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Part of Improve International

Deep Dives

Respiratory Disease

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Learning Objectives

1. Diagnostic Approach to Respiratory Disease

- a. Ability to use clinical observations to localise likely area of pathology
- b. Ability to use appropriate diagnostic testing by applying a problem orientated approach to define the cause of the problem/clinical signs

2. Nasal and Upper Airway Disease

- a. Ability to examine and investigate the upper airway and nose including application of appropriate imaging and sampling techniques
- b. Understanding of the principles of rhinoscopy
- c. Ability to select appropriate laboratory tests for samples, with an understanding of their limitations
- d. Knowledge of the clinical signs related to nasal, pharyngeal and laryngeal disease
- e. Knowledge of the main aetiologies that can cause nasal and upper airway disease including:
 - i. Infectious disease
 - ii. Neoplasia
 - iii. Inflammatory rhinitis
 - iv. Anatomical stenosis and polyps
 - v. Neurological
- f. Knowledge of appropriate therapeutics (including responsible antibiotic prescription): application, limitations, monitoring and prognosis

3. Tracheobronchial Disease (includes lower airway bronchi)

- a. Knowledge of the indications for tracheobronchoscopy and an understanding of the procedure, including collection and submission of samples and risks
- b. Ability to select appropriate imaging techniques for investigation of tracheobronchial disease
- c. Knowledge of the main aetiologies that can cause tracheal and bronchial disease including:
 - i. Infectious disease
 - ii. Inflammatory disease
 - iii. Tracheal collapse
 - iv. Bronchiectasis
 - v. Neoplasia
 - vi. Parasitic disease
- d. Understanding of indications for tracheal stenting
- e. Knowledge of appropriate therapeutics (including responsible antibiotic prescription and inhalational therapy): application, limitations, monitoring and prognosis

4. Feline Lower Respiratory Tract Disease

- a. Understanding of the clinical presentation of feline asthma and bronchitis and its underlying pathophysiology
- b. Knowledge of treatment options available for feline asthma and bronchitis, including options for second line therapy
- c. Knowledge of differential diagnoses for feline lower respiratory disease and ability to select appropriate diagnostic techniques to reach a definitive diagnosis

5. Pleural Space Disease

- a. Ability to identify likely pleural space disease on clinical examination and select appropriate imaging +/- thoracocentesis to reach definitive diagnosis
- b. Knowledge of the different types of pleural effusion and varying aetiologies for each in both the dog and the cat
- c. Ability to differentiate between different types of pleural effusion using appropriate diagnostic techniques
- d. Ability to identify likely pneumothorax on clinical examination and select appropriate imaging +/- thoracocentesis to confirm
- e. Understanding of the placement and management of thoracostomy tube
- f. Knowledge of appropriate therapeutics: application, limitations, monitoring and prognosis

6. Emergency and Critical Care for Respiratory Tract Disease

- a. Understanding of triage and stabilisation techniques for dyspnoeic patients
- b. Knowledge of appropriate oxygen therapy techniques with an understanding of potential for hyperoxia
- c. Knowledge of the principles of blood gas analysis
- d. Understanding of the procedure for POCUS
- e. Understanding of the procedure for thoracocentesis