JAVMA News
The AVMA can move forward with a new direction for its Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams now that it has reached an agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the delivery of veterinary services during emergencies.

Letters to the Editor
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What Is Your Diagnosis?
See page 995

FACTS & FIGURES
Veterinary practice expenses and financial ratios, 2005
The 3 largest expense categories for private veterinary practices in 2005 were drug and medical supplies, salary and bonuses for ancillary staff, and salary and bonuses for non-owner veterinarians. The median value of the ratio between return to management and labor and gross practice revenue (a measure of profitability) was 0.26 in 2005, compared with 0.31 in 2003.

SPECIAL REPORT
Postmarketing surveillance of rabies vaccines for dogs
There currently are 14 rabies vaccines labeled for use in dogs in the United States. Information on the postmarketing safety and efficacy of these vaccines is obtained through spontaneous field reports of adverse events from veterinarians, pet owners, and the public.

Serum antibodies against human albumin in critically ill and healthy dogs
Commercially available HA solutions have been used to treat hypoalbuminemia in dogs, but hypersensitivity reactions have been identified. In a study designed to characterize the magnitude and duration of the antibody response against HA in critically ill and healthy dogs, serum IgG against HA was detected in 14 critically ill dogs that had received 25% HA and in 5 of 68 (7%) negative control dogs (47 healthy dogs and 21 critically ill dogs) with no known exposure to HA. Results suggested that dogs developed a pronounced IgG response following exposure to HA and that some dogs with no history of HA administration may be positive for anti-HA IgG.

Pyogranulomatous cystitis in a cat following renal transplantation
An 8-year-old cat that had undergone renal transplantation 6 weeks earlier was examined because of azotemia and a possible mass in the urinary bladder. Ultrasonography revealed a mass at the uretero-neocystostomy site, which was subsequently excised. Histologic examination revealed extensive pyogranulomatous cystitis with numerous intralesional Toxoplasma gondii tachyzoites and bradyzoite cysts. The cat’s condition deteriorated despite treatment, and it was euthanized 9 days later. Necropsy revealed T. gondii cysts in the renal allograft and transplanted ureter, with no evidence of systemic spread. Both the donor and the recipient cat had been seronegative for IgG against T. gondii prior to transplantation.

Preputial damage and lateral penile displacement during castration in a degu
A 2-month-old male degu (a small, diurnal rodent native to the foothills of the Andes Mountains) was treated for preputial damage and lateral penile displacement that occurred during attempted castration. The penis could not be extruded from the prepuce and was found to be completely separated from the prepuce and located in the adjacent subcutaneous tissue. After an initial unsuccessful surgery, the tip of the penis was sutured to the preputial orifice so that the penis protruded slightly from the prepuce. Two years later, the preputial orifice remained adhered to the distal portion of the penis and the exposed penile tissue was healthy.
Pubic and ischial osteotomy in six dogs and a cat with caudal colonic and rectal masses

Six dogs and a cat were evaluated because of tumors involving the caudal portion of the colon (n = 2), the area of the colorectal junction (2), or the rectum (3). In all 7 animals, a bilateral pubic and ischial osteotomy was performed to provide exposure of the rectum and associated tumor. Masses were successfully removed, and all 7 animals were able to ambulate normally within 3 days after surgery. No complications associated with the osteotomy procedure were identified. Findings suggested that bilateral pubic and ischial osteotomy may be an acceptable technique for exposure of intrapelvic tumors in dogs and cats. See PAGE 1016

Esophageal foreign body obstruction caused by a dental chew treat in dogs

Anecdotal reports of esophageal obstruction caused by pieces of a chlorophyll-containing, toothbrush-shaped, injection-molded dental chew treat manufactured for dogs have prompted concerns about this product. A review of medical records of 31 dogs with esophageal obstruction caused by this dental chew treat revealed that 26 (84%) of the dogs were small (ie, < 8 kg [17.6 lb]). Esophageal lesions were moderate or severe in 26 of 30 (87%) dogs, and esophageal stricture developed in 6 of the 25 (24%) dogs that survived the initial hospitalization period. The overall mortality rate was 26% (8/31). In August 2006, the manufacturer released a reformulated product with increased solubility. See PAGE 1021

Laser ablation for treatment of intramural ureteral ectopia in male dogs

Intramural ureteral ectopia refers to a congenital abnormality in which one or both ureters enter the bladder trigone in the normal position, but fail to open into the bladder lumen and instead tunnel beyond the normal position of the ureteral orifice to exit distally. Surgical treatment of intramural ureteral ectopia requires laparotomy, cystotomy, ureterotomy, and urethrotomy, but a less invasive, transurethral cystoscopic-guided method involving laser ablation to relocate the ureteral orifice has been developed. The technique was used in 4 incontinent male dogs with good results. All dogs were continent immediately after treatment and remained so for a median follow-up time of 18 months without medical management. See PAGE 1026

Azithromycin chemoprophylaxis against Rhodococcus equi–induced pneumonia in foals

Although clinical signs of Rhodococcus equi pneumonia are typically not apparent until foals are 30 to 90 days old, there is evidence that most affected foals become infected early after birth. Thus, strategies to prevent infection early after birth may be more effective than strategies designed to control infection at several weeks to months of age. A randomized controlled trial of 338 foals born and raised at 10 farms with a history of endemic R equi infection in which foals were or were not treated with azithromycin during the first 2 weeks after birth revealed that azithromycin chemoprophylaxis resulted in a significant decrease in the incidence of R equi pneumonia. See PAGE 1035