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THE AUSTRALIAN VETERINARIAN

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AN AUSTRALIAN LOCUM'S WILDLIFE ODYSSEY.

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Wildlife and Emergency Veterinarian

To be a veterinary locum, you have to be ready to detach from the comfort of the familiar, face the expectation of bouts of loneliness, and get used to becoming your own companion and rock. It's certainly not everyone's choice of lifestyle. For me, though, becoming itinerant has helped me to fulfill two of my greatest passions in life: to continue on my wildlife travel odyssey and above all, to work with wildlife in need of veterinary help. In Australia, I've been in my element, pursuing opportunities to do both.

Australia certainly isn't for the faint hearted. But I guess that's a large part of its immense appeal. Often, you have to be prepared for feeling as though you're being mercilessly cooked. Flies abound – as do swarms of mosquitoes at times! In some places, there's a combo of extreme heat *and* humidity – the latter being something that's hard to get any real respite from. Then there's Australia's sheer presence - a presence that can make you feel overwhelmed, especially if you're easily drowned by the agoraphobic feel of its endlessly 'flat' nature. And of course, of most gravity, you can become totally and utterly lost! Not to mention some seriously dangerous things, like cassowaries, 'stingers', snakes, sharks, 'salties' and spiders. The consolation is that in return, for all the discomforts endured and for all the very real risks taken, Australia comes alive and its incredible magic begins to reveal itself. There is nothing quite like 'feeling the country', as aboriginal people so beautifully put it.

Much of my Australian 'walkabout' has focused on finding wild animals where they're supposed to be – out there, living wild and free. But sometimes, through the unfortunate circumstances of wildlife needing veterinary help, I've treasured the opportunity to work with and handle some of the country's most iconic creatures. Some of those species I've managed are now classified as threatened or endangered – and it's a particular privilege to be able to give wildlife a second chance. Perhaps the most endangered species I've handled so far in Australia is an eastern barred bandicoot, one of which



somehow survived an altercation with a cat but certainly required some serious patching up!

Sadly, introduced animals have had a particularly devastating impact on native Australian wildlife, amongst the greatest culprits being cane toads, foxes and cats. The former continue on their cataclysmic march, poisoning or eating whatever is in their path. Victims range from the very largest of 'saltie' crocodiles (and other reptilian, marsupial and avian predators) down to amphibians and insects. Few places have been spared from their expansive spread and the Australian wildlife experience is now very much the poorer for them. Feral cats are proving to be almost as devastating, taking down just about everything that these incredibly successful predators can manage, from plovers to quolls. Foxes simply add to the toll and with the combination, very little is safe. Future survival for some creatures (like bilbies - a really cute type of bandicoot) will depend on the construction of 'inland islands' surrounded by predator-proof fences.

It is hard to pick favourites, but amongst the more memorable patients I have had must include iconic representatives from the macropod (kangaroo) family. There be Agile wallabies, Antilopine Wallaroos and Forester Kangaroos to grace various clinics' waiting rooms. All their little ' joeys' must rank as amongst the most endearing, and they often require hand-rearing when tragedies befall their mothers. Road kill is one of the major causes of orphaning and somehow, joeys may survive through the cushioning their mothers provide. There's nothing quite like seeing a crèche of orphaned joeys, all peeping out of the sling-bags that we humans have constructed to provide them with surrogate pouches!

A quick word of warning for aspiring 'Roo' vets. Some of the larger macropods can be quite dangerous, requiring real caution to handle. I recently recall one adolescent Antilopine 'jack' who had become particularly pugnacious, enjoying as he was to take a bite and to swipe a paw at everyone. In no time, he'd soon be discovering the lethal power of his



hind limbs. So it was imminent time for soft release, where he'd quickly have to learn his place the hard way - amongst the hierarchy of the larger wallaroos!

Another of my favourites – both to watch in the wild and to deal with in clinic - are fruit bats, which increasingly find themselves in dire straits from barbed wire injuries, entanglement in backyard fruit netting, dog attacks, and in some cases, from being shot. Latterly, their vital pollination services seem to have been horribly overlooked, given their inclinations to enjoy the spoils of orchards. Sometimes, natural events like storms can damage roosting sites, leaving lots of abandoned, orphaned fruit bat pups on the ground. One 'rehabber' orientated family that I met had really refined the art of fostering and bringing up infant fruit bat pups, offering them 'round the clock' feeds of milk! These little fellows are armed with hand-hooks and they use such hooks as painful little pick-axes to climb purposefully over your body! Another quick word of warning: never handle Australian bats unless you are fully immunized against rabies, given the very real zoonotic risks they pose for contracting lyssavirus from a bite.

Locuming out of a rucksack means rolling two lives into one. For in that rucksack, there's an assortment of camping gear (non-negotiable, of course and to help pay the bills, there's the indispensable 'office' (phone/laptop), a few presentable clothes and last (but not least), my trusty stethoscope. Collapsible water carriers are really handy, trust me, and locator beacon should be on everyone's list of essentials! For these are the kind of things you'll need if one month you're being eaten alive by mosquitoes in Kakadu (Northern Territory), the next you're braving snowstorms on Cradle Mountain (Tasmania) and in between, you're looking after a mélange of animals.

Working in-clinic with wild animals might be engaging, but the biggest draw-card of such a working travel passport is the chance to see Australian wildlife living

genuinely wild. Sometimes, you don't even need to travel to see wildlife, when it's in your back-yard! After a long day's work, for example, it can be the most rewarding time of all to sit on the balcony of the locum flat and enjoy 'everyday' moments, listening to the cacophony of cockatoos as they settle to roost. As evening draws in, little geckos come out and grip the ceiling, waiting patiently to gobble up moths that have been disorientated by the lights. Green tree frogs sometimes emerge from drain pipes – all these little creatures are your quiet company for the evening. Such is the beauty of the simple life - marveling at the wonders of nature right on your doorstep!

For those that wish for the more intrepid, the formidable Outback (in the widest sense of the term) really beckons! Simply be prepared to substitute oak trees and rolling meadows for ghost gums (which grow out of cracks in blood-red rock) and baob trees (which mark the ashy grey horizon with such eerie silhouette) and don't allow yourself to become totally overwhelmed! The kind of biodiversity that you're likely to encounter is simply quite staggering and it has me totally entranced, from its smallest insects (beware the 'jack jumper' bull ants in Tasmania – these critters can leap and inflict a very serious sting) to the migrations of mighty and enormous Humpback whales.

On my travels, I've now come across many of Australia's iconic creatures and the experience has been totally awesome. Some real highlights include encounters with wild Tasmanian Devils at a campsite on Maria Island (aboriginal people call Tassie Devils 'the angry ones'), spotting platypus (a creature so bizarre to have once been dismissed as a zoological hoax) at Carnarvon Gorge, having an echidna (or spiny anteater) walk nonchalantly beneath my feet (in its preoccupation with finding ants) and marveling at the very relaxed lifestyle of cuddly koala bears sleeping in eucalyptus trees. I've met currawongs that can work open rucksacks (undoing a zip bag and stealing a muesli bar right beneath my eyes!) and cute little fairy penguins having a stretch and a yawn, appearing from their nesting sites beneath a busy railway line!

Australia's outback really does have a palpable pulse, so to speak, made to beat all the more strongly by its living ark of unique, tough and stunningly beautiful wildlife. In so many ways, an Australian wildlife safari really matches an African safari experience, and to work hard to encounter its hidden secrets is one of the greatest of joys. Do so, and you can be rewarded with the sight of magnificent wedge tailed eagles soaring high overhead, whilst beautiful dragonflies settle on the path ahead. Listen out, and noisy honeyeaters may be busily taking advantage of nectar in the newly flowering

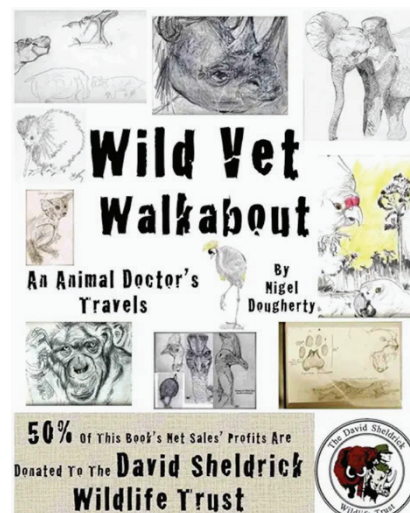
Grevillea trees. This is what it means to feel this vast country and get a sense of its tremendous presence.

Seeing the country as a veterinary locum, there are some added benefits to boot, for much of draw is also about sharing experiences with Australia's people going about their daily lives. On your travels, you could even get to meet the likes of 'brumby' tamers, vets who pilot themselves, and those clinicians who are well versed at the very skilled art (believe me) of triaging koala bears! And finally, you could even give your all to the important cause of Aboriginal community animal health. What better a prism through which to view Australia, and what better a way to provide a vital service to what is perhaps the world's most enduring of human cultures?

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Author Biography



Nigel Dougherty is a Kenya and New Zealand citizen. He is the author of WILD VET WALKABOUT - an illustrated veterinary travelogue available from Amazon. Half the book's sales' profits are donated to support the awesome wildlife veterinary work being done by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

**Source: Veterinary Times
Supplied by the Author**

RETHINKING SAFETY: WHY BREED BANS FALL SHORT IN REDUCING DOG ATTACKS

THE AVA'S COMPREHENSIVE REPORT DANGEROUS DOGS – A SENSIBLE SOLUTION SETS OUT THE FACTS ABOUT DOG ATTACKS IN AUSTRALIA.

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) supports improving dog laws to better protect the community and promote responsible pet ownership. However, it does not back recent calls in Australia and overseas to ban specific dog breeds.

The AVA's comprehensive report *Dangerous Dogs – A Sensible Solution* sets out the facts about dog attacks in Australia. It provides a detailed critique of breed-specific legislation that bans particular breeds of dog perceived to be aggressive.

"The AVA, along with the national veterinary associations of Britain, the United States and Canada, recognise that breed-specific approaches to dog regulation are not effective as they do not protect the public by reducing dog bite incidents," said Dr Isabelle Resch, President of the AVA's Australian Veterinary Behavioural Medicine special interest group.

According to Dr Resch dog bites are the result of a complex behaviour caused by the interaction of genetic factors, the learning and experience of the dog, pain and medical issues and the external environment they live in.

"A 'Deed not Breed' principle needs to be applied, which asserts that aggression in dogs is not tied to any particular breed, but is influenced by various individual factors and circumstances, not breed alone.

The AVA is calling for a multi-pronged response to reducing incidents of dog attacks. This would include a legislative

approach to identifying individual potentially dangerous animals and preventing them from inflicting harm, and a well-designed education program directed at all segments of society, particularly children, and dog owners in lower socio-economic areas.

"There is a significant gap in community knowledge about how to live alongside and interact with animals, particularly dogs. This lack of understanding can lead to unsafe interactions and increase the risk of dog attacks," Dr Resch explained.

The failure of breed-specific legislation to prevent dog attacks is due to a number of factors including: breed on its own is not an effective indicator or predictor of aggression in dogs the breed of dogs cannot be precisely determined by appearance or by DNA analysis it ignores the human element whereby dog owners who desire this kind of dog will simply substitute another breed of dog of similar size, strength and perception of aggressive tendencies.

"The importance of being proactive rather than reactive when it comes to addressing dog behaviour issues cannot be overstated. We believe that governments' attentions should be focused on prevention rather than consequences," Dr Resch explained.

For more information refer to the AVA's submission to the Queensland Government consultation on proposed changes to the Queensland Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 to better protect their community from dangerous dogs.



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NEW WSAVA WEBINAR SERIES AIMS TO IMPROVE NON-CLINICAL SKILLS WITHIN THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

With the importance of non-clinical skills, such as communication, leadership and management, increasingly recognized as essential to the sustainability of the veterinary profession, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) is to launch a series of webinars to help all members of the veterinary healthcare team build their knowledge and competence in these key areas.

Opportunities to use new technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), to support veterinary teams in raising the quality of care they provide to their patients will also be explored during the webinar series, in addition to emerging areas of companion animal nutrition practice, such as the role of probiotics in supporting gastrointestinal and immune health. The series, available free of charge to WSAVA members has been generously supported by the Purina Institute, Diamond Partner of the WSAVA and long-term supporter of the WSAVA's Global Nutrition Committee. Those wanting to find out more or to register are asked to visit www.wsava.org/webinar-series/.

Commenting, WSAVA President Dr Ellen van Nierop said: "As veterinary team members, we know the importance of developing our clinical skills but, in today's challenging environment, it is not always enough to be a fantastic clinician.

"In order to provide even better care to our patients, we must successfully navigate difficult conversations with clients, for instance those around pet obesity, early-disease detection and pet bereavement. We need to be able to educate clients and encourage them to maintain the health of their pet, perhaps through a weight loss program or other form of intervention.

"We also need to stay abreast of new technologies and new research because these offer us innovative ways to enhance the care we offer and improve the way we deliver our services."

She added: "The inspiring speakers in this webinar series will equip veterinary team members with the non-clinical skills they need to optimize their interactions with clients to ensure the best outcomes for their patients. We thank the Purina Institute for supporting this exciting initiative."

Dr Natalia Wagemans, Head of the Purina Institute, said: "Pet owners are more likely to trust advice from their veterinary team than from any other source, including the internet. However, we know how difficult it can be to engage in difficult discussions, whether about the nutrition that is so important to help pets thrive or other challenging or emotionally-charged topics. We are delighted to support the WSAVA



WSAVA President Dr Ellen van Nierop

in this new webinar series. We hope it will give veterinary team members the tools they need to feel more comfortable in initiating these discussions, which are so important for the welfare of their patients and that will help them build trust with their clients."

The WSAVA represents more than 200,000 veterinarians worldwide through its 116 member associations and works to enhance standards of clinical care for companion animals. Its core activities include the development of WSAVA Global Guidelines in key areas of veterinary practice, including pain management, nutrition and vaccination, together with lobbying on important issues affecting companion animal care worldwide.



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BENEATH THE SURFACE: IMAGING EXPERTS' INSPIRING YEAR OF SEA TURTLE ADVOCACY

World renowned imaging specialists VetCT are celebrating the anniversary of providing free access to its expert services supporting the rehabilitation of rescued sea turtles around the world. Wildlife charities, zoos and clinics spanning five continents benefitted from the free advice from VetCT's team of experts to help with the management of sick and injured sea turtle species.

The company, a world-leader in providing teleradiology, teleconsultancy and education services, includes a team of exotics experts to advise on sea turtle diagnostic imaging and management. To date, 12 organisations spanning North America, Australia, Africa, Asia and Europe have registered to use the free service, supporting the care of over 50 turtles, including loggerhead, olive ridley, Kemp's ridley, and green sea turtle species.

Dr Max Polyak, lead veterinary surgeon at the Olive Ridley Project in the Maldives, shared the story of Shara, an adult female olive ridley found floating and unable to dive: "Shara had signs of pneumonia and an abnormal accumulation of gas in her lower intestinal tract due to plastic ingestion, identified with support from VetCT's teleradiology report. This accumulation of gas was the underlying cause of her buoyancy disorder.

"With intensive medical management of her infection and after passing a considerable amount of plastic in her faeces she no longer had any gas in her intestinal tract and showed a significant improvement. We then continued to focus on her dive training using Targeted External Weight Therapy to correct the behavioural aspect of her buoyancy disorder and retrain her how to dive. Shara progressed well and after discontinuing her TEWT she continued to show normal diving

behavior and was released on August 17th, 2023 with a satellite tag."

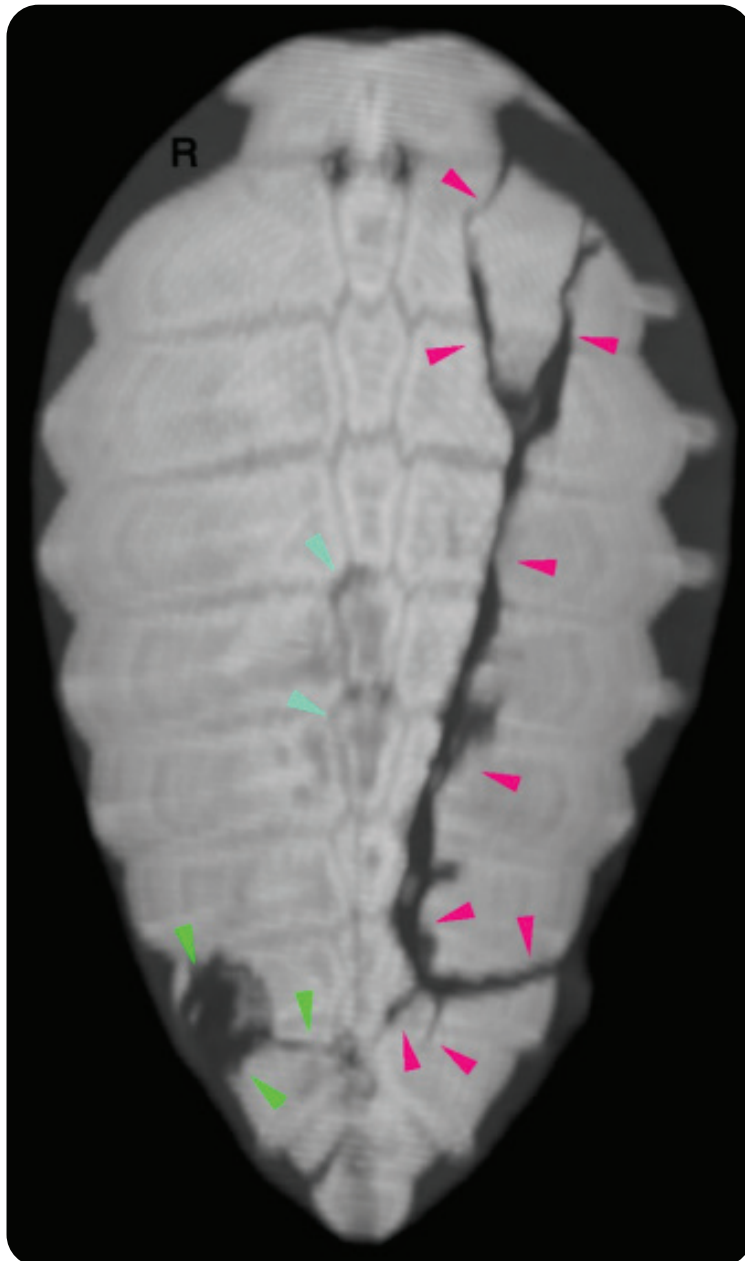
Dr Terry Norton of The Turtle Hospital in Florida spoke about several cases, including Tiki, a juvenile green sea turtle found floating, weak, and debilitated. Blood work showed severe hypoglycemia, moderate anaemia, and increased plasma uric acid, BUN, sodium, and potassium. Physical examination revealed Tiki was thin, dehydrated, and multiple joints in both front flippers were enlarged.

Dr Norton says, "CT and radiographs submitted to VetCT revealed multifocal osteomyelitis. Faecal examination was

positive for *Caryospora*, a significant coccidia species in green turtles. Blood culture was submitted and positive for *Salmonella marina*. Ceftazidime and ampicillin were started. With extensive supportive care and treatment over the next few months, Tiki gained weight and became stronger. Repeat blood culture and radiographs, again reported by VetCT, confirmed that the osteomyelitis and septicemia had resolved. Tiki was released on July 12, 2023."

"We're so grateful to the team at VetCT for providing their expert radiology reports, helping to guide the diagnosis and treatment of these turtles, and ultimately contributing to their successful management and release back into the wild."

Dr Trevor Zachariah, a vet at Brevard Zoo in Florida, which carries permits to conduct sea turtle rehabilitation, has also had several turtles where VetCT's support has helped to monitor response to treatment: "We had a green sea turtle called 'LJ', who had severe injuries presumed to be from a boat propeller blade. LJ had suffered full thickness carapacial fracture with coelomic membrane exposure and entrapped lung tissue. We had managed the injuries for two months with vacuum-assisted closure, debridement, and bandage changes and performed a CT to check healing progress. The VetCT report was great,



Scan anonymized report for LJ



Shara the olive ridley turtle

showing detailed annotations of fracture healing and remaining lung changes, guiding ongoing management and continued rehabilitation for LJ until his release in January. It's great they're providing free reports and advice that helps us to treat these amazing animals."

VetCT's global team of over 270 diploma-holding experts and support staff chose sea turtles to be the company's flagship species in 2022. In addition to providing veterinary support, the team have been raising awareness through hosting in person and online sea turtle talks, running company-wide events to reduce plastic pollution, and fundraising for Wildlife Vets International, a charity supporting conservation projects for sea turtles and other endangered species.

Dr Copper Aitken-Palmer, exotics expert at VetCT who helped to set up the sea turtle initiative, says, "We are delighted to be working with partners globally to provide free access to our services for rescued sea turtles. Sustainability is a guiding principle in all we do at VetCT, and supporting the rehabilitation and release of these keystone marine species supports the health of delicate marine ecosystems for decades to come. Following the stories of these animals to final release is incredibly rewarding."

Organisations, clinics and charities wishing to access free services for rescued sea turtles should visit can register by emailing info@vet-ct.com.

About VetCT:

Established in 2009 in Cambridge, UK, VetCT provides vet-to-specialist teleconsulting and teleradiology services, and novel educational strategies for veterinary medicine. Our mission is to make the veterinary world a better place by delivering trusted veterinary knowledge, support and reassurance at the point of need. We work with clients across the entire veterinary ecosystem, including students and universities, first opinion practitioners, and referral centres.

The company has subsidiaries in the USA, Canada and Australia, with over 250 staff globally, including over 200 Diploma-holding specialists across a broad range of disciplines.



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Tiki, a juvenile green turtle



LJ the green sea turtle



Dr Copper Aitken-Palmer, exotics specialist at VetCT



HIDDEN THREAT: STUDY REVEALS MAJORITY OF CAT OWNERS OVERLOOKING PARASITE DANGERS

The cat's out of the bag – Australia is officially a nation of cat lovers with new research revealing that nearly all owners (91%) say their furry felines are a member of their family, a constant companion (84%) and help them through tough times (77%).

The research also revealed that cat owners prioritise preventative healthcare for their feline companions, with 8 in 10 saying regular parasite control is important, and 7 in 10 believing it's important to protect their cat from infectious diseases and parasites.

However, despite these sentiments, the study revealed that more than 4 out of 5 cat owners are not following best practice guidelines of deworming their cats monthly and using year-round flea control. As some cat parasites can infect and cause

disease in people, this places their cats and themselves at risk. As many cat owners will attest, the survey also highlighted that the stress of medicating cats may be a contributing factor to this undertreatment, with nearly half saying they find administering tablets stressful for their cat (46%) and themselves (45%).

The findings come as Australia's first and only all-in-one parasite protection for cats, NexGard SPECTRA® Spot-on for Cats launches today. This game-changing parasiticide protects against fleas, ticks, mites, heartworm, lungworm and intestinal worms, including tapeworm, with one simple monthly topical application.

Feline expert and veterinarian, Dr Katherine Briscoe says, "The launch of NexGard SPECTRA® Spot-on for Cats marks an



innovation breakthrough in parasite control. Parasite protection is a critical aspect of preventative healthcare for cats, but it is also important in protecting cat owners too, as some cat parasites can cause disease in people.

“The results of the survey highlight that despite the best intentions, most cat owners are not doing enough to protect their cats or their families against parasites, with the stress associated with administering medication highlighted as an important reason for this. This product addresses what cat owners are looking for with 7 in 10 (76%) stating all-in-one treatments and ease of application are important when considering parasite control,” she said.

More than 80 percent of owned cats in Australia have some access to the outdoors with 7 in 10 cat owners saying their decision to provide their cat with outdoor access is because it’s beneficial to their mental (76%) and physical (74%) wellbeing.

Dr Katherine says, “Cats and their natural behaviours and instincts place them at high risk of parasites, for example, in outdoor cats, roaming exposes them to fleas, ticks and intestinal parasite eggs and larvae shed by other pets and wildlife.

“Grooming behaviour can also result in ingestion of fleas containing flea tapeworm larvae, and hunting exposes cats to roundworm, lungworm and tapeworms carried by the animals they prey upon.”

Of those owners keeping their cats indoors, nearly 7 in 10 (68%) state they did so to protect them from infectious diseases and parasites. While outdoor cats are at greater risk of acquiring parasites, their indoor counterparts can’t avoid them entirely, with exposure possible via contact with worm eggs brought in on

shoes, preying on parasite-infested pests such as rodents, slugs or snails that enter the home, or being bitten by a heartworm-infected mosquito.

Dr Katherine continued, “The research highlighted this is a commonly held misconception among owners of indoor cats, with around 50% of owners who don’t treat their cats for parasites citing this as the reason. While the risk of parasites is undoubtedly lower for such cats, it is still there. In fact, a study from overseas showed that 1 in 5 cats who tested positive for intestinal worms were described by their owners as “indoor only”.

“We know how important preventative healthcare is in cats, yet historically compliance with recommendations has been very poor for many cats. We need to make things “cat” and “owner” friendly to help overcome this. By reducing stress for both cat and owner, the launch of NexGard SPECTRA® Spot-On for Cats will help optimise compliance and will give cat lovers the peace of mind knowing their cat, and their family, are protected against parasites,” she concluded.

1 Online survey of 2,091 cat owners in Australia, July 2023.

2 Australian Companion Animal Zoonoses Panel (2021) Companion Animal Zoonoses Guidelines

3 Johnston, L., et al (2017) Demographics, lifestyle and veterinary care of cats in Australia and New Zealand. J Feline Med Surg, 1-7.

4 Coati, N. et al (2003) Recent investigation on the prevalence of gastrointestinal nematodes in cats from France and Germany. Parasitol Res. 90, S146-S147



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COMPANION ANIMAL NETWORK AUSTRALIA CALLS FOR URGENT GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR OLDER PET OWNERS AT HOME IN AGED CARE REFORM

National animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia (Australia CAN or CANA) is calling for urgent support for older pet owners at home, as the Australian Government is working to prioritise independence and restore the dignity of older people in Australia in a \$18.3 billion reform package*.

Australia CAN is campaigning to increase the number of pet-friendly aged care support services to keep pets and their older owners happy, healthy and together in their own homes for as long as possible.

“Sadly, there is a painful absence of government support for older people with pets in in-home care, resulting in not only putting people's lives in danger but also their much-loved animals being surrendered to shelters across the country!” says Trish Ennis, CEO of Australia CAN. “We are calling Hon Mark Butler MP, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care and Hon Anika Wells MP, Federal Minister for Aged Care to help our ageing population maintain a high quality of life and that includes finding ways to help older adults retain their pets.”

CANA's vital message comes in support of the **Joint Submission - Foundations of the Aged Care Act** by 13 national organisations working with older people and carers, demanding a human-rights based aged care act that reflects the experiences and wants of older people, including the right to have their beloved companion animals acknowledged, supported and respected.

Many studies demonstrate how pets offer a myriad of physical and mental health benefits for people, such as reducing stress, providing companionship, encouraging social interactions and more.

“This is true particularly for older adults who often face loneliness and isolation and rely on their companion animals to thrive,” says Ms Ennis. “The Government says it is working on keeping older people in their homes. Why aren't they prepared to make minor changes that would benefit the people, pets, home care support agencies and businesses?”

Status of pets in aged care

CANA's Survey on the Status of Pets in Aged Care facilities and at home shows 86% of older adults with pets experience improved mental and physical health. When it comes to older adults living at home, the survey reveals 61% of older adults live alone, and 74% of older adults with pets say their animals provide companionship and reduce loneliness.

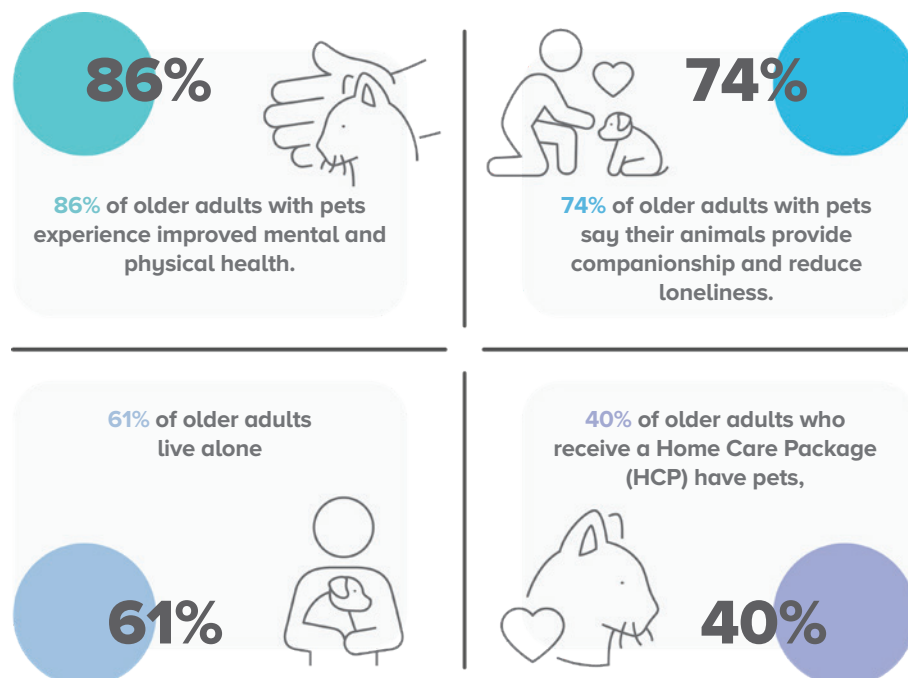
Whilst 40% of older adults who receive a Home Care Package (HCP) have pets, only 9% of these pet owners receive pet care support, such as walking their dog (64% need help) and taking their pet to the vet (62% need help).

“The health and well-being benefits of pet ownership are measurable and indisputable,” says Ms Ennis. “The CHSP (Commonwealth Home Support Program) and HCP can be extended to determine and secure the necessary assistance for a person to live independently with their pet by ensuring services are offered to support pet health and well-being.”

Ms Ennis says increasing the number of pet-friendly in-home aged care support will also help to prevent animals from being euthanised or surrendered to shelters and maximise the physical and emotional health of animal loving older people.

“Increasing pet-friendly aged care support will not cost the government much. The financial implementation of adding these resources to the packages is minor and would in many cases mean simply changing the wording of the delivery of existing items,” she says. “We want to make sure the care that older pet owners receive at home contributes to their quality of life and supports their family and community connections.”

Support CANA's #PetFriendlyAgedCare Petition CANA needs the public's help to convince the Government to include pet friendly aged care support as part of their aged care reform. Help reach 50,000 signatures by signing and sharing their petition for #PetFriendlyAgedCare!



CANA Petition
<https://www.change.org/p/demand-for-the-australian-government-to-support-older-pet-owners-in-home>

For more detail and to read CANA's submission to the Government, please visit <https://petfriendlyagedcare.com.au/surveys>

For more information about supporting pets in aged care, please visit <https://petfriendlyagedcare.com.au>

For more about Companion Animal Network Australia, visit <https://australiacan.org.au> or contact info@australiacan.org.au

"SHIELDING VICTORIA" - BATTLE AGAINST EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA'S SIGNIFICANT DISEASE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM IS PLAYING A CRITICAL ROLE IN PROTECTING VICTORIAN LIVESTOCK FROM EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASES

Agriculture Victoria's Significant Disease Investigation program is playing a critical role in protecting Victorian livestock from emergency animal diseases, with subsidies provided to vets for nearly 370 investigations last financial year (2022-23).

First introduced in 2005, the program is a proactive measure that has boosted Victoria's capacity to detect emergency animal diseases early, with subsidies provided to support private veterinary investigations.

Biosecurity Victoria Executive Director Katherine Clift said the program increases the likelihood of early reporting and helps to encourage ongoing surveillance by animal health professionals.

'Victoria's livestock industries are fortunate to be free of most of the serious diseases that affect animals in other parts of the world,' Dr Clift said.

'Despite this, the threat of many serious diseases entering Australia is increasing. Ongoing surveillance for new or exotic disease is important to protect our livestock and reassure our trading partners of Victoria's favourable disease status.

'It also helps to ensure the early detection of diseases that might impact on trade, public health, biodiversity and farm or regional productivity.'

Early detection of emerging or exotic disease is the key to effective management and this relies on farmers, vets and government working together.

While doing farm visits and treating livestock, veterinarians must remain vigilant and consider the possibility of new, unusual or exotic diseases.

The Significant Disease Investigation program allows veterinarians who investigate and report on outbreaks of unusual or significant animal disease to be paid a subsidy to help cover the cost of the investigation and laboratory fees.

In 2022-2023, Agriculture Victoria subsidised 366 significant disease investigations, including 202 for sheep and goats, 163 for cattle and one pig.

Of these investigations, 89 excluded at least one emergency animal disease (such as anthrax, foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease or African swine fever).

The subsidies are paid in part from the Victorian livestock compensation funds through the Livestock Biosecurity Grants Fund Program, which funds programs that prevent, monitor and control diseases.

For more information about Victoria's significant animal disease program, including eligibility, visit the Agriculture Victoria website.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/significant-disease-investigation-sdi-program>



ADELAIDE ARMY VET HELPS ANIMALS IN THE PHILIPPINES

RECOGNISING THE HEALTH OF ANIMALS AND PEOPLE ARE CLOSELY LINKED, MILITARY VETERINARY SPECIALISTS FROM AUSTRALIA, THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES RAN A SERIES OF PET HEALTH CLINICS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES REGION OF LUZON.

Captain Naia Knight, a reservist veterinarian officer from Army's 3rd Health Battalion in Adelaide, based at RAAF Base Edinburgh, was part of the multi-national effort that provided services including consultations, de-worming, vaccinations and vitamin supplementation. She said the role of veterinarians in the military increasingly included community engagement.

"Everyone thinks it's all about military working dogs but it's also about community outreach programs like this one, as well as taking part in humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations," Captain Knight said.

The vet project was part of a wider multinational medical aid provision activity in the Philippines from 14-27 October that was initiated by a military medicine working group within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Australia is a co-chair, along with Brunei Darussalam, of the expert working group. The veterinarian teams provided the services in four Barangays (communities) in the Municipality of General Tinio, about 110km north of the capital Manila.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines chose these communities based on their limited health resources and unique health challenges. Captain Knight said she had learned a lot from working with the US and Philippines veterinarian teams. "These countries have dedicated veterinarian corps and it's been really interesting to work with them," she said. "They are used to seeing more exotic diseases that we don't have in Australia so there is a lot we can learn. "The two veterinarian corps are also more involved in public health work." Knight graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in London and immigrated to Australia around 10 years ago.

She has worked as a veterinarian in civilian practices in Darwin and Adelaide and with the 3rd Health Battalion since the start of the year. "This has been my first overseas deployment with Defence and I've loved it, so I'll be making myself available for more Reserve work in future," she said.

By Lieutenant Geoff Long



ABOVE: United States Army veterinarian Sergeant Anayeli Mayar prepares medication at a veterinarian civic action program in the regional community of Rio Chico, Philippines.



ABOVE: Australian Army veterinarian Captain Naia Knight administers a rabies vaccine to a local community member's pet at a veterinarian civic action program in the regional community of Rio Chico, Philippines.



ABOVE: (l-r) ADF Deputy Surgeon General, Brigadier Isaac Seidl, AM, and Australian Army Veterinarian Captain Naia Knight talk with Colonel (Dr) Haji Awg Mohd Hafizul bin Haji Awg Mohd Hassan, Royal Brunei Armed Forces, at a veterinarian civic action program in the regional community of Rio Chico, Philippines.



ABOVE: A local community member comforts her puppy after receiving a rabies vaccine at a veterinarian civic action program in the regional community of Rio Chico, Philippines.



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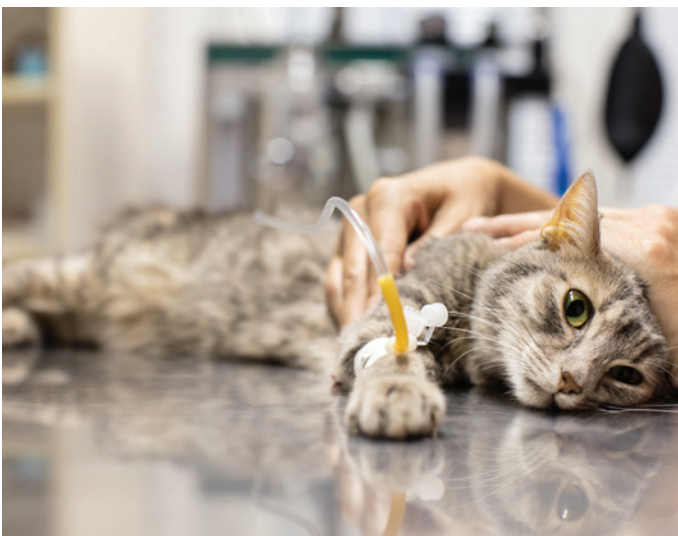
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INFLUENZA A(H5N1) FOUND IN CATS

Situation at a glance

On 27 June 2023, the IHR National Focal Point of Poland notified WHO of unusual deaths in cats across the country. As of 11 July, 47 samples have been tested from 46 cats and one captive caracal, of which 29 were found to be positive for influenza A (H5N1). Fourteen cats are reported to have been euthanized, and a further 11 died, with the last death reported on 30 June. The source of the exposure of cats to the virus is currently unknown and epizootic investigations are ongoing.



Sporadic infection of cats with A(H5N1) has previously been reported, but this is the first report of a high numbers of infected cats over a wide geographical area within a country.

As of 12 July, no human contacts of A(H5N1) positive cats have reported symptoms, and the surveillance period for all contacts is now complete.

The risk of human infections following exposure to infected cats at the national level is assessed as low for the general population, and low to moderate for cat owners and those occupationally exposed to H5N1-infected cats (such as veterinarians) without the use of appropriate personal protective equipment.

WHO continues to monitor the situation and work in close collaboration with the animal and public health sectors, regional agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and other partner agencies in Poland.

Description of situation

On 27 June 2023, the IHR National Focal Point of Poland notified WHO of unusual deaths in cats across the country. As of 11 July 2023, a total of 47 samples have been tested from 46 cats and one caracal (*Caracal caracal*). Of these 47 samples, 29 (62%) were positive for influenza A(H5N1). Positive samples were reported from 13 geographical areas within the country.

Some cats developed severe symptoms including difficulty in

breathing, bloody diarrhoea, and neurological signs, with rapid deterioration and death in some cases. In total, 20 cats had neurological signs, 19 had respiratory signs, and 17 had both neurological and respiratory signs.

Fourteen cats are reported to have been euthanized, and a further 11 died. Post-mortem exams on a small number of cats are suggestive of pneumonia. According to the information available, the last known death among cats was reported on 30 June .

Genomic analysis of 19 viruses sequenced from this outbreak showed that they all belonged to the H5 clade 2.3.4.4b and were highly related to each other. Also, the viruses are similar to influenza A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b viruses which have been circulating in wild birds and which caused outbreaks in poultry recently in Poland.

The source of exposure of cats to the virus is currently unknown and epizootic investigations are ongoing. There are several possibilities for the source of infection, among which the cats could have had direct or indirect contact with infected birds or their environments, ate infected birds, or ate food contaminated with the virus. Authorities are investigating all potential sources and to date have not ruled out any. Of the 25 cats for which the information is available, two were outdoor cats, 18 were indoor with access to a balcony, terrace, or backyard, and five were indoor cats with no access to the outside environment. Seven cats are reported to have had the opportunity for contact with wild birds.

This is the first report of high numbers of cats infected with avian influenza A(H5N1) spread over a wide geographical area within any country. Sporadic infections in domestic cats with A(H5N1) viruses, including A(H5N1) H5 clade 2.3.4.4b viruses, have been reported previously, following close contact of the cats with infected birds or from ingesting meat of infected birds.





Epidemiology of H5N1

Since the end of 2021, an unprecedented number of H5N1 outbreaks among poultry and wild birds has been reported worldwide. As of June 2023, the clade 2.3.4.4b viruses have become dominant in Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa. Alongside wild bird and domestic poultry infections, there have been increased detections in non-avian species, including wild terrestrial (often scavenging) and marine mammals and occasionally in farmed or captive mammalian species, likely through contact with infected live or dead birds or their environments.

Since 2020, 12 human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b virus detections have been reported to WHO, four of which were severe cases and eight were mild or asymptomatic. It is unclear if the detection of the virus in these mild or asymptomatic cases resulted from infection or temporary contamination of the nasal passages. Most humans infected with A(H5N1) viruses have resulted from direct or indirect contact with infected live or dead poultry. Human infection with influenza A(H5N1) viruses can cause severe disease and is fatal in some cases.

Public Health Response

Response measures have been implemented by the national authorities in Poland. These include:

- Under the guidance of the public health authorities in Poland, all owners of infected cats are provided with a health self-assessment questionnaire and requested to self-monitor for symptoms of influenza-like illness (ILI) or acute respiratory illness (ARI) for 10 days since last contact with infected cat. As of 12 July, 70 individuals who had been in contact with confirmed cats have completed self-monitoring and none reported symptoms.
- Providing regular updates on the situation and sharing information and updates with partners, including international organizations.
- Epizootic investigations are underway to understand the epidemiological situation in cats and the likely source of exposure of cats to the virus.
- Preventive measures have been taken to prevent the occurrence of disease in humans by issuing publicly available general precautions for cat owners and individuals who have contact with sick animals suspected of avian influenza infection.

WHO continues to monitor the situation and work in close collaboration with the animal and public health sectors, regional agencies, FAO, WOA, and other partner agencies in Poland and globally.

WHO is evaluating the existing candidate vaccine viruses (CVVs) of A(H5N1) through the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) to ensure valid CVVs are developed and available for pandemic preparedness purposes.

WHO Risk Assessment

To date, human A(H5N1) infections following contact with an infected cat have not been documented. Avian Influenza A(H5N1) virus detections in humans remain unusual, and sustained human-to-human transmission has not been documented.

To date, no symptomatic human contact of infected cats has been reported in Poland despite potentially close contact between cats and owners, and the capacity to detect a human case in contact with an infected cat is adequate in the country.

Therefore, based on current information, the risk of human infections following exposure to infected cats at the national level is assessed as low for the general population, and low to moderate for cat owners and those occupationally exposed to A(H5N1)-infected cats (such as veterinarians) without the use of appropriate personal protective equipment.

Based on the current information, the risk for humans at the regional level is assessed as low, due to: i) avian influenza surveillance activities in animals in Europe being strengthened since September 2022, when the unprecedented geographical extent (37 European countries affected) resulted in 50 million poultry being culled in affected establishments; and (ii) Currently, there are no reported instances of human infection with the A(H5N1) virus acquired from cats, although A(H5N1) infection in domestic cats has been confirmed in Poland.

Due to the uncertainties related to this event, including the source of infection, the risk assessment may change.

WHO Advice

The reports of these events do not change the current WHO recommendations on public health measures and surveillance of influenza.





Due to the constantly evolving nature of influenza viruses, WHO continues to stress the importance of global surveillance to detect and monitor virological, epidemiological and clinical changes associated with emerging or circulating influenza viruses that may affect human (or animal) health and timely virus-sharing for risk assessment.

All individuals exposed to animal influenza viruses, and all contacts of confirmed human cases, should monitor their health for the duration of the known exposure period with additional seven days at a minimum.

All those exposed to known infected poultry, wild birds or other animals, or to farms under suspicion, should be registered and placed under close monitoring by local health authorities. This will facilitate the early detection of illness and timely clinical case management. If a person is suspected of having zoonotic influenza, the health authorities must be notified, and appropriate clinical case management should be provided.

Public health and animal health authorities should collaborate closely in the areas of information sharing, joint risk assessment, and response to outbreaks of zoonotic influenza at the human-animal interface, adhering to the One Health approach.

FAO, WHO and WOAHA have issued a joint situation analysis and advice to countries in relation to ongoing avian influenza outbreaks in animals and the risk posed to human health. FAO, WHO and WOAHA continue to review the situation, monitoring the rapidly evolving nature of the virus, and updating recommendations for curbing its spread, in addition to working with countries in preparedness and response, and facilitating collaboration across countries and sectors. The spread of the virus to five continents speaks to the need for global cooperation and alertness to protect animals, people, and economies.

WHO does not recommend any restrictions on travel and/or trade with Poland based on available information on this event.

Further Information

Situation analysis and advice to countries from FAO, WHO, WOAHA <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-07-2023-ongoing-avian-influenza-outbreaks-in-animals-pose-risk-to-humans>

WHO Fact sheets, Influenza and other zoonotic: [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-\(avian-and-other-zoonotic\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-(avian-and-other-zoonotic))

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WHO Global influenza programme, human-animal interface: <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/avian->

influenza

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Chief Sanitary Inspectorate of Poland Announcement regarding the detection of cases of infection among domestic cats caused by the influenza A/H5N1 virus/ <https://www.gov.pl/web/gis/komunikat-w-zwiazku-ze-stwierdzeniem-przypadkow-infekcji-wsrod-kotow-domowych-spowodowanych-wirusem-grypy-ah5n1>

FAO - Avian Influenza A(H5N1) virus infections detected in cats in Poland <https://www.fao.org/animal-health/news-and-events/news/detail/en/c/1643432/>

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VETERINARY DENTISTRY IN 2024: IS IT TIME TO MAKE SOME CHANGES AND REDUCE YOUR STRESS?

Dr David E Clarke BVSc, DAVDC, FAVD, DAVC-ZWD, MANZCVS, Cert IV TA

Registered Specialist, Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery

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Welcome to one of my favourite times of the year, as we welcome in 2024, the beginnings of a new year. The new year brings both enthusiasm and promise of what the future holds, as well as a time to relax with family and friends over the 'summer' holiday period. It is also a time we can consider how we do business, and in particular, veterinary dentistry. I love dentistry, it has been my life for nearly 30 years, and during this time I have had both joy and success, as well as stress. In talking to my colleagues, many find dentistry very stressful, so maybe it's time to see how we can enter the new year by reducing stress in veterinary dentistry. This reduction can greatly benefit both animals and practitioners. Here are some potential strategies to make veterinary dentistry less stressful in 2024.

1. Positive Reinforcement Training

- This begins at the pet's first visit at the clinic. Implement positive reinforcement techniques to train animals for dental examinations and procedures. Discuss with owners the benefits of handling their pet's mouth on a regular basis so they are co-operative to oral examinations when they visit your practice. Rewarding animals for cooperation can help create positive associations with dental care.

2. Preventative Education for Pet Owners

- Educate pet owners on the importance of preventive dental care for their animals. Regular dental check-ups, proper oral hygiene at home, and a balanced dental diet can contribute to better oral health and reduce the need for extensive dental procedures. Conducting 'Dental checks' for Pet Dental Month in August can promote education in the practice. Explaining the methods of plaque reduction to each client, will improve oral health and decrease periodontal disease. Check every pet's oral cavity at every consultation, not just vaccinations. Use the D.A.V.I.D. app, www.davidxray.com, see later topic, to demonstrate pathology in the patient's oral cavity.

3. Purchase Advance Diagnostic Techniques

- Invest in advanced diagnostic technologies that allow for more accurate and less invasive assessments of dental issues. This can include digital radiography, intraoral cameras, and other cutting-edge tools, e.g., CBCT, that provide a comprehensive view of the oral health of the animal.

4. Use the Right Instrument for the Procedure

- The extraction of feline teeth is often difficult and stressful, especially when there is a tooth resorption. The 1.3S-XS 503 feline 'super slim' is my favourite luxator and is designed with a thin blade and small handle which ensures it easily slips into the periodontal ligament to sever and breakdown the attachment, making the thin fragile feline incisor, premolar and molar teeth extraction less stressful. The Cislak elevator is available from K9Gums Australia.



5. Reduce Iatrogenic Stress: Hold the Elevator/Luxator Correctly

- The efficient, less stressful extraction of any tooth requires a sharp elevator or luxator. To reduce the chances of iatrogenic slippage of the elevator resulting in penetration and trauma of adjacent structures, holding the elevator/luxator correctly is important. Elevators/luxators should be held with the handle in the palm of your hand, with the shaft extending along your finger, with only 1-2 mm of the blade visible past your fingertip. If the elevator/luxator were to slip, it would only penetrate a few mm into the surrounding tissues.

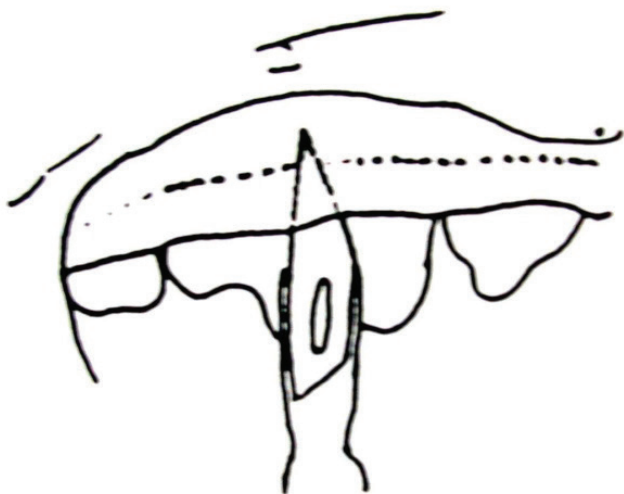


6. Comfortable Ergonomic Clinic Environment

- Create a calm and comfortable environment within the veterinary clinic. Consider factors such as lighting, noise levels, and the overall atmosphere to reduce stress for both animals, their owners and you. Whilst performing surgery, work in a comfortable position, stop stooping, sit with a straight back, maybe in a saddle seat. Wear loupes with a light and magnification so you can see and not strain your eyes. A pair of loupes with a fixed light that follows your head works well. There are many on the market, I personally use Rosie's loupes, 2x magnification with a 40 cm working length. Sitting on a saddle seat, this enforces me to sit up straight. Important if you are doing dental all day long.

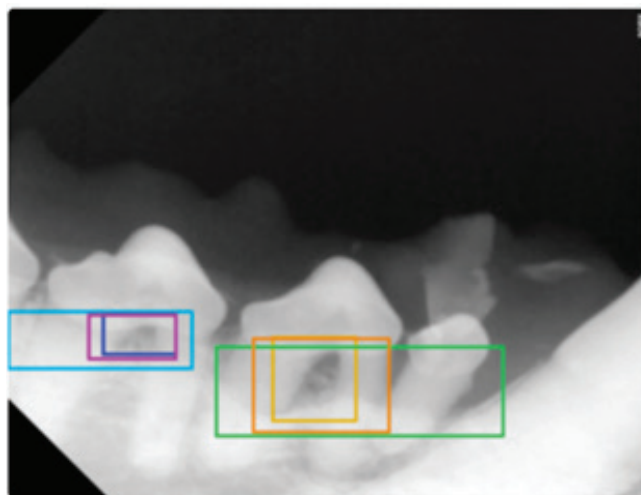
7. Make the Extraction Easier

We all know the anatomy of a tooth. The root cementum is attached to the alveolar bone by the periodontal ligament. Extraction requires separation of the ligament. But many forget that the top of the ligament, at the base of the periodontal sulcus/pocket, there is a fibrous, tough, epithelial attachment from the tooth to the bone. Cut this attachment and your extraction suddenly becomes 30% easier. Use a #11 or #15 blade, place it into the sulcus/pocket, and cut along the top of the alveolar bone, at the base of the sulcus. Run the blade around the entire circumference of the tooth to sever the attachment and now you will have an easier access to the periodontal ligament for your elevator/luxator.



8. Need Assistance Interpreting Your Radiographs

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- When would you use DAVID AI?
- Improve workflow and improve consulting time efficiency, explain pathology to clients, get more 'YES' responses to performing dental procedures. Increase the use of technology in the consulting room. Have your nurses take photographs of the pet's mouth and upload to DAVID AI. Within seconds, NOT minutes, pathology (plaque, calculus, fractured teeth) may be identified. The veterinarian can then show the client and get higher acceptance rates and book more accurate surgery time.
- Improve radiographic interpretation, decrease incorrect diagnosis, increase procedures performed. After the patient is anaesthetised, take radiographs and upload to DAVID AI and within seconds, NOT minutes, you will have your radiograph marked up with the pathology. DAVID AI shows the probability levels of anomalies. Highlighting over 25 pathologies including fractures, bone loss, missing teeth, periapical lucencies, furcations, opacities and allocating labels.

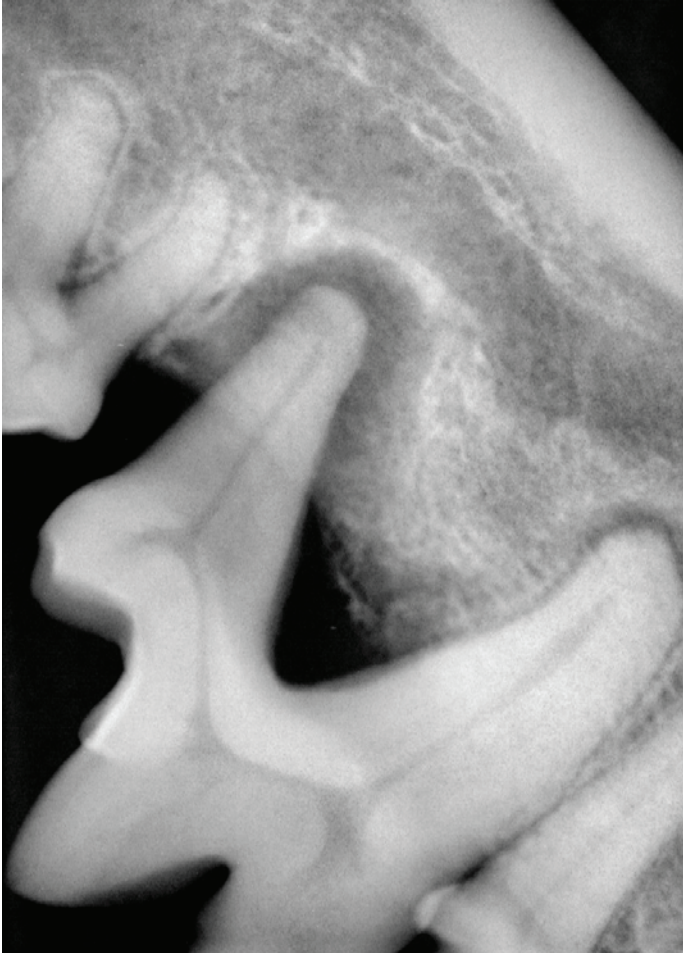


6 Anomalies Found

- Furcation defect : 0.78
- Furcation defect : 0.77
- Horizontal bone loss : 0.59
- Horizontal bone loss : 0.44
- Horizontal bone loss : 0.36
- Horizontal bone loss : 0.34

9. Take a radiograph

- Not knowing what you're up for is part of the stress. If you don't take a radiograph you are working in the dark. If you find positioning the imaging equipment, you will benefit from a radiology course. These are available from many providers. Dr Fechney and I provide these through www.vdec.com.au. Positioning is also explained on our www.davidxray.com website.



10. Continuing Education for Veterinarians and Nurses

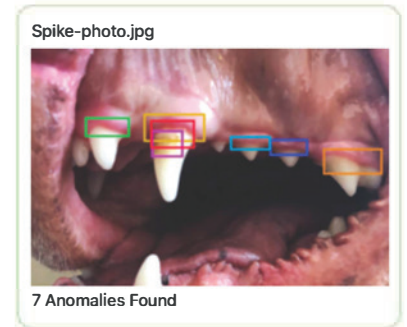
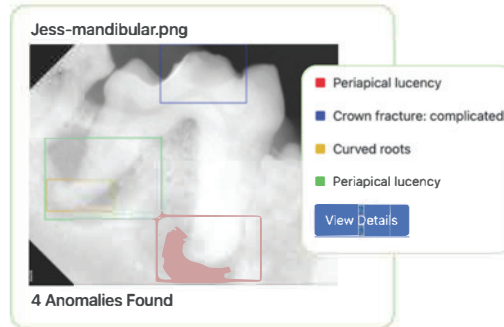
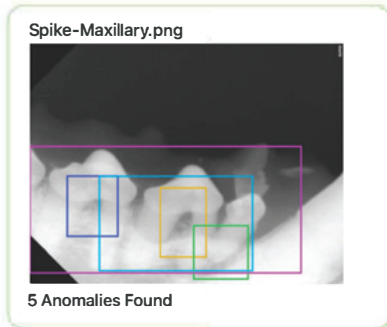
- Encourage veterinarians and veterinary technicians/nurses to participate in continuing education programs focused on the latest techniques and technologies in veterinary dentistry. Staying updated on advancements can improve the quality of care and reduce stress for all involved parties. There are many types of continuing education.
- Local based courses on specific topics: oral examination, radiology, extractions. A series of webinars are also available at the Veterinary dental education centre: www.vdec.com.au.
- Go to a local conference: AVA conference, Science week.
- Overseas conferences: American Veterinary Dental Forum held annually. Upcoming will be held in Palm Springs, California in September 2024. European Veterinary Dental Forum held in Nantes, France in May 2024. Both of these offer fantastic opportunities to attend lectures, participate in workshops, and meet new friends.
- Study for a Membership in Veterinary Dentistry. Drs David Clarke and Angus Fechney offer membership mentorships. The next exam will be held in 2026, with mentorships starting August 2024. Information on www.vdec.com.au.
- Subscribe to the Journal of Veterinary Dentistry. The international peer-reviewed journal is published on-line six times a year, offering Original Research, Case reports and Step-by-Step procedures on dogs, cats, horses, and zoo and wildlife. Subscriptions are available on the website: <https://www.veterinarydentistry.org/>

By combining these approaches, veterinary practices can work towards creating a more positive and stress-free experience for animals undergoing dental procedures and practitioners performing them in 2024.



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RED ALERT: RAPID INCREASE IN PET HEAT STROKE NUMBERS RAISES ALARM



The number of pets suffering from heatstroke in the summer has dramatically increased over the past year. With the thermostat only set to increase in 2023, Pet Insurance Australia has a timely reminder of the dangers of pets overheating.

"Your car can act like an oven in a matter of minutes regardless of if you have the windows cracked or if you are parked in the shade," Crighton says. "If you cannot take your pet with you, it's best you leave them at home with good shelter and plenty of water."

"It's starting to get warm, and with the predictions of a sweltering summer, pet owners need to be extra vigilant when it comes to heat and how it affects their pets," Nadia Crighton from Pet Insurance Australia warns.

In 2022, Pet Insurance Australia witnessed a massive increase in heatstroke claims, with a 46% increase from 2021 and 2022, with the most prevalent months for increase being between November and March. With the weather expected to be much hotter this summer, many pets around Australia are at risk of suffering from this life-threatening condition.

"Heatstroke can come on quickly and end terribly for pets," Crighton says. "Keeping your pet cool is important for all breeds, regardless of their size or coat thickness."



Heatstroke can also be a costly treatment depending on the severity of the condition and can range from the median claim amount of \$600 to the eye-watering \$27,181.

"Dogs cannot regulate their body temperatures like humans and can overheat very quickly, particularly during summer," Crighton says. "Certain breeds, such as the Brachycephalic breed group or the squishy face dogs, can suffer terribly during hot weather. If you own a breed in this category, such as the French Bulldog, Boxer or Boston Terrier, you must take extra precautions during the hot weather."

Pet Insurance Australia also urges all pet owners never to leave their pets in cars.

"Your car can act like an oven in a matter of minutes regardless of if you have the windows cracked or if you are parked in the shade," Crighton says. "If you cannot take your pet with you, it's best you leave them at home with good shelter and plenty of water."

COOL IDEAS TO KEEP PETS COMFORTABLE

- Freeze ice cream containers full of water and a few treats for summer play.
- Fill up a children's clam-shell pool for water fun. Allow your pet access to cold concrete or tiles.
- Clip/trim long-haired breeds.
- Hose under trees to keep the soil cool.
- Only exercise during early morning and late afternoon.
- Check pavements with the back of your hand – if it's too hot for your hand it is too hot for precious paws.

"Also, check where your water bowls are situated and keep them out of the sun. Steel bowls will heat up extremely quickly in direct sunlight," Crighton warns. "It's also a good idea to monitor exactly how much shade your pet has during the day, as this can change drastically throughout the seasons."

"Prevention is always better when it comes to heatstroke. Simple things such as changing your exercise regime and ensuring your pet has ample shade and water and is never left alone in the car can ensure they do not become a victim of heatstroke," Crighton says.

SYMPTOMS OF HEATSTROKE IN DOGS

Heatstroke is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition in dogs. If you suspect your dog is suffering from heatstroke, you must seek veterinary treatment and advice quickly. Symptoms can include;

- **Excessive Panting:** In dogs, rapid and extreme panting is often the first sign of heatstroke.
- **Drooling:** Excessive drooling may accompany panting as the dog's body tries to cool down.
- **Increased Heart Rate:** The heart rate may become elevated as the body attempts to circulate blood and cool down.
- **Warm or Hot to the Touch:** The dog's body may feel excessively warm or hot when touched.
- **Lethargy & Weakness:** Heatstroke can cause the dog to become weak, lethargic, and unresponsive.
- **Vomiting & Diarrhea:** Gastrointestinal symptoms may occur, including vomiting and diarrhea. This may also contain blood.
- **Collapse:** In severe cases, the dog may collapse, become unconscious, or have seizures.
- **Loss of Coordination:** The dog may exhibit unsteady movements, stumbling, or incoordination.
- **Dizziness:** Heatstroke can lead to disorientation and confusion.

DOG BREEDS MOST AFFECTED BY HEATSTROKE*



Bulldog



Collie



Bernese Mountain Dog



Fox Terrier



Pug



Newfoundland



Australian Shepherd



Kelpie



Dachshund

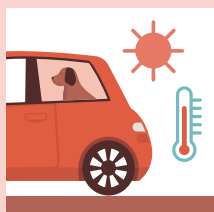


French Bulldog

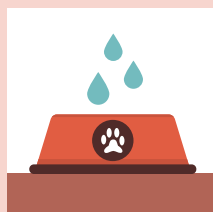
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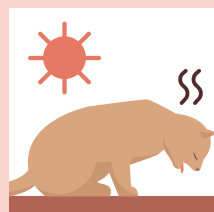
HOT WEATHER



DON'T LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE CAR



KEEP YOUR PET HYDRATED



KNOW SIGNS OF OVERHEATING



KEEP PAWS AWAY FROM HOT PAVEMENT

WORLDWIDE VET RECOGNITION

THE NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY COMMUNITY COMMITS \$1 MILLION TO FUND NEW GLOBAL AWARD PROGRAM TO BENEFIT VETERINARY PROFESSION AND ANIMALS WORLDWIDE

The North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) announced the establishment of NAVC Gives, a transformative award program created to support and advance the veterinary profession and wellbeing of people and animals worldwide. The NAVC launched the award program today with a \$1 million commitment to fund awards that will be made on a year-round basis. Nominations open November 1, 2023. The first NAVC Gives award winners will be announced in January at VMX 2024.

This new program from the NAVC will support individuals, groups, and organizations around the world that have made a profound difference in the lives of veterinary professionals and animals. Unlike most award programs that have a set timetable for accepting nominations, NAVC Gives will recognize accomplishments and notable achievements throughout the year based on the merit and impact of the application. Multiple awards may be given out each year.

NAVC Gives will support those advancing the health of animals worldwide

“NAVC Gives is a unique grassroots award program that seeks to shine the light on those who are making a difference in the animal health field – whether it’s transforming veterinary medicine or saving one animal or person in distress in a local veterinary clinic. In addition to recognizing these accomplishments, we hope to make an impact on a personal level with a cash award,” said NAVC CEO Gene O’Neill. “Philanthropy and giving back to the veterinary community has been at the heart of the NAVC since our inception 40 years ago and we continue to find new and innovative ways to support and advance the veterinary profession and animal healthcare worldwide. By establishing the NAVC Gives awards program, we are able to expand our reach even further and ensure that the NAVC will be making a positive impact on the field of veterinary medicine for years to come.”

NAVC Gives is a board-directed award program that will be initially funded by a \$1 million donation from the NAVC. Through this \$1 million commitment, the NAVC will recognize and support outstanding achievements, remarkable contributions, or excellent performance of individuals or organizations in the animal health field that have helped further the NAVC’s mission and vision of helping the veterinary healthcare team to thrive. Awards will be granted throughout the year, recognizing notable achievements and accomplishments within the industry.

“The NAVC has designated 2023 as the year of giving back. In honor of that commitment, the NAVC is proud to commit \$1 million toward building a better veterinary community and further supporting the profession we love,” said NAVC Board President Dr. Bob Lester, co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of WellHaven Pet Health.

The NAVC established this award program to recognize those who support its organizational mission: to “create unparalleled opportunities for the

veterinary community that foster lifelong learning, encourage growth and promote well-being to advance animal care worldwide.” Nominations will be evaluated on a merit-based scale and recipients will be selected based on their excellence, impact, and alignment with the NAVC’s mission.

Apply throughout the year! The NAVC will recognize accomplishments that have positively contributed to the global veterinary community and animal wellbeing and may have gone unnoticed or overlooked. In order to do so, the NAVC will actively solicit nominations so the veterinary community can help identify important achievements. Learn more about NAVC Gives and submit nominations at <https://navc.com/gives/>.

NAVC Gives builds upon the NAVC’s long-standing commitment to philanthropic pursuits, which amount to hundreds

NAVC Gives will support those advancing the health of animals worldwide





of thousands of dollars each year to members of the international veterinary community through scholarship programs such as the Dr. Earl H. Rippie Veterinary Nurse Leadership Scholarships, the Michael J. Day AFSCAN Scholarship, Colin F. Burrows International Scholar Program, free education subscriptions and conference registration, and other charitable donations. A fund committee, established by the NAVC Board of Directors, will review all NAVC Gives nominations. The first recipients will be announced at a special ceremony at VMX 2024 in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL.

About the NAVC

The North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and advancing veterinary professionals worldwide. The world's leading provider of veterinary continuing education, the NAVC delivers essential training, tools and resources for veterinary professionals to stay abreast of advances in animal medicine and provide the best medical care for animals everywhere. Through its commitment to innovation and excellence, the NAVC has developed a diverse portfolio of products and services, including: educational events, headlined by VMX, the world's largest, most comprehensive continuing education conference and launchpad for new products and innovations within the veterinary industry; a robust digital platform for virtual learning and engagement; the veterinary industry's largest and award-winning portfolio of trade publications; and an advocacy arm which unites the veterinary community and pet lovers. The NAVC was founded in 1982 and is headquartered in Orlando, FL. Since 2017, the NAVC has been recognized annually as one of the Top Workplaces by the Orlando Sentinel. To learn more about the NAVC's products and brands, visit <https://navc.com/>. To see our schedule of upcoming events, visit <https://navc.com/calendar/>.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NEW NAVC GIVES PROGRAM ARE NOW OPEN!

This newly-chartered, first-ever grassroots program of its kind from the NAVC will support individuals, groups and organizations around the world that have made a profound impact in various ways. NAVC Gives will allow the opportunity for the NAVC to shine light on accomplishments that have contributed to the global veterinary community and animal wellbeing that may otherwise go unnoticed or overlooked.

On a year-round basis, NAVC will recognize those who have advanced animal health care, invested in veterinary professionals or did something extraordinary for their team, a client or an animal with a cash award.

Multiple awards may be given out throughout the course of each year, and inaugural award winners will be announced in January at VMX 2024.

Apply <https://gives.navc.com>

APPLY

CASE STUDY: 13 YEAR OLD MALE NEUTERED LHASA APSO, CHRONIC COUGH AND MILDLY INCREASED BRONCHOVESICULAR SOUNDS

Species: Canine

Breed: Lhasa Apso

Sex: Male Neutered

Age: 13 Years Old

Clinical History:

He has a chronic cough and mildly increased bronchovesicular sounds in his caudal left thorax. He has been responsive to steroids and anti-tussives.

Anatomic regions: Thorax

Details of study and technical comments:

A three view radiographic study of the thorax are presented for interpretation.

Diagnostic interpretation:

THORAX:

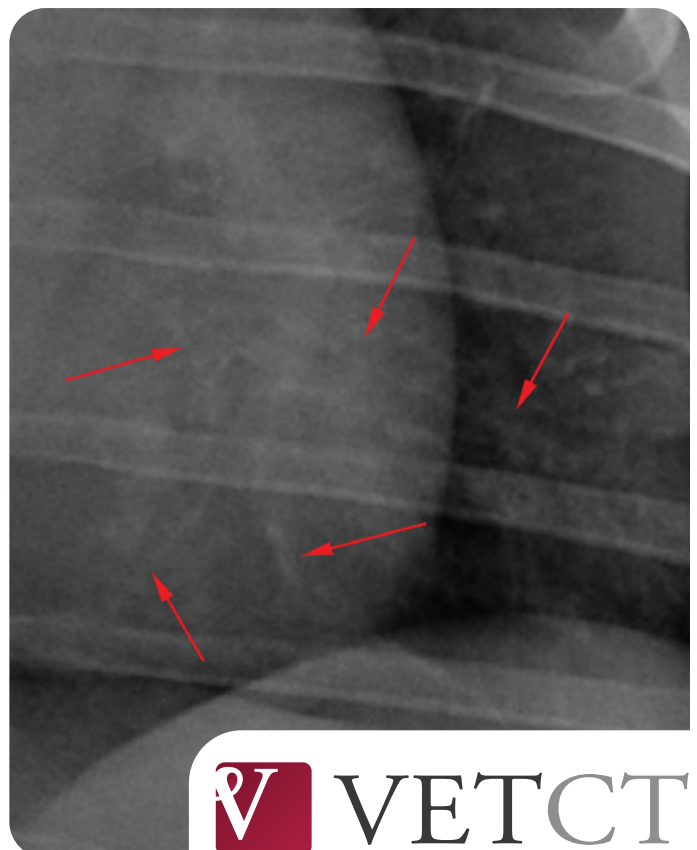
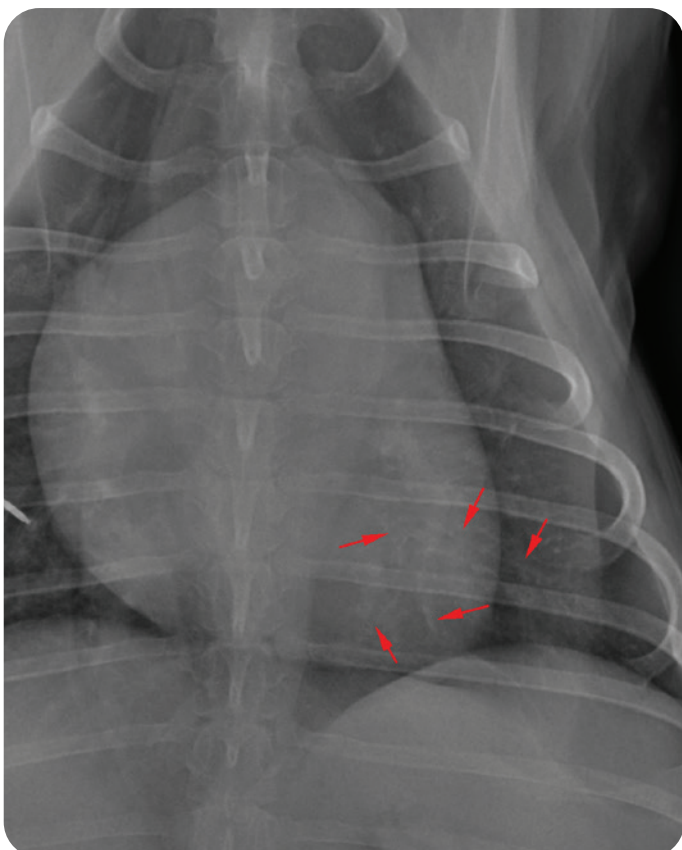
The margins of the principal bronchus and large calibre airways of the left cauda lung lobe are well defined but mildly more thickened in comparison to the right. The remaining airways are within normal limits.

The cardiac silhouette, vasculature, remaining parenchyma, mediastinum and pleural space are unremarkable.

The liver is incompletely imaged however appears enlarged and to be extending past the costal arch.

Conclusions:

- Bronchial changes of the left caudal lung lobe. Differential diagnoses include chronic bronchitis versus scarring from prior inflammation.
- Suspect hepatomegaly may represent vacuolar hepatopathy, nodular regeneration, fat infiltration, or metastatic neoplasia.



VETCT

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Additional comments:

The localised changes of the left caudal airways are suggestive of a regional pathology such as focal bronchitis.

While this can be more generalised, focal disease can occur with infection or foreign body. Subtle parenchymal and intraluminal changes can be further explored with high resolution (breath hold) computed tomography and bronchoscopy with lavage. This patient had been previously diagnosed with sterile bronchitis.

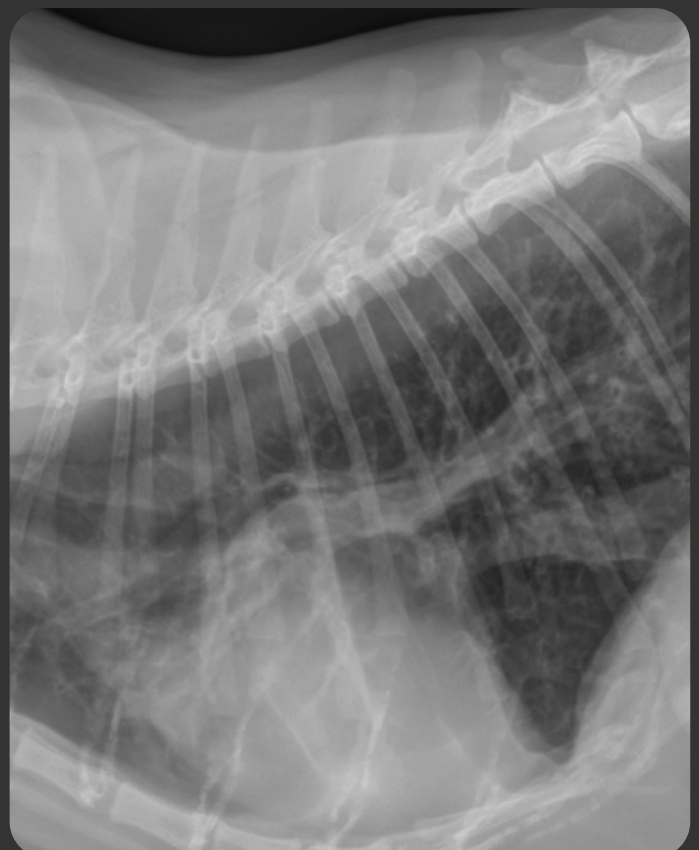
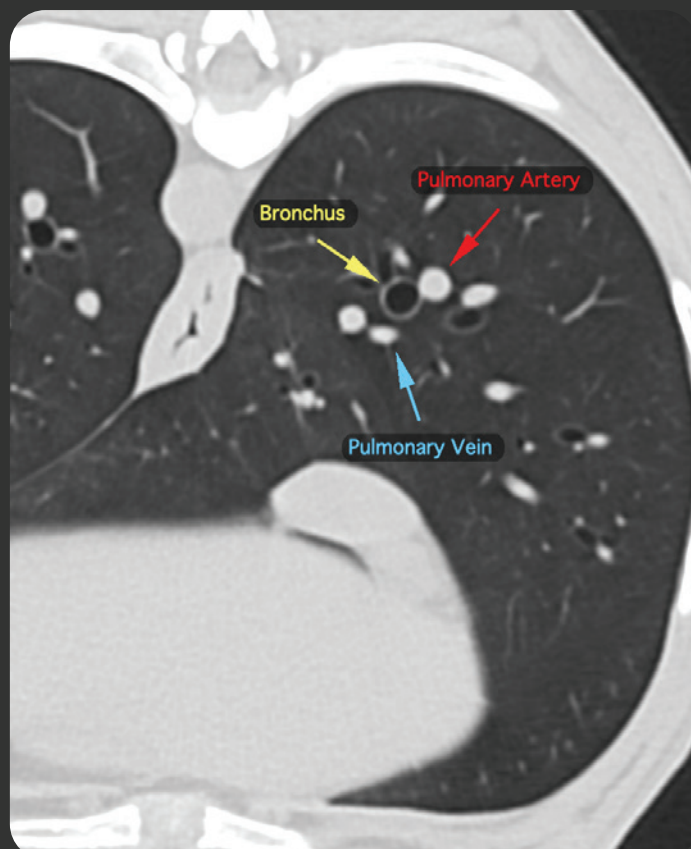
Comments about the bronchial pattern:

While the large airways should be able to be characterised by their relative boundaries of the arteries and veins (central and ventral), the walls should not be distinct excepting the very large calibre airways at the hilus. As shown below in a transverse image of the thorax presented in a lung algorithm (Figure 1), the pulmonary artery tracks closely with the bronchus while the vein is slightly separate. This offers a relative idea of the size and path of the airway. When the airway wall is thickened, the margins can be well-defined or poorly defined. This may provide some insight into the current state and chronicity of the disease process with some caveats.

A well-defined bronchial pattern as shown in today's case has sharp margins of the airway; in other words, one could take a fine-tipped pencil and outline the margins of the airway. This means the body has had time to remodel the wall in response to the pathology (i.e. it's chronic).

A poorly defined bronchial pattern is characterised similarly by thickened airway walls however the margins are less distinct; an example of this is provided in Figure 2. This is more consistent with an acute process as the body has had less time to remodel the airways.

The exception to this general pattern is when a patient with chronic disease (and chronically remodelled airways) has an acute crisis. The imaging findings of the airways may be misleading however there are usually other radiographic changes that may indicate acute respiratory distress.



CASE STUDY: 5 YEAR OLD FEMALE ENTIRE BICHON FRISE, COUGHING WITH INCREASED RESPIRATORY EFFORT

Species: Canine
Breed: Bichon Frise
Sex: Female Entire
Age: 5 Years Old

Clinical History:

She is coughing this week with increased respiratory effort the past few days. Additionally, she has been lethargic and has a decreased appetite. She has a soft continuous murmur that has not been known to the owners as this is her first vet visit since her puppy vaccines.

Anatomic regions: Thorax

Details of study and technical comments:

A three view radiographic study of the thorax are presented for interpretation.

Diagnostic interpretation:

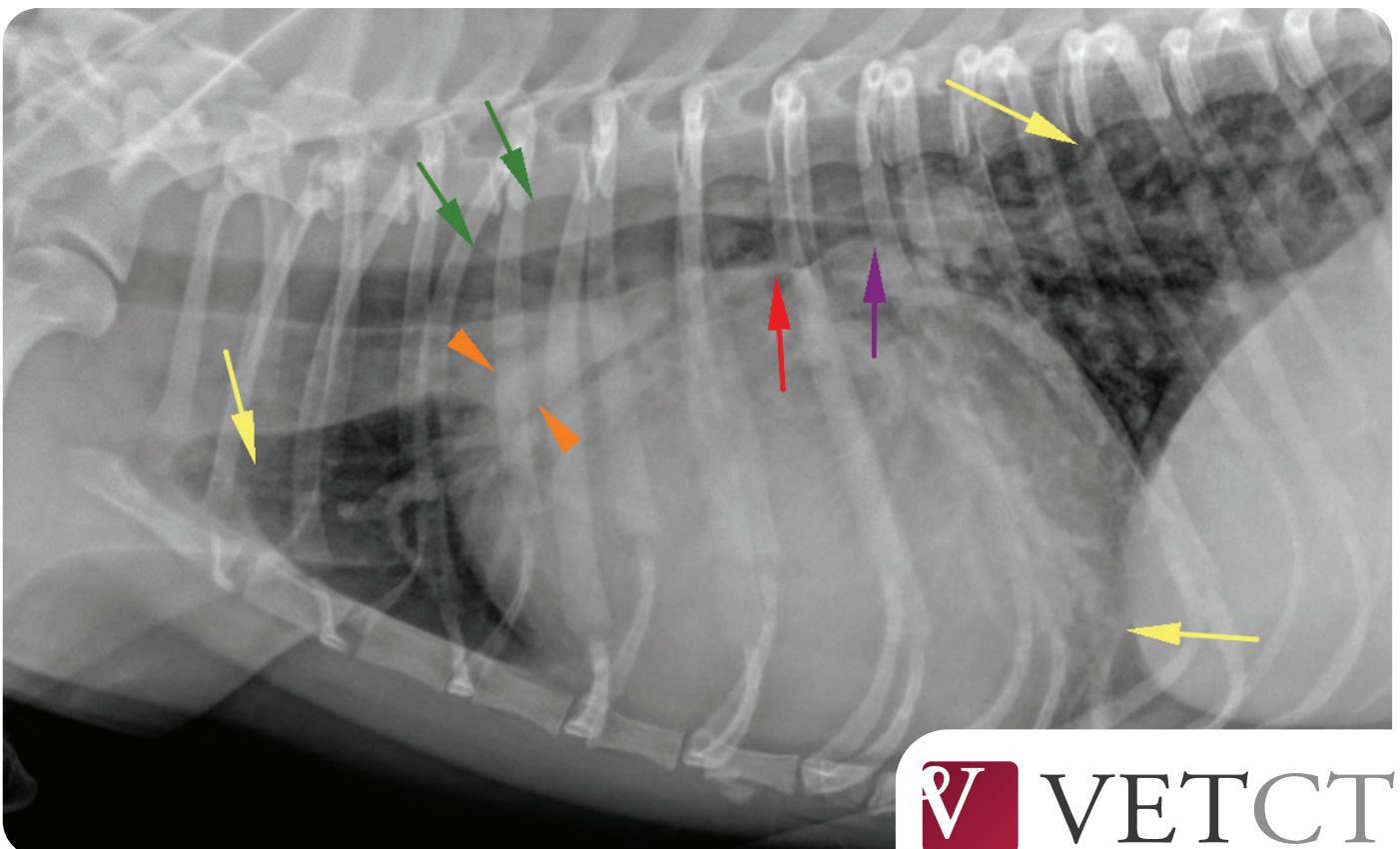
THORAX:

There is severe global enlargement of the cardiac silhouette such that it spans both the height and width of the thorax with severe dorsal displacement of the trachea (red arrow). The caudal vena cava courses craniodorsally. The aortic arch is enlarged and bulges at the 12-2 o'clock location in the VD view (dark green arrows). There is a severe generalised hypervascular pattern with predominantly generalised enlargement of the arteries (orange arrowheads) that are larger than the corresponding veins. The arteries have mild peripheral tortuosity (yellow arrows). The pulmonary parenchyma has a generalised increased opacity.

The mainstem bronchi are abaxially displaced (dark blue arrows). The caudal contour of the heart has a normal shape; there is no straightening of the caudal cardiac waist.

The trachea has a normal diameter body is dorsally displaced as described above. The mainstem bronchi are narrowed especially on the left (purple arrow). The lobar bronchi are normal in size and tapering. The diffuse interstitial lung pattern limits assessment of the smaller airways in the periphery of the lung, but a component of bronchial thickening cannot be ruled out.

The mediastinum and pleural space are unremarkable. The skeletal structures and surrounding soft tissues are unremarkable. The included cervical spine and laryngeal region are unremarkable. Luxation or osteolysis. Bronchial wall distinction is in the caudal lung fields.



Conclusions:

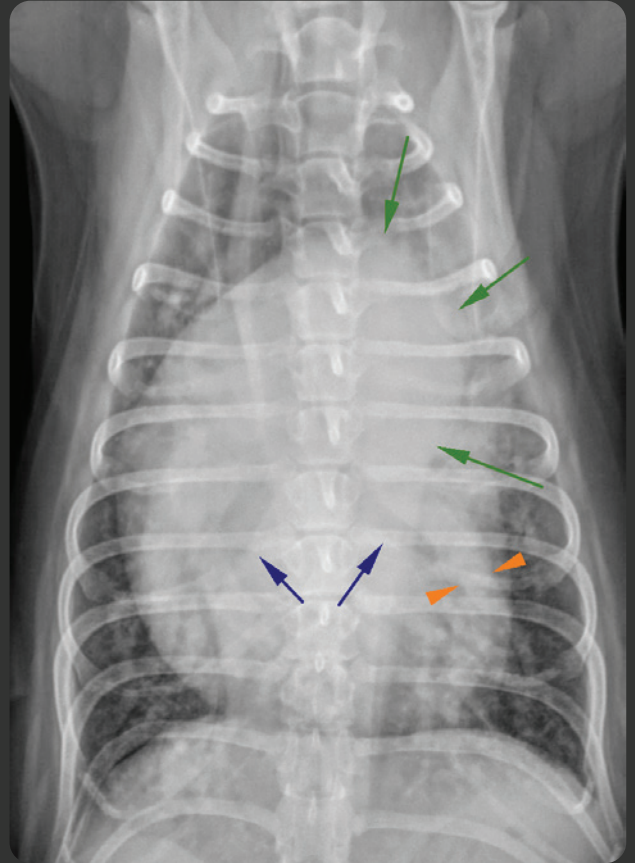
Severe generalized cardiomegaly is present with a severe arterial hypervascular pattern and a suspected ductus bump.

- The size of the heart and enlarged arteries are most consistent with a congenital left-to-right shunting heart defect such as a Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) or other complex anomaly.
- The diffuse interstitial pattern is likely a combination of severe hypervascular disease and a component of pulmonary edema is possible
- There is mild compression of the mainstem bronchi present.

Additional comments:

The generalized enlargement of the pulmonary arteries can also be seen with heartworm disease. However, the cardiac enlargement is most consistent with volume overload and in combination with large arteries is prioritised to a congenital heart defect with left-to-right shunting. The coughing could be due to compression of the mainstem bronchi due to the large size the heart. The enlarged aortic arch resembles a ductus bump and is the reason that a PDA is included in the differential diagnosis for this dog.

An echocardiogram is indicated to further assess and confirm the presence of a congenital heart defect and rule out other causes for the volume overload of the heart. extravasation of fluid or rupture of small vessels. GDV constitutes a surgical emergency with complications including gastric necrosis, splenic infarction, and thromboembolic disease.



CANINES, CARS AND CHLAMYDIA: KOALAS BIGGEST KILLERS

A database tracking hospital admissions and deaths reveals the devastating impact cars, disease and dogs are having on the South East Queensland koala population.

Professor Joerg Henning and his colleagues at The University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science have analysed data from the UQ-developed KoalaBASE. “Car strikes, dog attacks and chlamydia-induced illnesses are injuring and killing an incredible number of koalas across the South East Queensland,” Professor Henning said.

“In the five years between 2009 and 2014, 52 per cent of reported wild koala deaths were caused by car strike, 34 per cent were from a chlamydia-related disease and 14 per cent were because of a dog attack. “This equates to 1,431 koala deaths from a car strike, 943 chlamydia-related deaths, and 395 dog attack deaths in just five years.

“Remember that these deaths were just the reported cases, so the real numbers would be significantly higher.” KoalaBASE has been collecting data since 1997 across 15 local government areas from the Fraser Coast, to the Scenic Rim and Darling Downs and the South Burnett.

Dr Ravi Dissanayake conducted the initial analysis, supervised by UQ colleagues and Professor Mark Stevenson at the University of Melbourne. Data considered in the analysis included dog registration numbers, the human population and dwelling information, as well as road type and road length.

“This analysis is a useful starting point for more pro-active approaches to managing preventable wild koala mortality risk,” Professor Stevenson said. “There are plenty of policies that

could reduce car and dog impacts on South East Queensland’s dwindling wild koala populations.”

“In the five years between 2009 and 2014, 52 per cent of reported wild koala deaths were caused by car strike, 34 per cent were from a chlamydia-related disease and 14 per cent were because of a dog attack.”

Professor Henning suggests that more road signs could alert motorists to reduce their speed in known koala habitat and activity areas. “Construction of over and underpasses is also essential to ensure the safe movement of koalas through their habitat,” Professor Henning said. “And information campaigns could help reduce the numbers of dog attacks on koalas by reminding owners to leash their dogs or keep them fenced in areas – it’s vitally important to reduce koala deaths caused by dogs.

“Our research included plenty of mapping, so we’re now keen to work with policymakers to identify specific areas where intervention efforts can help to reduce koala deaths.”

Source: The University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science



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DESIGN A DIET FOR HORSES SUFFERING OR RECOVERING FROM EQUINE ODONTOCLASTIC TOOTH RESORPTION AND HYPERCEMENTOSIS (EOTRH).

How to design a diet for horses suffering or recovering from this dental condition

Equine odontoclastic tooth resorption and hypercementosis, or EOTRH, can be a mouthful of trouble for horses, particularly those older than 15. Although first described in the veterinary literature in 2008, EOTRH has probably been around for some time. In the past decade, however, as emphasis on equine dental care increased, veterinarians collectively noticed this unique condition.

The disease's hallmark is resorption, or breakdown, of the incisor and canine teeth, including the tissue surrounding each tooth and the internal roots. Hypercementosis, or excessive production of cementum, which with enamel forms the tooth's external surface, can occur simultaneously as the body attempts to stabilize the affected teeth. Other cells respond by creating extra cementum that eventually forces out the tooth and root. In severely affected horses, veterinarians surgically extract all diseased incisors to alleviate pain, infection from periodontal (affecting the gums and structures surrounding the teeth) disease, and inflammation.

Because anything affecting a horse's teeth also ultimately affects his ability to consume food, we'll discuss best practices for feeding EOTRH horses. For more background on this dental disease, see TheHorse.com/35688.

Dietary Links to EOTRH

Researchers still don't know what exactly causes hypercementosis in EOTRH-affected horses. However, factors associated with hypercementosis development in humans include functional stress and inflammation of the tooth root (Grier-Lowe et al., 2015). Age-induced strain on the periodontal ligaments, which anchor the teeth in their sockets, could potentially trigger EOTRH development, but not all horses that develop the disease are old.



Other factors, including housing and behaviors such as cribbing, might also play a part.

In 2013 Ann Pearson, MS, DVM, and her colleagues at Reata Equine Veterinary Group, in Tucson, Arizona, pored over 12 years of clinic veterinary records looking for potential EOTRH risk factors. Some of the ones they identified include excessive dentistry needs, periodontal disease, pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction (PPID or equine Cushing's disease), and equine metabolic syndrome (EMS). Surprisingly, age did not appear to be a factor.

Pearson also found that horses fed primarily alfalfa, which requires less chew time than a grass or mixed forage, with no access to pasture were more likely to develop EOTRH.

"The lack of chewing time and difference in elevation of the head will decrease the amount, time, and path of bathing the teeth and gums with saliva," she says. Saliva helps remove food particles from the spaces between the teeth that can accumulate over time, leading to gum inflammation and eventually periodontal disease.

Case Study No. 1

Veterinarians referred a 21-year-old Holsteiner gelding to Colorado State University's (CSU) Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery Service because he'd been experiencing increased incisor discomfort. The owner had first noticed inflammation around the upper incisors about three years prior and reported that the gums became redder over time. Many of the incisors seemed to be losing their gum tissue, recalls treating veterinarian Jennifer Rawlinson, DVM, Dipl. AVDC-Equine, assistant professor and head of veterinary dentistry and oral surgery at CSU.

Roughly six months before this visit, one of the gelding's upper right incisors fractured, and his regular veterinarian had removed the remainder of the tooth. The owner believed the condition to be painful, because the horse had become increasingly head-shy for biting and showed no interest in the carrots or apples he used to accept eagerly. Recently, the owner also noticed that he'd been eating hay much slower than he does normally. He was healthy other than the oral conditions, Rawlinson confirmed.

Prior to sedation for an oral exam, Rawlinson offered the Holsteiner a small amount of hay to observe his eating and prehension (the action of grasping food). She quickly noticed that the horse would grasp the hay with his lips and work it around to the edge of the incisors and into the "bar" region of his mouth. Once the feed was in the back of the mouth, he chewed normally. He didn't use his incisors for prehension and, in fact, made a tremendous effort to avoid using his incisors in any way. This is typical behavior of a horse with incisor pain associated with EOTRH.

Rawlinson and her team recommended surgically extracting all the gelding's incisors to alleviate the obvious pain, infection, and inflammation he was experiencing. They also took postoperative radiographs of the surgical sites to make sure they'd extracted all the dental material.

University staff members offered the gelding a combination of a senior pelleted mash and soaked hay in recovery. Four hours later he was eating well and continued to eat ravenously throughout his hospital stay. One month after surgery he returned to trail riding and accepted the bit without incident. The owner said his overall demeanor was brighter and he was more focused and responsive during rides.

—Kristen Janicki, MS, PAS

EOTRH Affects Consumption

Pain associated with EOTRH drastically affects a horse's ability and willingness to eat, so the horse might stop eating periodically, lose weight, or avoid using his incisors for grazing or grasping food. The trouble is that EOTRH appears to develop or progress slowly, and the disease could be in its advanced stages before the horse shows outward physical signs.

Some horses in earlier stages of the disease and those with primarily hypercementosis and little to no resorption seem to remain comfortable and show no apparent signs of pain, says Jennifer Rawlinson, DVM, Dipl. AVDC-Equine, assistant professor and head of veterinary dentistry and oral surgery at Colorado State University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, in Fort Collins.

During regular dental exams, however, veterinarians might see telltale signs of petechiae (pinpoint red spots) along the gingiva, shifting teeth, or bulging tooth roots, says Pearson.

In a 2015 retrospective study, researchers at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center found that although all horses admitted to the clinic for EOTRH had advanced periodontal disease, most had a healthy score of between 4 and 6 on the nine-point Henneke body condition scale. Only 27% scored lower than 3 and were considered underweight.

Feeding EOTRH-Affected Horses

It might come as a surprise to know that once cleared by a veterinarian, EOTRH horses that have had their affected incisors removed can consume diets similar to those of healthy horses. Keep them on a pelleted mash for the first 12 hours after surgery, then introduce a soft diet of soaked hay or soaked hay pellets or cubes with dry pelleted feed. Don't feed whole grains or mixes that include whole grains to horses that suffered from severe signs of the disease, as the feed particles might get lodged in the resulting crevices, says Pearson.

The veterinarian will provide specific instructions for rinsing the horse's mouth, particularly the surgical sites. Most horses return to a normal hay and feed ration within two months post-surgery, with six to eight weeks of restricted grazing until the mouth has fully healed from the extraction(s).

Also in the 2015 New Bolton Center study, a follow-up postoperative survey of owners with EOTRH-diagnosed horses revealed that 72% of horses continued eating normally after discharge and their body condition scores increased within three to 18 months after extraction.

"It should be emphasized to the owner, though, that a balanced pelleted ration should be the mainstay of the patient's diet to ensure adequate nutrition," says Rawlinson.

Grazing With EOTRH

Some incisorless horses become adept at grazing by grabbing blades of grass with their lips. "Horses missing incisors might have difficulty grazing short plants, so if they are in a paddock that is overgrazed or mowed to a short height, it could be hard for them to grasp and nip the plants off," says Laurie Lawrence, PhD, professor of equine nutrition at the University of Kentucky, in Lexington.

Although turnout is still important for equine mind and body, do not rely on pasture to be a major nutrient source for incisorless horses. With EOTRH horses that are also missing molars, digestible forms of forage will help provide fiber and ensure proper gut health. You could, for instance, feed a complete pelleted feed that is intended to be fed without forage. Senior versions are available for the hard-keeping older horse demographic. Other options include feeding chopped, cubed, or pelleted forage products. Unless the horse has

Case Study No. 2

An owner transported her 22-year-old Arabian mare to the Veterinary Medical Centre, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, to have the practitioners there evaluate a fractured incisor. Although the mare did not have difficulty eating and had not lost weight, she seemed painful when her owner palpated her mandibular (lower jaw) incisor region. She also resisted having the veterinarian evaluate her maxillary (upper jaw) and mandibular incisor region.

The veterinarians recommended surgical removal of the affected incisors. The owner elected to preserve any teeth that weren't severely malformed or whose pulps (which carry the tooth's main blood and nerve supply) were not exposed.

The mare's postoperative aftercare consisted of feeding an alfalfa cube gruel diet for 10 days. Two weeks after surgery the owner reported the horse's appetite and attitude were excellent. One month after surgery the owner noticed that she had started using her lips to graze in the pasture.

—Kristen Janicki, MS, PAS

a history of choke or impaction issues, you should still make hay or pasture readily available.

"For horses without incisors (and also cribbers who have worn the arcade so the incisors don't meet any more), another option when grass is short is to spread some hay cubes around the paddock so they have to move around to search for them," says Lawrence. "They're easy enough to pick up, and as long as the molars work they should be able to crunch them."

Wrapping It Up

We are still learning why EOTRH affects horses, particularly older ones, but it's clear early detection is paramount to managing the disease. The best course of action if a horse does develop EOTRH is for the veterinarian to surgically remove the affected incisors. Although horses can still graze, pasture might not provide enough forage to meet daily needs, and dietary management includes providing alternative easy-to-chew and digest forage sources. At follow-up dental checks, make sure your practitioner pays special attention to teeth opposing the removed ones, as they will erupt at a faster rate.



INNOVATION ILLUMINATED: DRC LIGHTING SYSTEM SECURES GLOBAL PATENT

VETERINARY HOUSING PROVIDER, CASCO PET, HAS SECURED A GLOBAL PATENT FOR ITS INNOVATIVE DRC LIGHTING SYSTEM, UNDERLINING ITS ONGOING COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING VETERINARY CARE

Veterinary housing provider, CASCO Pet, has secured a global patent for its innovative DRC Lighting System, underlining its ongoing commitment to advancing veterinary care by raising standards in clinical housing.

The patent protects and underscores the unique and proprietary nature of CASCO Pet's state-of-the-art light technology, which offers enhanced patient monitoring and recovery, superior hygiene detection and improvements in operational efficiency in clinical settings. Designed to complement CASCO Pet's glass WELLKennels, the DRC Lighting System features three unique modes – Daylight (white), Recovery (red), and Cleaning (blue UVA) – which cater to different veterinary and patient requirements.

The Daylight setting mimics natural daylight, helping maintain the patient's natural circadian rhythm – a key factor which is often overlooked – to promote healthier sleep patterns. Good natural light also improves visibility, enabling the patient to recognise and read the facial expressions of their carers more clearly. This helps to reduce stress and anxiety levels which can hinder recovery.

The red light Recovery setting enables the veterinary team to carry out efficient, non-disruptive night-time monitoring, facilitating better patient rest and recovery; felines and canines do not see in the red spectrum, as their eyes lack red light receptors.

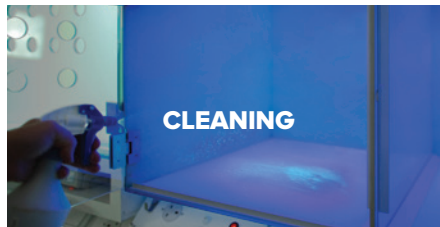
Elevating hygiene and biosecurity benchmarks, the Cleaning setting activates a harmless blue UV light. Designed to enable meticulous cleaning, it illuminates organic residues, ensuring that imperceptible matter does not

escape the human eye, minimising cross-contamination risks.

Matthew Bubear, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Vision Officer, CASCO Pet, said: "Our commitment to innovation and enhancing pet wellness in the veterinary sector is further demonstrated by this latest patent. There is nothing else like the DRC Lighting System on the market.

"Veterinary clinics that incorporate our patented lighting system are not just adopting a technology – they are reshaping their entire patient care paradigm. As a result, veterinary teams can assure pet owners of superior, non-intrusive care for their beloved companion animals, fostering trust and enhancing overall patient wellbeing."

CASCO Pet is committed to enhancing pet wellness, with a constant focus on innovation and discovery to redefine standards of care in animal housing. Merging functionality with first-class design, the company provides solutions in animal enclosures for retail, veterinary practices and clinics, as well as education facilities. Its WELLKennels system offers a radical alternative to traditional steel cages.



Zinc: Plaque's natural enemy



BRUCE ADDISON, Veterinary Microbiologist • Addison Biological Laboratory, Inc.



"Plaque forms within 24 hours, calculus within 3 days and gingivitis begins as early as 2 weeks."

— WSAVA.org

Pet oral health care is an ongoing challenge for pet owners and veterinary teams. Periodontal disease is the number one health problem in small animal patients, according to the American Kennel Club. By age 3, more than 80 percent of dogs and cats have some form of periodontal, or gum disease. Pet owner resistance to in-clinic dental procedures that involve x-rays and anesthesia is well known.

To optimize pet health, **the starting point for comprehensive oral care must be in the home** where bad breath is the primary warning sign. Most veterinary clinic personnel miss the opportunity to educate pet owners about daily oral care and promote in-home solutions for their pets.

Quite simply, "a chew alone won't do."



Working with natural zinc compounds, Addison Biological Laboratory pioneered the use of a natural, zinc-based compound that is safe for daily use, inexpensive, taste-free and provides excellent pet acceptance. The unique formula works to break down plaque on contact and can be used daily without brushing.

Addison's neutralized zinc is a combination of select amino acids and zinc. Taurine and zinc gluconate form a complex bond that inhibits the precipitation of zinc in the neutral pH (6.7 – 7.0) range. In this narrow pH range, an oral zinc preparation delivers increased bioavailability that ensures its duration of effect and efficacy.

"Zinc is well documented to tie up sulfur compounds in the oral cavity which are a primary cause of bad breath, the first signal of impending dental disease." — Bruce Addison, Veterinary Microbiologist, President and Founder

Putting zinc to work

New to the MAXI/GUARD® product family are MAXI/GUARD® Oral Cleansing Wipes. They provide a proprietary neutralized zinc oral care compound on a textured applicator wipe. They are recommended for daily in-home use.

MAXI/GUARD® Oral Cleansing Wipes

Features / Functions

- Taste free
- Oral product and applicator all-in-one
- Neutralized zinc formulation
- Quick and easy wipe application
- 100 textured wipes per large container

Benefits

- Increases pet acceptance
- No mess; more sanitary than a toothbrush
- Removes plaque; resolves offensive mouth odors
- Supports pet owner compliance
- Up to 100 days of effective daily oral care

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EQT TO ACQUIRE VETPARTNERS, THE LEADING PROVIDER OF VETERINARY AND ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

EQT to acquire VetPartners, the leading provider of veterinary and animal health services across a network of 267 general practice clinics and specialty hospitals in Australia and New Zealand

With a community of more than 1,300 highly skilled vets and over 3,000 nurses and clinical support staff, VetPartners provides high-quality healthcare services for animals

Drawing on its global animal health experience, EQT will support VetPartners' healthcare practitioners in focusing on animal care, while investing significantly in advanced equipment, technology, innovation, recruitment and continued professional development – for the benefit of pets and their pet parents

EQT is pleased to announce that BPEA Private Equity Fund VIII ("EQT") has agreed to acquire VetPartners (the "Company"), from National Veterinary Associates, Inc. ("NVA").

Founded in 2016, VetPartners is the largest provider of veterinary services in Australia and New Zealand, with a growing presence in Singapore. Via a network of community-based general practice clinics and specialty hospitals, VetPartners' clinical team provide compassionate pet care across more than 3.2 million visits per annum. The care provided ranges from basic preventative healthcare advice and services, through to higher acuity complex surgery.

Drawing on its global experience in the animal health sector, via this standalone investment EQT will support VetPartners' medical professionals to continue to deliver the highest-quality clinical outcomes to the animals entrusted to their care. EQT is committed to invest significantly to ensure VetPartners' clinical teams have access to the latest medical equipment, digital

tools and innovation capabilities. EQT also intends to provide significant investment to further VetPartners' mission to ensure a sustainable and positive work environment for its frontline teams, via a concerted focus on recruitment initiatives, enhanced training, continued professional development and mental health programs.

Mark Jeffery, CEO of VetPartners, says, "We are delighted to welcome EQT as a partner given their strong global track record in animal health and healthcare more broadly. Together, we will continue to be an advocate for the advancement of the veterinary profession, fostering a collegiate community of professionals delivering the highest-quality healthcare services to pet parents in the region with a common mission to improve the comfort and well-being of animals."

Dr Brett Hodgkin, Chief Veterinary Officer of VetPartners, says, "I'm excited by the possibilities that today's announcement will bring to the health, well-being, and welfare of the animals we serve. We believe that together with our new investment partner EQT, we can drive positive change in animal health outcomes, while also striving to build community clinics and hospitals that are an employer of choice for our vets, nurses and all 4,300 animal advocates within our team."

David Forde, Investment Advisor and Co-Head of EQT Private Equity ANZ, concluded, "We have been highly impressed by the VetPartners organisation, and the leading position it has built in the region through its partnership with over 1,300 passionate vets and over 3,000 nurses and clinical support staff serving their local communities. As one of the leading global animal health investors, EQT is uniquely positioned to support VetPartners' continued growth and sustained delivery of high-quality healthcare for the pets that families cherish."



↓ **CORTISOL DOWN**

↑ **DOPAMINE UP**

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Meril Life offers the complete solution for surgeons - providing a broad range of innovative & effective surgical products including absorbable & non-absorbable surgical sutures, tissue sealants, skin staplers, orthopedic screws and much more. Meril products are being used in surgeries around the globe, with satisfied customers in over 100 countries. Since 2020, GVP - General Vet Products have constantly supplied Meril suture packets to vets all around Australia. We stand by our Meril Life range, with all products having TGA approval for use in Australian surgeries. We are confident that you will love this brand that we offer a money back guarantee. Take advantage of 15% OFF the whole Meril range until Jan 31st 2024 (#excluding the suture cassettes)

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- SUTURE PACKETS
- CORTICAL BONE SCREWS
- SUTURE CASSETTES#

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A NEW WAY FORWARD WITH SCIENTIFICALLY DEVELOPED PET NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS

Groke Pet introduces its innovative Liquid Pet Multivitamin Supplements at Vet Expo, Melbourne 2023. Formulated and manufactured in Australia, these liquid pet supplements for dogs boast 98% local ingredients and promise to redefine pet nutrition with a dedication to quality and community wellness.

Anne Duggan, CEO, encapsulates the mission, stating, "Every drop infuses the rich goodness of Australia, fostering not only thriving but flourishing pets." The range, including the standout Vitalixir Complete Daily Nutrition, offering over 48 vital nutrients in a convenient, easily absorbed liquid format.

Dr. Andrew Duggan, Chief Scientist, credits the breakthrough to "relentless work and collaboration with an exceptional team." Vitalixir PLUS boosters additionally target specific health areas in dogs, from skeletal health, skin, and coat rejuvenation, to weight management and anxiety relief. Each booster blends nutrients and superfoods aimed at promoting optimal health.

Groke Pet champions:- Local Sourcing: Prioritising Australian ingredients.- Eco-Conscious Packaging: Adopting and encouraging sustainable practices.- Community Fostering: Partnering with social enterprise supporting individuals with disabilities."We merge superior quality and ethical production, promising vitality for your pet and a stride towards sustainable living," explains Anne.

Groke Pet stands out in the transforming pet nutrition industry by providing a tasty, nutrient-rich, and convenient supplement for pets while adhering to sustainability and community-enhancing practices. Embrace well-being for pets, people, and the planet at www.grokepet.com.au.

About Groke Pet

Birthing from a deep love for pets and commitment to quality and sustainability, Groke Pet offers scientifically developed premium products that deliver unparalleled care for pets while ensuring sustainable and community-centric practices.





COOPERATION, COORDINATION VITAL FOR ONE HEALTH APPROACH

Prevention of future pandemics and major health events requires cooperation across health sectors and disciplines via a One Health approach.

Acting Australian Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Beth Cookson said One Health Day is a timely reminder of the importance of using a collaborative approach, across human, animal, plant and environmental health, for disease prevention and management.

“The impact of animal disease outbreaks is multifaceted - it’s more than just the obvious risk to animal health,” Dr Cookson said.

“There are risks to human health from zoonotic diseases, and there are wider implications of disease outbreaks on Australia’s economy, international trade, society and the environment.

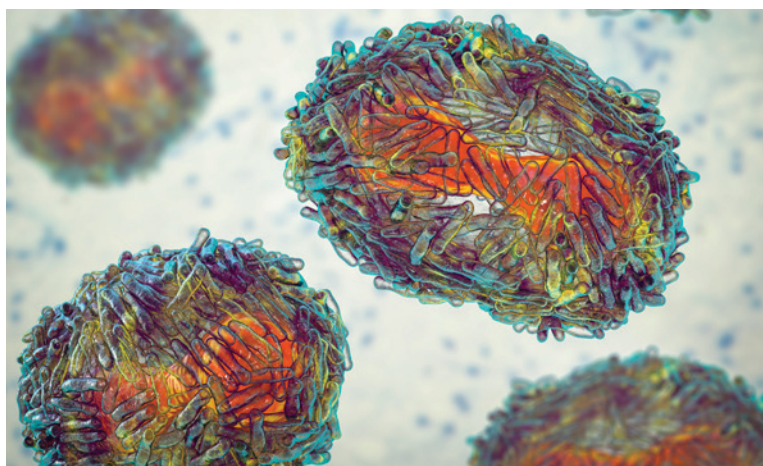
“Given both wildlife and domestic animals are potential sources and victims of disease, with 75 per cent of emerging infectious diseases having an animal origin, it is imperative that wildlife health is monitored and understood.

“The department is committed to this One Health approach. We have funded the One Health Surveillance Initiative at Wildlife Health Australia, which promotes One Health practices into wildlife disease management within Australia and across the Indo-Pacific, and supported Wildlife Health Australia to establish the World Organisation for Animal Health Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Risk Management.

“The One Health Surveillance Initiative will make sure wildlife health is integrated into decision making across the region to benefit biosecurity, animal health, public health, food security and biodiversity.

“Wildlife Health Australia’s One Health Investigation Fund is also enabling more investigations of diseases in wildlife and the development of risk mitigation activities.

“One Health Day reminds us that managing major global health risks is not possible alone, and requires cooperation across the animal, plant, human and environmental health sectors.”





SEARCH FOR AUSTRALIAN DOG OF THE YEAR 2024 IS ON!

**NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES — SOME WEAR COLLARS AND LEASHES!
\$10K PRIZE POOL INCLUDING \$1,250 TO PREFERRED CHARITIES!**



BELLA



DMITRI
Australian Dog of the Year 2021



BALOO
Australian Dog of the Year 2023



JEFFREY, DENZEL & FINN



ROSIE

Dogs have provided companionship to the elderly, therapy to sufferers of physical, emotional and mental health troubles, assistance to people with disabilities and invaluable support in military, conservation, rescue and many other roles.

Because our dogs have made such an incredible impact in our lives, Puppy Tales is proud to once again head up the search for the 2024 Australian Dog of the Year to find the doggo that best represents the essence of the Australian dog – love, courage, inspiration, assistance and friendship! Winners will be announced on Australia Day on 26 January 2024.

“The Puppy Tales’ Australian Dog of the Year aims to celebrate the faithful canine companions who bring us through the ups and downs of life and continue to contribute to society in many ways,” said Kerry Martin, award-winning pet photographer, author and founder of Puppy Tales, a website aimed at helping pet owners make the most of life with their fur family. These awards are inspired by the many amazing dogs Kerry has photographed and met throughout her years of Australian-wide travels.

“Our pets are as wonderfully diverse as our nation and have also made an incredible impact in the lives of people, the environment or other animals,” she said. “We want to recognise pooches

from across Australia for services they provide in communities, to humans and their unyielding devotion in the face of sadness, tough times and the occasional vacuum cleaner!”

Prizes valued over \$10K! In its fourth year, 2024 Australian Dog of the Year winners, nominees and voters will receive prizes worth more than \$10,000.

“The Australian Dog of the Year Award pays it forward with a generous donation from Puppy Tales to the winner’s preferred charity and recognises the work they do for communities across the country, particularly in these challenging times,” said Kerry.

PRIZES

Puppy Tales photography - Proshoot prize



Australian Dog of the year - Proshoot prize

WINNER

- \$1000 Donation to Charity / NFP of their Choice
- Photography Session & 'The Bailey' Collection from Puppy Tales (minimum value \$4000)
- Personalised trophy of the winning dog (value \$300)
- Media Campaign with Pet Journo announcing your title to the Australian Media
- \$250 Pet Circle Gift Card

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

- \$250 Donation to Charity / NFP of their Choice
- Photography Session and Large Canvas from Puppy Tales (Value \$1250)
- Media Campaign with Pet Journo announcing your title to the Australian Media
- \$100 Pet Circle Gift Card

NOMINEE PRIZE DRAW (X10)

- \$450 Puppy Tales Photography Gift Card

VOTERS IN THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE PRIZE DRAW (X10)

- \$450 Puppy Tales Photography Gift Card

DATES

Jack & Dr Lydia Poad veterinary neurologist Sydney's Small Animal Specialist Hospital (SASH)



Bella & Sonja

WAYS IN WHICH DOGS AID PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Jack was brought to SASH as a stray in 2022 and then adopted by Dr Lydia Poad, a veterinary neurologist and neurosurgeon at the hospital. She now brings Jack with her to work most days. His job -- to spread love and joy to patients and staff!

Dr Poad says: "Jack deserves a medal because of the immense amount of joy he brings to people. He's always up for a cuddle or to play with staff members at SASH and you can't help but smile when he's around."

IMPORTANT DATES

Finalists will be announced on **TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2024**
 Nomination deadline is 8pm on **SUNDAY, 14 JANUARY 2024**

Voting for the People's Choice of the finalists will also commence on **JANUARY 16TH** and will close at **12PM ON THURSDAY, 25 JANUARY 2024.**

Winners will be announced on **AUSTRALIA DAY (FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY 2024)** on Puppy Tales' Facebook page.



NOMINATIONS



WHICH DOGS CAN BE NOMINATED?

Some of the kinds of dogs that are encouraged to enter are (but not limited to):

- Guide dogs or hearing dogs
- Therapy dogs visiting ill people in hospitals
- Dogs who have helped someone with disabilities or health challenges
- Dogs in reading programs or assistance at schools
- Dogs involved in wildlife detection or protection
- Dogs who have located, rescued or saved people, or other pets
- Police and combat dogs, Other working dogs
- Dogs that are blood donors
- A best friend who has gotten you through a tough time!

"ALL the amazing dogs who've been a support, best friend or true companion are encouraged to enter!" said Kerry. "Not all have an incredible, special talent, but there's no doubt they have all changed the lives of their humans."

If your dog represents the true spirit of Australia by being courageous, loving or in any way amazing, nominate them now for a chance to be recognised for the awesome doggo they are and win fabulous prizes to spoil them silly!

MSD ANIMAL HEALTH REACHES MILESTONE OF MORE THAN 5 MILLION NOBIVAC® RABIES VACCINES

COMPANY REITERATES A COMMITMENT TO ZERO DOG-MEDIATED HUMAN RABIES DEATHS BY 2030

MSD Animal Health, a division of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA, today announced it has donated more than 5 million NOBIVAC® rabies vaccines through the Company's Afya Program, since it was founded. The goal of the global non-profit is to help achieve the World Health Organization's goal of zero dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030.

In partnership with Mission Rabies and Rabies Free Africa, MSD Animal Health is celebrating this milestone as well as a more than 25-year commitment by reinforcing its commitment to eliminate rabies and is calling on individuals, organizations, and governments to join hands in the fight against rabies. Rabies could be eliminated within the next seven years, if governments, charities, industry, vets and pet owners all unite in the fight against this deadly disease.

"We are steadfast in our commitment to rabies elimination and thus improving the health and well-being of both humans and animals. Through MSD Animal Health's Afya Program, we have witnessed the power of canine vaccination and how essential this is in the global fight against rabies. As we mark World Rabies Day, we celebrate our partnerships with Mission Rabies and Rabies Free Africa and the progress we have achieved together," said David Sutton, global technical director, Companion Animal Vaccines, MSD Animal Health.

A commitment to zero dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030

Rabies has a 100% fatality rate once symptoms develop and 99% of human cases are transmitted through dog bites, which is why eliminating rabies is crucial to safeguard human lives.ⁱ Despite being completely vaccine-preventable, rabies kills an estimated 59,000 people a year, many of whom are children.ⁱ

This is why MSD Animal Health is dedicated to supporting the ambitious United Against Rabies global goal of zero dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030. Spearheaded by WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, the campaign focuses on three key pillars to work towards a world free of rabies: vaccination, awareness, and collaboration. Through a One Health approach, which recognizes that animal health, human health, and sustainability are intertwined, MSD Animal Health prioritizes comprehensive pet vaccination, regular veterinary care, and community-wide awareness are essential to preventing and eliminating rabies.





Collaboration is key to eliminating rabies: we all have a part to play

For more than 25 years, MSD Animal Health has supported efforts aimed at increasing canine vaccination rates across the globe through its Afya Program. The company has supplied Rabies Free Africa and Mission Rabies with over five million doses of life-saving vaccines to date, thanks to the engagement of vets around the world. To help in the fight against rabies, MSD Animal Health invites individuals, organizations, and governments to come together and take action on this World Rabies Day by doing the following:

- **Get involved in supporting Rabies Free Africa and Mission Rabies, either through donations or volunteering your time and resources.**
- **Educate yourself and your communities about the importance of rabies prevention and the critical role of vaccination in controlling the disease.**
- **Talk to your vet about how you can contribute to the global rabies elimination efforts. Every pet vaccinated locally with NOBIVAC® enables MSD Animal Health to provide further donations to their key partners who are working to prevent rabies in the most at-risk regions around the world. Visit www.afya.org for more information.**

About MSD Animal Health

At MSD, known as Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA in the United States and Canada, we are unified around our purpose: We use the power of leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world. For more than a century, we've been at the forefront of research, bringing forward medicines, vaccines and innovative health solutions for the world's most challenging diseases. MSD Animal Health, a division of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA, is the global animal health business of MSD. Through its commitment to The Science of Healthier Animals®, MSD Animal Health offers veterinarians, farmers, producers, pet owners and governments one of the widest ranges of veterinary pharmaceuticals, vaccines and health management solutions and services as well as an extensive suite of connected technology that includes identification, traceability and monitoring products. MSD Animal Health is dedicated to preserving and improving the health, well-being and performance of animals and the people who care for them. It invests extensively in dynamic and comprehensive R&D resources and a modern, global supply chain. MSD Animal Health is present in more than 50 countries, while its products are available in some 150 markets. For more information, visit www.msd-animal-health.com and connect with us on LinkedIn and Twitter.

About the Afya Program

The Afya Program comprises a number of rabies control projects supported by MSD Animal Health rabies vaccine donations, including Rabies Free Africa and Mission Rabies. These projects have been brought together under the name "Afya," which means "health" in Swahili. The Afya Program is committed to supporting the Zero by 30 Initiative, with the goal of eliminating rabies by 2030. For more information, visit www.afya.org

About Rabies Free Africa

Rabies Free Africa is empowering countries in east Africa to create self-sustaining programs to eliminate current human rabies deaths and set up surveillance systems to identify future outbreaks for containment. To reach the global goal by 2030, the focus needs to be on decreasing the cost of vaccinating dogs and increasing access to vaccines. Rabies Free Africa continues its work to discover ways to decrease the cost of mass-dog vaccinations and refine country and continent-wide programs that make the best use of limited resources. For more information, visit <https://vetmed.wsu.edu/departments/paul-g-allen-school-for-global-health/rabies/>.

About Mission Rabies

Mission Rabies was initially founded as an initiative by Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS), a United Kingdom-based charity group that assists animals. Mission Rabies has a One Health approach driven by research to eliminate dog bite transmitted rabies (a disease that is estimated to kill 59,000 people annually). Launched in September 2013 with a mission to vaccinate 50,000 dogs against rabies across India, Mission Rabies teams have since then vaccinated over two million dogs and educated more than five million children in dog bite prevention in rabies endemic countries. For more information, visit www.missionrabies.com.

Forward-Looking Statement of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA

This news release of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N.J., USA (the "company") includes "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the safe harbor provisions of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of the company's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results may differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

Risks and uncertainties include but are not limited to, general industry conditions and competition; general economic factors, including interest rate and currency exchange rate fluctuations; the impact of the global outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19); the impact of pharmaceutical industry regulation and health care legislation in the United States and internationally; global trends toward health care cost containment; technological advances, new products and patents obtained by competitors; challenges inherent in new product development, including obtaining regulatory approval; the company's ability to accurately predict future market conditions; manufacturing difficulties or delays; financial instability of international economies and sovereign risk; dependence on the effectiveness of the company's patents and other protections for innovative products; and the exposure to litigation, including patent litigation, and/or regulatory actions.

The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Additional factors that could cause results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements can be found in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2022 and the company's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) available at the SEC's Internet site (www.sec.gov).



OPERATION LOCKATOO

COUNCIL LAUNCHES OPERATION LOCKATOO TO COMBAT COCKIE BIN RAIDS SURF COAST

In a bid to address the persistent issue of wild cockatoos ransacking residential bins, the Surf Coast Council is set to launch Operation Lockatoo in November 2023. The initiative will see the council fitting locking mechanisms to various types of bins, including Landfill bins (red lid), FOGO bins (lime-green lid), and Recycling bins (yellow lid).

This innovative lock-fitting program is a direct result of extensive trials conducted over the past two years, where nine different bin modifications and locking mechanisms were tested on 500 kerbside bins throughout Lorne. Following a rigorous evaluation process, Surf Coast Council has selected local company LitterLock to supply an inventive locking solution as one of the primary mechanisms driving the program.

The Surf Coast-based start-up LitterLock produces a recyclable, plastic-moulded clip with an extended arm running down the side of the bin. A hinge attaches to the bin body and securely holds the arm in place. Importantly, the clip automatically releases when the collection truck's arm engages with the bin, ensuring seamless waste collection.

The decision to proceed with LitterLock's solution was based on feedback from residents who had the mechanism fitted to their bins, as well as insights from collection truck drivers and Council staff. The collaborative approach aims to address the long-standing issue of wild sulphur-crested cockatoos in Surf Coast neighbourhoods, known for their ingenuity in opening bin lids and foraging for food. These curious birds have often been the cause of litter spilling onto the streets.

In 2021, Colin Cox, a local landscaper and inventor, played a pivotal role in the creation of LitterLock. Outraged by the sight of litter escaping local wheelie bins while working outdoors, Cox embarked on a mission to develop a solution. According to Cox, "It's estimated that 25% of litter in Australia escapes from residential bins. That's approximately 35,000 tons of rubbish every year. To put that in perspective, it's like having ten dump trucks a day unloading their waste directly into Sydney Harbor. If we can prevent this with one simple action, I can't understand why we wouldn't."

"LitterLock's estimations suggest that installing locking devices on local bins could result in significant reductions in environmental litter collection costs, amounting to around \$290 million in savings annually. Surf Coast Council is committed to the environment and the well-being of its residents.

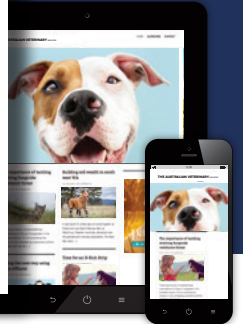
Operation Lockatoo not only aims to reduce litter and improve the cleanliness of the Surf Coast, but it also seeks to protect the unique coastal ecosystem that draws residents and visitors to the region. The introduction of the Litter Lock locking mechanisms promises to be a major step toward achieving this goal.

For more information about Operation Lockatoo or to learn about the LitterLock's commitment to environmental sustainability, please visit the council's website or contact LitterLock representatives.





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ROOTS TO REMEDIES: SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE SCIENCE OF PLANT-BASED MEDICINES

AS GLOBAL DEMAND FOR HERBAL MEDICINES RISES, VETERINARY HERBAL TRAINING'S NEW CPD TAKES A CLOSE LOOK AT PLANT SUPPLEMENTS AND THE SCIENCE BEHIND THEM

Over 50% of people believe herbal medicine is genuinely effective at treating illnesses' and, anecdotally, this is increasingly reflected in veterinary clinics, with owners requesting advice on supplements and plant-based treatments. In response to this challenge, Veterinary Herbal Training has developed a course to help veterinarians, technicians and nurses give evidence-based information on the safe and appropriate use of plant-based medicines. The new live, online CPD course, 'Introduction to veterinary plant-based medicine', will provide an understanding of commonly used herbs and the science behind the use of turmeric, cannabidiol (CBD) and other popular choices.

The global market for herbal medicines is growing rapidly and is predicted to reach US\$248.6 billion by 2030.² With owners increasingly treating dogs and cats as members of the family, the number seeking out complementary therapies for their pets also seems to be on the rise.

Vet and co-founder of Veterinary Herbal Medicine, Chelsea Dawson explains the issues: "Veterinary training on complementary therapies is often limited, and providing clients with blanket advice to avoid complementary treatments in favor of conventional medicines can create a disconnect between veterinary professionals and pet owners. A wealth of misinformation is available online, and with owners widely perceiving natural, plant-based products to be healthy and safe, a lack of clear guidance risks endangering pets. Use of poorly sourced herbal products, incorrect dosages or herbs that negatively interact with pets' conventional medications or pre-existing diseases may all pose a risk."

CBD, for example, is one topic covered by the course. Whether or not vets are keen to recommend CBD-based products, the ability to have constructive discussions about the current evidence can build trust with owners. For vets who are keen to incorporate plant-based medicines into their practice, professional bodies advise they should be aware of the evidence for and safety of any supplements recommended, and should discuss this with owners.

Currently, integrative care – which can be defined as a whole-patient approach incorporating both conventional and complementary therapies – is still relatively rare in veterinary medicine. Veterinary Herbal Training was established by vets Anna Rodriguez and Chelsea Dawson to address this. Having worked in companion animal practice in the UK for a combined total of over 30 years, using herbal medicines to supplement conventional healthcare, they're keen to pass on their expertise. Their new, one day course offers vets and nurses an introduction to commonly used plant-based medicines, looking not only at their suggested properties but also their safety and the science behind them.

Since qualifying from the Royal Veterinary College in London in 2003, Anna has completed certificates in Veterinary Herbal Medicine, Western Veterinary Acupuncture and Chronic Pain Management. "Whether you're keen to recommend plant-based medicines for your patients or not, it's increasingly important to understand them", she says. "Owners are more aware of complementary therapies than ever, and they look to vets to guide them. They might not be right for every patient, but they can make

a big difference to some." She adds, "it's important for veterinary professionals to work with owners to see if their pets can benefit, while keeping them engaged with conventional healthcare."

The 'Introduction to veterinary plant-based medicine' course is designed for veterinarians, technicians and nurses. Online talks will cover a range of topics, including sustainable sourcing of herbs, the evidence regarding CBD, and the use of several commonly recommended herbs. The 6-hour course will be live on November 27 but will be recorded to watch again later.

References

YouGov (2015). Survey of 1638 British adults. https://ugo-assets-websites-editorial-emea.uogov.net/documents/InternalResults_150226_alternative_treatments_W.pdf

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About Veterinary Herbal Training

Vets Anna Rodriguez and Chelsea Dawson found there was a lack of safe, science based veterinary herbal medicine training in the UK, as well as a rise in owner queries and demand. So, in 2019 they founded Veterinary Herbal Training. They launched the Foundation Course in Western Veterinary Herbal Medicine which has helped to more than triple the number of vets who are trained in plant-based medicine. They have since gone on to offer other types of CPD and have lectured in herbal medicine internationally.



Co-founder of Veterinary Herbal Training, Anna Rodriguez, with dog Maui

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