



AVHTM Newsletter

Special Events of Interest:

- **European College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ECVECC) Congress:**
June 4-6, 2020
(Ghent, Belgium)
- **American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Forum:**
June 11-13, 2020
(Baltimore, MD)
CANCELLED
- **Congress of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Companion Animals (ECVIM-CA):**
September 3-5, 2020
(Barcelona, Spain)
- **International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (IVECCS) Meeting:**
September 16-20, 2020
(Saint Louis, MO)

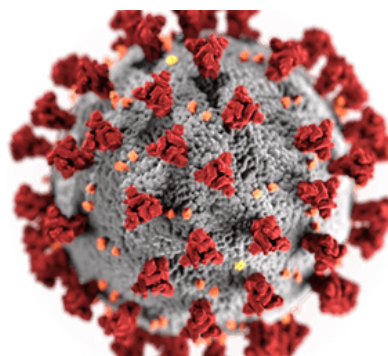
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit professional association

Volume 4, Issue 2

ACVIM Forum Cancelled

On April 10th, organizers of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum officially announced its cancellation.

The Forum was to take place in Baltimore, MD but due to concerns regarding the coronavirus pandemic and ongoing travel restrictions, the meeting has been cancelled. Conference organizers shared that they will be delivering selected content virtually, focusing on RACE-approved CE sessions featuring new re-



search or time-sensitive updates and additional sessions from the specialty program and technician tracks. In addition, the organizers said that an interactive Solutions Center floor plan will be available for attendees to check out the

latest industry products and services. At the time of this newsletter's composition, the organizers did not know the exact number of sessions that would be available, but they promised to share pricing information as soon as the program information is determined. AVHTM still intends to hold a virtual Special Interest Group meeting, with details to be shared as soon as plans are confirmed.

AVHTM Updates

Our group is continuing to grow – we have more than 300 members!

Please note that the AVHTM has decided to sponsor a research grant starting in 2020. As such, you will be asked when you renew your membership if you wish to contribute any funds towards the grant. We en-

courage people to donate any amount they choose, which will be used towards a grant for research being completed in the field of hematology or transfusion medicine. Stay tuned for more information!

AVHTM continues to be an active group on social media and within our private email

group. Recently, our email group has shared discussions on several topics including methods of thawing plasma, antibody viability in plasma, drug washout periods, identification of blood bank donors, and medication washout periods. We encourage AVHTM members to continue using this fantastic resource by emailing questions or sharing

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Rationale for a COVID-19 Blood Banking SOP at The Animal Hospital at Murdoch University

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Early on during the COVID-19 pandemic, as I was involved in writing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for operations within my hospital, it became apparent that our blood bank operations would also need to be adjusted in light of current guidelines for social distancing to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

The primary goal of our blood bank is to meet the transfusion needs of patients within our hospital. Not only are veterinary services in general considered essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, but so too are blood banking and transfusion medicine services since we cannot provide high level veterinary care without them. As a referral hospital, many patients are referred to us for transfusions and so we wanted to also ensure that we continue to be able to meet the needs of our referring veterinarians. We are not a commercial blood bank and so all our blood is used in-house.

The specific situation of the Community Blood Bank at our hospital is that most of our dog owners hold their own dogs for donation resulting in a period of 10-15 minutes of close contact (< 1.5 m) between donor owners and blood bank staff. The presence of their owners during donation is important for many of our donors to feel relaxed during their donation, however, it does not facilitate social distancing. As such, this approach required adjustment during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our cat owners do not usually stay at the hospital while their cats donate but do traditionally have contact with staff at reception and the blood bank coordinator as they bring the cat in and then pick the cat up after donation. Therefore, smaller adjustments in our approach for cat donors were necessary.

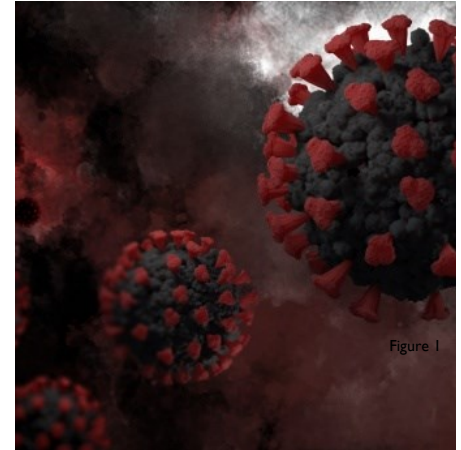


Figure 1

To balance these needs I wrote an SOP for our Community Blood Bank Operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the policy was two-fold: 1) to provide guidance for Community Blood Bank staff and donor families aimed to minimize high-risk interactions with regard to COVID-19 transmission, while ensuring our ability to provide a reliable blood supply for sick patients in The Animal Hospital; and 2) to maintain the relationship between Community Blood Bank staff, donors and their families, while implementing social distancing measures.

In summary, the protocol involved the following changes:

- Keeping dog and cat blood stocks at minimum safe levels
 - ◆ For our hospital this is the equivalent of 6 full bags of dog DEA 1 negative pRBCs and one bag each of type A and B cat pRBCs
 - ◆ So far this is serving us well, but we have had to do some collections at short-notice when demand increased – like bleeding three type A cats on a Sunday!
- Informing our clients of the temporary new approach, and giving them the option of taking themselves off our donor register if they did not feel comfortable with the changes, including:
 - ◆ Screening them by phone when scheduling the donation, and then again on the day of their pet's donation
 - ◆ Doing all paperwork (consent forms etc.) online prior to the donation; and
 - ◆ No owners in the building; rather pets collected from and returned to their cars, and donating with blood bank staff present only
- Prioritising dog donors that can donate happily without their owners' present
 - ◆ We essentially sat down with our list of dog donors, and divided them into three groups: 1) those that can happily donate without an owner present; 2) those that could donate without an owner present but may have slightly increased anxiety; and 3) those that cannot feasibly donate without an owner present, without sedation or anxiolysis
 - ◆ As such, we are prioritizing using donors from the first group, followed by group 2. Only if all other options are exhausted would we consider using dogs from group 3, and would plan to have their owners present with us wearing full PPE
- Temporarily suspending the recruitment of new donors and friendly visits (i.e., visits during which a donation does not occur).

Not surprisingly, given how wonderful donor families are, all our donor families were in full support of this SOP and when we have needed to call on them at short notice have been extremely supportive and willing to help. It is always a pleasure working with donor families, and this has been no different during COVID-19. This protocol has facilitated our blood bank continuing to be able to meet the transfusion needs of our hospital, and keeping our donors happy, while minimizing owner contact.

If you wish to receive a complete copy of the protocol, please contact Dr. Sharpe directly (C.Sharp@murdoch.edu.au).

Recently Published Articles

The articles listed below are a selection of those published **October 2019 – April 2020** in the field of veterinary transfusion medicine, blood banking, and hemostasis:

- Effects of clopidogrel and prednisone on platelet function in healthy dogs. Thomason J, et al. *J Vet Intern Med*. 2020 Apr 4. doi: 10.1111/jvim.15759. [FREE ARTICLE]
- Life-Threatening Hemorrhage During Patent Ductus Arteriosus Ligation in a Cat: Xenotransfusion With Canine Blood. Dupont J, et al. *Front Vet Sci*. 2020 Mar 10;7:133. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2020.00133. [FREE ARTICLE]
- Survey of Blood Groups DEA 1, DEA 4, DEA 5, Dal, and Kai 1/Kai 2 in Different Canine Breeds from a Diagnostic Laboratory in Germany. Ebelt AK, et al. *Front Vet Sci*. 2020 Feb 28;7:85. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2020.00085. [FREE ARTICLE]
- Comparison of a closed system and an open system for blood collection in feline donors. Binvel M, et al. *J Feline Med Surg*. 2020 Mar 6:1098612X20907171. doi: 10.1177/1098612X20907171.
- Acute hemolytic reaction due to A-B mismatched transfusion in a cat with transient AB blood type. Koenig A, et al. *J Vet Emerg Crit Care*. 2020 Mar 5. doi: 10.1111/vec.12937.
- Prospective evaluation of the utility of cross-matching prior to first transfusion in cats: 101 cases. Humm KR, Chan DL. *J Small Anim Pract*. 2020 Mar 4. doi: 10.1111/jsap.13124.
- Exploration of risk factors for non-survival and for transfusion-associated complications in cats receiving red cell transfusions: 450 cases (2009 to 2017). Martinez-Sogues L, et al. *J Small Anim Pract*. 2020 Mar;61(3):177-184. doi: 10.1111/jsap.13108.
- Purification of canine albumin by heat denaturation in a plasma bag. Edwards TH, et al. *J Vet Emerg Crit Care*. 2020 Feb 28. doi: 10.1111/vec.12928.
- Performance of a Nageotte hemocytometer method and a flow cytometric assay for residual leukocyte quantification in leukoreduced canine packed red blood cells. Viall AK, LeVine DN. *J Vet Emerg Crit Care*. 2020 Feb 25. doi: 10.1111/vec.12947.
- Successful xenotransfusion in a domestic ferret with spontaneous hemoperitoneum using feline packed red blood cells. Bell AL, et al. *J Vet Emerg Crit Care*. 2020 Feb 20. doi: 10.1111/vec.12943.
- Quality control in veterinary blood banks: evaluation of canine platelet concentrates stored for five days. Lasta CS, et al. *BMC Vet Res*. 2020 Jan 30;16(1):25. doi: 10.1186/s12917-020-2254-5. [FREE ARTICLE]
- Abnormal platelet activity in dogs and cats - impact and measurement. Gant P, et al. *J Small Anim Pract*. 2020 Jan;61(1):3-18. doi: 10.1111/jsap.13092.
- Effects of Aspirin and Prednisone on Platelet Function and Thromboxane Synthesis in Healthy Dogs. Thomason JM, et al. *Front Vet Sci*. 2019 Nov 15;6:393. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2019.00393. [FREE ARTICLE]
- A card agglutination test for dog erythrocyte antigen 1 (DEA 1) blood typing in donor dogs: Determining an appropriate cutoff to detect positivity using a receiver operating characteristic curve. Proverbio D, et al. *Vet Clin Pathol*. 2019 Dec;48(4):630-635. doi: 10.1111/vcp.12788.
- Caval-aortic ratio and caudal vena cava diameter in dogs before and after blood donation. Herreria-Bustillo VJ, et al. *J Vet Emerg Crit Care*. 2019 Nov;29(6):643-646. doi: 10.1111/vec.12900.
- A review of hyperfibrinolysis in cats and dogs. Birkbeck R, et al. *J Small Anim Pract*. 2019 Nov;60(11):641-655. doi: 10.1111/jsap.13068.
- Pet owners' awareness of animal blood banks and their motivations towards animal blood donation. Wilder A, Humm K. *Vet Rec*. 2019 Oct 26;185(16):509. doi: 10.1136/vr.105139.
- Cryopreservation of feline red blood cells in liquid nitrogen using glycerol and hydroxyethyl starch. Hon M, et al. *J Feline Med Surg*. 2020 Apr;22(4):366-375. doi: 10.1177/1098612X19850932.
- Hematological, biochemical and microbiological evaluation of feline whole blood units collected using an open system and stored for 35 days. Spada E, et al. *Vet J*. 2019 Dec;254:105396. doi: 10.1016/j.tvjl.2019.105396. [FREE ARTICLE]



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AVHTM is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit professional association composed of veterinarians, hematologists, academics, veterinary technicians, blood bankers, and interested public who desire to further scientific advances in transfusion medicine and veterinary hematology.

We engage in veterinary research, promote industry standards, develop guidelines for canine and feline blood collection and processing, and publish scientific research in peer-reviewed publications.

Visit us online to learn more about AVHTM!

We're on the web!

www.avhtm.org



AVHTM Updates (continued from page 1)

ongoing research endeavors with the group. Please note that access to the Google Group is only for those with membership fees in good standing. Previous discussions can be accessed online by signing into your Google account at <https://groups.google.com/>. You must use the same email address for your AVHTM membership as what you would use to sign into your Google account, otherwise you will not have access to previous discussions.

We also have more than 1,000 followers on Facebook and have good engagement with our posts in terms of people liking or sharing them. Please 'like' or 'follow' us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AVHTM/) and feel welcome to post links, images, and questions pertinent to veterinary hematology and transfusion medicine.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

As an AVHTM member, you are eligible for the following:

- Reduced IVECCS registration fee (veterinarians save \$100 and technicians save \$25!)
- Access the a "Members Only" section of the AVHTM website, which includes access to:
 - o Other AVHTM profiles
 - o PubMed articles
 - o Forum for posting questions, cases, and research
- Ability to ask and answer questions posted to the AVHTM members-only email group.

Please feel welcome to share this newsletter with interested colleagues and encourage them to become an AVHTM member!