Volume assessment: where are we? K. Gommeren & S. Boysen (45 minutes)

Accurately estimating intravascular volume in ECC patients is challenging, particularly in the clinical setting. Although central venous pressure (CVP) and pulmonary arterial catheters (PAC) have been used to guide fluid management for years, evidence suggests CVC has limitations in predicting intravascular volume, PACs are associated with complications, and neither is commonly practiced during resuscitation of veterinary patients. A brief history of the challenges and limitations of estimating intravascular volume will be presented, followed by more recent human and veterinary literature focusing on the use of sonography to measure and estimate intravascular volume via changes in vena cava diameter.

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the session attendees will be able to discuss different techniques for assessing intravascular blood volume and present advantages and disadvantages for those techniques, particularly caudal vena cava evaluation using point of care ultrasound.

GI motility and ileus in the ICU; should we be worried about it (Boysen 45 minutes)

Ileus is defined as a transient cessation of gastrointestinal (GI) motility or an abnormal pattern of GI motility. It has been well established in human medicine that ileus is common in postoperative patients and contributes to vomiting, decreased tolerance of oral diets, prolonged hospitalization and increased morbidity and mortality. Despite the known negative sequelae of ileus in human ICU patients, there is very little literature on the topic in small animal patients. Does the problem exist, what factors contribute to it, how do we identify it, and should we be actively treating for it?

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the session attendees will be able to describe ileus in both human and veterinary patients and discuss possible considerations regarding the diagnosis and management of ileus.