

Lecture summaries

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Staying on TRAC with transfusion reactions

Blood transfusions are frequently administered to veterinary ICU patients but are not without risk. Clinicians need to be able to recognise potential transfusion reactions, understand their relative incidence, and implement appropriate treatment strategies.

This lecture reviews The Association of Veterinary Hematology and Transfusion Medicine's (AVHTM) Transfusion Reaction Small Animal Consensus Statement (TRACS), which proposed clinical definitions, treatment strategies and highlighted knowledge gaps. It will also explore the pathophysiology of allogenic transfusion reactions and summarise recent literature on transfusion reaction incidence in dogs and cats alongside strategies for possible risk reduction.

Learning goals

1. Increase understanding of potential transfusion reactions
2. Increase confidence in identifying transfusion reactions according to TRACS definitions
3. Be aware of treatment strategies for different transfusion reactions
4. Be aware of the relative incidences of transfusion reactions according to product and species
5. Improve knowledge of recent veterinary transfusion literature