



For Immediate Release

The Animal Medical Center's Hemodialysis and Extracorporeal Therapies Service Completes 150 Treatments

(New York, N.Y. – May 20, 2021) The Animal Medical Center (AMC), the largest non-profit animal hospital in the world, is proud to announce that its new Hemodialysis and Extracorporeal Therapies Service has completed over 150 treatments in the last 20 months. AMC is one of only a small number of veterinary facilities in the world that offer hemodialysis and extracorporeal blood purification therapies for dogs and cats.

Hemodialysis is a specialized treatment that supplements kidney function when the kidneys stop working due to toxicity, infection, or other disease. Blood is removed from the body, filtered through a dialyzer, then returned to the patient. This process is repeated over several hours during a single dialysis treatment. A custom treatment plan is created for each dialysis patient, and the number of treatments depends on the patient's kidney recovery. If hemodialysis is successful and the kidneys recover, the patient can return to normal activities without ongoing hemodialysis treatments.

Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (TPE) separates a patient's blood plasma from their red blood cells. Plasma contains blood proteins, including antibodies, which can be a source of immune-mediated diseases. TPE is most-commonly used in veterinary medicine for the treatment of immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA). IMHA can be a fatal disease, as it causes a pet's immune system to destroy its own red blood cells. TPE allows veterinarians to remove the offending antibodies and gain control of the disease. TPE is often a first-line therapy for animals with severe IMHA unresponsive to blood transfusions or medical therapy. TPE can also be used to manage other immune-mediated diseases such as Lyme-associated nephritis, immune-mediated thrombocytopenia, and myasthenia gravis. Both hemodialysis and TPE can also be used for the treatment of certain life-threatening drug toxicoses, such as accidental ibuprofen ingestion.

“Extracorporeal blood purification therapies, including hemodialysis and therapeutic plasma exchange (TPE), have transformed veterinary medicine by allowing for the treatment and recovery of patients that have high mortality rates associated with their disease,” said Nahvid Etedali, DVM, DACVIM, Head of Hemodialysis and Extracorporeal Therapies Service, Small Animal Internal Medicine, and Staff Doctor at AMC. “Identifying candidates for extracorporeal therapies and discussing these treatment options with pet parents early in the disease process may improve outcomes for these patients.”

“With the re-opening of AMC's Hemodialysis and Extracorporeal Therapies Service, AMC continues its commitment to provide the highest quality, most advanced veterinary care to

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achieve positive patient outcomes,” said Katherine Quesenberry, DVM, MPH, DABVP, Chief Medical Officer at AMC.

About Animal Medical Center

The Animal Medical Center (AMC) is the world’s largest non-profit animal hospital with 100+ veterinarians providing the highest quality medical care across more than 20 specialties and services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our mission to provide the best in care, research, and education has been the foundation of our work for over a century. Learn more at www.amcnyc.org.



Photo Caption

“The Hemodialysis and Extracorporeal Service at NYC’s Animal Medical Center. Both dogs in the photograph are receiving hemodialysis for an acute kidney injury associated with leptospirosis. Patient factors and dialysis treatment goals determine the hemodialysis prescription and machine required for a given treatment.”

Photo: *Courtesy of Animal Medical Center-NY*

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