



## AAFP Releases Guidelines on Diagnosis of Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The 2022 AAFP/EveryCat Feline Infectious Peritonitis Diagnosis Guidelines was published in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery in September 2022. These guidelines provide information that helps veterinarians diagnose Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) in cats and were created by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and EveryCat Health Foundation.

FIP is a disease that mostly affects young cats under the age of 2 and is challenging to diagnose and treat. In the past, FIP was considered a terminal disease. In recent years, new research using antivirals has shown promise. However, these products are not legally available in the United States requiring veterinarians to constantly stay up to date on changes to these regulations and availability of new products.

The guidelines include pathogenesis and history of FIP along with diagnostic tests and differential diagnosis for a cat with suspected FIP. The guidelines stress that because of the variations in presentation of a cat with FIP, it is important to account for the signalment, physical exam and history of a cat along with exclusion of differentials.

The guidelines were developed to be an all-in-one resource to help clinicians diagnose and provide support for animals with FIP. It includes images, algorithms and tips along with supplemental online resources. The guidelines can be accessed at <https://catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/fip-guidelines>.

# Treating Diarrhea in Pets May Not Call for Antibiotic Therapy

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

Dr. Jennifer Granick, associate professor of small animal internal medicine at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, recently presented on treating diarrhea at the AVMA Convention in July 2022. Dr. Granick acknowledged traditional approaches to treating diarrhea with the use of metronidazole, but notes that as research has progressed, her approach has changed.

She suggests focusing on restoring the gut microbiome rather than reaching for antimicrobials as a first line treatment. We know that the microbiome of the gastrointestinal tract is a core component of individual health. The organisms in the gastrointestinal tract guard against pathogens and also play roles in the breakdown and implementation of nutrients (and medications) by the host. The organisms found in the canine gastrointestinal tract are largely *Enterococcus* and lactic-acid producing species. Felines however are hosts to *Lactobacillus*, *Enterococcus* and *Bifidobacterium* species.

Whereas it was once thought that withholding food was important in cases of severe GI upset such as pancreatitis and parvovirus, we now know that enteral feeding is more beneficial to faster recovery because the gut needs bacteria to stay healthy and bacteria need to be fed to do their jobs.

Recent studies show that antibiotics have very little impact on resolution of acute diarrhea and hemorrhagic diarrhea. A randomized trial of dogs with acute diarrhea showed acceptable fecal consistency was achieved after 3.5 days when receiving a probiotic, 4.6 days after receiving metronidazole and 4.8 days with

a placebo. Antimicrobials can have similar effects on the microbiome as those created by infection, inflammatory disease and poor diet. The alternative to antibiotics is prebiotics such as high-fiber diets and psyllium to feed the natural microbiome and get it back to a healthy status. Additionally, probiotics can be helpful. The combination of prebiotics and postbiotics creates postbiotics – metabolites, short-chain fatty acids and functional proteins. Antidiarrheal probiotic pastes have been shown to help with repair processes and act as an anti-inflammatory in the intestinal barrier. Trials with antidiarrheal probiotic pastes showed a decreased recovery time with faster resolution of diarrhea with a median duration of 32 hours compared to 47 hours with a placebo.

Fecal microbiome transplantation (FMT) is a new treatment option gaining popularity. Research is limited and there is much to be learned about this procedure. In addition, many factors need to be taken into account such as screening donors for fecal pathogens and health history.

Dr. Granick's initial approach to treating chronic diarrhea cases is diet change and prebiotics. Depending on the individual history she may also add in probiotics and deworming. She also checks for cobalamin deficiency, hypoalbuminemia and, if the patient is not responding, additional diagnostics as needed. Only when all other options are eliminated will Dr. Granick resort to antibiotic use.

Dr. Granick's session is available on AVMA Axon at <https://axon.avma.org/local/catalog/view/product.php?productid=217>.

# Workplace Burnout is Costing the Veterinary Industry \$2 Billion a Year

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The Cornell Center for Veterinary Business and Entrepreneurship along with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has produced research showing that the veterinary industry is losing approximately two billion dollars per year with veterinarians and technicians contributing about one billion dollars of loss each. This figure accounts for about 4% of the industry's revenue. The researchers of this study hope that by putting a dollar figure on the losses caused by individual burnout, veterinary organizations and practices will take further steps to alleviate the burdens that contribute to burnout in individuals within the industry.

To conduct the study, researchers used the meaning of workplace burnout as defined in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) by the World Health Organization (WHO), which states "burnout is a syndrome conceptualized as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed." The definition goes on to state that burnout has three dimensions that include "feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion, increased mental distance from one's job, and reduced professional efficacy." In reality, burnout can contribute to increased medical errors, missed work days, changing jobs or early retirement.

The research showed that over half of veterinarians suffered from some level of burnout. Contributing factors include being a recent graduate, women, higher amounts of educational debt, and practicing mostly on cats and dogs. Practice owners tended to have a lower probability of facing workplace burnout.

The research divided AVMA survey responses into three categories to include no burnout, moderately burned out and severely burned out. To calculate the costs of burnout, the researchers focused on the categories of moderately and severely burned out and considered how much a person brought into the practice and what was lost when they left. While these numbers focus on tangible losses, there are also intangibles that cannot be calculated such as years of experience and unique skill sets brought to the practice along with leadership. Although intangible, these skills are an important component to the success of any individual practice.

The AVMA hopes to work with its partners to create plans to approach burnout at an organizational level. With the right approach, it is thought that managers at the organization level can have more impact on successfully managing workplace burnout than affected individuals alone. Individual actions do not have a wide-scale impact on a problem for which a system-wide measure is needed. The research team suggests taking a lesson from human medicine which focuses on two areas: work-related issues and tools that can help an individual's personal well-being. Importantly, focusing on communication between management and teams and fostering teamwork to create a psychologically safe workplace environment has shown to reduce the impact of stressors that lead to burnout.

The paper, entitled "The Economic Cost of Burnout in Veterinary Medicine", was published in the journal, *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* in February 2022 and can be accessed at <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2022.814104/full>.



## New Veterinarians See Increase in Salaries With Decreased Debt

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

The results of the 2022 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Senior Survey were presented at the AVMA Veterinary Business and Economic Forum in October. The presenter, Bridgette Bain, PhD, senior economist and associate director in the AVMA Veterinary Economics Division, illustrated the positive trend that new graduate salaries are increasing even as the cost of their education is declining.

The mean debt-to-income ratio (DIR) of new veterinary graduates is 1.4:1. In comparison the mean DIR of new graduates in 2018 was 2.3:1. The current DIR has not been seen since 2005. The mean debt from earning a veterinary degree for 2022 graduates was \$147,258 with a mean starting salary was \$111,242 for full-time employment.

Of new graduates opting to go into private practice, 43% chose corporate practice. The mean starting salary at a corporate practice was \$124,686 compared to \$105,637 at independently owned practices. Signing bonuses were offered by corporate practices in 81% of offers to new graduates at a mean of \$27,181 compared to 42% of offers from independent practices at a mean of \$10,678. The percentage of new graduates going into companion animal practice has been increasing since 2013 with 48% choosing companion animal in 2022. New graduates choosing internships has decreased, with 23% choosing an internship in 2022. New graduates choosing mixed animal, food animal and equine has remained flat since 2013.

Debt from earning a veterinary degree was \$200,000 or greater for 38% of new graduates including 13% who had \$300,000 or more in debt. Those that had no debt included 18%, with 10% of new graduates having less than \$100,000 and 34% with debt of \$100,000 to \$200,000. Of new graduates, 49% took out educational loans for more than three-quarters of tuition. However, the percentage covered by loans decreased from 60% to 55% and the percentage covered by family increased from 25% to 28% from 2020 to 2022.

New graduates had high compassion satisfaction and low burnout in their jobs. While 39% reported low burnout and 61% reported moderate, only 0.2% reported high burnout. This is supported by current studies on workplace burnout that find educational debt to income ratio to be a large contributor to workplace burnout in the veterinary profession.

## Congressman Wants Cheaper Post-Exposure Rabies Treatments/ AVMA Updates Model for Rabies Control Laws

BY: SAMANTHA BARTLETT, DVM

On April 5, 2022, a rabid fox bit multiple people on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. Rep. Ami Bera, D-Calif., was one of the individuals who encountered the fox on Capitol Hill. This experience prompted him to introduce legislation to create a government program to provide reimbursement to health care providers providing post-exposure treatment to uninsured individuals.

Because of the prevalence of rabies vaccination in our domestic pets, rabies deaths are a rare occurrence in the United States. When exposure to the virus is known, timely treatment can be highly effective. However, individuals without health insurance often face debt in the thousands of dollars after treatment.

Representative Bera's legislation, entitled the Affordable Rabies Treatment for Uninsured Act, was introduced in September on World Rabies Day. Bera hopes this legislation will reduce the cost of life-saving treatment for those exposed to rabies. Typical post-exposure treatment is five injections of rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine over a two week period. The cost of the injections averages about \$5300 plus physician and emergency room charges. Often these facilities have an additional

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markup on the injections as well.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about 60,000 people in the United States are exposed to rabies every year. On average, less than three people per year die from rabies due to post-exposure treatment. Most of these cases are a result of exposure to rabid wildlife. This is distinctly different from worldwide statistics where an average of 60,000 people per year die from rabies after being bitten by rabid dogs.

More information on post-exposure treatment as well existing patient support programs sponsored by pharmaceutical manufacturers can be found on the CDC website at [https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical\\_care/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/medical_care/index.html).

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has also recently updated the AVMA Model Rabies Control Document. This document is intended to provide a resource to help policymakers write or update rabies control laws and regulations. The updated document now indicates that equids should be vaccinated for rabies and has updated guidelines to manage post-exposure incidents in companion animals including isolation vs. quarantine and testing requirements.

The updated AVMA document can be accessed at <https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/avma-model-rabies-document.pdf>.

## JANUARY CE EVENT

**Speaker: Dr. Goodman**

**Date:** January 19th, 2023

**Time:** Dinner/Registration: 6:30 | Presentation: 7:00

**Location:** Brio

**Fee:** No fee to attend this event, but RSVP is required by **January 16th**. Current membership dues cover all social events.

**CE:** 1 Hour

## Classifieds

Send your classified ads to: Wanda Geis, PO Box 12468, Shawnee Mission, KS 66282-2468, or email them to [classifieds@kcvma.com](mailto:classifieds@kcvma.com). Classified ads will be run at the sole discretion of the editor and may be edited for content.

### December 31, 2022

FOR SALE: VINTAGE YORK SAFE #25 Model #1740. An amazing antique cast iron York safe. It has a working 4 tumbler combination. Exterior measures are 21.5"H x 18.5"W x 17"D. Interior: 13" x 10" x 10". Original interior boxes for storage. Approximately 400#. A great safe for schedule drugs. This safe is in amazing condition and will need to be picked up, no delivery.

PLEASE NOTE: you are buying a safe that is 100+ years old. It is not perfect – it has blemishes and chippy paint, but it is in good working condition. Photos available. \$550. email [gougern@iland.net](mailto:gougern@iland.net), Call or tx anytime 660-221-5747



**December 7, 2022**

Digital xray machine and Abaxis blood machines for sale. Asking \$8,000/each. Contact: Rachel Bartlett, Zoocrazy@gmail.com

**November 26, 2022**

Kansas City Canine Orthopedics is looking for full-time, certified technicians and assistants to join our highly specialized canine orthopedic hospital in Kansas. We are looking for a dedicated, engaged, compassionate person who enjoys working in a fast-paced and energetic environment. Come thrive in an environment that encourages education and continued growth within the profession.

Kansas City Canine Orthopedics is a progressive, state-of-the-art, small animal, orthopedic hospital specializing in ACL repair, fractures, joint replacements, and arthroscopy. We are located in Shawnee, KS just a few minutes west of I-435. We are open Monday through Friday. No weekend or on-call hours required.

<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Kansas-City-Canine-Orthopedics>

**December 28, 2022**

Allcare Animal Hospital is searching for a Veterinary Technician that values a team environment, the ability to work side by side with compassionate doctors that value their technicians skills and encourage growth. Someone looking for management that believes in a work/life balance. The Veterinary Technician works with our doctors to the fullest possible extent, to improve the quality of care given to our patients.

In this role you will:

- Work closely with our clients and their pets
- Provide patients with a high level of patient care
- Assist veterinarians in providing care for animals including assisting in physical examinations, dental procedures, surgeries, immunization
- Provide client education and marketing

To be successful in this role you will need to:

- Enjoy working individually and as a team with a great work ethic
- Excel at communication skills
- Have a commitment to excellent client service
- To possess strong organizational skills
- Strong working knowledge of pharmaceutical drugs, common diseases, their symptoms, means of transmission, treatment and prevention and other basic preventative health care recommendations.
- Experience in surgery and dentistry

Requirements:

- Veterinary Technician certification preferred
- 3+ years' experience working in a veterinary practice
- Cornerstone software experience is preferred

As an employer of choice, we will provide you:

- Competitive Hourly Wage
- Continuing Education
- Paid Time Off
- Health Insurance Stipend after 1 year of employment
- Retirement Plan
- Four (4) Shifts Per Week/Rotating Saturday Schedule
- Veterinary Services at a Reduced Rate

Our practice is a 3-doctor small animal practice that specializes in providing high quality, compassionate and convenient care for our patients. Our employees enjoy working here because we recognize the importance of the relationships between humans and animals and we see our clients and patients as extended family.

You can find us on the web at <http://www.allcareanimalhosp.com>. We are a drug-free workplace and an equal employment opportunity employer. Please email resumes to [allcarevets@yahoo.com](mailto:allcarevets@yahoo.com) attn Jennifer

Job Type: Full-time

Salary: \$16.00 - \$20.00 per hour

Benefits:

- Employee discount
- Paid time off

Schedule:

- 10 hour shift
- 4x10
- Weekend availability