

Letters to the Editor

Thinks oral interview should be replaced

I read the article "Determining success competencies" by Dr. Jeffrey Klausner (*JAVMA*, Dec 1, 2001, pp 1527–1528) and wish to comment on the section dealing with developing a more effective interview process.

Although I have great respect for Personnel Decisions International, I believe many civil rights groups have construed the oral interview to be a discriminatory device. For example, some advocate that musicians should be allowed to perform behind a screen until after the evaluation of their performance.

I am concerned about the image of the veterinary profession if members of the profession embark on this enhanced interview process with all its possible inherent bias. I am writing to dissuade the committee endorsing the interview format. Perhaps other methods would work as well.

Leonard Wood, DVM
Philadelphia, Pa

Addressing the moral anguish of euthanasia

It is good to see at last an exchange of views on the issue of euthanasia that addresses the moral anguish the veterinarian and animal caregiver bring to the decision-making process (*JAVMA*, Jan 1, 2002, p 20). If we as veterinarians perform euthanasia without giving thought to these aspects of our actions, we have denied the patient and client our full consideration of

their ordeal, and risk an eventual emotional explosion because of our own suppressed feelings.

Most veterinarians and pet owners probably believe, to some degree, in the sanctity of life without seeing this belief as a prohibition against euthanasia. It is a small step further to believe the animus in the animal is, in fact, a spirit or soul—without necessarily embracing any religious dogma as to the meaning of these terms. In seeking a way to cope with what we are doing when, all other compassionate avenues exhausted, we resort to euthanasia, it may comfort all involved for the veterinarian to describe the act of euthanasia as the release of an unbroken spirit from a painful, broken body.

Susan M. Kelly, DVM
West Halifax, VT

Readers are invited to submit letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 500 words. All letters are subject to editing. Those pertaining to anything published in the *JAVMA* should be received within one month of the date of publication. Submission via fax or e-mail (847/925-9329; journals@avma.org) is encouraged; authors should give their daytime telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address.

Letters containing defamatory, libelous, or malicious statements will not be published, nor will letters representing attacks on or attempts to demean veterinary societies, their committees or agencies, or persons serving on such committees or agencies. Viewpoints expressed in published letters are those of the letter writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions or policies of the AVMA.



Correction—Letters to the Editor: Thinks calf roping, steer tripping inhumane

In Dr. Peggy Larson's letter (*JAVMA*, Jan 15, 2002, pp 166–167), John Growney was misidentified as John Gromley.

Baytril®

(enrofloxacin)

Antibacterial Tablets For Dogs and Cats

BRIEF SUMMARY:

Before using Baytril Tablets, please consult the product insert, a summary of which follows:

CAUTION:

Baytril (enrofloxacin) is contraindicated in dogs and cats known to be hypersensitive to quinolones. Federal law prohibits the extralabel use of this drug in food-producing animals.

INDICATIONS:

Baytril (enrofloxacin) Antibacterial Tablets are indicated for the management of diseases associated with bacterial susceptible to enrofloxacin. Baytril Antibacterial Tablets are indicated for use in dogs and cats.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Baytril (enrofloxacin) is contraindicated in dogs and cats known to be hypersensitive to quinolones. Federal law prohibits the extralabel use of this drug in food-producing animals. The use of enrofloxacin is contraindicated in animals under treatment with corticosteroids during the rapid growth phase (between 2 and 8 months of age). The safe use of enrofloxacin has not been established in large and giant breed dogs during the rapid growth phase. Large breed dogs may be in this phase for up to one year of age and the joint growth plates for up to 18 months. In clinical breed trials affecting a daily oral dose of 5.0 mg/kg, there were no reports of arthritis or joint problems in any breed. However, controlled studies with histological examination of the articular cartilage have not been conducted in the large or giant breeds.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Dogs: Two of the 170 (1.7%) dogs treated with Baytril® (brand of enrofloxacin) Tablets at 5.0 mg/kg per day in the clinical field studies exhibited side effects, which were apparently drug related. These two cases of reactions were self-limiting.

Cats: No drug-related side effects were reported in 104 cats treated with Baytril® (brand of enrofloxacin) Tablets at 5.0 mg/kg per day for 10 days. In clinical field studies, the following adverse experiences, although rare, are based on voluntary post-approval adverse drug experience reporting. The categories of reactions avoided in decreasing order of frequency by body system:

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