

Respiratory Distress – A Practical Approach:

Respiratory distress is life-threatening; characterized by severe dyspnoea and hypoxaemia. It is a common presentation in veterinary medicine and often challenging. Prompt, successful emergency management is paramount with rapid assessment and stabilization being key. This lecture is all about saving the severely distressed respiratory patient – from the time of initial presentation, to the time the patient is stabilized. The lecture will cover subjects such as the importance of the prompt recognition of dyspnoea, its clinical presentations, initial stabilization of the patient, oxygen therapy and thoracocentesis as well as the importance of minimizing patient stress in these very often, fragile, decompensated patients.

Spotting the Deteriorating Patient:

'Something isn't right'. Serious adverse events, such as unexpected death and cardiac arrest, are often preceded by observable physiological and clinical abnormalities. This lecture will cover many aspects of how and why patients deteriorate and the best way to detect and assess them while also escalating care appropriately. By closely monitoring changes in observations and interpreting early signs of decline, nurses are more likely to identify, manage and therefore avoid serious adverse events before they occur. It is inevitable that we care for patients who deteriorate; nurses need to be a step ahead and recognize the subtle signs of deterioration.

Nutrition in ICU: more important than you realize

Does feeding make a difference to the critically ill patient...or not? Absolutely. Critically ill patients are at increased risk of malnutrition. illness, trauma and inflammation induce stress-related catabolism, and drug-induced adverse effects may reduce appetite or increase nausea and vomiting. Challenges exist in the provision of support, especially in the anorexic patient. This lecture focuses on how severe physiological stress affects animals who are critically ill and how this might lead to malnutrition, how to accurately calculate energy requirements and discusses the importance of selecting the most appropriate diet to improve patient outcomes.