ARAV Monthly Herp Blerp

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Summer time means sunshine! Sunshine means reptiles are heading outdoors with their owners and the start of ectoparasites, bird attacks, dog attacks, run away chelonians, and of course the dreaded over outdoors. If you see something, don’t be left behind in the newest in treatments and care! Keep your membership up to date and check out our partner Facebook group where you can stay in touch with other members and receive answers to even the most outlandish questions in reptile and amphibian medicine. I know Dr. Ken Harkowski will be sure to the Facebook group mri/a for immediate answers!

ARAV and Repticon Shake Things Up!

Walking through the aisles of the Chicagoland Repticon show you come across a veterinary clinics booth with two smiling doctors, an excited vet student, and a bubbly technician. Why are they at Repticon you may wonder? They are there supporting ARAV and it all stands for!

The Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians has started attending a few of the Repticon shows, in areas where they have members willing to donate their time to the association. Dr. Horton (the Chair of the Membership Committee), Dr. Moy (a general member), student Courtney H. (a new member), Erica Mede (the Technician Liaison), and Dr. Todd Gray (the Treasurers) were all milling about the event and spreading the message of ARAV.

Repticon, for those that are unfamiliar, is a nationwide show with 35 locations. Each event has a veterinarian that performs a walk through of the show and is encouraged to address vendors or the show coordinator about any animal that appears ill, injured, or illegal. They do allow legal wild caught animals but strongly encourage responsible captive breeding. Anyone selling wild caught animals must be made public knowledge. This show is focused on being a venue for public knowledge. This show is a great way to get our message out to everyone.

AEMV (Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians) and Repticon are having a joint booth. You can find Dr. Todd Gray running the AEMV booth and Dr. Horton running the Repticon booth.

Have a helpful tip? A fun trick? Submit them to us!

Tips, Tricks, and Toys

After a plasticotomy procedure, fiber-glass patches with epoxy are often applied. The problem is how do you keep a chelonian from adhering to the cage floor while recovering after the epoxy has set? Once the epoxy is set and holds but is still tacky if pressed on, you can prop the turtle or tortoise up on cans and use an elastic self adhering bandage material to hold them in place. After a few hours, even the never drying 10 minute epoxy will be safe enough to allow the patient to touch the cage floor!

Diagnosis: Open mandibular fracture

The Technician’s Job: Skull radiographs under anesthesia - Used to determine the severity of the injury

Sterile assistant during the surgery - Used to apply gentle traction when needed and maintain the patient’s head in optimal positions for the surgeon to work

Monitoring recovery over the next 24 hours in hospital

Explaining care “snake braces” to the owner

ARAV and Repticon Shake Things Up!

May people who stopped to ask about the association were not vets, some were techs and others were students but most of the people were concerned pet owners. A simple half sheet hand out was given to them after an explanation of what our association believes in and does. This sheet has ended up in the hands of their veterinarians and we will be welcoming new members willing to donate their time to the association.

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Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Annual Conference of the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians will be hosting their 33rd conference September 5-9, 2013.

20th Annual ARAV conference in conjunction with the AEMV (Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians) will be held September 14-17, 2013 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

Submit them to us!