

CANADIAN VET TECH

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Dana Reid, AHT and Lola

Photo courtesy of Central Langley Pet Hospital, Langley, BC

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Eliminating inappropriate feline elimination ^{CE}

SASKATOON, SK – Of the tens of thousands of cats that are euthanized or surrendered to shelters in North America each year for behaviour problems, between 40% and 75% have an elimination disorder involving urination or defecation, explained Margie Scherk DVM, DABVP (feline), speaking at the Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists Conference. In addition, many cats present with clinical signs of lower urinary tract disease (LUTD).

Inappropriate elimination is always a message: either the cat is conveying that a physical problem is present or that they are distressed. A minimum of a urinalysis is required if the problem is inappropriate voiding. A complete blood count and serum biochemistries, and vaginal examination may also be needed. If a cat is defecating inappropriately, a rectal examination, anal sac assessment, and fecal evaluation may be advisable.

Dr. Scherk noted that there are several “foolers”: some cats with hyperthyroidism defecate outside of their litterbox without showing other, more classic signs of this disorder. A cat with abdominal alopecia may be licking due to pain from cystitis (or inflammatory bowel disease). Thus, in the case of a cat with a bald belly or flanks one should consider the need to conduct a urinalysis. Idiopathic cystitis may

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Canine melanoma: when sunscreen won't help ^{CE}

By Valerie MacDonald, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

Canine malignant melanoma is a highly metastatic disease where up to 80% of dogs with the disease will develop metastases. Melanomas are either benign or malignant tumours of melanocytes. Tumours of melanocytic origin are the most common malignancies of the oral cavity, skin, and eyes in dogs.

The oral cavity is the fourth most common site of cancer in dogs. Malignant melanoma is the most common canine oral neoplasm and has a fair to poor prognosis. In dogs, more than 90% of oral melanomas are malignant, while 50% or less of cutaneous melanomas and 18% of intraocular melanomas are malignant. Oral melanomas are locally invasive, and bone involvement is not uncommon. Metastasis to the local or regional lymph nodes or lungs is common although patients can present with widespread

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Management of osteoarthritic and cancer pain in dogs and cats ^{CE}

DENVER, CO – With the development of contemporary pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and other technologies, more pets are able to live reasonably comfortably despite chronic conditions. It is crucial to understand that appropriate pain management is *good medicine*, and that any barriers to pain management must be overcome in order to provide the highest level of care to our patients, explained Kim Spelts, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia), CCRP, CCMT, speaking at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Forum.

Osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis (OA) is the most common orthopedic problem in dogs and cats, affecting about 20% of the population, with the incidence increasing with age. The typical presentation in dogs includes limping and/or lameness, stiffness when getting up or after rest that resolves with mild to moderate activity, and difficulty going up or down stairs and/or jumping into the car

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