



ARAV Monthly Herp Blerp

Issue 2, March 2013

Greetings from the ARAV Technician Liaison

Dear Readers,

I'd like to extend a sincere thank you to all of you who have submitted comments and insights regarding the format of this news letter! I hope that this month's newsletter will print out without further incident. I look forward to more submissions from technicians, students, and veterinarians.

This newsletter is for you because ARAV wants to hear what you have to say! Help us continue to inspire with our dedication to up to date herpetological medicine.

Sincerely,

Erica Mede, CVT

Reptile Client Compliance, Oh boy!

We all know how much of a challenge it can be to just get some patients in the door. Clients are often looking for the easy fix, the cheap way out, or the home remedy that will cure all illnesses. Of course, most of the time, that doesn't exist. Convincing a client that they need to bring their animal in for an exam is enough of a challenge, getting them to perform diagnostic tests and actually treat their animal is sometimes impossible. So what can we do to help clients made the right decision when it comes to the care of their exotic pets?

Always offer good medicine. If you would run a CBC and chemistry on a dog with the same problem, chances are you should recommend the same tests for a leopard gecko. There will be times that the owners don't agree to the tests, it happens in the small animal world as well. But you may be surprised at how many reptile owners will go the extra mile for their pet, especially when you explain the importance of these tests. And the added information that we get from running diagnostic tests helps us understand what is happening with that patient and allows us to offer more specific treatments. This not only conveys value to the pet, but also to the treatment that we choose. If the owners know why we are giving "Fluffy," the 12ft anaconda, Baytril, they're more likely to actually give it.

We must also be realistic about what the patients will allow and what the owners can actually do. I wouldn't send an inexperienced owner home with a twice daily oral medication on a shy, reclusive tortoise. There is no way that animal is going to get the medication it needs. It can pay to explore different medication and delivery options. Can we do an injectable medication? How about topical drops to help with that upper respiratory infection? Is there a once daily or every-other-day medication that would work? If there are no other options, I will often offer to hospitalize for treatment, or offer to administer the meds if they bring the animal in daily. This removes the burden from the owners and ensures that the animal gets the medication it needs.

- Erin M. Rothrock, DVM

Student Chapters Corner

Externships and internships that deal with exotic animal medicine is sometimes a real chore to find! Each month we will be highlighting a veterinary practice that offers externships or internships!

This month we are featuring **The Center for Bird and Exotic Animal Medicine** in **Bothell, WA**. They offer both veterinary externships and internships.

CBEAM offers **externship opportunities** to well-qualified current 3rd and 4th year veterinary students. Externships are scheduled for no less than 2 weeks in length. In order to be considered for an externship, they require a letter of intent, CV, official transcripts, and at least two letters of recommendation. Externship housing is available free of charge at their facility. They also offer one 13-month internship opportunity per year for recent graduates through the veterinary match program (www.virmp.org).

Check out their website at: www.theexoticvet.com

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Save the Date: 20th Annual ARAV conference in conjunction with the AEMV (Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians) will be held **September 14-19, 2013** in **Indianapolis, Indiana, USA**.

Tips, Tricks, and Toys

For those hard to x-ray frogs, place them in a Ziploc bag. Zip up the bag and place the bag on top of x-ray cassette. To perform a clear DV image, place the bag on its side. For a clear horizontal beam, place the bag standing up right. This will keep the thicker part of the plastic from obscuring the images.

- Anonymous Technician

If you submitted this tip, please let me know your name so you can be given credit!

Have a helpful tip? A fun trick? Or a review on a new machine? Submit them to us!

ARAV Trivia

The answer to last month's question is, B.

Name the venipuncture sites utilized in anuran blood draws.

- A. Ventral abdominal vein, lingual plexus, and saphenous vein
- B. Femoral vein and lingual venous plexus
- C. Ventral abdominal vein and ventral coccygeal vein
- D. Ventral abdominal vein, femoral vein, saphenous vein, and lingual plexus

Check the newsletter next month for the answer!

Questions, comments, or just wish to submit something to the newsletter?

E-Mail Erica at: e.medecvt@gmail.com