

### **Gastrointestinal complications in mechanically ventilated patients: What's the evidence?**

Gastrointestinal complications in the mechanically ventilated veterinary patient can occur as a reflection of the underlying critical illness or as a direct effect of positive pressure ventilation. In this lecture, the attendee will learn to recognize the many clinical presentations of gastrointestinal dysfunction in mechanically ventilated patients that can range from stress induced mucosal disease to gastrointestinal dysmotility and intolerance of enteric nutritional support. A diagnostic approach for gastrointestinal complications will be discussed and the most recent evidence pertaining to treatment strategies will be examined.

### **A guide to managing potassium abnormalities in the emergency room**

This lecture will review the mechanisms of normal potassium homeostasis, the pathophysiology of dyskalemias, as well as the most commonly encountered causes for hypo- and hyperkalemia in the veterinary emergency room setting. The attendee will come to know the potential clinical presentations of abnormal serum potassium concentrations (such as cardiac conduction abnormalities and neuromuscular impairment) and diagnostic approaches as well as different therapeutic plans will be discussed in detail. Additionally, the diverse mechanisms of action of available treatments will be reviewed.