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ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER

ADVANCED TREATMENT, RESEARCH, EDUCATION, DEVOTION, SINCE 1910

Pearls for the Practitioner

Topic: Comparative Orthopedic Injuries and Therapies

The Animal Medical Center has created this e-mail publication to keep you informed about the latest practices in veterinary medicine and how these practices are being applied at The AMC. If you are interested in obtaining past issues of "Pearls for the Practitioner" or if you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please e-mail allison.younger@amcnyc.org.

Several members of The Animal Medical Center's surgical team attended the recent Veterinary Orthopedic Society meeting, including staff surgeons Drs. Havig, Schwartz and Syrcle, and residents, Drs. Buote, Spector and Leasure. The featured speaker was Dr. Kurt Spindler, head of Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Surgeon at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Dr. Spindler lectured on comparative orthopedic injuries and the importance of an objective evidence-based approach to therapeutics in orthopedic surgery.

Stifle disease was a common topic at the conference and lectures included both Cranial Cruciate ligament (CrCL) disease and medial patella luxation (MPL). Regarding CrCL rupture, the importance of meniscal preservation was highlighted in lectures from Dr. Pozzi's group at the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Buote, presented a poster on ongoing work from The AMC, evaluating early data from a clinical study comparing post-operative outcome of dogs undergoing tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) and those undergoing Tibial Tuberosity Advancement (TTA). Analysis of data at this time, does not identify a significant difference between the two procedures with regard to weight bearing, lameness scores or radiographic progression of osteoarthritis in the early (eight weeks) recovery period.

If you have a dog, which you think might benefit from TPLO or TTA, please call the AMC referral office at 212.329.8758/8890 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Havig or Dr. Schwartz for your client. Alternatively, Dr. Havig can be reached directly at 917-407-2804 and Dr. Schwartz at 646-591-7062 for questions regarding these procedures.

An interesting lecture on medial patella luxations (MPL) focused on distal femoral osteotomies as a treatment for MPL. Specifically, the study looked at the effects this procedure has on the mechanical axis of the limb. The current hypothesis about this procedure is it may negatively impact the mechanical axis of the limb by overloading

the medial compartment of the stifle. This hypothesis theorizes the medial compartment of the stifle may be overloaded following this procedure.

Additional topics covered at the meeting included the use of locking plates for cervical stabilization of cervical instability and treatment of joint diseases using minimally invasive techniques. Both types of procedures are available at The AMC and we have been utilizing locking plate fixation since last year. Two new, state-of-the-art endoscopic towers have recently been purchased for use in minimally invasive surgery of joints.

The Department of Surgery at The AMC

The surgeons at The AMC, who are board certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgery, provide seven-day-a-week expertise, state-of-the-art surgical techniques and emergency surgical care. We also offer specialty services such as veterinary dentistry, rehabilitation and pet fitness services, orthopedics, neurosurgery and soft-tissue surgery. Our surgeons work closely with internal medicine, oncology, radiology, critical care and pathology specialists to coordinate testing and to determine the least invasive and effective procedures necessary to optimize patient outcomes.

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