Almost a hundred veterinarians and veterinary students lobbied Congress for legislation that would affect the veterinary profession, animal health, and public health. In other news, the AVMA plans to publish emergency animal depopulation guidance later this year.

See PAGE 1312

Letters to the Editor
See PAGE 1339

What Is Your Diagnosis?
See PAGE 1345

ECG of the Month
See PAGE 1350

Pathology in Practice
See PAGES 1355, 1359

COMMENTARY
A new look at standard of care
The concept of standard of care lies at the intersection of clinical practice, veterinary ethics, and the law. Although standard of care essentially represents the minimum acceptable level of care, there is much confusion surrounding the term.

See PAGE 1343

ENHANCING CLINICAL DECISION-MAKING
Likelihood ratios: an intuitive tool for incorporating diagnostic test results into decision-making
Likelihood ratios can overcome limitations associated with positive and negative predictive values and provide a more intuitive way to incorporate results of diagnostic testing into clinical decision-making.

See PAGE 1362

Small Animals & Exotic
Effects of storage conditions and duration on cobalamin concentration in serum samples from cats and dogs
Serum cobalamin concentration can be used as a diagnostic and prognostic marker in companion animals with intestinal and pancreatic diseases. Cobalamin has traditionally been considered to be light-sensitive. Therefore, diagnostic laboratories have recommended that blood samples for cobalamin testing be protected from light and have been reluctant to analyze stored samples. However, a study of blood samples from 9 cats and 9 dogs found that serum cobalamin concentrations were stable for 5 days when refrigerated at 6°C. Daylight exposure at room temperature had a significant effect on serum cobalamin concentration, but this effect was small.

See PAGE 1368

Variability of serum aldosterone concentrations in pet ferrets (Mustela putorius furo)
Hyperlaldosteronism is common in animals and has been reported in 2 ferrets. However, published information on serum aldosterone concentrations in ferrets is lacking. In a study in which serum aldosterone concentrations were measured in 78 healthy (n = 56) and diseased (22) ferrets, a wide variability in concentrations was identified, with a median concentration of 4.75 pg/mL (range, 0.02 to 283.9 pg/mL) and with 76% (59/78) of samples having concentrations < 18 pg/mL. Overall, results suggested that high aldosterone concentrations should not be considered diagnostic for primary hyperaldosteronism in ferrets.

See PAGE 1372

Metronomic cyclophosphamide as maintenance treatment for dogs with appendicular osteosarcoma
Metronomic chemotherapy targets tumor angiogenesis, the suppressed immune system of cancer patients, or both. It could, therefore, be theoretically useful in dogs with osteosarcoma, owing to the high angiogenic capacity of this tumor and the modified immunologic profile of affected dogs. Nevertheless, in a study of 39 dogs with appendicular osteosarcoma that underwent limb amputation and completed a routine carboplatin chemotherapy protocol, subsequent metronomic cyclophosphamide treatment (15 mg/m², PO, q 24 h) was not associated with significant improvements in overall survival time or disease progression-free time.
Plasma mean platelet component concentration and survival analysis for dogs with immune-mediated hemolytic anemia
When platelets become activated, their density decreases. Because plasma mean platelet component concentration is linearly related to platelet density, increased platelet activation results in decreased plasma MPC concentration. In a study comparing 95 dogs with immune-mediated hemolytic anemia, 95 healthy dogs, and 95 sick dogs without IMHA, plasma MPC concentration was significantly lower in dogs with IMHA than in the other 2 groups. Plasma MPC concentration was the only factor significantly associated with outcome in dogs with IMHA, suggesting that concentration at initial examination may be useful for predicting prognosis in these dogs. See PAGE 1384

Association of surgical approach with complication rate and survival time in cats with mammary adenocarcinoma
A review of medical records for 107 cats with mammary adenocarcinoma suggested that bilateral versus unilateral mastectomy may improve progression-free survival time and disease-specific survival time. Complications occurred with unilateral mastectomy, staged bilateral mastectomy, and single-session bilateral mastectomy in 12 of 61 (19.7%), 5 of 14 (35.7%), and 13 of 32 (40.6%) cats, respectively, and were more common in cats undergoing bilateral versus unilateral mastectomy. Median progression-free survival time was longer for cats treated with bilateral mastectomy (542 days) than for cats treated with unilateral mastectomy (289 days). See PAGE 1393

Addition of pasireotide to traditional adrenal-directed treatment for dogs with pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism
Pasireotide, a somatostatin-receptor ligand, has been approved for treatment of human patients with hyperadrenocorticism for whom pituitary surgery is not an option or has not been curative. In 9 dogs with pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism secondary to a macroadenoma that had been successfully managed with trilostane or mitotane, treatment with pasireotide (0.03 mg/kg [0.014 mg/lb], SC, q 12 h) did not have any adverse effects, suggesting that randomized trials are warranted to determine whether pasireotide can protect dogs with pituitary macroadenomas from development of neurologic signs or improve their outcome. See PAGE 1403

Equine
Treatment of recent-onset atrial fibrillation with quinidine and flecainide in Thoroughbred racehorses
Quinidine is currently considered the most effective drug for cardioversion in horses, but has a number of drawbacks. Flecainide is effective for treatment of paroxysmal AF in humans, but information on its use in horses is lacking. When medical records of racehorses with AF that were treated with quinidine or flecainide were reviewed, the overall rate of cardioversion was 91% (97/107), but there was a significant difference in the rate of cardioversion for quinidine alone (91% [71/78]), compared with flecainide alone (41% [12/29]). Further, the frequency of complications did not differ between quinidine and flecainide. See PAGE 1409