Editorial

Focusing on reproductive medicine in practice

Welcome to the second JAVMA special supplement. We are excited to present to you a collection of ground-breaking articles with a reproductive medicine focus.

Small Animals

Veterinary teams today deal with higher caseloads and often-reduced referral care availability. Improvements in efficiency, triage, and schedule management can help with these challenges. But how exactly could this be done?

In this supplement, Rigdon-Brestle et al\(^5\) provide evidence that the ovarian pedicle tie is a safe and efficient surgical technique for ovariohysterectomy in anatomically normal cats, independent of surgeon experience.

A group of articles by McCobb et al\(^2\) and Pailler et al\(^3,4\) provides insight into the outcomes of surgically managed canine and feline pyometra. McCobb et al\(^2\) compared the outcome of canine pyometra surgeries in referral and outpatient hospitals and found that outcome was independent of hospital type. Pailler et al\(^3,4\) found that for feline and canine pyometra, the rate of survival to discharge was > 95% in a general practice setting. Both sets of authors also found that for canine pyometra cases, a surgical delay was not necessarily associated with a change in patient outcome.\(^2,4\) The ability to delay canine pyometra surgery without compromising patient care is advantageous as clinics manage increasingly busy days. Pailler et al\(^3,4\) also define prognostic markers for feline and canine pyometra cases that are associated with longer hospitalization times, thereby improving the ability to identify cases that need extended care.

Finally, Pailler et al\(^4\) complements the veterinary perspective with a study that explores owner-reported long-term outcomes and perceived quality of life in canine and feline pyometra cases.\(^7\) In this study, surgical treatment of pyometra was not associated with a decreased life expectancy.

Large Animals

The article by Boye et al\(^6\) is the first retrospective study of multiple cases of mare uterine prolapse. They found that Arabian mares were overrepresented and that there was no association between uterine prolapse and parity.

What are the infectious disease risks associated with transitional swine farms in New York State? Havas et al\(^7\) explore whether feral pig access presents a state \textit{Brucella suis} risk. They further expand their study to report on biosecurity and preventative practices in this group.

Exotic Animals

In his article evaluating captive chelonian serum calcium concentrations, Di Girolamo\(^8\) identifies the diagnostic utility of measuring bound calcium concentrations specifically for reproductive disorders. This marker presents an efficient point-of-service method to potentially identify reproductive disease in captive chelonians.

We hope that you will enjoy reading the selection of articles chosen for this supplement and that you find them as informative and clinically relevant as we did. The JAVMA supplemental issues are an innovative new direction for JAVMA, and we look forward to future supplements with a focus on nutrition in December 2022 and dermatology in 2023.

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References