

## **Christopher Mariani**

### **Disorders of Ambulation in the ER, Part I: Observation, Exam Nuances and Sorting out Systems**

Small animals commonly present to the emergency room for difficulty walking or walking in an unusual way and these difficulties can take a variety of forms. Observation of the animal and the gait examination are paramount in confirming that a problem with ambulation is originating within and in localizing it to the correct region of the nervous system or alternatively, to another body system (e.g., orthopaedic, cardiovascular). This is also the portion of the neurological exam that is most often neglected by practitioners. Honing one's observational skills are a key early step in the successful management of these patients.

This talk will focus on this chief complaint and we will touch on disorders involving other body systems, as well as the spinal cord, neuromuscular (motor) unit (i.e., peripheral nerve, neuromuscular junction, muscle), vestibular system, brainstem and cerebellum. The talk will be supplemented with numerous video case examples to illustrate key concepts.

### **Disorders of Ambulation in the ER, Part II: Diagnostic and Therapeutic Management**

This talk will build upon the concepts introduced in the preceding talk. After sorting out a likely body system and (potentially) region of the nervous system, ER clinicians need to develop a list of potential differential diagnoses and take at least some preliminary steps in ruling in or ruling out these disease processes. We will focus on practical diagnostic testing that can be performed in a standard ER environment (particularly spinal radiographs), deciding which cases would ideally benefit from more specialized diagnostics (and possible referral) and finally, therapy within the ER environment.

### **Disorders of Ambulation in the ER, Part III: Video Case Extravaganza!**

In this talk, a series of cases will be presented, including signalments, presenting complaints and examination videos. We will work our way through these cases together, discussing exam abnormalities, likely differential diagnoses, and appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic management, utilizing the concepts presented in the first two sessions. Results from diagnostic testing will also be presented. Audience participation will be a key part of this session, so come prepared to contribute and have some fun!