

Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians

Advancing reptilian & amphibian medicine, surgery, & conservation worldwide



ARAV Monthly Herp Blerp

Greetings from your ARAV Vet Tech Liaison! Issue 21, January 2015

And now a word from our brand new Executive Director!

January 15, 2015, Dr. Dana Varble, DVM will be joining the NAVC as the new Executive Director for ARAV. Dr. Varble has been a member of the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians since 2003 and attended her first ARAV conference in 2001 in Orlando, Florida. She served as the president of ARAV from 2012 to 2013 and has been an active board member since 2008, serving as the chairperson of the ARAV fundraising auction from 2007 to 2010.

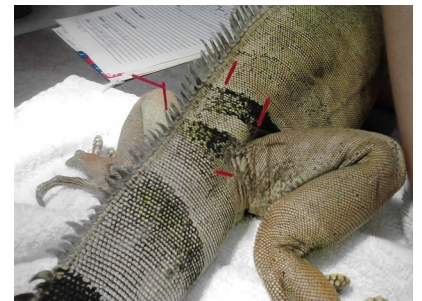
"I am very excited to be a conduit from the resources of our new management company, North American Veterinary Community (NAVC)" said Dr. Varble. "The Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians will have many exciting opportunities to grow and expand in the next few years. I look forward to continuing Dr. Amand's work and bringing a fresh perspective to ARAV."



As part of its strategic plan, the NAVC is combining its 30 plus years of experience in association management in the veterinary profession and offering management services to other associations in an effort to create greater opportunity to develop a true veterinary community. ARAV, along with NAVTA are the first two associations to be managed by the NAVC. Current operations will remain unchanged for the immediate future as business operations transition from Dr. Amand to the NAVC and Dr. Varble. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Dana Varble at dvarble@navc.com.

Acupuncture for Reptiles

Acupuncture has been used for thousands of years as part of traditional Chinese medicine and is now being used as adjunctive therapy for many disease processes in veterinary medicine for a variety of species. The exact mechanism behind the therapeutic effects of acupuncture has not been determined. It is theorized that the release of endogenous endorphins, serotonin, and the stimulation of nerves along various acupuncture points are some of the factors that contribute to its therapeutic effects. Acupuncture involves inserting needles at various points throughout the body referred to as acupoints. These acupoints run along what are referred to as meridians, which can be thought of channels that link the various acupoints together.



As the public has become increasingly familiar with the beneficial effects of acupuncture it is not far fetched that we would consider these therapies for our reptilian patients. In the second Mader book, acupuncture is discussed in reptiles however, more information is being discovered daily.

Working alongside a veterinarian that practices acupuncture is highly recommended prior to experimenting on patients. Acupuncture cannot only be used in the more traditional sense for the treatment of pain caused by arthritis or trauma, it can also be used as adjunctive therapy for a variety of other disorders. Some of the other disease processes that could potentially benefit from the use of acupuncture include gastrointestinal problems, renal failure, respiratory infections, oral inflammation and infection, and musculoskeletal abnormalities.

If you would like to consider this therapy for your patients and would like to find a mentor, please follow this link to find a veterinarian in your area that is certified in veterinary acupuncture: <http://www.ahvma.org>.

References

Mader, Douglas R, and Stephen J Divers. *Current Therapy In Reptile Medicine And Surgery*.

Millis, Darryl L, David Levine, and Robert A Taylor. *Canine Rehabilitation & Physical Therapy*. St. Louis, Mo.: Saunders, 2004.

Xie, Huisheng, and Vanessa Preast. *Xie's Veterinary Acupuncture*. Ames, Iowa: Blackwell Pub., 2007.

Cynthia Gonzalez
University of Illinois 2015

Student Corner

Dr. Colin McDermott is busier than ever making all of the Student Chapters flow seamlessly and preparing for the poster contest at ARAV this year. If you have any questions or just want to touch base with him, e-mail him at cmcd.vmd@gmail.com. If you want to get his attention faster put a Simpsons quote in the subject!

ABVP Announcement!



For all of you interested in becoming boarded in Reptile and Amphibian medicine come visit the 20th Annual ABVP Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana, November 12-15, 2015. Find out more information at www.abvp.com

ARAV Awesomeness!



The Official ARAV CafePress store is now open!! Don't be caught without your ARAV swag!

Visit us at: <http://www.cafepress.com/ARAVshop>

Test Your Knowledge!

Thank you to the Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice (AVTCP) for providing us with some questions!

Which of the following vessels is most commonly used for intravenous catheter placement or injection of anesthetic drugs or maintenance fluids into a frog?

- A. The lateral saphenous vein.
- B. The lingual vein
- C. The ventral abdominal vein.
- D. The ventral coccygeal vein.

Reptile skin tends to invert during the healing process. Which of the following suture patterns is an everting pattern and thus the most appropriate for closing reptile skin?

- A. Ford interlocking
- B. Horizontal mattress
- C. Simple continuous
- D. Vertical mattress

Which of the following radiographic views are essential for diagnosis of unilateral pneumonia in chelonians?

- A. Craniocaudal radiograph
- B. Dorso-ventral radiograph
- C. Lateral radiograph
- D. Ventro-dorsal radiograph

Mark Your Calendars ...

January 24, 2015: **Commemorative Symposium on Reptiles and Amphibians** at Birbeck College in London, England

February 28, 2015: **23rd Annual Wisconsin Exotic Animal Veterinary Conference** in Madison, WI

March 26-28, 2015: **Box Turtle Conservation Workshop** in Urbana, IL

April 18-23, 2015: **ICARE (International Conference on Avian Herpetological and Exotic Mammal Medicine)** will be held in Paris, France

Questions, Suggestions, or Articles can be Submitted to: e.medecvt@gmail.com