**JAVMA News**
Veterinarians work with millions of small ruminants in the United States, but many animals lack veterinary care. In other news, 11 veterinary technology programs at for-profit schools lost their accreditation in November 2016, signaling problems in their industry.  

**Letters to the Editor**
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**What Is Your Diagnosis?**
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**Pathology in Practice**
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**Small Animals**

**Doppler ultrasonographic measurement of radial and coccygeal arterial blood pressure in conscious cats**
Routine surveillance for hypertension is recommended for older cats and cats with chronic kidney disease or hypertension. Doppler ultrasonography provide a non-invasive way to indirectly measure systolic arterial blood pressure. However, a study involving 66 cats in which SAP was measured with a Doppler ultrasonic flow detector at the radial or coccygeal artery found that radial SAP was positively correlated with age and negatively correlated with muscle condition score. On the other hand, coccygeal SAP was not significantly correlated with age, body condition score, or MCS. Findings suggested that use of the coccygeal artery may reduce the confounding effects of age and sarcopenia on Doppler ultrasonographic SAP measurements.  

**Association between urolithiasis and chronic kidney disease in cats**
Urolithiasis is a recognized risk factor for chronic kidney disease in human patients, and a review of medical records for 126 cats (59 with and 67 without urolithiasis) suggested that there is an association between urolithiasis and CKD in cats, although the nature of that association is not yet clear. In the study, the prevalence of CKD was significantly higher in cats with urolithiasis than in the control group. Among cats with urolithiasis, there was a negative association between CKD and presence of cystoliths. However, there was no association between urolithiasis and the stage of CKD or between the presence of CKD and location of nephroliths in the kidney. Age, weight, sex, and breed did not differ between the 2 groups.

**Spinal neurenteric cyst in a dog**
Magnetic resonance imaging of an 11-year-old English Cocker Spaniel with chronic progressive ataxia of the hind limbs revealed extradural spinal cord compression attributable to a space-occupying lesion originating from or infiltrating the L4 lamina. Hemilaminectomy was performed to remove the extradural lesion. Histologic findings for tissue samples collected during the procedure were consistent with a neurenteric cyst. The late onset and progression of clinical signs of this rare congenital malformation were suspected to have been a result of enlargement of the neurenteric cyst through continuous production of mucus by goblet cells. The dog responded favorably to surgery and was clinically normal 1 year later.
Magnetic resonance imaging–guided biopsy of a vertebral body mass to diagnose osteosarcoma in a dog

A 9-year-old Rottweiler was examined because of hind limb ataxia and an acute onset of hind limb paresis. Thoracolumbar radiography revealed an abnormal radiopacity suggestive of a mass at T11, and 2 core biopsy specimens of the mass were obtained by means of MRI guidance. Results of histologic evaluation of the specimens were consistent with osteosarcoma. Owing to the poor prognosis, the owners declined further treatment, and the dog was euthanized within 12 months because of a declining quality of life. Findings in this dog illustrated that MRI-guided biopsy, an emerging technique in veterinary medicine, can be used to safely obtain diagnostic biopsy specimens from tissues at anatomic locations that are difficult to access.

Special Report

Small animal veterinarians' opinions regarding cost of care and effects of economic limitations on patient care and professional career satisfaction

In a survey of small animal practitioners in the United States and Canada, most (620/1,088 [57%]) indicated that client economic limitations affected their ability to provide desired care for patients on a daily basis. Approximately half (527/1,071 [49%]) reported moderate or substantial burnout, and many cited client economic limitations as an important factor contributing to burnout. Only 31% and 23% of respondents routinely discussed veterinary costs and pet insurance, respectively, with clients before pets became ill, and lack of time was cited as a reason for forgoing those discussions. Most respondents felt improved client awareness of veterinary costs and pet health insurance would positively affect patient care and client and veterinarian satisfaction.

Economic and clinical feasibility of introducing rigid endoscopy and laparoscopy to a small animal general practice

The ultimate success of incorporating rigid endoscopy and laparoscopy in general practice is contingent on economic viability. In this regard, a single 2-veterinarian small animal practice was followed to evaluate the economic and clinical feasibility of introducing rigid endoscopy and laparoscopy. During a 12-month period, 78 endoscopic procedures were performed in 73 patients. Cost of endoscopic equipment and training was $14,809.71, and total revenue generated was $50,423.63. The most common procedures performed were ovariectomy (n = 49), prophylactic gastropexy (6), and video otoscopy (12). Twelve of 54 patients undergoing laparoscopic procedures experienced minor intraoperative complications; there were no major complications.

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