Trazodone to facilitate postsurgical confinement in dogs

Often, a prolonged period of exercise restriction is recommended following orthopedic surgery in dogs, but complying with this recommendation may be difficult, especially for owners of active dogs. In an open-label clinical trial involving 36 dogs that underwent orthopedic surgery and were treated with trazodone (approx 3.5 mg/kg [1.6 mg/lb], PO, q 12 h for 3 days, then approx 7 mg/kg [3.2 mg/lb], PO, q 12 h for at least 4 weeks) starting the day after surgery, owners of 32 of the 36 (89%) dogs reported that their dogs improved moderately or extremely with regard to confinement tolerance and calmness when given trazodone. Dogs were also given tramadol for pain management for the first 3 days after surgery.

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Sewing needle foreign body ingestion in dogs and cats

In people, endoscopic removal of amenable ingested sharp objects is recommended, with monitoring by means of serial radiography if retrieval is not possible and the patient does not have associated clinical signs. In a review of 27 dogs and 38 cats with sewing needle foreign bodies, 7 (10.8%) had sewing needles in extragastrointestinal locations that were not causing clinical signs. For the remaining 58 (89.2%), the esophageal and gastric regions were the most common location, followed by the oropharynx, and small and large intestines. Gastrointestinal perforation was detected in 10 of 58 (17.2%) animals. Sewing needles in the esophagus and stomach were successfully removed endoscopically in 8 of 9 dogs and 18 of 19 cats.

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Frequency of Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis infection in US horses

Disease associated with Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis has been frequently reported in the western United States, but recent outbreaks suggest that the organism should no longer be considered restricted to this region. In a cross-sectional study, 15 state veterinary diagnostic laboratories provided information on affected horses from 23 states. The proportion of C pseudotuberculosis culture-positive samples submitted in 2011 through 2012 (1,213/2,237 [54%]) was significantly greater than that of samples submitted in 2003 through 2010 (1,024/2,237 [46%]). Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis was recovered from horses in states where the disease has not been previously recognized as endemic. Affected horses were identified year-round.

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JAVMA News

A rural veterinary college’s specialty practice uses some of the most advanced technology available, thanks to resources shared with researchers and physicians. In other news, unusual lesions on rescued sea otter pups have led to the discovery of a previously unknown poxvirus. See PAGE 256

What Is Your Diagnosis?

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Diagnostic Imaging in Veterinary Dental Practice

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Animal Behavior Case of the Month

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Pathology in Practice

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Diagnosis and management of *Enterococcus* infection during rehabilitation of cold-stunned Kemp’s ridley turtles

Juvenile Kemp’s ridley turtles that fail to migrate to warmer waters in the autumn may become cold stunned. Most turtles that are found alive and survive the initial hospitalization period are eventually rehabilitated and released, but secondary pathologic conditions, particularly bacterial infection, can cause morbidity and death. In a review of medical records for 302 cold-stunned Kemp’s ridley turtles admitted to the New England Aquarium, 50 were found to have *Enterococcus* infections during rehabilitation. Positive culture results were associated with clinical problems such as lethargy, anorexia, and lameness. Most turtles for which an antemortem diagnosis was made survived with treatment and were released into the wild.

Electronic veterinary medical record adoption and use by small animal veterinary medical practices in Massachusetts

An ideal electronic veterinary medical record system has the potential to improve quality of care and practice efficiency, but barriers to the adoption of EVMR systems exist. In a survey of veterinarians working at independent small animal veterinary practices in Massachusetts, EVMRs were used alone or together with paper records in 66 of 82 (80.5%) practices, and were most commonly used to ensure proper billing, automate reminders, provide cost estimates, schedule appointments, record medical and surgical information, and track patient health. Eleven veterinarians in practices that only used paper records cited reluctance to change, anticipated technological problems, time constraints, and cost as barriers to EVMR use.

Rabies in rodents and lagomorphs in the United States, 1995–2010

Rodents and lagomorphs are not considered to be natural reservoirs of rabies, but an increasing number are found to be rabid every year. In a cross-sectional study of rodents and lagomorphs submitted to state laboratories for rabies testing, the number of rabid rodents and lagomorphs identified between 1995 and 2010 (n = 737) was 62.3% higher than the number reported from 1979 through 1994 (454). The most commonly reported rodents or lagomorphs were groundhogs (*Marmota monax*). All animals submitted to the CDC for additional viral characterization were positive for the raccoon rabies virus variant. Infectious virus or viral RNA was detected in salivary glands or oral cavity tissues in 11 of 13 rabid rodents.