

# Practice makes perfect

Extend your Congress educational experience by practicing essential techniques with dedicated experts. Each practical or small group session is designed to give you confidence in key areas so you can return home inspired to use new skills in practice. Each workshop or small group is available to purchase when registering for Congress and is always very popular with delegates, so be sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

## Wetlabs

Birmingham Medical School  
£100

### THURSDAY 4 APRIL

09:00–12:00; 14:00–17:00

### Basic eye surgery

Ben Blacklock and Elena Fenollosa-Romero

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Recognition of a spontaneous chronic corneal epithelial defect (SCCED; a.k.a. indolent ulcer/Boxer ulcer/recurrent epithelial erosion) and practising common management methods (including epithelial debridement and keratotomy techniques).
- Learning key facts about the equipment and disposables required for routine eyelid surgery.
- Learning basic techniques for:
  - simple entropion (Hotz–Celsus procedure)
  - eyelid mass removal (wedge resection).

This wetlab teaches basic techniques for three common ophthalmic conditions in small animal practice: management of a spontaneous chronic corneal epithelial defect (SCCED; a.k.a. indolent ulcer/Boxer ulcer/recurrent epithelial erosion), simple entropion and eyelid mass removal by wedge resection. Following detailed and illustrated instructions, the delegates will practice the techniques with appropriate

instrumentation and disposable materials on cadavers with guidance from the tutors. Delegates should gain confidence using the appropriate instruments and handling different ocular tissues (cornea, conjunctiva and eyelid). The wetlab is aimed at all general practitioners, from those without prior ophthalmic experience to the more experienced who wish to improve their skills. There will be ample time for questions and discussion.

### THURSDAY 4 APRIL

09:00–11:00; 12:00–14:00; 15:00–17:00

### Rabbit dentistry

John Robinson

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- How to extract incisors.
- How to treat dental malocclusion to restore optimum function with maximum time interval before retreatment.
- Use of dental drills to trim and adjust crown length (incisors and cheek teeth) – quickly and safely.

The rabbit dentistry practical will demonstrate techniques to assess and correct dental malocclusions. Each delegate will also perform these techniques during the practical session. The best way to trim (adjust) incisors is with a diamond grit fissure bur in a high speed handpiece.

Incisor extraction is usually the better long-term option to treat incisor malocclusion especially in the younger rabbit. Cheek teeth abnormalities are treated by grinding them down to at least

normal length and rebalancing them so that normal function is restored. Using a large 'acrylic trimmer' bur in a straight dental handpiece is a very quick and safe method to adjust the cheek teeth providing it is performed properly.

### THURSDAY 4 APRIL

09:00–11:00; 12:00–14:00; 15:00–17:00

### Dental radiography

Peter Haseler

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Obtain diagnostic dental radiographs in dogs and cats.
- Recognize anatomical structures on canine and feline dental radiographs.
- Diagnose radiographic signs of the most common oral and dental diseases.

For an accurate diagnosis and treatment of the dental patient full-mouth dental radiographs will be needed. These will also be an important part of the clinical record, aid in client communication and help with the referring surgeon's education. This session will cover the three basic techniques to obtain dental radiographs: parallel technique; bisecting angle technique; and extra-oral near-parallel technique. Obtained radiographs will be evaluated for their technical quality and orientation before being examined. Delegates will also revise knowledge of normal dental radiographic anatomy to aid interpretation and to help diagnose any abnormalities, periodontal or endodontal pathology.



## Practicals

£75

**FRIDAY 5 APRIL**

**09:00–10:30; 11:15–12:45; 15:00–16:30**

**THE LODGES, AUSTIN COURT**

### Flexible endoscopy

**Lucy Barker, Florent Duplan, Paul Higgs,  
Sophie Keyte, David Walker**

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to select the most appropriate endoscope for the proposed procedure and hold and manoeuvre a flexible endoscope correctly.
- Recognize the various anatomical regions of the stomach endoscopically.
- To be able to introduce instruments into the working channel of the endoscope and manipulate the endoscope to take biopsy samples and to remove gastric foreign objects with instruments.

This practical session aims to give the novice endoscopist a brief practical introduction to endoscopy. Three internal medicine specialists experienced in endoscopy will be on hand throughout the session to assist delegates with their endoscopic technique. Models will be provided to practice gastrointestinal endoscopy and bronchoscopy along with a foreign body removal station.

**SATURDAY 6 APRIL**

**08:30–11:30**

**THE LODGES, AUSTIN COURT**

### Drains

**Tom Cox, Rachel Hattersley**

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Familiarization with the most commonly used drains and indication for placement.
- Practical handling of the drains and dry-lab placement of drains.
- Learn how to manage drains, and when and how to remove them.

As surgical procedures in veterinary medicine have become more complex; so the need for use of a number of types of drains is becoming greater and their use more common. This practical aims to review the most commonly used drains; how and when they are placed and managed and their removal in the small animal patient. Types of drains which will be covered include:

- Penrose drains
- Closed-suction wound drains
- Jackson-Pratt drains
- Thoracostomy tubes (Trochar and Seldinger drains for closed placement and drains for placement during open thoracotomy procedures)
- Nephrostomy tubes
- Cystostomy tube placement.

## Small Group Sessions

£20

**THURSDAY 4 APRIL**

**13:15–14:45**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 2, THE ICC**

**OPEN  
TO ALL**

### Dispensing errors

**Michael Stanford**

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Appropriate but practical approach to gaining informed consent for the use of authorized and unauthorized products in different situations.
- How to practically reduce the likelihood of simple human errors arising from the small animal dispensary.
- How to handle an incident involving a suspected adverse reaction to a medicine, with the client.

This session will identify and discuss common small animal dispensary errors that regularly lead to negligence claims or RCVS/VCI enquiries handled by the VDS. Topics will include adverse reactions, dispensing errors, misinterpretation of the Cascade, incorrect dosages, issues arising from Controlled Drug use and the provision of inappropriate withdrawal times. Simple top-tips to avoid dispensing errors will be provided, including an outline of what is expected of veterinary professionals with respect to gaining informed consent for medicine use. Guidance on how best to handle an incident arising from a suspected dispensary error will be provided.

**THURSDAY 4 APRIL**

**14:00–17:00**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 1, THE ICC**

### Emergency thoracic and abdominal radiology

**Jennifer Kinns, Raquel Salguero**

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the principles of interpretation of emergency thoracic radiographs.
- Use radiographs to help



continues to provide challenges, due to variation of drug efficacy between groups of reptiles and adverse effects of opioid analgesic.

#### **SATURDAY 6 APRIL**

**09:30–12:30**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 1, THE ICC**

### Ocular emergencies

**Ben Blacklock**

#### **KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- To recognize and know how to treat corneal ulcers and corneal foreign bodies.
- To understand how to diagnose and treat uveitis and glaucoma.
- To recognize, know how to treat, and understand when to refer, cases of proptosis (globe prolapse), lens luxation and retrolubar disease.

In this small group session we will discuss the most common ocular emergencies and how to deal with them. We'll start with corneal ulcers – looking at why complicated ulcers don't heal, and how best they should be managed. How to spot and remove corneal foreign bodies will also be mentioned, before moving on to uveitis and glaucoma. We'll discuss how to diagnose and differentiate between these vision-threatening conditions. Following this, acute emergencies will be covered: proptosis and lens luxation, discussing what can be done in practice, and what is better referred. Finally, we'll look at how to identify and treat retrolubar disease.

#### **SATURDAY 6 APRIL**

**14:00–17:00**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 1, THE ICC**

### Extraction complications in cats and dogs: prevention and treatment

**Philippe Hennet, Alexander Smithson**

#### **KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Assessment of clinical and radiographic findings to identify potential complications.
- Select the appropriate equipment and extraction technique for specific cases to prevent complication.
- Understand how to deal with complications which may arise.

differentiate surgical from non-surgical causes of acute abdominal pain.

- Understand the next steps in imaging that will help to determine if surgery is necessary in acutely vomiting patients.

This small group session will focus on the cases that are commonly seen in emergency practice. The instructors will provide a brief introduction to the principles of interpretation of radiographs in patients that present with acute respiratory signs or with an acute abdomen. Delegates will then be provided with a series of emergency thoracic and abdominal cases to review on individual workstations. The instructors will be available to answer questions on these cases and will then review them as a group.

#### **FRIDAY 5 APRIL**

**14:00–17:00**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 1, THE ICC**

### Obesity: turning failure into success

**Alexander German**

#### **KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Identify factors predisposing to obesity in a particular case and how these factors might influence the outcome of weight management.
- Determine the most appropriate targets and outcomes for weight loss, considering individual circumstances, and design a tailored programme for weight management.
- Develop innovative solutions and compromises when progress with weight loss stalls.

Obesity is now a major health and welfare concern in companion animals. Although weight management programmes can be successful, outcomes are often disappointing with many animals either failing to reach

target weight or regaining weight subsequently. The session will be highly interactive, using a modification of the 'team-based learning' method. The bulk of the session will be small group work. After an initial exercise to assess level of background knowledge, and to clarify any misperceptions regarding weight management, groups will work on clinical scenarios, each of which is based on a difficult obesity case. There will be ample time for reviewing the clinical scenarios and discussing alternative solutions.

#### **SATURDAY 6 APRIL**

**08:30–11:30**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 2, THE ICC**

### Reptile anaesthesia, analgesia and sedation

**Chris Mans**

#### **KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Understand how injection site affects analgesic and anaesthetic drug efficacy in reptiles.
- Formulate effective sedation and anaesthetic protocols for a variety of reptile species.
- Be able to discuss different forms of regional anaesthesia in reptiles.

Sedation, anaesthesia and analgesia in reptiles is a rapidly growing field and new information gained from research studies has aided in providing safer, more predictable and more effective protocols. Using a variety of injectable drugs, a dose-dependent level of sedation to general anaesthesia can be induced. However, substantial species differences exist, and therefore extrapolation should be avoided. Furthermore, body temperature and injection site have significant effects on anaesthetic drug efficacy in reptiles. Regional anaesthesia, in particular in the form of spinal anaesthesia, is increasingly performed in particular in turtles and tortoises, but can also be used in a variety of lizard species. Provision of effective analgesia in reptiles

Extractions are a commonly performed surgery but can be challenging and frustrating. A wide variety of complications may be encountered in both feline and canine patients. In addition to time-management issues and stress to the operator, complications have the potential to cause significant pain; planning and good technique safeguards welfare for both yourself and the patient. This masterclass aims to assist your approach in preventing complications and in dealing with any which may arise.

Delegates will gain confidence and refinement in their approach for more enjoyable, efficient dentistry.

Topics include:

- Pain prevention
- Instrument usage
- Infection
- Extraction of root remnants
- Resorptive lesions
- Challenging teeth
- Oro-nasal communication
- Iatrogenic trauma.

## Breakfast with a specialist

£25

**THURSDAY 4–SATURDAY 6 APRIL**

**08:00–09:00**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 1, THE ICC**

Get exclusive access to world-renowned experts and informally discuss your challenging cases in a small group setting. Each morning at Congress will be a different interactive opportunity: discuss veterinary reproduction with Gary England on Thursday, talk through oncology with Jon Bray on Friday and examine orthopaedics with Karen Perry on Saturday.

With a limited number of spaces and priced at just £25 (including a continental breakfast) these sessions are bound to sell out fast – so book early to avoid disappointment.



## Vet Nurse Small Group Sessions

**SATURDAY 6 APRIL**

**09:45–12:45**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 2, THE ICC**

### Anaesthesia: case based discussions

Emma Archer

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand specific requirements of particular disease processes such as GDV's, splenectomies, brachycephalic patients and anaemia.
- To understand how to manage all aspects of anaesthesia of these cases.
- Understand how to manage common anaesthetic complications such as regurgitation, haemorrhage and hypotension.

This interactive session will cover all aspects of anaesthesia from pre-

anaesthetic assessment and stabilisation right through to recovery and including monitoring and anaesthetic drugs for many critically ill patients including: the acute abdomen (GDV, splenic masses etc.), respiratory distress, anaemia, brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome and head trauma. Additionally we will cover anaesthetic complications which may occur in these patients including difficult intubation, regurgitation, hypotension, arrhythmias, bradycardia and hypoxia. There will be a focus on the aspects nurses can have an influence on with a view to optimizing patient care and improving patient outcome.

**SUNDAY 7 APRIL**

**10:15–12:15**

**EXECUTIVE ROOM 1, THE ICC**

### Better vet visits: working towards fear-free practice

Linda Ryan

#### KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand the rationale for adopting positive ways for veterinary staff to interact with/ behave towards patients, taking an empathic, respectful and

compassionate approach to patient interactions.

- To appreciate the importance of careful environmental and antecedent arrangement to reduce stress; as well as the use of positive reinforcement behaviour modification techniques.
- To feel confident to employ day-one practical techniques, be the patient's advocate, and to provide support and education to caregivers and peers in patient-friendly practices.

There has been a recent move towards creating positive patient experiences during veterinary visits. This session will explore the importance of veterinary staff embracing the concepts of patient-friendly practice and techniques, and working as a team, as a welfare benefit for all involved. The speaker will also bring her own experiences and practical tips, and share real-life success stories. As well as the patient welfare and staff safety aspects, a foundation in fear-free basics builds owner trust in our profession, and allows us to successfully help more pets stay well and happy! All welcome – vets, nurses and support staff.