being advertised and some advocate their use to increase water consumption. This study evaluated the effect of a fountain versus a bowl on 24-hour water consumption and urine concentration.

Thirteen client-owned cats had a normal physical examination, hematocrit, biochemistry profile, and urinalysis. Cats were kept in their home environment and consumed their regular diet. Cats were allowed 7 days to acclimate to the fountain. Cats were randomized to be offered water from a fountain or their own bowl first, followed by the other, and 24-hour consumption was measured. The volume of water evaporated and spilled in 24 hours from the fountain or bowl was subtracted from the amount offered. Following each 24-hour period urine osmolality was measured. Analysis of variance was performed with significance set at a p-value <0.05.

One cat refused to drink from the fountain. For the remaining cats, there was no significant difference in water consumption from a bowl (22.9±10.2 ml/kg/day) or from a fountain (31.6±13.5 ml/kg/day), p=0.091. Similarly, there was no difference in urine osmolality when water was offered from a bowl (2469±367.3 mOsm/kg) or a fountain (2538±440.8 mOsm/kg), p=0.682.

This refutes the theory that water fountains increase water consumption in cats.

ABSTRACT #273
CLINICAL AND GENETIC CHARACTERIZATION OF A CONGENITAL ENTELBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG URINARY TRACT SYNDROME. C North1, JM Kruger2, PJ Venta2, JM Miller3, DS Rosenstein2, EK Randall2, SD Fitzgerald2. 1Estero, FL. 2College of Veterinary Medicine Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. 3University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, MI.

The “Entlebucher urinary syndrome” (EUS) was first recognized in North American Entlebucher mountain dogs in 1996. The purpose of this study was to characterize clinical and genetic features of EUS. Eleven female and 4 male client-owned Entlebucher mountain dogs were evaluated. Six female dogs had histories of urinary incontinence, recurrent urinary tract infection, or hydronephrosis; the remaining dogs were asymptomatic. Thirteen dogs were evaluated with a hemogram, serum biochemistries, urinalysis, urine culture, echocardiography, ultrasonography, and urothrocytometry. Two other dogs had partial evaluations that included necropsy. Five candidate genes (PA2, EYA1, FOXC2, HOXB7, and NPHS4) were selected and evaluated by SINE insertion polymorphism or microsatellite marker-based exclusion analysis of DNA obtained from affected dogs. Clinical and pedigree histories from an additional 138 North American Entlebuchers were compiled for analysis.

Abnormalities identified in clinically affected dogs included bilateral ectopic ureters (6 dogs), hydrohureter/hydronephrosis (4 dogs), and urinary tract infection (2 dogs). Both necropsied dogs had bilateral hydrohureter/hydronephrosis with ureterovesical junction obstruction caused by chronic granulation tissue or lymphoplasmacytic inflammation. Bilateral intravesical ectopic ureters also were identified in 3 asymptomatic female dogs. Probable EUS was identified in 12% of dogs in pedigree analyses; all affected dogs were female. Because of incomplete penetrance, mode of inheritance could not be determined. Exclusion analyses did not associate any candidate genes with EUS.

In conclusion, clinical features of EUS include ureteral ectopia (asymptomatic or with urinary incontinence), hydrohureter/hydronephrosis, and urinary tract infection. Further analyses are necessary to confirm and characterize the hereditary nature of EUS.

ABSTRACT #274
PROTEOMIC ANALYSIS OF URINE FROM MALE DOGS IN EARLY STAGES OF PROGRESSIVE TUBULOINTERSTITIAL INJURY DUE TO X-LINKED HEREDITARY NEPHROPATHY (XLHN). MB Nabity, GE Lees, LJ Dangott, SK Ramaiah. Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in dogs, and methods to reliably identify tubulointerstitial disease in its early stages currently are lacking. The objective of this study was to identify predictive biomarkers of early tubulointerstitial injury in urine of male dogs with XLHN using 2-dimensional gel electrophoresis. Dogs with XLHN develop glomerular lesions due to COL4A5 mutation that causes the type IV collagen in their glomerular basement membranes to be abnormal. Affected males first develop glomerular proteinuria, but progressive tubulointerstitial injury is associated with the subsequent development of end-stage CKD during adolescence.

Urine samples from male dogs (n=6) were analyzed using 2-dimensional differential gel electrophoresis (DIGE), which uses 3 fluorescent dyes (Cy2, Cy3, and Cy5) for sample labeling. Samples were compared at two time points: 1) onset of urine protein:creatinine (UPC) persistently >2; and 2) onset of serum creatinine ≥1.2 (mildly azotemic). Albumin was removed from all samples by affinity chromatography, and samples were concentrated with...
ultrafiltration (10-kDa cut-off). Equal amounts of each sample were then precipitated with acetone, denatured, and fluorescently labeled. Proteins were focused on 13 cm IPG strips (pH 4–7) followed by separation on 12% SDS gels. Gels were scanned and spots analyzed using DeCyder software. Fifty-seven protein spots showed statistically significant changes between the time points. Of these, 20 were identified by mass spectrometry and included retinol binding protein (RBP), clusterin, alpha1-microglobulin, fetuin A, hemopexin, apolipoprotein A1, gelsolin, immunoglobulin, collagen type XXVII, complement C3, and haptoglobulin.

RBP showed the greatest statistical significance and was subsequently evaluated by Western blot in the urine of affected male dogs and their normal siblings (n=19). Urine samples were evaluated every 2–4 weeks starting two weeks prior to UPC persistently >20 in affected males and at several corresponding time points in their normal littermates. Samples were normalized to a creatinine of 20 mg/dl. RBP was detected approximately 2 months prior to the onset of azotemia (serum creatinine >1.2) in the urine of the affected male dogs and typically increased throughout the course of disease independently of the UPC value. RBP was not detected in the urine of the normal males.

In summary, these results suggest that 2-D gel electrophoresis can be successfully employed for biomarker identification in chronic kidney disease in the urine of dogs and that urine RBP may be a potential early marker of kidney disease and of CKD progression in dogs.

ABSTRACT #275
METABOLOMIC PROFILING OF PLASMA IN ARTHRITIC VS NON-ARTHRITIC DOGS. N.Z Frantz, R.M. Yamka, and J. Brockman. Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc., Topeka, KS.

Sixty-three neutered/spayed beagles (average age=10.9±2.3 years) were identified for this study. Dogs were radiographed to confirm changes consistent with degenerative joint disease and lameness in the arthritic dogs or absence in the non-arthritic dogs. Metabolomic profiling of plasma samples was performed by Metabon (Durham, NC). T-test analysis was applied to log-transformed, day normalized data. Metabolites having a P<0.05 (following a false discovery rate adjustment) were considered different among the two groups. KEGG and HMDB identifiers used were from commercial databases. Analysis of the plasma found differences in 10 metabolites between the two groups. Of the metabolites identified, 2 had increased fold-changes and 8 had decreased fold-changes in the arthritic group when compared to the non-arthritic group. The metabolites with increased fold changes in arthritic dogs were dimethylarginine and betahydroxybutyrate. The metabolites with decreased fold changes in arthritic dogs were glycine, trans 4-hydroxyproline, mannose, glucose, myo-inositol, threonate, 4-hydroxy mandelate, and phenol sulfate. In summary, metabolites associated with increased oxidative stress were elevated while metabolites associated with glycosylation of proteins, Vitamin C metabolism, and collagen turnover were decreased in arthritic dogs.

ABSTRACT #276

Sixty American short-hair cats (average age=11.3±2.7 years) were identified for this study. Cats were radiographed to confirm changes consistent with degenerative joint disease and lameness in the arthritic cats or absence in the non-arthritic cats. A plasma sample was collected to determine metabolomic differences between the two populations. Of the sixty cats identified, 30 were classified as arthritic and 30 as non-arthritic based on radiographic evidence and visual appraisal. Metabolomic profiling of plasma samples was performed by Metabon (Durham, NC). T-test analysis was applied to log-transformed, day normalized data. Metabolites having a P<0.05 (following a false discovery rate adjustment) were considered different among the two groups. KEGG and HMDB identifiers used were from commercial databases. Analysis of the plasma found differences in 20 metabolites between the two groups. Of the metabolites identified, 11 had increased fold-changes and 9 had decreased fold-changes in the arthritic group when compared to the non-arthritic group. The metabolites with increased fold changes in arthritic cats were kynurenine, dimethyl arginine, N-acetyltorhime, homocitrulline, 2-aminobutyrate, 3-hydroxydeconate, 3-hydroxybutyrate, allantoin, 3-methylcytidine, pseudouridine, and trigonelline. The metabolites with decreased fold changes in arthritic cats were tryptophan, 3-indolepropionate, creatine, carnosine, gamma-glutamylfelinylglycine, glyceraldehyde, citrate, and hippurate. In summary, plasma metabolomic analysis indicates differences of increased metabolites of oxidative stress and inflammation in arthritic compared non-arthritic cats.

ABSTRACT #277
METABOLOMIC PROFILING OF PLASMA IN LEAN VS. OBESE DOGS. RM Yamka, N.Z Frantz and SC Zicker. Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc., Topeka, KS.

Fifty-two neutered/spayed beagles (average age=8.6±3.1 years) were identified for this study. Dogs were weighed, given a body condition score (BCS; 1=lean, 3=ideal and 5=obese) and a plasma sample was collected. Of the fifty-two dogs identified, 24 were classified as lean (BCS=2.5; BW=11.2±1.9 kg) and 28 as overweight/obese (BCS=3.9±0.7; BW=14.4±3.6 kg). Metabolomic profiling of plasma samples was performed by Metabon (Durham, NC). T-test analysis was applied to log-transformed, day normalized data. Metabolites having a P<0.05 (following a false discovery rate adjustment value of 0.1) were considered different among the two groups. KEGG and HMDB identifiers were from commercial databases. Analysis of the plasma found differences in 20 metabolites between the two groups. Of the metabolites identified, 15 had increased fold-changes and 5 had decreased fold-changes in the overweight group when compared to the lean group. The metabolites with increased fold changes in overweight dogs were glucose, 3-methylhistidine, lysine, iso-leucine, valine, citrulline, oxidized glutathione, glutamyglycine, pyroglytamyglycine, gamma-glutamylglycine, gamma-glutamyglutamine, gamma-glutamyglutamate, stearoylglycerol (monostearin), 3-hydroxybutyrate and citrate. The metabolites with decreased fold changes in overweight dogs were p-cresol sulfate, 1,5-anhydroglucitol, glycerate, docosahexaenoate and threonate. There were minimal differences in metabolites for gender as all dogs were spayed or neutered. In summary, amino acid metabolism, lipid metabolism, carbohydrate metabolism and oxidative stress were different between overweight and lean dogs.

ABSTRACT #278
DETERMINATION OF MAINTENANCE ENERGY REQUIREMENT OF CATS AFTER SPAYING. Y. Mitsuhashi1, AJ Chamberlin1, KE Bigley1, JE Bauer1,2. ‘Comp. An. Nufr. Lab., ’Intercollegiate Faculty of Nutrition, Texas A&M Univ., Col Sin, TX.

Several cat studies have reported decreased energy expenditure after spaying. Spayed cats, therefore, tend to increase their body weights (BW) without changing calorie intake, which often results in obesity. The recently revised National Research Council (NRC) publication recommends a maintenance energy requirement (MER) for cats based on a 9-point body condition score (BCS) as follows: 100×BW0.67 for BCS<5 and 130×BW0.46 for BCS>5. Although weight gain of spayed cats is widely recognized, the MER for these animals has not been clearly defined. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the MER for spayed cats whose BW began to increase shortly after surgery. Twenty-two short-haired adult female cats (2 yrs old, on average) were used. Three complete and balanced diets (diets A, B, and C) containing similar nutrient compositions but varying in fatty acid type had been fed in an amount to maintain their BW and BCS prior to the study. To begin the study, all cats were spayed and diet C was fed once daily for 9 weeks using the same MER before the study. The cats were then fed an amount of diet based on NRC recommendations for 2 additional weeks. During these 11 weeks, all cats gained weight. Beginning on wk 12 a weight loss regimen was initiated until each cat achieved a BCS of 5.
Cats were fed approximately 65×BW^{0.67} to achieve a 1–2% body weight loss per week during this period. After each cat obtained a BCS of 5, it was then fed an appropriate amount of diet to maintain its 0.6% weight for at least 4 weeks. BW and BCS were monitored weekly and bi-weekly before and during weight loss, respectively. Daily food consumption was recorded and used to determine an allometric factor (AF) calculated by dividing calories consumed by metabolic body weight (BW^{0.67}) based on the BW of cats at BCS of 5. Blood was collected at the time of surgery and after weight loss for plasma biochemistry profiles. Statistical analyses were performed on data both prior to the study and during weight gain. Weekly BW and AF were analyzed by repeated measures ANOVA using a general linear model. Weekly BCS data were analyzed by Friedman test followed by Wilcoxon signed ranks test with Bonferroni adjustment. All blood chemistries were within normal limits. T-test, 4\( t\)-test, and 5\( t\)-test were used to determine significance. It should be noted that the AF was constant (AF = 10.5\pm5.6, 5\( r\) value = 0.16) both prior to surgery and thereafter during which time all cats significantly gained weight. The AF needed to maintain BW of each cat after obtaining a BCS of 5 was 75\pm5.6 BW^{0.67}. This AF is 25% lower than the current NRC recommendation and was statistically significantly lower than cats before surgery by paired t-test (p<0.01). It showed that cats increased body weight when using MER values for intact cats. Thus, 75\%(ideal BW)^{0.67} is proposed for the MER of spayed cats.

ABSTRACT #279
ASSESSMENT OF METABOLIC SYNDROME OCCURRENCE IN OBESE CLIENT-OWNED DOGS. MM Jerego1, FB Fusco2, FC Chiquito1, F Lorenzini1, CF Pinto2, CB Ferreira2, RM Sousa2, ACMBMBomborli University, Laureate International Universities, SP, Brazil. 2Santo Amaro University Veterinary Hospital, SP, Brazil.

The metabolic syndrome, a morbid condition well-described in humans, is defined as a set of risk factors such as obesity (mainly visceral obesity), arterial hypertension, dyslipidemia and insulin resistance; at least three of these events must occur simultaneously in the same individual for the diagnosis to be confirmed. It is known that the binding factor among these alterations is insulin resistance (characterized by hyperinsulinemia) and that the clinical relevance of the metabolic syndrome is related to its role in the development of atherosclerosis and onset of diabetes mellitus. In dogs, the metabolic syndrome has been well recognized in experimental fat-rich diets. We aimed at assessing the metabolic syndrome occurrence in obese client-owned dogs (n=34), through the measurements of serum cholesterol, triglycerides, glyceria, amed insulin to glucose ratio (AIGR), and the homeostasis model assessment (HOMA). Normal values were established based on the results (mean value+2 SD) obtained in a group of normal dogs (n=18). When the results were analyzed alone, none of the obese dogs presented hyperglycemia. On the other hand, 10 dogs (29.4%) presented absolute hyperinsulinemia (>18.8 uUI/ml), 11 (32.4%) presented relative hyperinsulinemia as demonstrated by the amplitude insulin to glucose ratio (AIGR > 37.7), 10 (32.4%) presented increased HOMA index (>4.82), 7 (20.6%) presented hypercholesterolemia (>307 mg/dL) and 9 (26.5%) presented hypertriglyceridemia (>140 mg/dL). The glyceria values in the normal dogs did not differ from those in the obese dogs (T-test, p>0.05). On the other hand, the cholesterol, triglycerides, insulin, AIGR and HOMA values in obese dogs were higher than those in normal animals (Mann-Whitney test; p<0.05). Finally, when all the data were considered, 8 of the obese dogs presented, simultaneously, hyperlipidemia and hyperinsulinemia (absolute and relative), in addition to visceral obesity. We conclude that a significant number of animals in the obese client-owned dog group assessed in the present study presented metabolic syndrome, which is an important risk factor for the development of diabetes mellitus, as well as atherosclerosis, a morbid condition that is uncommon in the canine species, but that has been described in the presence of endocrine or metabolic disorders.

ABSTRACT #280
A VEGETARIAN DIETARY OIL SOURCE OF 7-LINOLENIC ACID RESULTS IN ARACHIDONIC ACID ACCUMULATION IN FELINE UTERINE TISSUES: EVIDENCE OF DELTA-5 DESATURATION. AJ Chamberlin1, Y Mitsuhashi1, KE Bigley1, JE Bauer1,2,1 Companion Animal Nutrition Lab., 1Intercollegiate Faculty of Nutrition, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Beyond the fact that cats express low delta-6 desaturase activities, lipid metabolism in this species remains to be fully explored. Essential fatty acid requirements of cats include a preformed source of arachidonic acid (AA) especially during growth and reproduction. Consequently, the ability of reproductive tissues to sustain healthy pregnancies depends on AA availability. The possibility exists that γ-linolenic acid (GLA, 18:3n6) may serve as a precursor of AA in such tissues especially if coupled with chain elongation and a functionally active delta-5 desaturase. Delta-5 desaturase activity has been found to be low in cats but it was undetermined whether it might be sufficient to result in AA synthesis. In the present study, it was hypothesized that uterine and ovarian tissues of cats fed GLA would accumulate AA and other fatty acid metabolites compared to a control diet. In addition, the appearance of dihomogammalinolenic acid (DGLA, 20:3n6), the delta-5 desaturase substrate, was predicted to accumulate in adipose tissue under this condition as a reservoir for conversion. A group of 19 adult female cats were divided into two groups and fed either a high (n=10) or low (n=9) GLA diet (4.2 vs.<0.1 g/kg diet). Both diets contained similar amounts of LA and minimally adequate AA. The diets were fed for 300 days prior to ovariohysterectomy at which time EDTA plasma and ovarian, uterine, and subcutaneous adipose tissues were collected. Homogenates of each tissue were prepared and frozen in aliquots at −80°C. Total lipids were extracted from the plasma and tissue homogenates followed by phospholipid (PL) fractionation via thin layer chromatography and fatty acids analyses by gas chromatography. The Shapiro-Wilk test was used to determine normal distribution of fatty acid data followed by Student’s t test (p<0.05). Plasma PLs were significantly increased in both GLA and DGLA in the high GLA group. Uterine tissue homogenates were found to have statistically significant increased amounts of DGLA and AA. However, ovarian tissue showed an increase only DGLA. It was concluded that a high GLA diet results in increased AA in uterine, but not ovarian, tissues and thus may supply eicosanoid precursors in support of reproduction. Furthermore, the increase in DGLA may provide an adipose storage reservoir for additional conversion under times of metabolic need. These data support the presence of a functionally active delta-5 desaturase in uterine, but not ovarian, tissues. The findings also suggest that increased dietary GLA may be used to meet the AA requirements for reproduction in cats in the absence of an animal based pre-formed source of AA.

ABSTRACT #281
EFFECT OF PARENTERAL L-ALANYL-L-GLUTAMINE SUPPLEMENTATION ON PHAGOCYTIC RESPONSES OF CANINE PERIPHERAL BLOOD POLYMORPHONUCLEAR NEUTROPHILIC LEUKOCYTES EXPOSED TO METHYL-PREDNISOLONE SODIUM SUCINATE. JH Kang, MP Yang. Chungbuk National University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cheongju, Chungbuk, Republic of Korea.

The objective of this study was to examine the effects of parenteral L-alanyl-L-glutamine (Ala-Gln) supplementation on functions of canine peripheral blood polymorphonuclear neutrophilic leukocytes (PMNs) exposed to methylprednisolone sodium succinate (MPSS). The experimental design involved administration of a high dose of MPSS, which is recommended for veterinary dogs with acute spinal cord injury. Fifteen healthy Beagles were randomly assigned into 3 groups and administered an IV infusion with 0.9% NaCl solution (Treatment A), admixture of 0.9% NaCl solution with 8.5% amino acids (2.3 g/kg/day) (Treatment B), or admixture of 0.9% NaCl with Ala-Gln solution (Dipeptiven) (0.5 g/kg/day)-supplemented 8.5% amino acids (1.8 g/kg/day) (Treatment C). The two admixtures were isonitrogenous and isocaloric. The infusion started with the first injection of MPSS and continued until 12 hours after MPSS injections completed. To evaluate PMNs functions, blood samples were collected before IV injection of MPSS (time 0) and 2, 12, and 24 hours after injections ceased. Phagocytic capacity,
oxidative burst activity (OBA) and filamental actin (F-actin) polymerization were measured by use of flow cytometry.

Relative to preinfusion values, the phagocytic capacity, OBA and F-actin polymerization of PMNs in Treatment A and B groups were suppressed by MPSS injections, while the PMNs functions in Treatment C group were not reduced. The PMNs values suppressed by MPSS in Treatment A and B groups were restored 12 hours after the injections concluded. In conclusion, these results suggest that the parenteral Ala-Gln supplementation can modulate the immune functions of canine PMNs affected by MPSS treatment.

ABSTRACT #282
THE PHARMACOKINETICS OF MIRTAZAPINE IN HEALTHY CATS. JM Quimby, DL Gustafson, BJ Sambler, KF Lunn.
Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

This study was designed to determine the pharmacokinetics of mirtazapine, an appetite stimulant, in healthy cats after oral administration of a standard 3.75 mg high dose (HD), or 1.88 mg low dose (LD).

Ten cats with normal CBC, chemistry and urinalysis were used. Blood samples were collected prior to and 0.25, 0.5, 1, 4, 8, 24, 48, and 72 hours after oral administration of 3.75 mg (5 cats), or 1.88 mg (5 cats) of mirtazapine. Serum was collected, frozen and analyzed by LC/MS/MS. Mirtazapine, 8-hydroxymirtazapine and glucuronide metabolite concentrations were measured. Non-compartamental pharmacokinetic modeling was performed.

Increased vasculation and afection were the only side effects noted. Mean half-life was 15±4.7 hours (HD) and 10±2.2 hours (LD). Mean peak plasma concentration was 156.5±92.4 ng/ml (HD) and 73.1±45.5 ng/ml (LD). Mean clearance was 18±1 ml/min/kg (HD) and 10±3.6 ml/min/kg (LD). The Mann-Whitney test was used to compare the groups and a statistically significant difference in half-life and clearance was found (p<0.03 for both).

The lack of dose proportionality may be due to delay in metabolism at the higher doses, as there was no significant difference between groups in the amount of glucuronidated metabolite. The limited glucuronidation ability of cats may explain this observation.

A single low dose of mirtazapine was well tolerated and resulted in a half-life that is compatible with 24 hour dosing intervals in healthy cats. Higher doses may result in delayed metabolism of the drug.

ABSTRACT #283
BIOAVAILABILITY OF A NOVEL, BIOENHANCED PREPARATION OF CURCUMIN IN DOGS. B Antony¹, RK Batchin¹, DW Griffin², Arjuna Natural Extracts Ltd, ¹Nutramax Laboratories, Inc., Edgewood, MD.

Curcuminoids, the biologically active components of turmeric, have been shown to have high antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory activity. Both in vitro and in vivo studies on model systems in multiple species have demonstrated a wide range of effects that support the use of curcumin in a wide range of conditions. However, these applications are constrained by the relatively poor bioavailability of curcumin. A comparison was made in dogs of a standard commercial curcumin extract (NMXCC95™ Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.) vs. a formulation of curcumin extract (NMXSS75™) administered to beagle dogs to assess its bioavailability relative to an enteric-coated Denosyl SAMe tablet formulation. Six male and 6 female beagles were dosed after an overnight fast with 225 mg SAMe ion (mean 18.75 mg/kg) in one formulation of the supplement, followed by the other formulation 6 days later. Plasma values for SAMe 2 days before dosing decreased to a third of their baseline value with an estimated Tmax of 2.0 hrs, significantly shorter than the enteric coated tablet.

The enhanced formulation of curcumin NMXSS75™ has a substantially improved reproducibility to enteric coated SAMe tablets.

ABSTRACT #284
BIOAVAILABILITY OF A NOVEL FORMULATION OF S-ADENOSYLMETHIONINE IN BEAGLE DOGS. DW Griffin, MO Whalen, CR Filburn. Nutramax Laboratories, Inc., Edgewood, MD.

S-adenosylmethionine (SAMe) is used to support liver function both in companion animals and humans, and is also used in humans for mental and joint health. Tablets of SAMe are typically entericoated to protect from moisture and enhance stability. In a blinded crossover study a new Denosyl® (Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.) chewable tablet containing a novel, non-hygroscopic, protected formulation of SAMe (NMXSS75™) was administered to beagle dogs to assess its bioavailability relative to an entericoated Denosyl SAMe tablet formulation. Six male and 6 female beagles were dosed after an overnight fast with 225 mg SAMe ion (mean 18.75 mg/kg) in one formulation of the supplement, followed by the other formulation 6 days later. Plasma values for SAMe 2 days before dosing decreased to a third of their baseline value with an estimated Tmax of 2.0 hrs, significantly shorter than the enteric coated tablet.

The enhanced formulation of curcumin NMXSS75™ has a substantially improved reproducibility to enteric coated SAMe tablets.

ABSTRACT #285
IN VIVO EFFECTS OF FIROCOXIB, MELOXICAM AND TEPOXALIN ADMINISTRATION ON EICOSANOIDS PRODUCTION IN TARGET TISSUES OF NORMAL CATS. KJ Goodman, BT Torres, LR Reynolds, SC Budsberg. University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, Athens, GA.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the in vivo activity of firocoxib, meloxicam and tepoxalin in normal cats by measuring eicosanoid production within target tissues. Eight normal adult neutered male cats were used in this blinded, randomized, crossover study. Cats were treated with firocoxib (1 mg/kg PO q 24 h), meloxicam (0.05 mg/kg PO q 24 h), tepoxalin (5.0 mg/kg PO q 12 h), or placebo for 8 days. Blood samples and gastric and duodenal mucosal biopsies were collected on days 0 (baseline), 3, and 8 of each dosing period. Thromboxane B2 (TXB2) concentrations were measured in serum and prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) and leukotriene B4 (LTB4) levels were measured in plasma. PGE1 and PGE2 synthesis, and LTB4 levels were determined in the mucosal biopsy specimens. A 21 day washout period was observed between treatments. Repeated measures analyses were performed with significance set at p<0.05.

In the blood, firocoxib and meloxicam decreased plasma PGE2 levels compared to baseline on both days. Firocoxib and meloxicam decreased PGE2 compared to placebo on day 3. Tepoxalin did not decrease PGE2 in the plasma compared to baseline or placebo on either day. Firocoxib showed no difference in serum TXB2 compared to baseline or placebo on both days. Tepoxalin decreased TXB2 compared to baseline, placebo and firocoxib on both days. No decrease was noted in plasma LTB4 concentrations in cats administered placebo, firocoxib, meloxicam, or tepoxalin at any time. Firocoxib decreased prostaglandin PGE1 synthesis on day 8 compared to baseline. Meloxicam showed no significant differences from baseline or placebo on either day. Tepoxalin decreased duodenal PGE1 synthesis on both days compared to baseline. Neither firocoxib or meloxicam decreased prostaglandin PGE2 synthesis compared to baseline or placebo on days 3 and 8. Tepoxalin decreased prosta glandin PGE2 synthesis compared to baseline on days 3 and 8 and decreased prosta glandin PGE2 synthesis compared to placebo on day 3. Furthermore, tepoxalin decreased prostaglandin PGE2 synthesis compared to firocoxib.
and meloxicam on days 3 and 8. Tepoxalin decreased duodenal PGE2 synthesis compared to baseline on days 3 and 8. Meloxicam decreased pyloric LTB4 on day 3 compared to baseline and placebo. Tepoxalin decreased pyloric mucosal LTB4 on days 3 and 8 compared to baseline.

Firocoxib and meloxicam spared the cyclooxygenase-1(COX-1) enzyme while tepoxalin exhibited COX-1, COX-2 and lipooxygenase-5 (LOX-5) inhibition. Meloxicam may have LOX-5 inhibition capabilities at the dosages used in this study.

**ABSTRACT #286**

**INTESTINAL PARASITES OF DOGS ON THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.** EN Gingrich1, AV Scorza1, MR Lappin1, EL Clifford2, S Tangtrongsup, AV Scorza, LR Ballweber, JS Reif, MD Salman, MR Lappin. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Dogs on the Galapagos Islands are a unique population created by isolation from the mainland and regulations prohibiting further importation. The effect of infectious agents of these domestic dogs on the indigenous fauna is largely unknown. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of intestinal parasites in dogs on the Galapagos Islands.

Fecal samples were collected from 97 dogs presented during neutering campaigns on Santa Cruz (n = 51), San Cristobal (n = 17), and Isabela (n = 29) islands. Feces were evaluated for parasites by microscopic examination after zinc sulfate centrifugation flotation as well as by a commercially available IFA for Cryptosporidium spp. and Giardia spp. Polymerase chain reaction for Cryptosporidium spp. DNA and Giardia spp. DNA were performed on all positive samples to provide the infecting genotypes.

*Ancylostoma caninum* (57.7%) and *Toxocara canis* (16.5%) were most commonly detected, followed by *Giardia* spp. (5.2%), *Isospora canis* (4.1%), *Sarcocystis canis* (3.1%), and *Cryptosporidium* spp. (1%). Adequate DNA for sequencing was available for one *Giardia* spp. which was shown to be *Assemblage D*.

Despite being isolated, the dogs on the Galapagos have many of the same enteric parasites detected on the mainland of South America. These dogs are not routinely administered anthelmintics or other drugs, but are often allowed to roam the streets and live in close proximity to humans. Parasite prophylaxis is necessary to decrease the parasite burden within the population and to lessen the risk of spread to humans or other animals also inhabiting the islands.

**ABSTRACT #287**

**CANADIAN PREVALENCE AND DIAGNOSIS OF GIARDIA INFECTION IN DOGS AND CATS USING A FECAL ANTIGEN TEST AND FECAL SMEAR.** Merle E Olson. Bow Valley Research Inc, Calgary, Alberta and the Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Alberta, Edmonton Alberta.

Giardiasis is a common gastrointestinal infection in dogs and cats but it remains a diagnostic challenge due to intermittent shedding and the small size of the cysts. A fecal antigen test (SNAP® *Giardia* Test kit, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.) was utilized in Canadian veterinary clinics to determine the prevalence of *Giardia* in dogs (134 clinics) and cats (94 clinics) with gastrointestinal clinical signs. The fecal antigen test is an in-clinic ELISA which detects a highly specific, soluble cyst wall antigen that is released at the time the trophozoites encyst. Results of the fecal antigen test were compared to those of a fecal smear which was the method used by many veterinary clinics. A total of 1871 dogs and 389 cats were enrolled in the study. The presence of fecal antigens were observed in 299 (16.0%) and 94 (24%) dogs and cats, respectively. Loose or watery diarrhea with increased frequency was the predominant presenting clinical sign of both dogs and cats. *Giardia* cysts were not observed in the fecal smears of 131 (68.2%) fecal antigen positive dogs and 11 (73.3%) fecal antigen positive cats. The fecal antigen test for *Giardia* appears to be a valuable tool in the diagnosis and ultimate control of giardiasis in dogs and cats.

**ABSTRACT #288**

**PREVALENCE AND MOLECULAR ANALYSIS OF GIARDIA SPP. INFECTIONS IN DOGS IN CHIANG MAI, THAILAND: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.** S Tantrongsup, AV Scorza, LR Ballweber, JS Reif, MD Salman, MR Lappin. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

*Giardia* spp. is a common cause of waterborne diarrhea in human, pets and wildlife animals worldwide. However, the prevalence of this organism in dogs in Thailand and the potential for dogs to serve as a reservoir host is unknown. This study was conducted to explore the prevalence of *Giardia* infection in dogs in this province. The results will be used to determine prevention strategies in Chiang Mai.

A cross-sectional study was designed and 82 canine fecal samples were obtained from client owned dogs, breeding farms and a shelter during June and July 2008. Demographic and geographic data were recorded. Fecal samples were scored using a standardized system. *Giardia* infections were diagnosed using a PCR targeting the GDH gene. Associations of age category (<1 year, 1–7 years and >7 years), type of housing (client-owned, breeding farm, and shelter), fecal score (1 to 7), and *Giardia* positive results were analyzed using Fisher’s exact test and odds ratios were estimated.

The prevalence of *Giardia* infections was 15.9%. Positive results were significantly associated with the age categories (p = 0.04). When compared to dogs >7 years, the odds ratio of dogs <1 year was 11.90 (95%CI: 0.61–230.84) and the odds ratio of dogs 1–7 years was 3.36 (95%CI: 0.18–64.1). Fecal score and type of housing were not significantly associated with *Giardia* positive results. The PCR products were genotyped and all isolates were *Giardia intestinalis* assemblages C or D.

In conclusion, *Giardia* infection in young dogs in Chiang Mai was common with dog specific assemblages.

**ABSTRACT #289**

**SEROTYPES AND PATHOGENICITY ASSOCIATED WITH ANTIMICROBIAL-INDUCED INFECTION IN Fecal ESCHERICHIA COLI OF HEALTHY DOGS.** N. Debayalva, and DM Boothe. Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University, AL.

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between resistance and virulence in canine fecal *E. coli* isolates multidrug resistance (MDR) versus those not expressing multidrug resistance (NMDR) in response to antimicrobial therapy. We have previously demonstrated that close to 100% of fecal *Escherichia coli* in healthy dogs develop NMDR versus multidrug MDR resistance when treated with amoxicillin (10 mg/kg bid) or enrofloxacin (5 mg/kg sid), respectively, with no resistance emerging untreated controls (n=8 per treatment group).

Isolates from each treatment group (n=10) were subjected to phenotyping using microbroth dilution susceptibility testing to 17 antimicrobial drugs using a customized plate and following CLSI guidelines. Isolates were genotyped based on PFGE. Serotypes (O and H) and virulence factors (7 toxins and 1 adhesin) were then determined in one isolate from each phenotype and genotype in each treatment group.

Amoxicillin treatment resulted in 12 genotypes and 7 phenotypes among resistant isolates (NMDR) whereas enrofloxacin treatment (MDR isolates) resulted in only 1 genotype and 3 phenotypes. Only one genotype and phenotype was yielded from the controls (no resistance). Seven serotypes were detected in 11 NMDR isolates from amoxicillin treatment, whereas one serotype was detected in 3 MDR isolates from enrofloxacin treatment. The MDR serotype (H30:O9) was not similar to those of NMDR (H31:O83, H30:O8, H43:O138, H5:O5) inhibition. Meloxicam may have LOX-5 inhibition capabilities at the dosages used in this study.
These data demonstrate that antimicrobial resistance induced in fecal *E. coli* by either amoxicillin or enrofloxacin was not associated with an increase in pathogenicity.

**ABSTRACT #290**

**COMPARISON OF QUANTITATIVE PCR AND CONVENTIONAL ENDPOINT PCR FOR AMPLIFICATION OF PARVOVIRUS DNA IN BLOOD FROM NATURALLY INFECTED AND RECENTLY VACCINATED DOGS.** JK Veir, AL Duffy, SW Dow, MR Lappin. Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Canine parvovirus (CPV) can be detected in feces by antigen ELISA and in blood and feces by PCR. We previously demonstrated that CPV DNA can be readily amplified from the blood of healthy puppies via conventional endpoint PCR (cPCR) as early as day 2 and through day 14 after modified live CPV vaccination. Because viremia is present one to two days after infection in clinically infected dogs as well, differentiation of clinically affected and vaccinated dogs using endpoint PCR is impossible. We hypothesize that vaccination with modified live CPV should produce lower levels of circulating CPV DNA as compared to natural infection, thereby allowing differentiation between vaccinates and diseased dogs. Real-time quantitative PCR (qPCR) allows for accurate and reliable quantification of viral load. The objectives of this study were to compare results of cPCR and qPCR assays using blood from vaccinated dogs and to compare CPV DNA load between vaccinated dogs and naturally infected dogs.

A modified live CPV vaccine was administered SQ to twelve, six week old puppies on day 0. Presence of CPV DNA in whole blood taken from the puppies at days 0, 2, 5, 7, 10, and 14 was evaluated using both cPCR and qPCR. Additionally, the CPV viral load in peripheral blood collected on the day of presentation from naturally infected, fecal CPV antigen positive, clinically ill dogs was determined via qPCR. Results of the log transformed quantitative data were compared via the Kruskal-Wallis test with Dunn’s post analysis.

In conclusion, colonization of IV catheters with bacteria is frequent but its potential clinical consequences require further investigations.

**ABSTRACT #291**

**THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF STREPTOCOCCUS CANIS INFECTIONS IN DOGS AND CATS.** FF Krueger, BA Byrne, PA Pesavento, KF Hurley, JE Sykes. University of California Davis, William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Davis, CA.

Little is known regarding the degree of genotypic relatedness between *Streptococcus canis* isolates from dogs and cats. The purpose of this study was to determine whether correlations existed between the genotypes of canine and feline *S. canis* isolates as determined using pulsed field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) and different clinical manifestations of disease. Eighty-nine isolates of *Streptococcus canis* that caused specific manifestations of disease in dogs and cats were collected from the University of California, Davis between 1998–2005. Associated clinical manifestations included sepsis, otitis, pyometra, skin infections, respiratory disease, and urinary tract infections. Ten isolates were also collected from a Northern California shelter which experienced an outbreak of *S. canis* infections manifesting as chronic respiratory infections and septic arthritis in cats. Bacterial isolates were characterized by PFGE analysis using the restriction enzyme Smal. The relationships between banding patterns were analyzed using BioNumerics software combined with visual interpretation. Results demonstrated that the feline shelter isolates of *Streptococcus canis* were 99% similar in bacterial PFGE profile suggesting a clonal origin. The remainder of samples differed significantly, with less than 80% similarity in PFGE banding patterns. Thus in the latter group of isolates, there appeared to be no relationship between clinical manifestation of infection and PFGE profile.

**ABSTRACT #292**

**BACTERIAL AND FUNGAL COLONIZATION OF PERIPHERAL INTRAVENOUS CATHETERS IN DOGS AND CATS.** JP Pase5, J Seguela6. 1Clinique Veterinaire Croix du Sud, Saint Orens, 2Dept Clinical Sciences, National Veterinary School, Toulouse, France.

Infections associated with intravenous (IV) catheters have been recently shown to be a potential concern in an intensive care unit (ICU) population of 151 dogs and cats, the prevalence of positive catheter-tip culture rates reaching 25% (Marsh-Ng et al, JAHA 2007;43:13–20). However, this issue in non ICU small animal patients has not been documented. The aim of this prospective study was to assess, in routine clinical settings, the prevalence of positive catheter-tip cultures associated with peripheral IV catheters in dogs and cats.

100 peripherally placed IV catheters (20-gauge 1 x 30 mm and 22-gauge 0.9 x 25 mm) from 13 cats and 78 dogs were used for infusion therapy for various surgical and medical indications. They were aseptically removed and the distal two-thirds were cut and submitted to bacterial and fungal culture. Antimicrobial susceptibility of each isolate was determined.

In conclusion, colonization of IV catheters with bacteria is frequent but its potential clinical consequences require further investigations.

**ABSTRACT #293**

**DETERMINATION OF FOUR IgG SUBCLASSES IN ASYMPTOMATIC DOGS WITH VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS AND IN ANIMALS VACCINATED AGAINST THE DISEASE.** FA Ikeda-Garcia1, MJ Day2, VMF Lima3, FA Rosa1, LSV Sobrinho1, AAD Gomes1, JP Vides3, SHV Perri1, M Marcondes3, 1Clinica Veterinaria Croix du Sud, Saint Orens, France, 2Immunology, William Paterson University, Aracatuba, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 3Department of Pathology and Microbiology, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom.

Visceral leishmaniasis in Brazil has been showing a geographical spread since the 80’s, reaching big urban areas. In this context, a vaccination immunoprophylaxis applied to dogs may represent an important control measure of the infection through the implementation of immune protective measures. However, due to the fact that vaccinated animals have the ability of performing seroconversion, routine serological tests cannot differentiate an infected dog from a vaccinated one. This present study aimed to evaluate the four IgG subclasses in asymptomatic dogs naturally infected with *Leishmania chagasi* and in animals which were vaccinated against the disease. In order to meet the aforementioned purpose, three dog groups were used, as such: control (n=45), asymptomatic with visceral leishmaniasis (n=45) and vaccinated against the disease (n=37). The presence of anti- *Leishmania chagasi* IgG in serum was
determined by the ELISA technique. In order to determine the four IgG subclades, monoclonal antibodies were employed. In vaccinated animals the predominant subclass was IgG1, followed by IgG3, IgG2 SA, IgG4. In asymptomatic dogs the only subclass that was stimulated was IgG1. The IgG1 and IgG2 subclasses did not allow differentiation between dogs vaccinated against visceral leishmaniasis from naturally infected asymptomatic dogs. On the other hand, IgG3 and IgG4 allowed differentiation of dogs from the two groups because the vaccinated animals had an increase of the two subfractions, whereas the same immunoglobulins from asymptomatic ones were not stimulated.

**ABSTRACT #294**

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF SPECIES-SPECIFIC PEPTIDE-BASED ASSAYS FOR DETECTION OF CANINE ANTIbODIES TO *E. CANIS* AND *E. CHAFFEENSIS*.**

J. Saucier¹, D. Daniluk¹, R. Krah¹, R. Chandrashekar¹, S. Gaunt², T. O’Connor¹. ¹IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME. ²Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

Canine ehrlichiosis is caused by several species of tick-borne intracellular bacteria that are distributed worldwide. Infection is characterized by fever, lethargy, weight loss and thrombocytopenia and can lead to death. Early diagnosis and treatment provides the best opportunity for a favorable outcome and typically leads to complete recovery. Species-specific differentiation of *E. canis* and *E. chaffeensis* infection is important as it can lead to different approaches for disease management and treatment.

The goal of the project was to identify peptides that can be used in place of full-length proteins in diagnostic assays for *E. canis* and *E. chaffeensis*. Generally, we have found that peptides were more amenable for use in rapid-format assays and were typically more specific than full-length proteins. We synthesized and compared the reactivity of peptides from several regions of the p16 and p120 proteins of *E. canis* and from the variable length PCR target (VLPT) and p120 proteins of *E. chaffeensis*. In a series of *E. canis*-experimentally infected dogs, the p16 peptide-based ELISA detected antibody between 13 and 17 days post infection which typically coincided with the appearance of clinical symptoms. The full length p16 recombinant protein ELISA and the synthetic peptide ELISA had identical results for 69 of the 71 dogs (97.2% positive, 3 negative) in a population of dogs from an *E. canis*-endemic region of the United States.

In *E. chaffeensis*-experimentally infected dogs the VLPT peptide-based ELISA detected antibody 7 days post infection which coincided with the detection of antibody in the IFA and recombinant protein-based ELISA. Twenty-eight of 29 samples reactive in the VLPT-recombinant protein ELISA were reactive in the synthetic peptide ELISA. Samples from *E. canis*-infected dogs and from the *E. chaffeensis*-infected dogs did not react in the VLPT and p16 peptide assays, respectively. Samples from *E. ewingii*-experimentally infected dogs did not react in either assay.

These peptides can be used to develop diagnostic assays capable of simultaneous but specific detection of antibody to *E. canis* and *E. chaffeensis* in canine serum, plasma and whole blood.

**ABSTRACT #295**

**EHRLICHIA/ANAPLASMA SPP INFECTION AND EXPOSURE RATES IN DOGS FROM OKLAHOMA AND ARKANSAS.**

T. O’Connor¹, J. Saucier², S.E. Little², R. Chandrashekar⁴, ¹IDEXX Laboratories, Inc, Westbrook, ME. ²Dept of Veterinary Pathobiology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.

Several species of *Ehrlichia* and *Anaplasma* are capable of infecting dogs resulting in a condition characterized by fever, lethargy, weight loss and anemia that can lead to death. Species-specific identification of *Ehrlichia* is important because it can lead to different approaches for disease management and treatment.

The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of *Ehrlichia*/*Anaplasma* spp. by microscopy and PCR and the seroprevalence of antibodies reactive to *Ehrlichia* spp. by ELISA in a population of febrile and healthy dogs from the Ozark Plateau region of northeastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas. A total of 143 samples were collected from veterinary practices (V3 and V4) (n=88) and shelters (n=55) in the study area. Among the samples from the veterinary practices, 11 (12.5%) were collected from febrile (T > 103.4°F) dogs; ticks were noted on 9 (10.2%) of the dogs.

Results are detailed in the table below. PCR results for *E. canis* (Eca), *E. chaffeensis* (Ech) and *E. ewingii* (Ee) are based on conventional nested PCR; serology results for *E. canis*, *B. burgdorferi* (Bb), and *A. phagocytophilum* (Ap) antibody were obtained using the SNAP<sup>®</sup> 4Dx<sup>®</sup> test. Results for *E. ewingii* antibody were obtained using a peptide-based microtiter plate ELISA.

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Serology</th>
<th>PCR</th>
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<td>V3 (n=39)</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>V4 (n=49)</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (n=55)</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>0</td>
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Morulae were not found in any of the blood smears (N=143). Overall, 9.1% of the dogs were reactive in the *E. canis* PCR and 44.8% in the *E. ewingii* ELISA, supporting previous studies suggesting that *E. ewingii* may be the primary agent of canine ehrlichiosis in this region. The *E. ewingii* ELISA detected 11 of 13 (84.6%) of the PCR positive samples. Differences in positive rates between groups of dogs are likely due to limited numbers of samples collected and relative exposure to *A. americanum* ticks.

**ABSTRACT #296**

**EFFICACY OF DOXYCYCLINE TREATMENT IN DOGS NATURALLY INFECTED WITH *ANAPLASMA PHAGOCYTOPHILUM,* *EHRlichia EwINGII,* AND *Ehrlichia Canis.*

J. Saucier¹, D. Daniluk¹, R. Krah¹, R. Chandrashekar¹, S. Gaunt², T. O’Connor¹. ¹IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME. ²Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

*Anaplasma phagocytophilum* is a tick-transmitted bacterium capable of infecting dogs, cats, horses, human beings and other species. Clinical observations of selected cases, as well as preliminary data from an experimental study, have suggested that doxycycline may not clear the infection in all treated dogs. Since differences in antibiotic susceptibility could occur between experimental strains and wild strains of this organism, this study evaluated the efficacy of doxycycline treatment for canine granulocytic anaplasmosis (CGA) in 11 naturally infected dogs. Dogs presenting signs compatible with CGA at the initial consultation (day 0) and roughly 2 months after the initial consultation (day 60). Each enrolled dog was treated with doxycycline at a dose of 5 mg/kg twice a day for 28 days. Blood-EDTA and serum samples were collected at each evaluation date, and lymph node aspirates (LNA) were collected at days 0 and 60. Additionally, clients and veterinarians answered a clinical and epidemiological questionnaire at each visit. Finally, complete blood cell counts were performed from all enrolled dogs at each evaluation. DNA from blood-EDTA and LNA was extracted and *A. phagocytophilum* DNA was amplified targeting the msp2 gene. Antibodies against *Anaplasma* spp. were detected by Snap<sup>®</sup> 4Dx<sup>®</sup>. All 11 dogs were re-evaluated at the first follow-up (range of 24–47 days from day 0) and 10 dogs were evaluated for the second follow-up (range of 57–94 days). *A. phagocytophilum* DNA was not detected from blood-EDTA or LNA from any of the 11 dogs at day 30 nor from any of the 10 evaluated dogs at day 60.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
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<th>PCR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V3 (n=39)</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V4 (n=49)</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelter (n=55)</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>0</td>
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ABSTRACT #297
BARTONELLA SPP. ASSOCIATED ENDOCARDITIS IN CATS IN COLORADO AND WYOMING. A. Fenimore1, M. Eucher, M. Brewer, M. Lappin2, C.M. Leutenegger, Thao M, Estrada M, Robertson J, M. Varanat1, R. Maggi1, E. Breitschwerdt2. Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; 1North Carolina State University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Clinical Sciences, Raleigh, NC.

Since the mid 1990’s, several species of Bartonella, including B. vinsonii, B. quintana, and B. clarridgeiae have been identified in dogs diagnosed with infectious endocarditis (IE). The prevalence of Bartonella spp. infection in dogs in the referral area for Colorado State University is unknown. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the heart valves of dogs with suspected IE for the presence of Bartonella spp. DNA by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

The medical records system at the Veterinary Medical Center was searched for dogs with a clinical diagnosis of endocarditis that had been admitted from January 1990 to June 2008. DNA was extracted from the available formalin fixed valvular tissues and assessed for Bartonella spp. DNA by three PCR methods. The Bartonella spp. was determined by genetic sequencing or fluorogenic PCR.

Of the 119 patients with a presumptive diagnosis of endocarditis, 22 had IE based on histopathology results. The histopathology blocks and medical records were available from 9 dogs. Bartonella henselae DNA was amplified from the tissues of seven dogs. B. vinsonii DNA was amplified concurrently from three dogs. Of the seven dogs, six were from Colorado and one was from Wyoming (B. henselae only) and all were greater than five years of age. The dogs were not known to have left the region and fleas or ticks were reported on some dogs.

This is the first report of B. henselae associated IE in dogs. The results suggest that Bartonella spp. infection can occur in dogs in the western states and these agents should be on the differential list for dogs with suspected IE in the region.

ABSTRACT #298
DETECTION OF BARTONELLA HENSELAE IGM IN CATS WITH EXPERIMENTALLY INDUCED BARTONELLOSIS. J. Ficocello, B. Bradbury, A. Morris, M. Lappin. Colorado State University, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Fort Collins, CO.

The temporal appearance of Bartonella henselae DNA in blood and B. henselae antibodies in serum has usually been studied in cats after parenteral inoculation. However, little is known about the progression of B. henselae test results in cats exposed to B. henselae infected Ctenocephalides felis.

Cats (n=6) were inoculated with a field strain of B. henselae IV or were exposed to fleas allowed to feed on B. henselae positive cats (n=6). Blood and serum samples were collected on week 0, week 2 or 3, and then weekly until week 13. A Bartonella spp. IgM ELISA was validated using samples from experimentally infected cats. All samples were then assayed in the optimized IgM ELISA, a previously reported competitive IgG ELISA, and a previously reported conventional PCR assay that detects DNA of B. henselae.

For cats inoculated IV, the first positive Bartonella IgM, IgG, and PCR assay result was detected on week 4 (four cats), week 3 (three cats), and week 3 (six cats), respectively. For cats exposed to fleas, the first positive Bartonella IgM, IgG, and PCR assay result was detected on week 8 (one cat), week 4 (one cat), and week 7 (one cat), respectively. All cats in both groups eventually became IgM positive (week 12 for flea cats; week 4 for IV cats) and PCR positive (week 11 for flea cats; week 4 for IV cats) and maintained positive titers throughout the study. Of the cats exposed to fleas, five of six were IgG positive by week 12; the sixth cat never developed detectable IgG and died of B. henselae myocarditis during week 13.

ABSTRACT #299
PREVALENCE OF BARTONELLA AND HAEMOPLASMA DNA IN SAMPLES FROM NON-OWNED FREE-ROAMING CATS ADMITTED TO ANIMAL SHELTERS IN COLORADO AND FLORIDA. J.N. Eucher, M. Brewer, M. Lappin. Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Bartonella spp. and the haemoplasmas (Mycoplasma haemofelis, ‘Candidatus M. turicensis’, ‘Candidatus M. haemominutum’) are common feline pathogens. Ctenocephalides felis has been shown to be the vector for Bartonella spp. It is hypothesized that Bartonella spp. and haemoplasmas are transmitted between cats by bites or scratches. To further elucidate the mechanisms of transmission of these organisms, the prevalence of Bartonella spp. and haemoplasma spp. in blood, salivary glands, and tonsils was compared among free-roaming cats admitted to animal shelters in states where fleas are rare (Colorado) or common (Florida).

Blood, salivary glands, and palate tonsils were collected from monitored, free-roaming shelter cats in Colorado and Florida within 24 hours after euthanasia. DNA was extracted by use of commercially available kits and then assessed for Bartonella spp. and haemoplasma spp. DNA using previously published polymerase chain reaction assays.

The prevalence rates for Bartonella spp. DNA in blood (CO=0 of 20[90%]; FL=10 of 18 [55.6%]; p<0.0001), salivary gland (CO=0 of 24[0%]; FL=5 of 18 [27.8%]; p=0.017) and tonsil (CO=0 of 20 [0%]; FL=6 of 18 [33.3%]; p=0.006) were statistically different between the two states. Haemoplasma spp. DNA was detected in similar numbers of blood samples (CO=1 of 20 [5%]; FL=2 of 18 [11.1%]), salivary glands (CO=3 of 24 [12.5%]; FL=2 of 18 [11.1%]), and tonsils (CO=3 of 24 [12.5%]; FL=2 of 18 [11.1%]).

The presence of Bartonella spp. and haemoplasma DNA in salivary glands or tonsils may merely reflect the presence of infected epierythrocytes within the tissues. Alternately, the results may support the hypothesis that the organisms are passed in these tissues as a mode of transmission.

ABSTRACT #300
ASSOCIATION OF PATHOGENICITY AND RATE OF COINFECTION OF THREE FELINE HEMOTROPIC MYCOPLASMA STRAINS WITH PRESENCE AND SEVERITY OF ANEMIA. C.M. Leutenegger, Thao M, Estrada M, Robertson J, Cornwell D. IDEXX Laboratories, West Sacramento, CA.

Three species of epierythrocytic mycoplasmas (Feline Hemotropic Mycoplasma, FHM) are known to infect cats: Mycoplasma haemofelis (Mhf), ‘Candidatus Mycoplasma haemominutum’ (CMh), and ‘Candidatus Mycoplasma turicensis’ (CMT). Infection with Mhf has been associated with severe hemolytic anemia in immunocompetent cats. In contrast, infection with Mmh, a smaller organism, has only rarely been associated with disease in immunocompetent cats and is dependent on the presence of co-factors such as co-infections with other hemotropic mycoplasma strains or retrovirus infections. With intermediate pathogenicity, CMh, a smaller organism similar to CMh, has been described to induce anemia in immunocompetent cats. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the association between strain presence, coinfections and severity of anemia.

Whole blood samples from 500 cats submitted to the IDEXX Reference Laboratory system throughout the US were analyzed using Real-time TaqMan® PCR assays. These assays were developed with high analytical sensitivity and specificity for each strain and results are quantitative. The prevalence of cats mono-infected with each of the three hemotropic strains and the prevalence of cats co-infected with more than one strain was determined. Mycoplasma load for each infection was also determined.

Cats were divided into 3 groups according to hematocrit values:
Group 1: <26% (moderately to severely anemic); group 2: 26-28% (mildly anemic); group 3: >28% (normocytic). The overall prevalence of FHM in group 1 was 29%. Tonsil infections accounted for:
ABSTRACT #301

ANALYTICAL SENSITIVITY AND SPECIFICITY OF A REAL-TIME PCR ASSAY DETECTING PATHOGENIC LEPTOSPIRA IN DOGS BASED ON THE HAP-1 GENE. C.M. Leutenegger, Palaniappan R, Elsemore D, Estrada M, Thao M, Cornwell D. IDEXX Laboratories, West Sacramento, CA.

Leptospirosis is a zoonotic bacterial disease of worldwide importance in both human and veterinary medicine. Disease is caused by serovars belonging to the pathogenic species Leptospira interrogans sensu lato. The consequences of infection in dogs range from subclinical to peracute disease, with typical presentations including acute renal failure sometimes combined with acute hepatic disease. Currently available microscopic agglutination tests (MAT) cannot provide an early diagnosis since MAT relies on antibodies to leptospiral antigens and cannot detect infection until 10–15 days post-exposure. Immunofluorescence and immunoperoxidase staining in the clinical samples are not sensitive and culturing the organisms is difficult and slow due to their fastidious nature.

Renal carriage and urine shedding remains a key objective in the diagnostic workup to determine implication in active disease in dogs and to determine the zoonotic potential from a public health perspective. Serology is commonly described as a poor predictor of leptospirosis or health status. Molecular tools such as real-time PCR have been described to reliably detect pathogenic Leptospira in the urine, even in healthy carrier animals. This study aimed to define the diagnostic sensitivity and specificity of a real-time Taq-Man® PCR assay targeting the gene encoding for the hemolysin adapted protein (hap1). This gene has been mapped to pathogenic Leptospira and is absent in non-pathogenic strains.

A total of 72 paired blood and urine samples in duplicate obtained from experimentally infected dogs were utilized in this study. Dogs were infected with Leptospira sensu latu, serovar pomona strain. Genomic DNA (gDNA) was extracted from whole blood and urine sample using an automated automated protocolized in parallel using controls to monitor the amount and quality of the extracted gDNA as well as extraction efficiency using a spiked internal positive control (IPC). DNA samples were free of PCR inhibiting substances as determined by IPC and dilution experiments. Using MAT as the gold standard, real-time PCR had 92% diagnostic specificity and 99% diagnostic sensitivity in this sample set. Advantages of a molecular diagnostic approach are the detection of all pathogenic strains as opposed to those used for a particular MAT procedure, the acute phase and urine diagnostic application, and a limited risk for vaccine interference.

ABSTRACT #302


The most common causes of feline immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA) are infectious agents and neoplasia. Primary IMHA is considered less common, but the Coombs’ test is the only test available to detect anti-erythrocyte (RBC) antibodies and it has low sensitivity and specificity in cats. The study’s purpose was to determine the prevalence of infectious agents and anti-RBC antibodies using the Coombs’ test and flow cytometry in anemic cats.

Blood collected from 25 anemic cats was evaluated with the Coombs’ test at 37C and 4C, and flow cytometry. Infectious agent assays included FeLV antigen, FIV antibody, Bartonella spp. antibody, and PCR assays for Mycoplasma haemofelis, ‘Candidatus M. haemominutum’, ‘Candidatus M. turicensis’, Bartonella spp., Ehrlichia spp and Anaplasm phagocytophilum.

Of the cats, 57.1% (20/35) were positive for an infectious agent. Of these, 10 cats were positive for anti-RBC antibodies in at least one of the assays. Anti-RBC antibody positive cats had flow cytometry (5/5), Coombs’ test at 37C (2/3), or Coombs’ test at 4C (9/13) were usually concurrently positive for an infectious agent. There was 88.6% agreement between flow cytometry and the Coombs’ at 37C and 66.7% between flow cytometry and the Coombs’ at 4C.

Anti-RBC antibodies were detected in 50% of the cats with evidence of exposure to an infectious agent and 88.6% of anti-erythrocyte antibody positive cats were concurrently positive for an infectious agent. Therefore the presence of anti-RBC antibodies did not distinguish between infectious and primary immune-mediated causes of anemia.

ABSTRACT #303

BARTONELLA HENSELAE ANTIGEN RECOGNITION PATTERNS IN THE SERUM AND AQUEOUS HUMOR OF CATS WITH AND WITHOUT UVEITIS. CL McInnis, CC Powell, JR Hawley, EJ Ehnhart, MR Lappin. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Uveitis is a common ocular syndrome of cats that has multiple causes, including Bartonella spp. However, the organisms are host-adapted and so Bartonella spp. antibodies and bacteriaemia are common in both normal cats and cats with uveitis, making it difficult to prove a clinical association with uveitis using currently available blood tests. The importance of accurately diagnosing ocular bartonellosis lies in the public health significance of this zoonotic disease, as well as in determining the optimal appropriate medical therapy for the individual cat. The objective of this study is to assess serum and aqueous humor Bartonella spp. antigenic recognition patterns as a diagnostic method for ocular bartonellosis.

Paired serum and aqueous humor samples were collected from cats with and without uveitis (healthy feral shelter cats from Florida). All samples were assayed in an IgG Western blot immunoassay, using culture grown B. henselae as the antigen preparation. The density and apparent molecular masses of any detectable band was determined with a computerized system by an individual blinded to the sample source. A serum or aqueous humor sample was considered positive if a previously defined immunodominant antigen was recognized with an average intensity greater than a predetermined cutoff value. The primary criterion for documenting intraocular production of Bartonella spp. antibodies was recognition of an immunodominant antigen by the aqueous humor sample but not the corneal lesion serum sample. In addition, if an immunodominant antigen was recognized by both the serum and aqueous humor sample and the average band intensity was greater in the aqueous humor sample, intraocular antibody production was documented.

Bartonella spp. antibodies were detected in serum of 61 of 84 cats (72.6%) with uveitis and 19 of 19 (100%) of the normal shelter cats. Bartonella spp. antibodies were detected in aqueous humor of 20 of 84 cats (23.8%) with uveitis and 0 of 19 (0%) of the normal shelter cats. Based on the criteria described, 10 of 84 cats (11.9%) with uveitis had evidence of intraocular production of antibodies against Bartonella spp.

The results of this study suggest that Western blot analysis on paired serum and aqueous humor samples from cats with uveitis may aid in the diagnosis of ocular bartonellosis. Whether these test results can be used to predict clinical response to appropriate medical therapy remains to be proven.

ABSTRACT #304

EFFECT OF ORBIFLOXACIN OR DOXYCYCLINE ADMINISTRATION ON BARTONELLA SPP. AND HEMOPLASMA TEST RESULTS FROM NATURALLY-EXPOSED CATS. W Miller, AK Morris, M Lappin. Department of Clinical Sciences Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.

Bartonella spp. and hemoplasmas are differential diagnoses for cats with fever. Little is known concerning the effects of antibiotic treatment on clinical responses or diagnostic test results in naturally-exposed cats. The purpose of this study was to monitor clinical
ABSTRACT #305

TESTING FOR FELINE HEMOTROPIC MYCOPLASMA INFECTION IN SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO IDEXX REFERENCE LABORATORIES FOR FELINE MYCOPLASMA TESTING.

K. Curtis, C. Leutenegger, R Chandrashekar

One hundred and forty two cats (n=142) submitted to IDEXX Laboratories, Westbrook, ME for mycoplasma testing were available for this study. IDEXX Laboratories offers both PCR and ELISA tests for feline hemotropic mycoplasmas.

Feline hemotropic mycoplasmas are the causative agents of infectious anemia in cats (Candidatus Mycoplasma haemominutum, CaMh) and feline infectious anemia (Candidatus Mycoplasma turicensis, CaMt). Studies have indicated that FIV infection has also been found to be associated with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and feline leukemia virus (FeLV) infection.

The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of FIV and FeLV infection in cats with suspected cases of hemoplasmosis.

Samples from anemic cats (n=185) submitted to the IDEXX Reference Laboratories for FIV and FeLV testing were available for this study. FIV and FeLV testing was performed using the SNAP Feline FIV/FeLV Test (IDEXX Laboratories, Westbrook, ME). Samples were tested for FIV antibodies using a specific capture procedure. Feline leukemia virus antibodies were detected using a pan-leukemia antibody capture procedure.

The results of this study indicate that 15.5% of the cats were positive for FIV antibodies, 23.8% were positive for FeLV antibodies, and 19.6% were positive for both FIV and FeLV antibodies. The prevalence of FIV and FeLV infection was found to be significantly higher in cats with suspected cases of hemoplasmosis.

The findings of this study are consistent with previous reports suggesting an association between FHM and retrovirus infection in cats. Because of this association and the potential for similar symptoms, testing for retroviruses as well as FHM is recommended in cases where infectious anemia is suspected.

ABSTRACT #306

ALPHA ENOLASE AND ANNEXIN A2 ANTIBODIES IN CATS.

J Whittemore1, JR Hawley2, MR Lappin2

Three feline hemotropic mycoplasmas (FHM) species are the causative agents for infectious anemia in cats; Mycoplasma haemofelis, Candidatus Mycoplasma haemominutum (CMh) and Candidatus Mycoplasma turicensis (CMt). Studies have indicated old age, male gender and outdoor activity as risk factors for FHM infection.

The combination of serology and PCR assay results is needed to provide the most information concerning the Bartonella infection status of individual cats. If these cats were clinically ill from Bartonella spp. or hemoplasmas, infection. Clinical signs resolved within days in seven of nine cats (77.8%) administered doxycycline and five of six cats (83.3%) administered doxycline.

The combination of serology and PCR assay results is needed to provide the most information concerning the Bartonella infection status of individual cats. The combination of serology and PCR assay results is needed to provide the most information concerning the Bartonella infection status of individual cats. The combination of serology and PCR assay results is needed to provide the most information concerning the Bartonella infection status of individual cats.

The combination of serology and PCR assay results is needed to provide the most information concerning the Bartonella infection status of individual cats.
FIV vaccine was introduced to Japan in 2008. In this study, we evaluated the prevalence and distribution of subtypes of FIV in Japan.

Blood samples were collected from cats admitted at 47 hospitals located in each prefecture from March to October in 2008. Cats venturing outside at least once a week were included, however cats stating completely indoors were excluded. Age, gender and chief complaint were recorded at each hospital. The status of FIV infection was confirmed using two methods; a serological test using the SNAP FeLV/FIV combo kit (IDEXX Laboratories) for detection of anti-FIV antibody, and polymerase chain reaction for detection of env (V3-V5) and gag regions of FIV proviral DNA. The nucleotide sequence of amplified FIV env-derived DNA fragments were determined by direct sequencing and phylogenetic analysis was performed by a Neighbor-Joining method to estimate subtypes of FIV.

1,770 cats were finally included in this study; 411 (23.3%) were sero-positive. All kittens less than 6-month old were sero-negative for FIV; however, juvenile cats (0.5–2 years old) revealed 3.4–14.4% prevalence. Adult cats showed a high infection rate of approximately 28–30%. Male cats constituted 71.1% of all sero-positive animals. The infection rate in 716 cats with a history of fighting wounds was 34.9% while that in cats without any history was 15.0%. Infection rates in cats with or without any clinical signs were 28%, and 12.6%, respectively. Proviral DNA was detected in 404 cases of the 411 sero-positive cats. In addition, nineteen sero-negative cats were positive by PCR analysis. The concordance between SNAP and PCR tests was 98.5%. DNA fragments of the FIV env V3-V5 region isolated from 347 cases proceeded to phylogenetic analysis. This analysis revealed that four subtypes (A, B, C and D) of FIV were still distributed in Japan. Regional characteristics were also observed: Subtype A in Hokkaido, Chugoku, Shikoku and southern Kyushu; Subtype B in the Tohoku and Kanto areas, Subtype C in mid-western and Subtype D in the area Kinki and northern Kyushu. In addition, subtype D viruses were possibly divided into two groups, classic D and varoius D. The varied type virus was mainly distributed in the Hokuriku area. Limited information about subtype C virus in Japan has previously been available; however, a number of subtype C virus cases were detected in this study.

We identified that FIV is epidemic in Japanese cats, especially in outdoor accessing cats. Even though an FIV vaccine was introduced in Japan, close attention still has to be paid to epidemic and genotypic trends of FIV.

ABSTRACT #309
EVALUATION OF CD4+ AND CD8+ T LYMPHOCYTES IN CATS NATURALLY INFECTED WITH FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS. FF Gonzales, A Reche Jr, AGT Daniel, SJ Miyashiro, D Passarelli, BM Teixeira, MK Hugwara, University of Sao Paulo, Faculdade de Medicina Veterinaria e Zootecnia, Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is known as a cause of immune dysfunction and opportunistic infections in naturally and experimentally infected cats. Humoral and cell-mediated immune response abnormalities have been reported by many investigators, implicating in particular T-cell alterations. Cats exposed to FeLV may either become persistently viremic or recover from infection. Viremic cats showed little evidence of an immune response to the virus, and are at very high risk of developing a fatal FeLV-related disease within 2 to 4 years. The pathogenesis of the immune deficit caused by FeLV, however, remains incompletely understood. Changes in T-cell subpopulations in FeLV-infected cats, especially decreased CD4+/CD8+ ratios have been reported to be similar to those occurring in HIV infection.

As FeLV infection is known to induce lymphopenia and there is little information on changes in lymphocyte subpopulations, T-cells subpopulations of FeLV infected cats were phenotyped and compared to FeLV-non infected cats in this particular study.

Eleven adult cats (7 male and 4 female, mean age 4–7 years) sharing the same household were negative for FeLV test. Neither one was infected with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

Blood from those cats was collected for CBC and lymphocytes phenotyping in a tube with EDTA-K3 (Vacutainer®). An additional twenty five young adult cats were included as FeLV-non infected controls. Absolute leukocyte counting was done on an automated blood analyser (ABC-Vet, ABX Diagnostics, Fr) and lymphocytes subsets were analysed by flow cytometry (FACScan; Becton Dickinson; Mountain View, CA). Mouse anti feline CD4: FITC mAb (Serotec MCA 1346F) and mouse anti-feline CD8+ mAb (Serotec MCA 1347PE) were used for lymphocytes phenotyping. The non parametric Mann-Whitney test was performed to compare both groups.

Decreased lymphocyte cells (2556.01±1697.76 and 6249.93±3666.70 lymphocytes/µL; p=0.03), T-CD4+ lymphocytes (585.73±534.46 and 1648.78±11.86; p<0.001), T-CD8+ lymphocytes (396.33±609.70 and 694.78±461.95; p=0.040) and CD4+/CD8+ ratio (2.15 and 3.03; p=0.018) were observed among FeLV-infected cats compared to non-infected cats. The resulting immunodeficiency might be responsible for chronic upper respiratory infection found in almost all FeLV infected cats. It is concluded that decreased CD4+/CD8+ ratio occurs in FeLV infection and evaluation of CD4+/T lymphocytes might be an useful tool to assess the prognosis of the infection.

ABSTRACT #310
CUTANEOUS MYCOFLORA AND CD4+ : CD8+ RATIO OF CATS INFECTED WITH FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS. A Reche Junior, AGT Daniel, TCPL Strauss, CP Taborda, SAV Marques, K Hapec, LJ Oliveira, JM Monteiro, JR Kfoury Junior, School of Veterinary Medicine – University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Opportunistic mycoses occur mainly when immunocompromising conditions are present. FIV-infected cats show a progressive depletion of CD4+ lymphocytes and other immunologic abnormalities. Considering that FIV-infected cats may have a higher isolation rate of fungal flora than FeLV-infected cats.

The purpose of the present study was to compare cutaneous mycoflora isolation and CD4+/CD8+ ratio in FIV-infected cats with that of FeLV-infected cats.

Sixty client-owned cats were examined. Twenty-five were FIV-infected cats and 35 were FeLV-infected cats. All the 60 cats were FeLV-negative. They were matched as closely as possible for age, sex, breed and lifestyle. None of the 60 cats had dermatologic problems at the moment of specimens collection.

Animals were tested for the retroviruses with a commercially available ELISA test kit. Cutaneous specimens were obtained from the cat coat by rubbing the whole hair with a sterile piece of carpet. Fungi were isolated from specimens using Sabouraud dextrose agar incubated at 27 Ç. Immunophenotyping of peripheral CD4+ and CD8+ T lymphocytes was done by flow cytometry.

Statistical analyses were done by one-way ANOVA and Tukey-Kramer multiple comparisons test. A P value <0.05 was considered significant. Results are presented as means±standard deviation (SD) where appropriate.

Fungal colonies were isolated from at least one specimen from 22 of 25 (88%) FIV-infected cats. Among the FIV-infected cats fungal colonies were recovered from 13 of 35 (37%) specimens. Dermatophytes were recovered from 2 of 25(8%) FIV-infected cats, from one coat specimen was isolated Microsporum canis and from the other Microsporum gypseum. Among the FIV-infected cats the only dermatophyte isolated was Microsporum gypseum in 3 out of 35 (8.5%) cats. Malassezia spp was the most commonly isolated organism overall (85.7%). Malassezia spp was more commonly isolated from FIV-infected cats, compared with FeLV-infected cats (68.8% vs 28.6%).

The CD4+ to CD8+ lymphocyte ratio for FIV-infected cats was significantly less than the CD4+ to CD8+ ratio in the FeLV-infected cats (0.328±0.222 and 1.250±0.507, respectively; P <0.01). The CD4+/CD8+ lymphocyte ratio for FIV-infected cats with cutaneous overall fungal isolation was significantly less than the CD4+ to CD8+ lymphocyte ratio in the FIV-infected cats but without cutaneous fungal isolation (0.187±0.044 and 0.683±0.085, respectively; P <0.01). We can conclude that immunologic depression due to retroviral infection might represent a risk factor to cutaneous fungal infection in cats.
ABSTRACT #311
PREVALENCE OF FELINE CALICIVIRUS AND HERPESVIRUS TYPE 1 IN MAINE COON CATS WITH CHRONIC GINGIVITIS. A Reche Júnior, AGT Daniel, CA Geraldo Júnior, MVC Albino, MN Arena, A Pellegrino, BM Teixeira, PE Brandão. School of Veterinary Medicine – University of São Paulo, Brazil.

Inflammatory diseases of feline oral cavity are extremely common in daily clinical practice. Factors that may contribute to the sub- ject of gingivitis and stomatitis are: diet, oral conformation, specific breed characteristics (juvenile gingivitis of Maine Coons), immune-mediated diseases and infectious diseases, like FIV, FeLV, feline calicivirus (FCV) and feline herpesvirus type 1 (FHV-1). The Maine Coon breed seems to predispose to develop chronic gingivitis. The aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence and correlation of the FCV and FHV-1 in Maine Coons with chronic gingivitis.

Seventy-two client-owned cats were placed in one of four groups: group I (n=22) – Maine Coons without oral disease; group III (n=10) – Other breeds [domestic shorthair, Bengal, Norwegian forest cat, Ragdoll] with chronic gingivitis and group IV (n=17) other breeds without oral disease. These animals were matched as closely as possible for age, sex and lifestyle. All cats of all groups were negative for FIV and FeLV. Oral samples were collected with a sterile swab. RT-PCR was performed to search for FCV and PCR for FHV-1. Fisher's Exact Test was used to statistic analyze. A P value <0.05 was considered significant. Results are presented as percentage of presence of virus.

Seventeen cats (77.2%) of group I, two cats (8%) of group II (n=25) – Maine Coons without oral disease; group III (n=10) – Other breeds [domestic shorthair, Bengal, Norwegian forest cat, Ragdoll] with chronic gingivitis and group IV (n=17) other breeds without oral disease. These animals were matched as closely as possible for age, sex and lifestyle. All cats of all groups were negative for FIV and FeLV. Oral samples were collected with a sterile swab. RT-PCR was performed to search for FCV and PCR for FHV-1. Fisher's Exact Test was used to statistic analyze. A P value <0.05 was considered significant. Results are presented as percentage of presence of virus.

Recently, we reported the prevalence of diseases and causes of death in retired racing Greyhounds (RRG) using a web-based survey. Some of the diseases we see in RRG appear to be uncommon in American Kennel Club (AKC) Greyhounds, and vice versa. The objective of the current study was to obtain comparable information for AKC Greyhounds, and compare the most relevant pathologies in both groups.

The data were collected through a survey posted online. The AKC announced the study and the owners/breeders completed the survey voluntarily; 214 responses were obtained.

Only 211 questionnaires were analyzed; 3 dogs were excluded because they were RRGs. Forty dogs were dead (19%) at the time of the survey. The major cause of death was cancer (7 dogs, 17.5%). The most commonly reported group of diseases were dental (42, 20.2%), digestive (32, 15.5%), and skin (22, 10.5%). On the other hand, the most frequent disorders in RGGs were skeletal (33%), skin (28%), and digestive (18%).

Comparing these results with the data previously reported, we can conclude that in general the distribution of diseases in AKC Greyhounds is different than in retired racing Greyhounds. Cancer was the most common cause of death in both groups, and osteosarcoma (OSA) was the main tumor type found exclusively in retired racers (no AKC Greyhounds had OSA). Behavioral disorders were less frequent in the AKC group. The different results obtained could be explained by a progression of this breed towards two different genetic lines or changes due to environmental factors.

ABSTRACT #313
THROMBOELASTOGRAPHIC CHANGES AFTER GONAD- ECTOMY IN RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS. P Villar, V Vossendorf, MC Iazibiz, GM Macedo, MM Couto. The Ohio State University, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Columbus, OH.

Postoperative bleeding occurs in 26% of retired racing Greyhounds (RRG) that are spayed or neutered (Lara A et al. 2008). Identifying the patients at risk for prevention of this complication will be extremely valuable. Thromboelastography (TEG®) allows for a global analysis of the hemostatic system providing information about the primary and secondary hemostasis, and the fibrinolytic system. The objective of this study was to evaluate perioperative hemostatic features in RRGs using TEG®, and determine whether we could predict bleeding in Greyhounds that undergo surgical procedures. We evaluated 21 healthy Greyhounds (11 females and 10 males); 8 were classified as “Bleeders” and 13 as “Non-Bleeders” based on a bleeding scoring system we recently validated. Blood samples obtained via jugular venipuncture were collected into one 2.7 ml Vacutainer 1:9 with 3.2% buffered sodium citrate collection tube, and TEG® test were done using citrated native technique as previously described. There were no statistical differences (p>0.05) preoperatively between “Bleeders” and “Non-Bleeders” for TEG® parameters, fibrinogen concentration (p=0.7465), platelet count (p=0.673), or hemoglobin concentration (p=0.1853). In the “Non-Bleeders”, the “MA” (p=0.0017) and “G” (p=0.0047) increased significantly after surgery. In contrast, in the “Bleeders” the “R” (p=0.0315) and angle (p=0.0044) were significantly prolonged and decreased, respectively after surgery. In addition, there were no significant changes in “MA” (p=0.0873) or “G” (p=0.0959) from the presurgery values. “Non-Bleeder” TEG® values after surgery suggest the formation a stronger clot and a decrease in fibrinolysis, an expected response to surgery also described in humans (Okamura K et al. 2007). “Bleeder” TEG® values after surgery supports the theory of slower clot formation and reduced clot strength, thus failing to reach a hypercoagulable postsurgical state and contributing to the bleeding observed in the breed. Preoperative TEG® failed to predict bleeding in RRG that undergo surgical procedures.

ABSTRACT #314
IMMUNOLOGICAL RESPONSES IN PERSISTENTLY BO- VINE VIRAL DIARRHEA VIRUS (BVDV) INFECTED ALPACAS. D Bohenecia*, W Davis*, M Hamilton*, A Grimm*, E Dubov†, L Costa*. Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, MA; W Washington State University, Pullman, WA; Cornell Diagnostic Laboratory, Ithaca, NY.

The objective of this study was to characterize the effect of chronic and persistent BVDV infection in alpacas on immunologi- cal function.

Baseline flow cytometry and serum protein electrophoresis were performed on 9 persistently infected (PI), 16 age-matched control (BVDV PCR negative) and 2 chronically BVDV infected alpacas. Chronic infection (CI) was defined by a positive BVD PCR for >3 weeks in the face of rising serum neutralizing BVDV antibodies. To further assess the functional activity of peripheral blood mononu- clear cells (PBMC) in four PI, two CI and four control animals, cultured PBMC were separately stimulated with concanavalin A (ConA), pokeweed mitogen (PWM) for 3 days. Cells were subse- quently collected and labeled for flow cytometry. Analyses were repeated at two separate time points for all animals. Overall results were reported as mean (± standard deviation) and analyzed via in- dependent samples T-test (P<0.05).

Significant anemia and hypoproteinemia (reduced albumin but increased α2 globulin fraction), a reduction in T-lymphocytes (CD
4) and relative monocytes were evident in PI compared to healthy control animals. Furthermore, monocyte, B lymphocyte and γ/δ T cell proliferation were observed in mitogen stimulated cells. Superior stimulation of B cells was achieved using PWM (71–144%). PI and group pens consistently showed greater lymphocyte proliferation than control animals when stimulated with ConA, PHA and PWM.

Despite absolute reduction in peripheral T cells, PBMC from persistently BVDV infected alpacas demonstrated comparable, if not superior proliferation in response to in vitro mitogen stimulation.

ABSTRACT #315
HUMORAL RESPONSE TO BLUE TONGUE VACCINATION IN ALPACAS. CE Whitehead1, CA Batten2, J Brownlie1, JM Sonis, ES Hackett, RJ Callan, TB Jackson1, 1The Royal Veterinary College, London, UK. 2Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, UK.

Bluetongue virus (serotype 8) was first documented in the UK in September 2007. This study evaluates a new vaccine (Bovilis® BT8V, Intervet) in alpacas. Three groups of alpacas were enrolled in a field trial: Group 1 (10 alpacas) received one dose of vaccine only; Group 2 (10 alpacas) received two doses, 3 weeks apart; Group 3 (6 alpacas, control group) received no vaccine. All were healthy, adult male and non-pregnant female alpacas kept at pasture. Blood samples were collected at Days 0, 21 (prior to vaccination), and 42. All samples underwent routine hematology and biochemistry, and ELISA and PCR testing for presence of antibody and virus respectively. Seropositive samples were tested for presence of neutralizing antibodies by serum neutralisation (SNT). Soft tissue reactions to the vaccine were common, and one alpaca exhibited transient lameness. All alpacas were seronegative at the start of the study and were negative for virus throughout the period of study. Control alpacas were negative for virus and antibody throughout. After one dose of vaccine (day 21), only 7/20 alpacas were seropositive. At day 42, Group 2 alpacas were all seropositive, had significantly greater percentage inhibition (PI) on ELISA compared to Group 1 alpacas (p<0.0001), and significantly higher serum neutralization titre (p=0.002). This study suggests that the vaccine appears to be safe in healthy alpacas and that it can stimulate an antibody response in alpacas. Further, this study suggests that two doses given 3 weeks apart is an acceptable vaccination strategy in alpacas.

ABSTRACT #316
INCIDENCE OF CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE IN FECES OF MALE HOLSTEIN VEAL CALVES. MC Costa, LG Arroyo, DL Pearl, JS Weese, H Staemml1. Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Neonatal calf diarrhea (NCD) is a multifactorial disease complex causing loss to the bovine industry. Recently, Clostridium difficile has been identified as potential additional cause for NCD in dairy calves. Clostridium difficile has been found in retail beef samples and was associated with sudden death in a group of veal calves. Very little information is available about C. difficile colonization in young calves. The objective of this study was to monitor longitudinally C. difficile colonization in a group of Holstein male calves reared on a milk replacer diet for meat on one farm.

For this study, 163 male Holstein-Friesian calves originating from several different farms were housed either individually (n=70) or in group pens (n=93). Calves were medicated with oral oxytetacycline for five days after arrival and were fed a complete milk replacer diet. Fecal samples were obtained by rectal swab within 48 hours post arrival and again six days after the first sampling. Several swabs were taken to evaluate for progression of the caecal fill. Selective culture for C. difficile was performed, and isolates were characterized using standard methods.

C. difficile was isolated initially from 22/70 (34%) individually housed and in 42/69 (61%) 6 days later (P<0.001). Similarly, C. difficile was isolated from 31/93 (33%) group housed calves initially and in 46/93 (49%) 6 days later (P=0.037). Overall, C. difficile was isolated from 53/163 (33%) calves initially and from 88/162 (54%) at the second sampling. There was no difference in the prevalence of colonization between management types at either sampling point (P=0.87 and 0.16 respectively). 14 (45%) of group housed calves and 7 (32%) of individually housed calves that were initially positive were negative at the 2nd sampling. No C. difficile was grown from any of the 7 samples taken from the environment at the first sampling.

In conclusion the colonization rate of calves in this study was high, even at admission from different source farms and increased significantly shortly after arrival. Comingling, stress and antibiotic therapy could have contributed to the high incidence. Virtually all calves had some degree of diarrhoea at the time of the second sampling. Recently, toxigenic strains of C. difficile have been positively associated with diarrhoea in dairy cows. Despite the significant increase in the prevalence of the bacterium concomitant with the increase in diarrhoea, molecular analysis would be necessary to establish a clear association. Evaluation of typing data will provide additional insight into the epidemiology of C. difficile in calves reared in high-density environments and its role in NCD.

ABSTRACT #317
PRAIRIE RATTLESNAKE ENVENOMATION IN 25 NEW WORLD CAMELIDS. JM Sonis, ES Hackett, RJ Callan, TB Hackett. Colorado State University Department of Clinical Sciences, Fort Collins, CO.

Morbidity and mortality from rattlesnake envenomation is regionally specific due to variability in relative toxicity of the species of snake encountered. A previous report of rattlesnake envenomation in New World Camelids from the western coastal United States documented high mortality rates and guarded prognosis for survival. The purpose of this study was to describe clinical findings, treatments, and outcome of New World Camelids following envenomation in the Rocky Mountain region of the United States by Prairie rattlesnakes (Crotalus viridis viridis). We hypothesized that Prairie rattlesnake envenomation of New World Camelids would result in a higher survival rate than that reported for rattlesnakes in other regions, and that the survival rate would more closely approximate that for Prairie rattlesnake envenomation in other mammalian species.

Records of New World Camelids evaluated for rattlesnake envenomation from 1992 to 2007 were reviewed retrospectively. Signalment, area of bite, clinical signs, clinicopathologic data, treatment, and outcome were recorded. Continuous data were reported as mean and 95% confidence interval. Fisher’s exact test was used to evaluate for an association between platelet count, and treatments of steroids, NSAIDS, and commercial antivenin on outcome. Logistic regression was used to evaluate for an association between age, days of hospitalization, and outcome. For all comparisons, significance was set at a value of p<0.05.

Twenty-five New World Camelids experienced envenomation in this time period, consisting of 24 Llamas and 1 Alpaca. Llamas were overrepresented compared to hospital caseload. Mean age of envenomation was 3.8 years [95%CI: 2.8-4.9 years]. Presenting clinical signs included respiratory distress (7), fever (12), tachycardia (10), and tachypnea (12). The face was the most common site of envenomation (20 of 21). Most camelids were treated with intravenous fluids, antibiotic therapy, and NSAIDS. Eight animals required tracheotomy to maintain airway and 8 were treated with supplemental oxygen. Mean hospitalization was 2.4 days [95%CI: 1.4-3.4 days]. Overall survival rate was 72%. Age did not significantly impact outcome. Of the treatments evaluated, only commercial antivenin administration was protective for survival.

In conclusion, mortality rate for prairie rattlesnake envenomation in New World Camelids was lower than that reported in other regions of the United States and similar to that reported for prairie rattlesnake envenomation in horses. Commercial antivenin treatment should be considered for prairie rattlesnake envenomation in this species and may favorably impact outcome.

ABSTRACT #318
CONCENTRATIONS OF CARDIAC TROPONIN I MEASURED WITH AN I-STAT®1 ANALYZER IN NORMAL HORSES UNDERGOING A STANDARD TREADMILL PERFORMANCE EXAMINATION. MS Kraus, TG Divers, DV Nydam, SA Jesty, AR Gelzer, ND Ducharme. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Elevated serum concentration of cardiac troponin I (cTnI) is a biomarker for myocardial damage in horses. Treadmill exercise is a...
ABSTRACT #319
THE EFFECTS OF DEHYDRATION ON CENTRAL VENOUS PRESSURE IN ADULT HORSES. RD Nolen-Walston, JL Norton, R Boston, C Underwood, J Slack, BL Dallap, RD Nolen-Walston. New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Kennett Square, PA.

Central venous pressure (CVP) is used in many species to monitor right-sided intravascular volume status especially in critical care medicine. Our hypothesis was that dehydration in adult horses is associated with a proportional reduction in CVP. Ten healthy adult horses underwent central venous catheter placement via the right jugular vein, and CVP readings were obtained using water manometry. The horses were then deprived of water and administered furosemide (1 mg/kg IV QD) for up to 36 hours. Weight, CVP, vital signs, PCV, total solids, and serum lactate were monitored at baseline and every 6 hours until a target of 5% dehydration was achieved. Linear regression analysis was used to assess the association of CVP and other clinical parameters with degree of dehydration over time. A value of P < 0.05 was used to separate statistical differences from those due to the causes explored in this investigation. A significant association was found between CVP and percent dehydration (P < 0.001), with a decrease in CVP of 2.2 cmH2O for every percentage point increase in dehydration. Other significant associations between dehydration and parameters measured included increased total protein (P = 0.007) and increased serum lactate concentration (P = 0.048). In regards to the association between CVP and heart rate, respiratory rate, rectal temperature, or PCV. In conclusion, there is a strong association between central venous pressure and the degree of dehydration caused by diuretic use and water deprivation. These findings suggest that CVP monitoring may be a useful addition to the clinical evaluation of hydration status in adult horses.

ABSTRACT #320
COMPARISON OF WATER MANOMETRY TO TWO ELECTRONIC PRESSURE MONITORS FOR CENTRAL VENOUS PRESSURE MEASUREMENT IN HORSES. JL Norton, C Underwood, J Slack, BL Dallap, RD Nolen-Walston. New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Kennett Square, PA.

Central venous pressure (CVP) has customarily been measured in veterinary patients using water manometry. However, many institutions are now using bedside/stallside electronic monitors in both anesthesia and intensive care units for many aspects of patient monitoring. The aim of this study was to evaluate the agreement of CVP values obtained using water manometry and two commercially available bedside monitoring devices (Datascope Passport LT® and Medtronic Lifepak 12™). Central venous catheters were placed routinely in 10 healthy adult horses. Measurement sets were taken every 12 hours over the course of 3 days. At each time point, three measurements were obtained with each of the three methods. Data were analyzed using Bland-Altman limits of agreement, with all devices compared pairwise. Compared to water manometry, agreement (bias) of the Passport was -1.94 cmH2O (limits of agreement, -8.54 to 4.66 cmH2O) and of the Medtronic was -1.83 cmH2O (limits of agreement, -8.60 to 4.94 cmH2O). When compared to the Passport, agreement of the data obtained with the Medtronic was 0.27 cmH2O (limits of agreement, -4.39 to 4.93 cmH2O). These data show that both electronic monitors systematically provide measures that are approximately 2 cmH2O lower than water manometry; however, differences between the two electronic devices are small enough (less than 0.5 cmH2O) to be considered clinically insignificant. This discrepancy should be taken into account when interpreting data obtained with these monitoring devices. Although water manometry has typically been considered the gold standard technique, this study does not identify which of these methods is more accurate.

ABSTRACT #321
REPEATABILITY AND EFFECT OF HEAD POSITION ON CENTRAL VENOUS PRESSURE MEASUREMENT IN STANDING ADULT HORSES. JL Norton, R Boston, C Underwood, J Slack, BL Dallap, RD Nolen-Walston. New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Kennett Square, PA.

Central venous pressure (CVP) measurements are typically obtained from equine patients using water manometry, but the reliability of these measurements and the effect of changes in head elevation have not been established. In humans, variation in CVP is seen when the patient moves from supine to standing position. We hypothesized that, in the horse, alteration in head position relative to the heart would significantly alter CVP. Jugular CVP catheters were placed in 10 healthy adult horses and measurements were obtained every twelve hours for three days. Data were taken in triplicate (n = 498) at three different head positions: neutral (muzzle level with point of shoulder), elevated (muzzle at the level of the withers) and lowered (muzzle on the ground). Data were analyzed using mixed effect modeling, with significance set at P < 0.05. Mean CVP in the neutral head position was 9.4 ± 3.6 cmH2O. In regards to repeatability, variation in the “neutral” measurements obtained at each time point was minimal (2%), as compared to variation as a function of day and subject. No significant difference (P > 0.4) was demonstrated between repetitions at any time point. Head height had a significant and direct effect on CVP: the elevated head position decreased CVP by a mean of -2.0 ± 6.5 cmH2O (P < 0.001) while the lowered head position increased CVP by 3.7 ± 5.5 cmH2O (P < 0.001). In conclusion, CVP values obtained using water manometry are highly repeatable in adult horses, provided head position is standardized to prevent inconsistent readings.

ABSTRACT #322
CARDIAC TROPONIN I CONCENTRATIONS IN HORSES REFERRED FOR COLIC. OS Diaz, MM Durando, EK Birks, VB Reef. University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, Kennett Square, PA.

Cardiac dysrhythmias are observed in horses hospitalized with colic. Endotoxemia, hypovolemia, electrolyte and acid-base disturbances commonly associated with colic may predispose these horses to myocardial damage and rhythm disturbances. This study was performed to determine if a relationship exists between measures of myocardial damage, plasma cardiac troponin I (cTnI), and outcome (survival/non-survival), treatment (medical/surgical), or the presence of dysrhythmias.

111 horses presented to the University of Pennsylvania Large Animal Hospital with a complaint of colic were included. Blood for cTnI was drawn at admission, and 12 and 24 hours post admission or surgery, for medical or surgical colics, respectively. A 24-hour ambulatory ECG was placed the morning after admission (medical colics) or surgery to record cardiac rhythm. Medical records were reviewed to obtain clinical and clinicopathologic data and outcome. Data at admission were evaluated by ANOVA, chi-square
and linear regression where appropriate. For all tests, $P < 0.05$ was considered significant.

38/110 horses had an abnormal cTnl at admission. Higher cTnl concentrations were significantly associated with the occurrence of ventricular arrhythmias (VA) ($P = 0.01$) and outcome ($P < 0.001$), but not with treatment (medical/surgical). An abnormal cTnl concentration was significantly associated with increased HR ($P = 0.03$), PCV ($P = 0.012$) and lactate concentration ($P = 0.002$), and VA ($P = 0.012$), surgery ($P = 0.032$) and mortality ($P = 0.012$).

These data suggest that horses presenting for colic with elevated cTnl concentrations have a less-favorable prognosis for successful recovery from colic. Also, the association between higher cTnl concentrations and VA in horses presenting for colic suggests concurrent myocardial injury in these horses.

**ABSTRACT #323**

**ASSOCIATION OF GROWTH HORMONE AND GHRELIN WITH THE ENERGY METABOLISM AND MORTALITY IN SEPTIC FOALS.** RJIM Barsnick$^1$, SDA Hurcombe$^1$, WJ Saville$^1$, John C. Haffner$^1$, Kellie A. Brojerg$^1$

Septic foals (healthy or diseased) is limited. Ghrelin is produced by P/D1 cells in the gastric mucosa to stimulate short-term hunger and the secretion of growth hormone from the pituitary gland. Both hormones play important roles in energy homeostasis.

The goal of this study was to determine the association between growth hormone and ghrelin concentrations with sepsis, mortality of sepsis, severity of disease and serum glucose and triglyceride concentrations in critically ill foals.

We measured the plasma concentrations of ghrelin and growth hormone in 44 septic, 62 sick non-septic (hospitalized for other diseases) and 19 healthy foals. Sepsis was defined as a sepsis score $> 11$.

Ghrelin concentrations were higher in septic foals than in sick non-septic and healthy foals ($P < 0.001$). Growth hormone concentrations were higher in septic and sick non-septic foals than in healthy foals ($P < 0.001$). Septic foals had lower serum glucose and higher triglyceride concentrations than healthy foals ($P < 0.01$). Among the septic foals, non-survivors had lower glucose and higher triglyceride values than survivors ($P < 0.05$). Ghrelin and growth hormone concentrations were positively correlated with sepsis scores as well as triglyceride concentrations, but negatively correlated with glucose concentrations ($P < 0.05$). No difference was found in ghrelin and growth hormone concentrations between septic foals that died or survived.

The results of this study suggest that ghrelin and growth hormone concentrations increase in response to systemic inflammation in septic foals, which probably is an attempt to overcome the negative energy balance by stimulating hunger and lipolysis. As septic foals are often anorexic, the neuronal response to ghrelin is likely to be impaired during sepsis leading to a lack of energy intake and a catabolic state in sick foals.

**ABSTRACT #324**

**SEASONAL CHANGES IN PLASMA ALPHA-MELANOCYTE-STIMULATING HORMONE AND ADRENOCORTICOTROPIC HORMONE IN RESPONSE TO THYROTROPIN-RELEASING HORMONE ADMINISTRATION IN NORMAL AGED HORSES.** RA Funk, AJ Stewart, AA Wooldridge, RJ Kempainen, EN Behrend, AK Johnson. Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn, AL.

Diagnostic tests for equine pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID) including endogenous adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) and the overnight dexamethasone suppression test (DST) have been demonstrated to be affected by season in the Northeastern United States. Adrenocorticotropic hormone response to thyrotropin-releasing hormone (TRH) is a new and potentially more sensitive diagnostic test for equine PPID, but has not been evaluated for seasonality. The purpose of this study was to evaluate seasonal changes in plasma ACTH and alpha melanocyte-stimulating hormone ($\alpha$MSH) responses to TRH administration in the southeastern United States.

Ten healthy aged horses with normal DST (indicating absence of PPID) were administered synthetic TRH (1 mg) intravenously. Adrenocorticotropic hormone and $\alpha$ MSH concentrations were measured at 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 45, 60, and 180 minutes. Testing was performed in February, July, August, September, October, and November. Mean ACTH and MSH concentrations at each time point were compared across months using 2-way analysis of variance. Significance was set at $P < 0.05$. Concentrations of ACTH (post-TRH administration) were significantly higher in August, September and October compared to February. Concentrations from July and November were not significantly different than concentrations in any other month. Concentrations of $\alpha$ MSH (post-TRH administration) were significantly higher in August compared to February. Concentrations in July were not significantly different than concentrations in February or August.

**ABSTRACT #325**

**EFFECT OF INSULIN INFUSION INTO THE DIGITAL ARTERY ON GLUCOSE CONCENTRATIONS IN THE DIGITAL VEIN IN HEALTHY HORSES.** John C. Haffner$^1$, Kellie A. Fecteau$^2$, Hugo Eiler$^1$.

Laminitis is often associated with insulin resistance and carbohydrate metabolism. The objective of this research was to determine whether insulin infused into the digital artery can affect the arterial-venous (A/V) glucose differential in healthy horses as an indication that glucose uptake by the foot is regulated by insulin.

Seven healthy horses were used. Both digital arteries and the lateral digital vein from one foot were catheterized with 18G 3.2 cm Teflon catheters. Infusion was through the lateral artery by infusion pump. Blood samples were collected concurrently from the medial artery and lateral vein at 1 or 5 min intervals during untreated-control, saline-infusion, and insulin infusion at 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 5.0 units/min (0.50 ml/min infusion speed). Each infusion period lasted 20 min. Glucose concentrations were determined by a validated glucometer.

Glucose A/V concentration differential were: Mean±SD, (lowest-highest value), number of samples, % samples with arterial glucose concentrations greater than venous. No treatment-control period: 8.3±3.8 (1.39), n=14, 91.4%. Insulin infusion period (all dosages combined): 9.0±5.2 (1.23), n=78, 98.7%; compared to controls there was no difference ($P > 0.05$). A/V differential was not affected by saline infusion, insulin or hypoglycemia (34–40 mg/dL level). The glucose A/V differential (9–10 mg/dL level) demonstrated utilization of glucose by the digit. However, insulin infusion into the digital artery did not increase glucose A/V differential. This suggests that the foot is not affected by insulin.

**ABSTRACT #326**

**VALIDATION OF A SPECIES SPECIFIC ENZYMELINKED IMMUNOSORBENT ASSAY FOR MEASUREMENT OF SERUM INSULIN IN HORSES.** J Öberg, I Lilliehöök, O Wattle, Å Karlsson, J Bröjer. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden.

Equine serum insulin has previously been analyzed with methods developed for human serum insulin. The performance and results of these human RIA and ELISA methods vary considerably because of different cross-reactivity of the anti-human antibodies and matrix problems. A species optimized, quantitative method (Merodia Equine Insulin ELISA) for measurement of equine serum insulin has currently been produced by Merodia, Uppsala, Sweden. It is a
direct sandwich ELISA in which two monoclonal antibodies are directed against two separate antigenic determinants on the equine insulin molecule. The detection limit is 0.01 μg/L and the detection range is 0.02–1.30 μg/L.

Our study evaluated the precision and linearity of the Merckodia Equine Insulin ELISA and compared it with two methods for human insulin (Merckodia Human Insulin ELISA and Coat-A-Count Insulin RIA kit from DPC, Siemens Diagnostics, Los Angeles, CA, USA). Biological relevance of the assay was evaluated by measuring insulin before and after feeding.

Forty healthy horses were sampled before and 90 minutes after feeding. These 80 serum samples were analyzed with all three methods. Pearson correlations were calculated. Precision for the equine ELISA was evaluated by determining the intra- and inter-assay coefficient of variation (CV). Sera from one horse with a mean concentration of 0.116 μg/L was analyzed in duplicate on fifteen different assay runs. Another sample (mean 0.017 μg/L) was analyzed in duplicate four times on one assay the same day. One sample with high insulin value (0.998 μg/L) was diluted with physiologic saline in five steps. The results were compared with mathematically predicted values and recovery was determined.

Results from the equine ELISA had high correlation both with the human ELISA and the RIA, r² = 0.97 and 0.97 respectively. Intra-assay CV was 10.7% and intra-assay CV was 4.6%. Recovery was 92–122%. Insulin concentration was significantly greater after feeding compared with the pre-feeding sample in 40 horses (Significant values only seen in 0.0001). The median insulin level using the equine ELISA before feeding was 0.07 μg/L compared with 0.29 μg/L after feeding. In comparison, the insulin results from human RIA and ELISA increased from median 4.8 and 7.8 μU/L to 21.1 and 26.1 μU/L respectively.

The Merckodia Equine Insulin ELISA had good precision and linearity, and showed high correlation with both the human ELISA and the Coat-A-Count RIA. This commercial assay's advantages are that it is developed for equine samples and results are quantitative (µg/L) instead of using activity units based on human insulin.

**ABSTRACT #327**

**HYPERINSULINEMIA IN HORSES WITH PITUITARY PARS INTERMEDIA DYSFUNCTION AND EFFECTS OF HOUSING ON INSULIN RESPONSE DURING A GLUCOSE TOLERANCE TEST.**

HC Schott II, L Groppi, S Wismer, S Beyerlein, ML Ance, and the sire were heterozygous for this nucleic acid change and dam and the sire were heterozygous for this nucleic acid change. The analysis of genomic DNA extracted from white blood cells. Specific primers for alphaIIb and beta3 were used to amplify by PCR the corresponding cDNA or genomic regions that were further characterized by sequencing and compared by BLAST analysis (GenBank). A point mutation from G to C was identified in exon 2 of alphaIIb causing the substitution of amino acid Arg72, normally found to Pro72. This amino acid change may result into abnormal structural conformations that yield an inactive alphaIIb subunit. The analysis of genomic DNA showed that this horse was homozygous for the missense mutation Arg to Pro. The genomic DNA sequences encoding exon 2 of the dam and sire were heterozygous for this nucleic acid change and were clinically normal.

**ABSTRACT #328**

**CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CDNA SEQUENCE ENCODING FOR THE PLATELET INTEGRIN ALPHAIIB AND BETA3 IN A HORSE WITH GLANZMANN THROMBASTENIA.**

S Maci´eira, J Lussier, C Bedard, Faculte de Medecine Veterinaire, Universite de Montreal, Saint-Hyacinthe, QC, Canada.

Glanzmann thrombastenia (TG) is characterized by a defect of platelet aggregation. It is an autosomal recessive genetic disorder caused by an abnormality of the platelet receptor for fibrinogen. The integrin receptor located on the plasma membrane is formed by a complex of alphaIIb and beta3 subunits, encoded by two distinct genes. Recently, we identified a horse with clinical and pathological features of TG. Flow cytometry studies revealed a deficiency of the alphaIIb subunit, suggesting the presence of one or several mutations in the gene encoding for the protein.

The aim of this study was to describe this case of TG at the molecular level by characterizing the cDNAs encoding for the beta3 and alphaIIb.

Total RNA was extracted from platelets and converted into cDNA by reverse transcription and poly-AT. Genomic DNA was extracted from white blood cells. Specific primers for alphaIIb and beta3 were used to amplify by PCR the corresponding cDNA or genomic regions that were further characterized by sequencing and compared by BLAST analysis (GenBank). A point mutation from G to C was identified in exon 2 of alphaIIb causing the substitution of amino acid Arg72, normally found to Pro72. This amino acid change may result into abnormal structural conformations that yield an inactive alphaIIb subunit. The analysis of genomic DNA showed that this horse was homozygous for the missense mutation Arg to Pro. The genomic DNA sequences encoding exon 2 of the dam and sire were heterozygous for this nucleic acid change and were clinically normal.

**ABSTRACT #329**

**COMPARISON OF HEMATOLOGIC AND BIOCHEMICAL VALUES OBTAINED VIA INTRAVENOUS CATHETER VER- SUS VENIPUNCTURE IN HOSPITALIZED HORSES.**

May, ME Utter, RD Nolen-Walston. New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Kennett Square, PA.

During hospitalization, horses typically undergo frequent blood sampling for diagnostic testing and monitoring. The nature of veterinary patients and the need for numerous samples makes acquisition from an intravenous catheter both convenient and less stressful to the patient. We hypothesized that there would be no significant difference in the plasma chemistry and hemocoagulation parameters from venous blood samples obtained from a jugular catheter versus direct jugular venipuncture. Paired samples were obtained simultaneously from 23 adult hospitalized horses, of which 14 were receiving intravenous crystalloids, and 9 were receiving no fluid therapy. Where applicable, fluids were stopped for 2 minutes, and a pre-sample of 1.5 mL withdrawn from the catheter and discarded. Using identical syringes and needles, 10 mL samples were obtained from both the catheter and the contralateral jugular vein. Samples were submitted for blinded analysis including complete blood count, standard equine plasma chemistry analysis, serum lactate, PCV, and total protein concentrations. Data obtained were analyzed using a mixed-model ANOVA and Bonferroni adjustment.
for multiple comparisons. There was no significant difference associated with sampling method (venipuncture versus catheter) irrespective of fluid administration status in any of the 24 analytes measured. In addition, the absolute differences between sampling methods were subjectively judged to be clinically insignificant. In conclusion, blood samples obtained via intravenous catheter have clinically equivalent values to those taken using venipuncture in commonly performed analyses. Further investigation is warranted to establish if this technique is associated with decreased complications such as phlebitis or bacteremia.

**ABSTRACT #330**

**EFFECTS OF LIPOLIPOLYSACCHARIDE, LIPOTEICHOIC ACID, AND PEPTIDOGLYCAN ON TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR PRODUCTION IN EQUINE WHOLE BLOOD CULTURE.** JL Day, PJ Johnson, AR Honaker, J Amorim, AE BS Leise1, PJ Johnson2, RR Faleiros1,3, SJ Black4, JK K DeClue.

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Whole blood culture (Cwb), an ex vivo method for studying inflammatory mediator response to stimuli, maintains interactions between populations of blood cells, and plasma and can be used to evaluate anti-inflammatory therapies. Although Cwb has been used in horses, dose response curves and Gram-positive microbial products have not been evaluated. The purpose of this study was to determine the concentration at which TNF is maximally stimulated by several microbial products using Cwb.

Blood, collected from 4 healthy adult mares, diluted 1:2 with RPMI/penicillin/streptomycin was cultured on 12 well plates. The blood was stimulated with various concentrations of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) (5–1000ng/ml), lipoteichoic acid (LTA) (100–2500ng/ml), peptidoglycan (PG) (100–2500ng/ml), or control solution (PBS) and incubated at 37°C for 24h. A cell killing biossay was used to measure TNF in the Cwb supernatant. Data were analyzed using ANOVA and post-hoc Fisher LSD method with p < 0.05 considered significant.

Multiple concentrations of LPS, LTA and PG significantly stimulated TNF production from the cultured blood. The lowest concentrations that stimulated maximal mean±SD TNF bioactivity for each microbial product compared to control (1.6±0.7ng/ml) were 50ng/ml for LPS (10.7±3.4ng/ml; p=0.007), 500ng/ml for LTA (17.7±8.8ng/ml; p=0.039) and 500ng/ml for PG (26.1±4.9ng/ml; p=0.006).

In conclusion, Cwb is an efficient method of evaluating TNF production in response to LPS, LTA and PG in horses. These data provide optimum stimulant concentrations for use with Cwb in future studies investigating anti-inflammatory interventions for both Gram negative and positive infections in this species.

**ABSTRACT #331**

**LAMINAR INFLAMMATORY GENE EXPRESSION IN THE CARBOHYDRATE OVERLOAD MODEL OF EQUINE LAMINITIS.** BS Lena1, PJ Johnson2, RR Faleiros3,4, SJ Black3,4, JK Belknap1.

1The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, OH. 2University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO. 3Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil. 4University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Similar to sepsis-related organ injury in the human patient, laminar injury in the black walnut extract (BWE) model is associated with marked increases in laminar inflammatory indices, including increases in laminar mRNA concentrations of COX-2, IL-1β and IL-6. However, no reports have detailed the inflammatory response in the carbohydrate overload (CHO) laminitis model. The CHO model more closely mimics other clinical causes of acute laminitis (i.e. grain overload, enterocolitis, strangulating intestinal lesions) due to the presence of endotoxemia, the extended time frame of systemic signs, and the higher frequency of structural failure of the laminae. The purpose of this study was to determine if a similar pattern of laminar inflammation characterized by proinflammatory cytokine expression occurs in the CHO model as has been previously reported for the BWE model. Twelve horses were administered 17.6g of starch (85% corn starch/15% wood flour) kg body weight via nasogastric tube; these horses were anesthetized either after a two degree increase in rectal temperature (DEV group, n = 6) or at the onset of Obel grade 1 lameness (OG1 group, n = 6). Control horses (CON group, n = 7) were anesthetized 24 hours after NG administration of 6 liters of deionized water. Serial physical examinations including gait analysis and complete blood counts were performed. Laminar tissue was collected from horses while under anesthesia, followed by humane euthanasia. Complementary DNA was made from laminar mRNA isolated from 3 different segments of the dorsal rim of the P2/C6. Real-time PCR monitoring for multiple comparisons. There was no significant difference associated with sampling method (venipuncture versus catheter) irrespective of fluid administration status in any of the 24 analytes measured. In addition, the absolute differences between sampling methods were subjectively judged to be clinically insignificant. In conclusion, blood samples obtained via intravenous catheter have clinically equivalent values to those taken using venipuncture in commonly performed analyses. Further investigation is warranted to establish if this technique is associated with decreased complications such as phlebitis or bacteremia.

**ABSTRACT #332**

**IL-10 DOWNWREGULATES PRODUCTION OF PEROXYNITRITE IN EQUINE MONOCYTE-DERIVED MACROPHAGES. IMPLICATIONS FOR RHODOCOCCAL INFECTION.** BA Sponseller, SK Clark, MM de Macedo, DM Wong, DE Jones.

College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

*Rhodococcus equi* is an important cause of pneumonia, the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among foals aged one to six months, and a cause of significant economic loss to the equine industry. Infection of foals by *R. equi* is believed to occur within the first few weeks of life. Why some foals are susceptible to infection while adults are not is incompletely understood.

In previous in vitro studies we determined that activated neonatal equine macrophages express higher levels of IL-10 cytokine mRNA than adult controls (Sponseller et al., 2008). Similarly, Gigueré et al. found that foals infected at approximately 3 weeks of age with virulent *R. equi* 103 had increased levels of IL-10 in lung tissue at 3 and 14 days post-inoculation compared to foals infected with the avirulent, plasmid-cured *R. equi* 103 and uninfected controls (Gigueré et al., 1999). IL-10 down-regulates many effector functions of macrophages, including the release of reactive nitrogen and oxygen intermediates. In addition, studies in mice have convincingly demonstrated that peroxynitrite, a very reactive product of superoxide and nitric oxide, is required for killing of virulent *R. equi* in murine macrophages (Darrah et al., 2000). In fact, neither superoxide nor nitric oxide alone is effective in killing *R. equi*. Interestingly, vap-A and -G genes, contained on the *r. equi*-virulence plasmid, undergo increased transcription when *R. equi* is exposed to oxidative stress, indicating an adaptive bacterial response to such cellular defenses. Thus, we speculate that equine macrophage oxidative responses, and peroxynitrite in particular, are curtailed in the presence of increased expression of IL-10.

The purpose of this study was to determine whether or not IL-10 modulates production of peroxynitrite in equine monocyte-derived macrophages. Replicates of adult monocyte derived macrophage cultures in a 96 well-format were exposed to 0.2, 0.6, and 1.0μg of anti-IL-10 antibody alone (R&D Systems), 50ng/ml recombinant equine IFN-γ (R&D Systems), or with IFN-γ/LPS (Sigma-Aldrich). Intracellular peroxynitrite-mediated oxidation of dihydrorhodamine-123 (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) was measured as rhodamine fluorescence with the FluorStar Omega fluorimeter. In all culture conditions, increasing concentrations of anti-IL-10 antibody resulted in increased levels of peroxynitrite, suggesting that a cytokine milieu rich in IL-10 would result in decreased macrophage production of peroxynitrite. Since activated foal macrophages express high levels of IL-10, our results indicate that neonatal foals infected with *R. equi* may have compromised macrophage oxidative responses and an inherent inability to clear infection.
ABSTRACT #333

EFFECT OF INTRAVENTRICAL LIDOCAINE ADMINISTRATION ON LEUKOCYTE EMIGRATION IN THE BLACK WALNUT EXTRACT MODEL OF LAMINITIS. Williams JM1, Ravis W2, Lotus J3, Peroni J4, Hubbell J1, Faleiros R1, Black SP1, Belknap JK1. 1. Department of Clinical Sciences, The Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, OH; 2. Dept. of Pharmacal Sciences, Auburn University, Auburn, AL; 3. Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA; 4. Dept. of Large Animal Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

Leukocyte emigration, the extravasation and migration of leukocytes into target tissue, is a central event in cellular injury resulting in organ failure in human sepsis. Recent research in the black walnut extract (BWE) laminitis model suggests that these animals exhibit a similar systemic inflammation as seen in sepsis, including leukocyte emigration into the lamellar tissue that is likely to play a major role in laminar injury in laminitis. In models of human sepsis, intravenous lidocaine has been reported to decrease leukocyte emigration via the inhibition of leukocyte activation, endothelial activation, and expression of proinflammatory cytokines and chemokines. Anti-inflammatory properties of lidocaine in sepsis have also been proposed to be valuable in the treatment of ileus in the lamine patient. The purpose of this study was to assess the efficacy of intravenous lidocaine therapy in the inhibition of leukocyte emigration patterns documented to occur in the BWE model of laminitis. Due to the fact that laminar tissue is an integumentary structure, investigators have used skin biopsies in two studies of the BWE model to demonstrate similar leukocyte extravasation into skin as occurs in the laminae. Therefore, in this study, immunohistochemistry for a myeloid leukocyte marker, calprotectin, was used on serial skin biopsies to assess the effect of intravenous lidocaine on leukocyte emigration. Twelve horses were administered BWE, and were immediately treated with a constant rate infusion (CRI) of either lidocaine (0.05 mg/kg/min, LD group, n = 6) or saline (CON group, n = 6) for 10 hours (H). Skin samples (6 mm diameter) were obtained from 3 areas of the neck (approx. 10 cm apart) for the following time points after BWE administration: 0H, 3H, and 10H. Compared to the 0H time point, increased integumentary leukocyte (neutrophil and monocyte/macrophage) numbers were present at the 10H time point (P < 0.05), with a trend for increased leukocyte numbers at the 3H time point in both the LD and CON groups. No significant differences were present between LD and CON for any time point. These data are consistent with previously presented data from our laboratory showing no effect of lidocaine CRI on laminar cytokine or endothelial adhesion molecule expression or laminar leukocyte concentrations in the same horses. In conclusion, these data indicate that intravenous lidocaine does not effectively inhibit events leading to leukocyte emigration into tissues in disease states characterized by systemic inflammation.

Previously presented at IVECCS, September 2008.

ABSTRACT #334

THE IMMUNE RESPONSE OF FOALS TO NATURAL INFECTION WITH EQUID HERPESVIRUS-2 AND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH FEBRILE ILLNESS. SA Bell, MT Blanchard, JL Stott, N Puserla, SM Mapes, W Vernau, KD DeJong, NJ MacLachlan. University of California School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA.

Equid herpesvirus-2 (EHV-2) infection of horses is ubiquitous. EHV-2 infection anecdotally has been associated with a variety of disease syndromes in horses, but its true pathogenic significance remains uncertain. Other gammaherpesviruses such as Epstein Barr virus (EBV) have been shown to cause febrile illness in humans related to viral immunopathologic effects. Thus, the purpose of this study was to describe the ontogeny of the immune response of a cohort of 9 foals to natural infection with EHV-2 by evaluating serial complete blood counts, lymphocyte morphology, cytokine gene expression in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), viral load in nasal swabs and peripheral blood, and antigen-specific cellular immune responses of PBMC, in conjunction with clinical evaluation of the foals. The occurrence of fever in foals was not related to lymphocyteosis or lymphocyte morphology, cytokine gene expression, or viral load, but was significantly associated with increased levels of antigen-specific PBMC in peripheral blood of the foals. These data suggest that cellular immune responses to EHV-2 may lead to an immunologically mediated disease of foals that is perhaps analogous to infectious mononucleosis caused by EBV infection in humans.


ABSTRACT #335

USE OF QUANTITATIVE REAL-TIME PCR FOR THE DETECTION OF SALMONELLA sp. IN FECAL SAMPLES OF HORSES ADMITTED TO A VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL. Emir Hodzic1, Barbara A. Byrne2, Samanita Mapes3, Spencer S. Jang2, K. Gary Magdesian3, N. Pusterla1. 1. The Lucy Whittier Molecular and Diagnostic Core Facility, 2. The Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, 3. The Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology and 4. The William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, CA.

The purpose of this study was to compare quantitative real-time PCR with conventional culture in the detection of Salmonella sp. from feces of horses admitted to our veterinary hospital. A quantitative real-time PCR assay was developed for the detection of Salmonella sp. in the feces of 911 equids admitted to a veterinary hospital. Fresh feces and feces following a 24 hour enrichment step in selenite broth were tested by conventional culture and real-time PCR targeting the invA gene of Salmonella sp. The detection limit for the real-time PCR assay was 3 and 10 Salmonella sp. organisms, when spiked samples were purified from selenite broth and feces, respectively. The analytical specificity was 100% based on the detection of a panel of 40 Salmonella serogroups and the lack of cross-reactivity with non-related microorganisms. Salmonella sp. was not cultured from any of the fresh feces; however, Salmonella was cultured from the enrichment broth of 6 out of 911 fecal submissions (0.6%). Salmonella was detected by real-time PCR in 3 (0.3%) and 22 (2.4%) fecal and enrichment broth samples, respectively. Six broth samples were dually positive by culture and real-time PCR, while 16 additional broth samples tested positive only by real-time PCR. The Salmonella load in enrichment broth samples varied from 3 to 861,037 Salmonella invA gene copies/ul of DNA. Broth samples testing positive by both culture and real-time PCR had significantly higher pathogen load than broth samples testing only positive by real-time PCR. The PCR assay used in this study achieved an overall relative accuracy of 98%, a relative sensitivity of 100% and a relative specificity of 98% when compared to conventional culture.

The use of real-time PCR has the potential to reduce turnaround-time, with results being available within 22–28 hours from the time of sample collection. Further, the use of absolute quantitation may aid in the assessment of the infectious nature of hospitalized animals and may be an excellent alternative to conventional culture methods for surveillance and research studies.

ABSTRACT #336

COMPARISON OF PCR TESTING FOR MANAGEMENT OF AN OUTBREAK OF EHV-1 AT A RACETRACK. AF Eaves1, SC Fades2, RS McCombs2, FM Andrews3. Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and 3School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

An outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus I (EHV-1) involving racing thoroughbreds at a Louisiana racetrack afforded the opportunity to evaluate diagnostic testing techniques used to manage the outbreak situation. EHV1 virus was determined to be the wild-type and not the neuropathogenic strain of the virus even though the index horse showed abnormal neurologic signs. A total of 74 exposed horses and 3 additional febrile and/or neurologic horses were sampled. Nasal swabs were passed at least 6 inches (15 cm) into the horse’s nasal passages via the ventral meatus and swirled or held in place for at least 30–60 seconds to absorb respiratory secretions. Jugal venipuncture blood samples were taken for serology and molecular testing of theuffy coat. A single-step real-time PCR was performed on blood and nasal swabs using TaqMan reporter probes.
for discrimination between neuropathogenic and non-neuropathogenic strains of EHV-1. The real-time PCR was performed using an Applied Biosystems 7500 real-time PCR system. A 96 well format was used and the turnaround time from extraction to results is less than 12 hours. This single-step real-time PCR was compared with a nested PCR performed at another laboratory. The single-step real-time PCR identified more horses with EHV-1 viral DNA in nasal swabs than did the nested PCR and appears to be more sensitive. All PCR positive samples were identified as the non-neuropathogenic strain of EHV-1. Serological testing was performed using paired, acute and convalescent sera with an Indirect Fluorescent Antibody procedure.

ABSTRACT #337
SALMONELLA ORANIENBURG IN A LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL. 1K.J. Mitchell, K.J. Cummings, 2AM. Firshman, H.L. Hustace, Jr, K. Peterson, 3J. Mata. 1Michigan State University, 2College of Veterinary Medicine, East Lansing, MI. 3The Ohio State University, Ithaca, NY.

To describe an outbreak of multidrug-resistant Salmonella Oranienburg within the Cornell University Equine Farm Animal Hospital (CU-EFAH) and discuss control and prevention measures.

Medical records of patients that were fecal positive for S. Oranienburg in the CU-EFAH from 2006–2008 were evaluated. Pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) was performed on isolates.

Salmonella Oranienburg was identified in 28 animals: 3 cows, 5 alpacas, and 20 horses. The index case was admitted 8/15/2006; an additional 26 cases occurred in 2007, with a cluster between 09/10–2007. One case occurred in 01/2008, with no further cases for 12 months. Six animals negative during previous hospitalization were positive on re-admission, with 3/6 returning due to clinical signs of infection. Salmonellosis developed in 18/28 cases, five animals were euthanized. Antimicrobial sensitivity patterns revealed resistance to multiple antimicrobials. The minimum inhibitory concentration for enrofloxacin was >1 (intermediate sensitivity) for 18/28 cases, with one isolate showing in vitro resistance. The PFGE patterns from 23/26 animals were identical.

Environmental disinfection and culturing increased during the cluster of Salmonella cases in the fall of 2007. S. Oranienburg was isolated from the environment four times (from 61 cultures) during 2007 and once in 02/2008. Additional hospital-wide biosecurity measures were implemented, including twice weekly fecal cultures of all patients.

Salmonella Oranienburg is of concern given the multidrug resistance and evidence of high morbidity associated with infection. The PFGE data from hospital-acquired infection in the majority of cases. Improving biosecurity has led to elimination of animal infection and environmental positives for over a year.

ABSTRACT #338
PARADOXICAL ACIDURIA IN HORSES: 37 CASES (2000–2008). HC Schell1, Jr, JR Rossetto2. 1Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine, East Lansing, MI. 2The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbus, OH.

Paradoxical aciduria (PA) is well recognized in ruminants with gastrointestinal disorders accompanied by hypochloremic metabolic alkalosis, hypokalemia, and decreased circulating volume. The proposed renal mechanisms that contribute to these clinico-pathological abnormalities include increased bicarbonate reabsorption (consequent to hypochloremia) and maximal sodium reabsorption, partly via exchange with hydrogen ions (into the tubular lumen) in urine samples collected within the first few hours of hospitalization, the authors have also observed PA. Thus, we retrospectively examined 37 case records of horses that were >1 year of age, had a urine sample collected within the initial 6 hours of hospitalization that was acidic (pH <7.7), and had a venous blood pH >7.35 on admission blood gas analysis. Horses with primary renal disease were excluded. Urine pH ranged from 4.0–6.5 (reagent strip analysis), venous blood pH ranged from 7.36–7.49, and specific gravity ranged from 1.004–1.037 (no correlations found). Primary medical disorders included enterocolitis (16), colie (8), liver disease (2), neurological disorders (2), metritis (2), myopathy (1), inflammatory bowel disease (1), cellulitis (1), heart failure (1), pleuropneumonia (1), red maple leaf toxicosis (1), and fever of unknown origin (1). A common feature of all horses was partial to complete anorexia ranging from 1–14 days. Serum biochemical abnormalities included hypoproteinemia (20), azotemia (18), chloride (Cl⁻) 100 mmol/L (19), total calcium <10mg/dL (17), sodium (Na⁺) <130 mmol/mL (12), and potassium (K⁺) <3.0 (9). The only significant correlations detected were between Na⁺ and Cl⁻ (0.80, p<0.01), Cl⁻ and creatinine (−0.43, p<0.01), and Na⁺ and creatinine (−0.36, p<0.02). Electrolyte and creatinine concentrations were measured in 18 urine samples and Na⁺, Cl⁻, and K⁺ ranged from 10−148, 15–162, and 13–112 mmol/L, respectively, resulting in fractional clearances of 0.05−7.1%, 0.14−8.4%, and 6.3−99% for Na⁺, Cl⁻, and K⁺, respectively. The only urine measure significantly correlated to urine pH was fractional Na⁺ clearance (0.51, p<0.04), providing support that PA in horses may also be a consequence of increased renal Na⁺ reabsorption.

ABSTRACT #339
DIAGNOSTIC UTILITY OF COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY OF THE HEAD IN HORSES AFFECTED BY NEUROLOGIC DISORDERS. C. Sogaro-Robinson1, VA. Lacombe2, SM. Reed3. 1Presque Isle, ME. 2The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. 3Rood and Riddle, Lexington, KY.

The use of computed tomography (CT) and contrast-enhanced CT to image the head is common in horses presented for a wide variety of conditions. However, the validity of CT as a diagnostic indicator of neurological diseases in horses is unknown.

The validity of CT was estimated by comparing clinical, clinico-pathologic, and histopathologic findings to CT findings in 11 horses presented for neurological clinical signs, for which pre- and post-contrast CT images of the head were reviewed.

All horses with abnormal head CT had abnormal neurologic examinations on presentation and 90% (10/11) of horses exhibited abnormal mentation during hospitalization. Ten horses had abnormal postmortem examinations of the head, and CT imaging identified histopathologic lesions in 6 of these cases, which included: a skull fractures, temporohyoid osteoarthropathy, large intracranial masses (oligodendroglioma, nasal adenocarcinoma, cholesteatomas) and acute vascular event. In 17% (1/6) of these CT studies, abnormal findings (meningeal congestion) were only detected after intravenous iodinated contrast injection. In 4 cases, pre- and post-contrast CT imaging failed to identify histopathologic lesions, such as encephalitis, meningitis, brainstem hemorrhage and local gliosis. CT sensitivity was 60% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 27–86), which was not greater than the sensitivity of CSF analysis (78%, 95% CI: 40–96). Postmortem examination of the head was unremarkable in 1 horse, for which CT imaging was normal (specificity, 100%). Although it showed an excellent specificity, CT had a limited sensitivity, in detecting inflammatory disorders and small soft tissue lesions in the equine brain, which was not increased by contrast enhancement.

ABSTRACT #340
THE EFFECT OF METFORMIN ON INSULIN SENSITIVITY IN HORSES. AM. Finshman, Hustace JL, Peterson K, Mata J. College of Veterinary Medicine, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

Metformin is an oral antihyperglycemic drug used to enhance peripheral tissue sensitivity to insulin in humans. Metformin has been insufficiently studied in horses and conflicting results regarding efficacy have been reported. Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) is a common condition that results in abnormal adipose tissue distribution (fatty liver, elevated plasma lipids, laminitis, and infertility). One hallmark of EMS is commonly glucose intolerant and insulin resistant. Treatment for horses with EMS includes feeding a low glycemic index diet and increasing exercise. Treatment with metformin in horses with EMS is appealing due to its potentially beneficial method of action and low p.o. dose. We hypothesized that insulin-stimulated glucose uptake could be increased by administering metformin to horses using dosages obtained from a preliminary pharmacokinetic study. The specific aim was to determine if metformin increases insulin sensitivity compared to placebo.

Eight normal adult horses, fed grass hay, were used in a 2 × 2 switch back design using 15 mg/kg metformin PO q8hrs for 15d or saline.
placebo. Horses were allowed 6–8 hrs of paddock turnout daily with a 2-week washout between treatments. At the end of each treatment period, a 3 hr hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp was performed.

No effect of treatment was found on the rate of glucose infusion necessary to maintain euglycemia during the clamp compared to placebo (P=0.223). The results of this study indicate that 15 days of metformin treatment did not increase insulin sensitivity in normal horses. This lack of response may be related to the poor bioavailability of metformin in horses, however further study of the effect of metformin in insulin resistant individuals is warranted.

ABSTRACT #341
THE POSITIVE INTERACTION OF PROPIONATE, GLUCOSE, INSULIN AND CORTISOL IN THE HORSE. DT Lewis, ML Katz. Department of Veterinary and Animal Science, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Propionate is the gluconeogenic substance derived through fermentation in the colon of the horse. Propionate has been demonstrated to increase plasma insulin in the pre-ruminal and ruminal sheep, goat and cow and plasma cortisol in the cow. Previously, propionate has been shown to not increase plasma insulin in the horse. During gluconeogenesis, propionate might stimulate hormonal changes similar to glucose. Therefore, this investigation examined the effects of increased plasma propionate on the concentrations of glucose, insulin and cortisol in the horse.

Four miniature horses were fed only soluble carbohydrate first cutting grass hay and a vitamin mineral supplement for at least one year. Thus, we attempted to maximize gluconeogenesis as the source of glucose in these horses. We increased the plasma level of propionate about two fold in four miniature horses, based on the data of Argenzio & Hintz (1971) who reported a propionate turnover half-time of 8 minutes and an average basal plasma level of 4 mmol/L. Assuming an extracellular fluid volume of 20%, a priming dose of Na propionate in phosphate-buffered saline was administered as an intravenous bolus to increase the plasma propionate concentration to about 8 mmol/L and then a constant rate insulin infusion pump was used to maintain this propionate concentration in the horse for 4 hours. Blood samples were taken every twenty minutes beginning one hour before and during the 4 hour infusion period.

The horses had hay available to them during the experiments. Glucose was measured using the glucose-oxidase method and insulin and cortisol were measured by RIA (Coat-A-Count) methods.

Plasma glucose concentration steadily increased after the start of infusion so that plasma glucose was 10–20 mg/dl higher in all horses by 180 minutes after the beginning of propionate infusion. Each horse exhibited a marked rise (four to five fold) in insulin levels immediately upon the initial bolus injection of propionate, which was followed by a return towards baseline by the time of the 20 minute sample. Insulin levels then gradually increased to about two fold in all horses after 180 minutes of propionate infusion. During the propionate infusion plasma cortisol concentrations in all horses rose by 20–200% by 20 minutes and increased 200–500% by 180 minutes.

This study reveals a transient immediate insulin peak and a steady increase in glucose, insulin and cortisol concentrations in the plasma of the horse throughout propionate infusion, when fed a diet requiring gluconeogenesis to meet glucose needs. This data seems to reveal a direct temporal relationship between propionate and insulin.

ABSTRACT #342
ACUTE HYPERINSULINEMIA MODULATES EXPRESSION OF GENES INVOLVED IN GLUCOSE AND FAT METABOLISM IN SUBCUTANEOUS ADIPOSE TISSUE OF HORSES. JK Suagee1, RJ Geor2, LJ McCutcheon2, BA Corl1, MJ Hubler2. 1Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. 2College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Low insulin sensitivity and/or high insulin concentrations have been associated with laminic predisposition in ponies and prolonged experimental hyperinsulinemia (>1000 mU/L) while maintaining euglycemia has induced laminitis in healthy ponies. This study examined the effects of elevated plasma insulin concentrations on expression of genes associated with glucose and fat metabolism in subcutaneous adipose tissue of healthy, non-obese horses.

Ten mares (BCS 6.3±0.5) received a 6 hr infusion of insulin (6 mIU/kg/min) and a saline infusion, 13 d apart, in a balanced cross-over design. Euglycemia was maintained during insulin infusion by variable rate dextrose infusion. Blood samples for measurement of insulin concentrations were collected every 15 min. Following the clamp procedure, biopsy samples of subcutaneous adipose tissue (neck crest) were collected and RNA extracted to determine, by quantitative RT-PCR, the expression of CD36, FATP, GLUT-4, GLUT-1, and the insulin receptor (IR). Statistical analyses were performed using the mixed models procedure (SAS software system), with significance taken at P<0.05.

Mean plasma insulin concentrations during the insulin and saline infusions were 933.5±220.0 and 15.9±21.7 mIU/mL, respectively. Expression of CD36 (P=0.002), FATP (P=0.012), and IR (P=0.006) were decreased in adipose tissue following insulin infusion. The mRNA of GLUT-1 and GLUT-4 were not affected by treatment.

This study demonstrated that a 6-h period of supraphysiological hyperinsulinemia decreased expression of genes involved in fatty acid transport (CD36, FATP) and insulin signaling (IR) in the subcutaneous adipose tissue of horses.

ABSTRACT #343
INSULIN SENSITIVITY IN PONIES IS INFLUENCED BY SEASON AND PASTURE. KH Treiber1, RJ Geor1, PA Harris5. Virginia Tech MARE Center, Middleburg, VA. 4Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, Melton Mowbray, UK.

Insulin sensitivity is a principle factor in glucose and energy regulation. Reduced insulin sensitivity (i.e. insulin resistance) has been implicated in equine pasture associated laminitis, which develops predominantly in the spring season. Increased risk of laminitis in the spring has been attributed to changes in pasture carbohydrates, however underlying metabolic predisposition may be influenced by other seasonal environmental factors. This study performed the Minimal Model of Glucose and Insulin Dynamics on 12 pasture-kept ponies in northern Virginia in January, March, May, July and September of 2007. Ponies were maintained together on the same pasture for at least 1 week prior to testing each month. On the morning of the test ponies were brought into stalls, jugular catheters were placed and 4 hour insulin-modified (20 mIU/kg) frequently sampled intravenous infusions were 933.5±220.0 and 15.9±21.7 mIU/mL, respectively. Expression of CD36 (P=0.002), FATP (P=0.012), and IR (P=0.006) were decreased in adipose tissue following insulin infusion. The mRNA of GLUT-1 and GLUT-4 were not affected by treatment.

This study demonstrated that a 6-h period of supraphysiological hyperinsulinemia decreased expression of genes involved in fatty acid transport (CD36, FATP) and insulin signaling (IR) in the subcutaneous adipose tissue of horses.

Table 1. Insulin sensitivity (SI) of ponies reported as median (IQR) and compared with Wilecoxon’s matched-pairs signrank test.

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<th>January</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Drylot</td>
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<td>0.26a</td>
<td>0.45b</td>
<td>0.19c</td>
<td>0.29c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.24b</td>
<td>0.16b</td>
<td>0.48b</td>
<td>0.27b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enclosure†</td>
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<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.019</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td>0.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Values with differing superscripts are different between months in the same row.

Model of Glucose and Insulin Dynamics on 12 pasture-kept ponies in northern Virginia in January, March, May, July and September of 2007. Ponies were maintained together on the same pasture for at least 1 week prior to testing each month. On the morning of the test ponies were brought into stalls, jugular catheters were placed and 4 hour insulin-modified (20 mIU/kg) frequently sampled intravenous glucose (200 mg/kg) tolerance tests (FSIGT) were performed. Ponies were then released into a drylot and fed grass hay. After 1 week on drylot the FSIGT was repeated. Glucose and insulin curves from the FSIGTs were modeled using MinMod Millenium and WinSAAM software to determine insulin sensitivity (SI, mIU/L·min⁻¹·10⁻⁶).

Table 1. Insulin sensitivity (SI) of ponies reported as median (IQR) and compared with Wilecoxon’s matched-pairs signrank test.

Drylot resulted in low SI values, possibly in response to energy or exercise restriction. In May, however, drylot SI was higher than other months, suggesting a spring increase in SI which would promote utilization of carbohydrates available in the pasture, facilitate activity during the breeding season, and potentially protect against laminitis. Conversely, SI on May pasture was numerically lowest, corresponding with clinical cases of laminitis which were
successfully treated by restriction to drylot. Reduced SI on May pasture may result from the glycemic or digestive response to exaggerated carbohydrate fractions accumulating in improved pastures in the spring. Pasture SI values in March resembled drylot values, not surprisingly as very little grass was available and ponies were subsisting primarily on supplemented hay. Low SI values on September pasture may reflect a return to a carbohydrate and energy conserving metabolic state in preparation for the winter season. Understanding seasonal adaptation and of at least nutritional environment will improve the management of equids, especially ponies, to avoid the development of pasture associated laminitis.

ABSTRACT #344
MONONUCLEAR LEUKOCYTES IN THE LAMINAE OF NORMAL HORSES AND THOSE WITH BLACK WALNUT EXTRACT-INDUCED LAMINITIS. RR Falerios1, GI Nuovo2, AD Flechtn1, JK Belknap1. 1Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. 2Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

The laminar interstitium is reported to have no resident leukocyte populations, but undergo a marked neutrophil infiltration in early stages of laminitis. In addition to neutrophils, both resident lymphocytes and monocyte/macrophages have recently been reported to play important roles in human sepsis-related organ injury. The purpose of this study was to assess monocyte/macrophage and lymphocyte populations in laminae of normal horses and those with black walnut extract (BWE)-induced laminitis. Immunohistochemistry was performed on laminar samples from 20 horses divided equally in 4 groups: control animals (CON), and 3 different time points after BWE administration: 1.5 hours (ETP group), onset of leukopenia (DT group), and onset of lameness (LAM group). Antibodies against CD3, CD20 and CD163 were used to recognize lymphocytes (T and B), and macrophages (CD163+ indicates resident/“alternatively activated” macrophage), respectively. CON laminae contained CD3+ and CD20+ lymphocytes situated around deep dermal vessels, and CD163+ resident macrophages in both the deep dermis (perivascular orientation) and in dermal laminae (primary and secondary). BWE treatment resulted in no changes in lymphocyte counts, but a marked increase (P<0.0016) in CD163+ macrophages in the secondary dermal laminae (SDL) in the ETP and DT groups, returning to CON values in the LAM group. In conclusion, resident leukocytes in the form of lymphocytes and macrophages are present in the laminae of clinically normal horses, and BWE administration induces increases in the numbers of CD163+ macrophages in SDL. Thus, mononuclear cells are likely to play both homeostatic and pathologic roles in laminitis.

ABSTRACT #345
ABSTRACT WITHDRAWN

ABSTRACT #346
EVALUATION OF VARIOUS MATRIX METALLOPROTEINASE INHIBITORS (MMPs) IN THE HORSE. LA Fugler, SC Eades, CE Koch. Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, Baton Rouge, LA.

The purpose of this study was to establish a non-terminal model of MMP induction in the horse, and to use this model for evaluating various MMP inhibitors that may have potential therapeutic use in the treatment of equine laminitis. Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) was administered intravenously to normal and digital venous plasma samples were collected hourly for 24 hours. Plasma MMP-2 and MMP-9 activities were assessed using zymography. The administration of LPS resulted in significant increases in MMP-2 and MMP-9 concentrations in the digital circulation. This model of MMP induction was then used to evaluate the effects of doxycycline, oxytetracycline, flunixin meglumine, and pentoxifylline on equine MMP induction. MMP activity was then used to evaluate the effects of doxycycline, oxytetracycline, flunixin meglumine, and pentoxifylline on equine MMP-9. Recent studies suggest that MMP-9 may play an important role in the development of equine laminitis; therefore, these findings warrant the evaluation of pentoxifylline and oxytetracycline as MMP inhibitors in the prevention/treatment of equine laminitis.

ABSTRACT #347
ULTRASONOGRAPHIC MEASUREMENT OF SPLEEN VOLUME IN HORSES. C Navas de Solis, JH Foreman, CR Byron, RA Carpenter. University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.

Ante-mortem measurement of spleen size might be helpful in clinical determination of splenomegaly. Our hypothesis was that spleen volume can be calculated from percutaneous ultrasonographic measurements in live standing horses. Eight donated horses free from splenic disease were studied after obtaining IACUC approval. Ultrasonographic spleen volume and Evans blue dye-dilution blood volume (BV) were measured before (baseline) and after intravenous administration of detomidine and epinephrine (separately). Spleen volume was calculated using a standard ellipsoid formula (VOLstandard) and with the formula modified for the unique shape of the equine spleen (VOLmodified). Horses were euthanized using pentobarbital sodium, spleens were removed immediately, and spleen measurements were repeated. Descriptive statistics, correlations, and regression analysis were performed. The level of significance was set at P<0.05.

Mean VOLstandard was 31.4±9.8 L at baseline, 34.0±10.5 L after detomidine, and 5.4±3.1 L after epinephrine. VOLmodified was 25.1±9.1 L at baseline, 27.4±9.6 L after detomidine, and 4.2±2.4 L after epinephrine. Post-mortem spleen volume was 14.1±4.6 L and was correlated with VOLstandard (r=0.86, P<0.006) and VOLmodified (r=0.87, P=0.004). BV was correlated with VOLstandard (r=0.81, P=0.014) and VOLmodified (r=0.78, P=0.02). PCV after epinephrine was correlated with VOLstandard (r=0.95, P=0.0002) and VOLmodified (r=0.96, P<0.0001). When compared to baseline, spleen volume was smaller after epinephrine (P=0.009) but not larger after detomidine (P=0.12). BV after detomidine was larger than after epinephrine (P=0.009).

The study demonstrated that splenic size, under various pharmacological influences, can be calculated from ultrasonographic measurements in the live standing horse. PCV after epinephrine was the best indicator of spleen volume.

ABSTRACT #348
EFFECTS OF FLUNIXIN MEGLUMINE ON LEUKOCYTE ACTIVATION IN A LOW-DOSE ENDOTOXEMIA MODEL IN HORSES. G Forbes, SR Bailey, S Church, CJ Savage. University of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

Endotoxemia remains a major cause of equine morbidity and mortality. Tissue damage and organ dysfunction resulting from endotoxemia are partly brought about by leukocyte activation and their subsequent attachment and migration through the endothelium and into tissues. Cytokines, matrix metalloproteinase enzymes and reactive oxygen species are released. Flunixin meglumine, in addition to its cyclooxygenase inhibitory actions as a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, has been postulated to have further anti-endotoxic effects on leukocytes by inhibiting the transcription factor, NFκB. The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of flunixin on clinical signs and leukocyte counts in an established model of equine endotoxemia.

Endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide isolated from E. coli 055:B5 bacterial LPS) was administered intravenously to normal and digital venous plasma samples collected hourly for 24 hours. Plasma MMP-2 and MMP-9 activities were assessed using zymography. Administration of LPS resulted in significant increases in MMP-2 and MMP-9 concentrations in the digital circulation. This model of MMP induction was then used to evaluate the effects of doxycycline, oxytetracycline, flunixin meglumine, and pentoxifylline on equine MMP inhibition. Horses were treated with the inhibitors every 12 hours beginning 12 hours prior to LPS administration, and digital venous plasma samples were evaluated for MMP-2 and MMP-9 activities using zymography. Pentoxifylline and oxytetracycline appeared to be potent MMP-9 and modest MMP-2 inhibitors in the horse. Flunixin meglumine and doxycycline were potent inhibitors of equine MMP-2, but only weak inhibitors of equine MMP-9. Recent studies suggest that MMP-9 may play an important role in the development of equine laminitis; therefore, these findings warrant the evaluation of pentoxifylline and oxytetracycline as MMP inhibitors in the prevention/treatment of equine laminitis.
The endotoxin caused a small but significant increase in rectal temperature, reaching a peak of 39.18±0.15 °C at 210 minutes after the start of the LPS infusion. Other clinical signs were mild, and included transient muscle fasciculations. Blood leukocyte counts decreased from 9.1±1.3×10^9/L at time 0 to a nadir of 3.70±0.77 at 105 mins, before recovering back to baseline values by 5hrs. Flu-nixin meglumine significantly reduced the peak temperature (maximum 38.48±0.14 °C at 120 mins). However, the blood leukocyte counts were not significantly affected by flunixin, reaching a nadir of 3.25±0.80×10^9/L and slowly recovering to 5.25±1.30×10^9/L at 5 hours.

These data suggest that while flunixin may effectively reduce some of the signs of endotoxia, including pyrexia, it may not affect leukocyte activation in terms of endothelial adherence and subsequent tissue damage. Even at the recommended anti-inflammatory dose of 1.1 mg/kg, leukocyte margination was unaffected. Further studies are required to examine the cytokines and signalling pathways involved, affected by flunixin in this model; however, this study indicates that other therapeutic agents may be required to effectively inhibit leukocyte activation in endotoxia.

**ABSTRACT #349**

**THE PHARMACOKINETICS OF INTRAVENOUS AND INTRAMUSCULAR BUPRENORPHINE IN THE HORSE.** KM Messenger, JL Davis, DH LaFevors, BM Barlow, LP Posner. North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC.

Pain management options in equine medicine are limited due to a lack of available pharmacokinetic and safety data, expense of treatment, and a high risk of adverse effects with some classes of drugs. Opioid analogues, particularly butorphanol and morphine are frequently used for moderate to severe pain in horses. However, these drugs have a short duration of action, require frequent dosing, and are associated with adverse effects such as gastrointestinal stasis and behavioral changes. Buprenorphine is a highly potent, longer acting mu opioid agonist analgesic frequently used in human and small animal medicine. In humans, therapeutic effects are achieved at concentrations greater than 0.5–1 ng/mL. Its analgesic effects have been studied in the horse, however its pharmacokinetics in this species are unknown. The purpose of this study was to determine the pharmacokinetics of buprenorphine after intravenous (IV) and intramuscular (IM) administration in healthy horses.

Six healthy adult horses were used in this study. Each horse received either IV or IM buprenorphine at a dose of 0.005 mg/kg in a randomized, crossover design, with a minimum 1 week washout period between experiments. Plasma samples were collected via jugular catheter immediately prior to drug administration, and then at 10, 20, 30, 40, 60, 120, 180, 240, 300, 360 and 480 minutes post-dosing for the determination of detomidine levels. The mean bioavailability of detomidine was determined using head droop and scoring ataxia at the time points of blood collection. Detomidine concentration 0.31 (0.21–0.61) mcg/mL occurred at 1.7 (0.75–4) hours. The area under the curve extrapolated to infinity was 1.79 (0.80–10.1) mcg/mL.

**ABSTRACT #350**

**BIOAVAILABILITY OF DETOMIDINE ADMINISTERED TO HORSES AS AN OROMUCOSAL (SUBLINGUAL) GEL AND COMPARISON OF ABSORPTION OF DETOMIDINE BY THE SUBLINGUAL AND INTRAMUSCULAR ROUTES.** H Kaukinen, J Aspegren, S Hyypiai, JS Salonen PhD, L Tamm. 1Orion Corporation, Turku, Finland. 2Agrifood Research Finland, Yyajji, Finland.

Detomidine is a potent and specific alpha-2 adrenoceptor agonist that is widely used as sedative for horses. Injectable detomidine has also been shown to produce effective sedation when given to horses sublingually.

The objective of this open randomised study was to determine the bioavailability of detomidine administered to horses as an oromucosal gel, and to compare the absorption and the sedative effect of detomidine by sublingual and intramuscular routes.

Nine healthy institute-owned horses received approximately 40 µg/kg detomidine either intravenously, intramuscularly (Domo-sedan® 10 mg/mL solution for injection, Orion Pharma, Espoo, Finland), or as an oromucosal gel (Domesedan Gel® 7.6 mg/mL oromucosal gel, Orion Pharma, Turku, Finland) administered under the tongue with a 7-day withdrawal period between treatments. All horses received three treatments with a three sequences crossover design.

Blood was collected from an indwelling catheter before drug administration and at 10, 20, 30, 40, 60, 120, 180, 240, 300, 360 and 480 minutes post-dosing for the determination of detomidine level in serum. The effect of routes of administration of detomidine on heart rate and rhythm was evaluated, and sedation was assessed by measuring head droop and scoring ataxia at the time points of blood collection. The mean bioavailability of detomidine was 22% (±5.3%) as the oromucosal gel and 38.2% (±7.9%) injected intramuscularly. The sedative effects correlated with drug concentrations in serum with all routes of administration.

Sublingual bioavailability of detomidine is lower than after intramuscular injection, as part of the gel is swallowed and does not reach the systemic circulation. Despite the moderate bioavailability, oromucosal detomidine gel at a dose of about 40 mg/kg produces safe sedation in horses. The bioavailability is lower than after intramuscular injection, as part of the gel is swallowed and does not reach the systemic circulation. The slower absorption seems to have the advantage of less and milder adverse effects.

**ABSTRACT #351**

**PHARMACOKINETICS OF ORALLY ADMINISTERED TERBINAFINE IN HORSES.** Butch KuKanich, Megan Montgomery, and Elizabeth Davis. Kansas State University, Department of Anatomy and Physiology, Manhattan, KS.

The purpose of the study was to assess the pharmacokinetics of the antifungal drug terbinafine administered orally to horses. Terbinafine has a broad spectrum of antifungal effects and with the introduction of generic formulations is no longer cost prohibitive for use in veterinary medicine.

The study was approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee and Kansas State University. Six healthy horses weighing between 446 and 625 kg were administered 20 mg/kg of commercially available terbinafine tablets (250 mg per tablet) per os crushed and mixed with 60 mL light corn syrup. Blood samples were obtained at predetermined intervals for the determination of plasma drug concentrations with liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry. The pharmacokinetic parameters were estimated with non-compartmental analyses.

The plasma profile consisted of an absorption phase followed by a biphasic decline in plasma concentrations. The geometric mean (range) of the half-life (T1/2) is 5.3 (3.9–11.6) hours, clearance per fraction of the drug adsorbed (Cl/F), 187 (132–282) mL/min/kg, and volume of distribution per fraction of the drug adsorbed (Vd/F), 131 (80–266) L/kg were estimated for terbinafine. The maximum plasma concentration 0.31 (0.21–0.61) mcg/mL occurred at 1.7 (0.75–4) hours. The area under the curve extrapolated to infinity was 1.79 (1.18–2.51) hr^2 mcg/mL. One of the horses during the pilot study (data not presented) pawed at the ground, acted anxious and began circling in her stall 17 minutes after drug administration which resolved spontaneously within 30 minutes. One of the horses during
the pharmacokinetic study pawed the ground 10 minutes after drug administration, curled its lips and shook its head 10 minutes after drug administration which resolved spontaneously within 30 minutes. No other adverse effects were noted.

In conclusion, further studies are indicated to assess the pharmacokinetics and safety of higher and multiple doses of terbinafine in horses. Further studies are also indicated to assess the efficacy of terbinafine for the treatment of fungal diseases in horses.

ABSTRACT #352
ASSESSMENT OF CARDIAC FUNCTION, SKELETAL MUSCLE MORPHOLOGY, AND MUSCLE ENZYMES IN HORSES ON LONG-TERM CLENBUTEROL THERAPY. JA Thompson, SC Eades, AM Chapman, SA Barker, DB Paulsen, RS McConnell. University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Potential for drug abuse exists in the horse industry, due to the perception that clenbuterol, a beta-adrenergic agonist approved for veterinary use as a bronchodilator in horses with reactive airway disease, increases performance and lean muscle mass. Recent studies into the effects of clenbuterol on exercising horses suggest that clenbuterol doses within therapeutic ranges negatively impact aerobic capacity and cardiac function. Studies in murine models show that clenbuterol causes skeletal muscle cell death at high doses, and clinical cases of equine rhabdomyolysis have been documented with clenbuterol overdose. This study examined the effects of oral clenbuterol, given at a dose up to 3.2ug/kg for 14 days, on skeletal and cardiac muscle in clinically healthy horses undergoing treadmill exercise, as compared to a control group.

Twelve clinically healthy Thoroughbred-type horses between the ages of 2 and 10 years old were evaluated. The study was approved by the Louisiana State University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. Horses were randomly assigned to either the control group (n=6) or the clenbuterol group (n=6). Animals in the control group received saline by mouth twice daily for 14 days. Horses in the clenbuterol group received clenbuterol as Ventipulmin® syrup (Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc., St. Joseph, MO) by mouth twice daily for 14 days. The dose was incrementally increased during the treatment period to minimize adverse side effects, according to the following schedule: 0.8ug/kg twice daily for 3 days, then 1.6ug/kg twice daily for 3 days, then 2.4ug/kg twice daily for 3 days, then 3.2ug/kg twice daily for 5 days. Horses were subjected to daily submaximal treadmill exercise during the treatment period. Venous blood samples were collected from the jugular vein(s) every 3 days during treatment. Echocardiography was repeated 7 days after beginning treatment. Muscle biopsies were collected before and after treatment for determination of percent myocyte necrosis and apoptosis. Echocardiographic measurements, serum levels of creatinine kinase, aspartate aminotransferase, and cardiac troponin I, and serum clenbuterol levels were measured before, during, and after treatment.

Response variables were compared between treatment groups and across time periods using a Mann-Whitney U test and Friedman’s test for repeated nonparametric data, respectively. An adjusted level of significance at p<0.01 was used to reduce type I error. Response variables were summarized as median and range.

No significant effect of clenbuterol or exercise on response variables was found between treatment and control groups at any time point, nor within groups over time. This study did not show any adverse effects of clenbuterol treatment on equine cardiac or skeletal muscle at the approved dose level for treatment in horses.

ABSTRACT #353
EFFECTS OF CLOPIDOGREL ON PLATELET FUNCTION IN THE HORSE. Dorothy D. Wheelchel, Benjamin M. Brainard, Barbara Fortes, James N. Moore. College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Clopigogrel (Plavix®), an antagonist at the platelet P2Y12 ADP receptor, significantly reduces platelet aggregation in many species. This study provided preliminary data regarding the pharmacodynamics of clopidogrel on platelet aggregation in the horse. Specifically, a compounded paste formulation of Clopidogrel was administered (2 mg/kg) orally once a day in the morning to 3 healthy horses for 3 days. Blood was collected before and after the 12 time points at intervals after the first oral dosing (t=0, 3, 6, 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours). A complete blood count and serum chemistry was performed at the start and conclusion of the dosing interval (t=0 and t=72). Serum serotonin (5-HT) concentrations were measured at each time point using, a commercial ELISA. Mean platelet volume increased at 72 hr (91±8.0 fl, p<0.012) from baseline values (8.0±0.6 fl). ADP-induced platelet aggregation decreased from baseline values (mean±SD; 72±23%) at 72 hr (23.7±4%; p<0.002) and 96 hr (28.0±3%; p<0.003). Collagen-induced platelet aggregation decreased from baseline values (86.3±10%) at 3 hr (19.7±4%; p<0.001). ROS (20.7±5%; p<0.001), 24h (18.3±5%; p<0.001) and 72h (33.3±13.9%; p<0.001). Serum 5-HT concentrations decreased from baseline (1580±164.6 ng/mL) at 48 h (126.8±44.3 ng/mL, p<0.05). Clopidogrel given at 2mg/kg PO q 24h appears to decrease both platelet aggregation and secretion of 5-HT after oral administration in healthy horses.

ABSTRACT #354
UPPER AND LOWER AIRWAY ENDOSCOPIC FINDINGS AND BRONCHOALVEOLAR LAVAGE-INDUCED LOWER AIRWAY COLLAPSE IN EQUINE RESPIRATORY INFLAMMATORY DISEASES. R. Lequillelle1, K. Koblinger1, AJ Wasko2, CM Calverley2. 1University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Calgary, AB. 2Moore&Co Veterinary Services, Calgary, AB.

In this study, we tested the hypotheses 1) that the lung inflammation in equine inflammatory airway disease (IAD) and recurrent airway obstruction (RAO) is correlated to the endoscopic inflammatory and mucus scores of upper and lower airway and 2) that horses with RAO have bronchial collapse during bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) aspiration.

We used a random population of 138 horses around Calgary of ages ranging 1–28 years. Both healthy horses and horses with respiratory symptoms not compatible with a respiratory infection were included in the study. One BAL was performed and recorded on each of the 138 subjects using a video endoscope, followed by a BAL cytological analysis. Each BAL video was viewed and scored on-site by one veterinarian, then a posteriori by two veterinarians. Pharyngitis was scored I to IV, pharyngeal mucus accumulation was scored 0 to 5, tracheal and lower airway mucus accumulation were scored 1 to 5, using previously published scales. We made a new scale to grade lower airway inflammation and collapse upon aspiration as 0 (normal), 1 (moderate) or 2 (severe). RAO was defined as BAL with IAD= IAD>15% neutrophils and <2% mast cells and <1% eosinophils. IAD was defined as a BAL>2% mast cells or >1% eosinophils or 5-15% neutrophils.

Inter-observer correlations for upper airway pharyngitis and mucus was significant (R2=0.54 and R2=0.24 respectively). Inter-observer correlations for tracheal and lower bronchial mucus was significant (R2=0.51 and R2=0.32 respectively). There was no significant inter-observer correlation for neither lower airway inflammation nor airway collapse (R2=0.05 and R2=0.15 respectively).

Neutrophil correlation: When collapse was scored on-site during the BAL procedure it was significantly correlated with neutrophil percentage in the BAL fluid (R2=0.29). Horses with severe collapse were also 3.8 times more likely to have RAO than to be normal or have IAD.

When scores were averaged between observers, tracheal and bronchial mucus accumulation scores were significantly correlated with neutrophils (R2=0.29 and R2=0.37 respectively), but it was not the case for the lower airways inflammation score (R2=0.10).

Pharyngitis and pharynx mucus accumulation are not correlated to lung inflammation. Lower bronchial mucus accumulation is better correlated to the BAL neutrophil percentage than tracheal mucus score, possibly because it is more distal thus closer from the sampling site. Our lower airway inflammation score is too subjective. BAL-induced lower airway collapse is difficult to evaluate a priori but not on-site. Airways collapse during the BAL procedure is correlated to RAO and neutrophilia possibly due to airway remodeling.

ABSTRACT #354
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