

The New York City Veterinarian

June, 2023
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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Anthony Miele, DVM

The VMANYC has been very active since our last newsletter. Our committees are working diligently to put on some great programs in the final half of this calendar year. We have started lining up speakers and sponsors for the VMA Pavilion at 2023 NYVET Show on November 8 -9. If anyone has any suggested speakers, please drop me an email and I'll see if we can get them on the schedule. Remember the show is free to all members, just use the code NYVMA when signing up. On September 7th, we finally be giving out the annual awards from 2020 at City Vineyard. The awardees are Jana Rosenthal, Advocat Rescue, Service to the Veterinary Community and the Welfare to Animals, John Sykes, Merit Award, Betsy Bond, Outstanding Service to Veterinary Medicine, John Maccia, Distinguished Life and Mari Morimoto, Veterinarian of the Year. Due to COVID-19, this event never happened, so we decided to bring it back with a new format for the post COVID VMANYC. Hopefully everyone will come out to finally celebrate the awardees.



This summer, on Wednesday, July 26th, we've scheduled The Big Apple Mixer which is being held at Dear Irving Rooftop on the Hudson. This will be a rooftop cocktail party for members and non-members. This too promises to be a fun event that will be totally social, and will serve to enhance the social cultural environment that will be part of the new post COVID VMANYC.

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President's message continued ...

Our great sponsors in attendance will not bring handouts or displays, instead they will be part of the party.

At our last continuing education meeting, I was pleasantly surprised to see some members come out and join us that hav not been regular attendees. We're hopeful that this trend will continue and that the VMANYC becomes relevant to all members, both old and new.

DEIA and Wellness Committee

Continuing its long tradition of supporting diversity and representation within the veterinary community, the VMA NYC will be participating in the NYC Pride March on June 25th, at noon down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. All veterinary professionals as well as their friends, family, and allies are welcome to join us as we march in solidarity with and celebration of our LGBTQIA+ family. Come wear your finest Pride regalia and represent NYC veterinary medicine to the world in one of the biggest events of the year! We hope to see you there. Inquiries and RSVPs can be addressed to Brooke Britton at brooke.britton.dvm@gmail.com or at 631.379.8796.



What's Happening at NY SAVE



Hospital Partnership Program - NY SAVE is now funding cases at twelve hospitals in The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Manhattan. We actively seek more partner hospitals, particularly in Staten Island. Please consider applying to become a Hospital Partner by clicking [here](#).

Pet Memorial Program way to comfort your clients on the loss of their pet and help us fundraise. Click [here](#) for the enrollment form.

If you would like to donate to NY SAVE directly, [click here](#).

Calendar of Events

Program Committee - Megan McGlinn, VMD and Jennifer Tsung, DVM

The schedule of the VMA of NYC Continuing Education meetings for the 2023 calendar year is listed below, including the speakers and topics. The meetings will start at 7:00 pm. Members must register prior to each meeting.

July 27, 2023 - 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Topic: The Big Apple Mixer
Location: Dear Irving on Hudson Rooftop

September 6, 2023 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Speaker: Charlotte Lacroix, DVM JD
Topic: Legal Issues
Location: TBD

September 7, 2023 - 7:00 - 10:00 pm

Topic: Annual Awards Reception
Location: City Vineyard

October 4, 2023 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Speaker: Susan Cohen, CSW
Topic: TBD
Location: TBD

November 8-9, 2023 - NYVET Show

Location: Javits Convention Center

December 6, 2023 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Speaker: John A. McPhilliamy, Esq.
Topic: TBD
Location: TBD

December 6, 2023 - 8:00—10:00 pm

Topic: Holiday Party

Current Update on Buoy's Law

Chapter 678 of the Laws of 2022, also known as Buoy's Law, requires that each time a veterinarian prescribes, dispenses or provides a drug to an animal, the veterinarian must provide the name and a description of the drug, directions for use, including, if applicable, any actions to be taken in the event of a missed dose and if available, manufacturer instructions for proper storage. Additionally, where a manufacturer has made available information for the specific animal species to which a drug is prescribed, dispensed or provided, a veterinarian must provide: any common adverse effects associated with the use of such drug and if available, manufacturer precautions and relevant warnings.

After extensive discussion with and outreach from veterinarians in New York State, as well as discussion with the Board of Veterinary Medicine at the State Education Department, it became clear that there were some parts of the language that could use clarification so that regulations could be promulgated in a way that would make it easier for compliance. A bill has been drafted and is in the process of being introduced; this bill would amend Buoy's Law to make the following changes:

- Limiting the disclosure requirement to medications prescribed or dispensed for use outside the office (medications leaving the hospital with clients);
- Mandating the disclosure upon initial prescription or dispensing only;
- Limiting the mandate to dogs, cats and rabbits (due to difficulty getting manufacturer information for other animals and the nebulous term "companion animals");
- Allowing information to be provided in writing or orally and requiring the method of disclosure to be noted in the patient medical record; and
- Delaying the effective date for 18 months.

Buoy's Law is effective as of June 13, 2023, so time is of the essence. The goal is that this new bill will be passed before the end of the legislative session and signed into law before the underlying law becomes effective. However, it is common that timeframes do not line up and there is some overlap where an underlying law takes effect before the "fix" to the law is enacted. If that is the case with the changes to Buoy's Law that we are seeking, there will be guidance as to how best to proceed in the interim.

There is officially a two-house bill for the Buoy's Law fix. The Assembly bill number is A.6996 by Assemblymember Wallace and the Senate bill is S.7459 by Senator Martinez.



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Wellness Corner

Dealing with Angry Clients

By Jennifer Tsung

When I started out in the animal field, I assumed that I would be spending less time with people. I would take care of animals, which was my passion. I learned quickly that pets are attached to an owner, and I would be spending time educating and treating owners along with their pets. Any time there are human interactions, there can be miscommunication from different personalities or just from how we express ourselves. We all learn to deal with disgruntled clients, and this is something we can become better at over time.

The first thing that we all need to do when dealing with a difficult client is to stay calm. When a client starts to yell at us and is being rude, there is nothing to be gained by responding the same way. Yelling will normally escalate hostilities. It takes strength and resolve to maintain control when you feel like yelling yourself. It is also important to not take to heart some of the harsh words spoken to us. Clients may or may not be unhappy with us personally. Some people just have the need to take things out on someone.

Some angry clients just want to vent and have someone listen to their complaints. I have found that by trying to stay objective and lending a listening ear, at times, clients have valid points and suggestions. Listening and showing patience can make a client feel that their feelings are acknowledged. Just the act of listening can show that we sympathize with how they think and feel. We can acknowledge their feelings and their experience.

If there is a way to find a solution, this is the easiest way to end a conflict. There will be times when a solution that makes both sides happy will not be found. Without a conversation, we will never know if there is a way to come to some sort of understanding or compromise.

After an angry client leaves, it can be good to have a few minutes to yourself. Even the best of us can find these situations stressful. By taking a few long breaths or a short walk, you will be able to be better engaged with the next client who won't bring out negative feelings. I feel that most clients are ones who want to work with us. We need to remember to not let the negative ones take over our thoughts.

The next time we talk to a difficult client, we can try to remember some key points. Start with remaining calm, listen patiently, be sincere and explain steps that can hopefully resolve the situation. By taking the time and effort to deal with angry clients, we learn to communicate better. There will never be a time that we won't have difficult clients. Learning good communication skills will help us connect to people and the pets we care for.

Fibrotic Myopathy - Does Rehab Help?

*By Leilani Alvarez, DVM, DACVSMR
Schwarzman Animal Medical Center*

Overview:

- Electrohydraulic extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ECSWT) may be an effective modality for reducing the symptoms and progression of fibrotic myopathy.
- Combining ECSWT, formal rehabilitation, and home exercises is likely the most effective approach for improving functional outcome in dogs with fibrotic myopathy.
- Rehabilitation centered on functional goals, rather than cure of the disease, is favored for treatment of fibrotic myopathy.

Fibrotic myopathy of the hamstring and gracilis muscles is well described and appears to affect certain breeds with higher predisposition, particularly working German Shepherd dogs. This can be a career-ending disease and currently no cure exists for treatment for this disease.

Success in treatment of fibrotic myopathy has been variable; however, overall, the prognosis is poor and most working dogs retire due to the condition. In humans, ECSWT has shown success in treatment of fibromatosis diseases, including plantar fibromatosis (also known as Ledderhoses's disease). A systematic review in people also demonstrated that a combination of ECSWT and rehabilitation for the treatment of burn scars was more effective than rehabilitation alone. The mechanism of ECSWT that may decrease fibrosis involves stimulation of tendon fibroblasts to produce extracellular matrix and counteract the maturation process of myofibroblasts, thereby reducing tissue contraction. In addition, ECSWT is known to increase vascularity and trigger a healing response in the local tissues to promote macrophage removal and remodeling of tissues.

A recent retrospective review in our institution with seven male working German Shepherd dogs found that dogs treated with a combination of electrohydraulic ECSWT (Pulsevet Versatron, Alpharetta, Georgia) and rehabilitation were able to continue working full-time for an average of 32.1 months (2.7 years) from the time of diagnosis (range 6-82; SD 25.5). As may be expected in a retrospective case series, the dogs had various other comorbidities and treatments were not consistent across the population; however, all dogs received ECSWT and customized formal rehabilitation. Other modalities used included therapeutic ultrasound, pulsed electromagnetic field therapy, and photobiomodulation. All dogs received ECSWT using the same machine with the same settings (E6, 1000 pulses to each affected leg, trode size 20 mm). All dogs were sedated or anesthetized during treatment. It should be noted, however, that since completion of the retrospective study, we have successfully treated patients awake with the X-trode with similar success. Rehabilitation treatments were all variable among patients and customized to meet their functional goals. Treatments included warm compress, massage and stretching of affected muscles (these were often also part of the home exercise plan), active stretching and ROM, slow underwater treadmill (or land treadmill) walking to promote a longer stride length, and land exercises focused on improving posture and active stifle and hip extension.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Pulmonary Hypertension in Dogs

By Phillip R. Fox DVM, DACVIM/DECVIM, DACVECC, Cardiology and
Anthony J. Fischetti, DVM, MS, DACVR, Diagnostic Imaging
Schwarzman Animal Medical Center

Pulmonary hypertension (PHT) describes a disorder characterized by elevated pulmonary artery pressure. In dogs clinical signs include tachypnea, fatigue, intolerance, and collapse. Causes of PHT include a wide range of cardiopulmonary and systemic disorders. Contemporary groupings include pulmonary arterial hypertension; left heart disease; respiratory disease/hypoxia (including lower airway disease, congenital right to left shunting); pulmonary thromboemboli; parasitic (*Dirofilaria* and *Angiostrongylus* species); and multifactorial disorder groups.

Management is aided by an inciteful medical history including travel, thorough physical examination, thoracic radiography and echocardiography, and clinical laboratory testing.

Radiographic signs of PHT can be subtle. While right heart enlargement is usually present, it is often over-diagnosed when radiographic evidence of severe left-sided heart enlargement is present. Further, an oblique VD projection may falsely simulate right ventricular enlargement (RVE), e.g., “Reverse-D sign”. Conversely, RVE alone may be overlooked, especially when concurrent pulmonary artery enlargement is absent. A helpful technique is to apply the “3/5-2/5 rule” when assessing lateral radiographs. Here, a line is drawn from the carina to the apex, parallel with the cranial and caudal cardiac silhouette margins. A normal heart should be 3/5 (right heart) cranial to this line and 2/5 (left heart) caudal to this line (Figure 1); identifying greater dimensions cranial to this line supports RVE (Compare Figure 1 to Figure 2). For assessing pulmonary artery (PA) enlargement, the VD projection is most helpful. The PA size in the left caudal lung lobe should not exceed the diameter of the third rib when the PA is measured just proximal to its first branch (usually around the 6-8th intercostal spaces) (Figure 3). Also, the shape of the pulmonary arteries (tortuosity or truncation) may suggest PHT. Pulmonary infiltrates may be present, but this finding is not specific.

While echocardiography has limitations for diagnosing PHT, it helps assess the probability of PHT by estimating pulmonary artery (PA) pressures, showing effects of PHT on cardiac structures, and identifying comorbidities. Findings supporting PHT include enlarged PA, RVE, and RV hypertrophy; flattened interventricular septum; and relatively small LA and LV chambers (unless cardiac comorbidities are present). Calculating PA systolic pressure is facilitated by the simplified Bernoulli equation. This is applied to measured peak, maximal tricuspid regurgitation velocity (TRV) by continuous-wave Doppler echocardiography [$PA \text{ systolic pressure} = 4 (TRV)^2$]; A value < 30mmHg is normal. Diagnosing PHT is particularly challenging in dogs with severe myxomatous valve disease comorbidity in which severe mitral regurgitation causes post-capillary increase in estimated PA systolic pressure, confounding PHT diagnosis.

Goals of management are to control respiratory signs, decrease disease progression, identify and target underlying diseases or contributing factors, and improve quality and duration of life. Therapies are individualized based on underlying cause and chronicity: e.g., where appropriate, sildenafil to reduce pulmonary arterial vasoconstriction; oxygen in acute settings; heart failure medications; antibiotics, corticosteroids, and antiplatelet/antithrombotic drugs. Strategies to decrease the risk of disease progression or PHT complications are optimized with these therapies.

Pulmonary Hypertension in Dogs (continued)

Figure 1: Lateral thoracic radiograph of a normal dog. Notice the slight difference in the amount of cardiac silhouette cranial to the line (3/5 of the silhouette) versus caudal to the line (2/5).

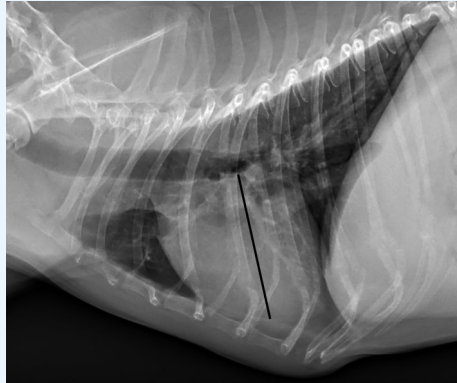


Figure 2: Lateral thoracic radiograph of a dog with pulmonary hypertension. Notice the greater degree of cardiac silhouette cranial to the line (>3/5) supporting right heart enlargement. The cardiac silhouette is also rounded cranially with increased sternal contact.

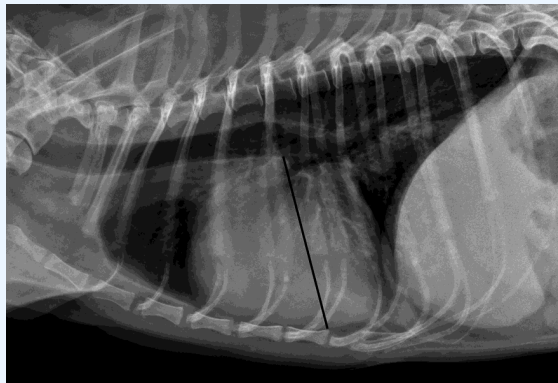


Figure 3: Ventrodorsal thoracic radiograph of a dog with pulmonary hypertension. The pulmonary artery to the left caudal lung lobe is enlarged, more than double the diameter of the third rib, just cranial to its first bifurcation at the level of the 8th intercostal space. Qualitatively, both pulmonary arteries to the caudal lung lobes are larger than their corresponding veins.



VETERINARIANS WANTED

Animal Health Group - Staten Island, NY and Veterinary Wellness Center - Brooklyn, NY. We are looking to expand our growing practices where we believe in mutual respect for each other, our clients, and their pets while still maintaining a fun and hard working environment. We embody a strong team approach to medicine and surgery, and are eager to mentor both new and experienced veterinarians. We strongly encourage independent thinking while offering uplifting support. Our practices are located in Brooklyn, NY, Staten Island, NY, Hillsborough, NJ and Branchburg, NJ, with all being only a short distance away from the heart of New York City. We are a family oriented clinic (NOT CORPORATELY OWNED) which is also reflected in our surrounding communities, which we have been proudly serving for many years. New graduates are encouraged to apply - we love to mentor and guide but we also love to learn from new graduates who have the most up to date knowledge of medicine.

We offer the finest medicine to our patients and clients in a friendly and clean environment, and are looking for a veterinarian with a positive attitude and lifelong love of animals as well as learning to join our team. We believe in building trust through honesty and compassion and are looking forward to adding a new team member to our practices. Our clinics are fully equipped and offer in house lab equipment, separate surgical suite, digital x-rays, ultrasound, dental x-rays, and paperless records to name a few, as well as excellent support staff! Attention to detail, excellent communication skills, and genuine care for our patients and their families are also important qualities we are looking for. Starting salary is commensurate with experience and includes four day work weeks, paid time off, uniforms, full time health benefits, paid CE, veterinary license, malpractice insurance, and DEA license. Flexible scheduling allows our associates to enjoy a healthy work life balance. No after hours or on call requirements! Ownership/Partnership options are available allowing enormous potential for personal, financial and professional growth.

Please send an updated resume and cover letter to Dr. Michael Arpino at hello@boerumhillvet.com highlighting why this is the ideal job for you. We look forward to reviewing your application!

VETERINARIANS AVAILABLE

Full or Part-Time. Veterinarian seeks work at small animal practice in New York City. NY licensed. Contact Eduarda Krieger, DVM at 917-239-3377.

Per Diem/Part-Time Veterinarian. Available most Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Excellent people skills. Good practice builder. 35 yrs experience. References available. Dr. Tobias Jungreis at 516-295-1125.

Per Diem Veterinarian Available. 39 years of experience. Recently sold my practice after 33 years in the same location. Can perform most routine surgeries. No orthopedics please. Willing to travel up to 40 miles from central Nassau county. Call Paul Fish DVM 516-241-7278 or email PaulFishdvm36@gmail.com.

Relief/Per Diem Veterinarian. General practice. Orthopedic and Soft Tissue Surgery. DVM, Cornell. Internship Oradell. Residency in Small Animal Surgery, Cornell. Phone Dr. Kathy Sevala at 718-578-9085.

Relief Veterinarian. NYC Relief vet in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Lorelei Wakefield, VMD, internship-trained with 9 years of experience. Soft tissue surgery, dermatology expertise. NY/ DEA licensed. 917-930-8936. lorelei@wakefieldvet.com.

Relief/Per Diem Veterinarian. Available weekdays preferably in NYC. Over 30 years experience, excellent people skills, completed residency in surgery at the AMC in the 80's and good medical skills. Contact Kenneth Fein, DVM at 203-540-7771.

VARIOUS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Animal Care & Control of NYC (AC&C) has many new and exciting job openings available at this time. If you love working with animals and helping people they may have a great career opportunity for you. Some of the positions that are available are Communications Associate, Volunteer Liaison, Veterinarian, Licensed Vet Tech, Animal Care Officer, and Animal Control Officer. If you are interested in learning more about the available positions or want to apply, please visit their website at www.nyacc.org.

Banfield Pet Hospital seeking Associate Veterinarians in New York! Leadership Positions, Flexible Full and Part-time Schedules! Banfield Pet Hospital is seeking Veterinary professionals for leadership positions, as well as full time and part time Associate Veterinarian positions with flexible schedules. As an Associate Veterinarian, you will be able to make independent medical decisions, continually grow and learn as a Veterinary professional, as well as fulfill a higher purpose by improving the quality of life for millions of pets across the United States. You will also have the opportunity to work alongside a highly trained team, providing the best preventive care possible for both clients and their pets, improving the quality and business performance of our veterinary hospital. A typical day for an Associate Veterinarian will include performing all surgeries, including the use of state of the art medical instruments and equipment. You will diagnose, treat and control diseases and injuries in pets, prescribe and administer drugs and vaccines and educate clients on all aspects of pet health, including Optimum Wellness Plans®. To hear more, or simply to see what we have available, call Andrew Cowley at (360) 784-5057 or e-mail Andrew.Cowley@banfield.com.

Bideawee, a leading pet welfare organization serving the metropolitan New York and Long Island, is seeking Associate Veterinarians to join our team in the Manhattan location. Associate veterinarians provide care for dogs and cats in our adoption centers including spay/neuter surgeries/dentals, as well as surgical and medical care for clients of our animal hospitals that is open to the public. The following is a list of essential job functions. This list may be revised at any time and additional duties not listed here may be assigned as needed: Wellness exams, preventative care, management of medical and surgical cases for shelter animals and client-owned animals; Performing spay/neuter and other surgery including dental procedures; Working with our trainers to manage behavior issues; Leading staff and volunteer training sessions in animal care; Participation in educational events held for the community or volunteers/donors; Some administrative work required. Requirements: At least 7 years of experience as a veterinarian; NYS veterinary license required; Shelter medicine experience preferred; Able to perform soft tissue surgeries including but not limited to spays and neuters of dogs and cats; Graduate with a DVM or VMD from a U.S. accredited veterinary school required.

InstaVet is a modern veterinary practice, with a focus on providing pets with top level care in the comfort, convenience and stress-free environment of home.. We are looking for an experienced veterinarian to join our growing team, serving clients at home, in the office or local preferred partner clinics. An ideal candidate would be someone who understands the value of administering care in the patients own environment, on demand... while remaining cool, calm and determined under extenuating circumstances. A team player fully invested in their colleagues' success...someone who takes enormous pride in their ability to listen and speak to clients like a trusted friend...a service-minded professional who is energized by the once in a lifetime opportunity to revolutionize the field of in home veterinary care forever.

Skills and Qualifications: A Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree, or equivalent, from an accredited university, Licensure in good standing to practice in New York or New Jersey; Professional demeanor and appearance, with excellent interpersonal skills and a positive, friendly attitude, The ability to make decisions and communicate clearly and effectively with fellow team members, A commitment to practicing the highest standard of medicine, upholding the veterinary code of ethics. Please note we have PER DIEM, PART TIME and FULL TIME positions available. Benefits include generous compensation, professional discounts on pet care, continuing education opportunities and more! Please reply with a cover note and attach your resume. To learn more about our services, please visit our website: www.InstaVet.com. Required experience: 2 years. Salary commensurate with experience. Salary: \$80,000.00 to \$100,000.00 /year.



Join us for the Big Apple Veterinary Mixer

July 27, 2023
6:30 – 9:30 pm

Dear Irving on Hudson Rooftop
310 West 40th Street
New York, NY 10018

VMA of NYC

**The mission of the
Veterinary Medical
Association
of New York City is:**

To improve and advance the education of veterinarians and the science of veterinary medicine; to foster and maintain high standards of integrity, honor, courtesy and ethics in the profession; to foster protection of the public health, and enlighten and inform the public in regard to veterinary medicine, science, knowledge and the avoidance of cruelty to animals, wherein it affects the public good and welfare.



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