

What Moves Me?

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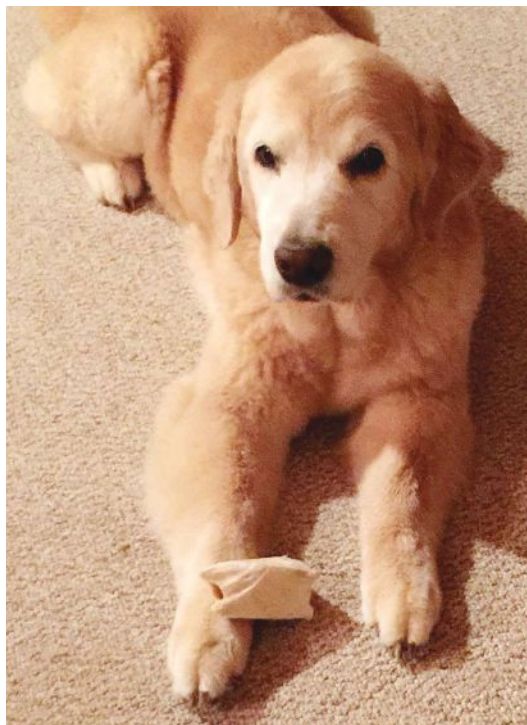
The 2016 NAVC Conference theme is "What Moves You?" On the surface, this may seem like a simple question. Take a moment to think about it, though. Is it what inspires you? Or who? Or where you're going? Or all of the above?

Of course, like so many veterinary technicians, animals "move me." As far back as I can remember, I have always loved and wanted to work with animals. One of the first experiences that convinced me I had made the right career choice in becoming a veterinary technician was the "adoption" of my cat Rhubarb. I was on my way home from a double shift in the ICU at the veterinary hospital at Michigan State University (MSU). I was exhausted and questioning my new career. It was pouring rain, the roads were quiet...and in front of me, I saw someone throw what looked like a stuffed animal out of a car window. As it turned out, the "stuffed animal" was a wee calico kitten. I scooped her up and took her back to the hospital, where we worked with her all night, all the while thinking how cruel people can be to animals. Rhubarb was covered with fleas, cold, and malnourished. But she rallied and survived and became the funniest, most loving cat, warming my life for 18 years. Helping her, I knew I had found the right profession. (I also became a crazy cat lady, adopting multiple cats abandoned by others.)

But there's another aspect to "what moves you" that's equally important. It's the part where someone takes the time to encourage you, teach you, and

show you it's possible to follow the feelings in your heart and make them reality. The first person to move me in the direction of my dreams was my uncle, a veterinarian. As a child, I was afraid of my uncle because we always seemed to visit him when he had a white coat on and a syringe and needle in hand. As a young adult, I spent summers working in his veterinary hospital. An MSU graduate, he had learned of a new MSU program for veterinary technology. For various reasons, I didn't really want to be a veterinarian; however, I did want to work with animals. So off I went to MSU and never looked back!

Both what is in my heart and the people who help make my dreams bigger than I ever imagined loom large in my life. So do the opportunities that have appeared, sometimes seemingly randomly, through my relationships. After I proudly received my LVT degree, I worked in a small animal practice. An opportunity arose to train others when the veterinary teaching hospital at MSU created veterinary technician teaching positions. I taught veterinary technician and veterinary students in the medicine and ICU wards. Later, I took a research position with a cardiologist, moving to University of California-Davis. Then I went into industry, first with IDEXX and then with Pfizer Equine, where I learned the meaning of networking with mentors and colleagues. I moved with the chances presented to me, which allowed me to change and grow. Ultimately, that resulted in me working with the NAVC, starting in 1990, and becoming not only the first veterinary technician to sit on the Board of Directors, but also, eventually, President in 2013. What moved me then was working behind the scenes of an amazing conference



Emme, my 12-year-old golden retriever, is a retired show dog who now enjoys a leisurely life playing with squeaky toys, romping in the snow, and swimming in the lake.

and continuously striving to make the attendees' experience better every year.

At the NAVC, I am constantly amazed by the ongoing growth and expansion of the learning opportunities we provide to all members of the veterinary healthcare team. That's what moves us. The NAVC listened to veterinary technicians' special needs for education, recognition, and career growth. The cornerstone of our response is this journal. When I was presented with the offer of leading it, I jumped at the chance. With this first issue of *Today's Veterinary Technician*, we are adding a voice for an important community of veterinary healthcare providers who are arguably the backbone of the profession. You!

I am a veterinary technician, just like you, and I remain amazed at how veterinary technicians and assistants make great practices possible by doing the endless job of nursing, adapting to changes in technology and medicine, and constantly improving ourselves and our profession. There is no great care for animals without us. We should be proud and loud.

As with mine, your passions might change over time, so what passion moves you? Tell us your story. Raise your voice, share, and be heard. I want this journal to be our collective voice with all the good, the bad, and the messy (literally!) parts we live through every day. Contact me at ljohnson@navc.com and tell me what you think, whether about your educational and professional needs or about your feelings regarding the issues we face today. Give the NAVC the chance to raise awareness of the work we do supporting veterinarians and caring for and about animals. This journal is our gift to you, but it can't grow without you. Sign up at todaysveterinarytechnician.com to get your own copy. Tell your colleagues. Let us hear you!

What moves me today? It is much more than just my lifelong love of animals; it is being part of a profession that continues to grow and thrive in the service of animals everywhere. What moves me today is all of you. What moves you? ■



Pudercat, my 12-year-old, very dilute tortie, purrs as she thinks about sleeping on the warm printer or lying on my keyboard, ultimately deleting e-mail messages.

NexGard® (afoxolaner) Chewables

CAUTION: Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

Description:

NexGard® (afoxolaner) is available in four sizes of beef-flavored, soft chewables for oral administration to dogs and puppies according to their weight. Each chewable is formulated to provide a minimum afoxolaner dosage of 1.14 mg/lb (2.5 mg/kg). Afoxolaner has the chemical composition 1-Naphthalenecarboxamide, 4-[5-[3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-phenyl]-4,5-dihydro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-3-isoxazolyl]-N-[2-oxo-2-[2,2,2-trifluoroethyl]amino]ethyl.

Indications:

NexGard kills adult fleas and is indicated for the treatment and prevention of flea infestations (*Ctenocephalides felis*), and the treatment and control of Black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*), American Dog tick (*Dermacentor variabilis*), Lone Star tick (*Amblyomma americanum*), and Brown dog tick (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) infestations in dogs and puppies 8 weeks of age and older, weighing 4 pounds of body weight or greater, for one month.

Dosage and Administration:

NexGard is given orally once a month, at the minimum dosage of 1.14 mg/lb (2.5 mg/kg).

Dosing Schedule:

Body Weight	Afoxolaner Per Chewable (mg)	Chewables Administered
4.0 to 10.0 lbs.	11.3	One
10.1 to 24.0 lbs.	28.3	One
24.1 to 60.0 lbs.	68	One
60.1 to 121.0 lbs.	136	One
Over 121.0 lbs.	Administer the appropriate combination of chewables	

NexGard can be administered with or without food. Care should be taken that the dog consumes the complete dose, and treated animals should be observed for a few minutes to ensure that part of the dose is not lost or refused. If it is suspected that any of the dose has been lost or if vomiting occurs within two hours of administration, redose with another full dose. If a dose is missed, administer NexGard and resume a monthly dosing schedule.

Flea Treatment and Prevention:

Treatment with NexGard may begin at any time of the year. In areas where fleas are common year-round, monthly treatment with NexGard should continue the entire year without interruption.

To minimize the likelihood of flea reinfestation, it is important to treat all animals within a household with an approved flea control product.

Tick Treatment and Control:

Treatment with NexGard may begin at any time of the year (see Effectiveness).

Contraindications:

There are no known contraindications for the use of NexGard.

Warnings:

Not for use in humans. Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children. In case of accidental ingestion, contact a physician immediately.

Precautions:

The safe use of NexGard in breeding, pregnant or lactating dogs has not been evaluated. Use with caution in dogs with a history of seizures (see Adverse Reactions).

Adverse Reactions:

In a well-controlled US field study, which included a total of 333 households and 615 treated dogs (415 administered afoxolaner; 200 administered active control), no serious adverse reactions were observed with NexGard.

Over the 90-day study period, all observations of potential adverse reactions were recorded. The most frequent reactions reported at an incidence of >1% within any of the three months of observations are presented in the following table. The most frequently reported adverse reaction was vomiting. The occurrence of vomiting was generally self-limiting and of short duration and tended to decrease with subsequent doses in both groups. Five treated dogs experienced anorexia during the study, and two of those dogs experienced anorexia with the first dose but not subsequent doses.

Table 1: Dogs With Adverse Reactions.

	Treatment Group			
	Afoxolaner		Oral active control	
	N ¹	% (n=415)	N ²	% (n=200)
Vomiting (with and without blood)	17	4.1	25	12.5
Dry/Flaky Skin	13	3.1	2	1.0
Diarrhea (with and without blood)	13	3.1	7	3.5
Lethargy	7	1.7	4	2.0
Anorexia	5	1.2	9	4.5

¹Number of dogs in the afoxolaner treatment group with the identified abnormality.
²Number of dogs in the control group with the identified abnormality.

In the US field study, one dog with a history of seizures experienced a seizure on the same day after receiving the first dose and on the same day after receiving the second dose of NexGard. This dog experienced a third seizure one week after receiving the third dose. The dog remained enrolled and completed the study. Another dog with a history of seizures had a seizure 19 days after the third dose of NexGard. The dog remained enrolled and completed the study. A third dog with a history of seizures received NexGard and experienced no seizures throughout the study.

To report suspected adverse events, for technical assistance or to obtain a copy of the MSDS, contact Merial at 1-888-637-4251 or www.merial.com/NexGard. For additional information about adverse drug experience reporting for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or online at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth>.

Mode of Action:

Afoxolaner is a member of the isoxazoline family, shown to bind at a binding site to inhibit insect and acarine ligand-gated chloride channels, in particular those gated by the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), thereby blocking pre- and post-synaptic transfer of chloride ions across cell membranes. Prolonged afoxolaner-induced hyperexcitation results in uncontrolled activity of the central nervous system and death of insects and acarines. The selective toxicity of afoxolaner between insects and acarines and mammals may be inferred by the differential sensitivity of the insects and acarines' GABA receptors versus mammalian GABA receptors.

Effectiveness:

In a well-controlled laboratory study, NexGard began to kill fleas four hours after initial administration and demonstrated >99% effectiveness at eight hours. In a separate well-controlled laboratory study, NexGard demonstrated 100% effectiveness against adult fleas 24 hours post-infestation for 35 days, and was ≥93% effective at 12 hours post-infestation through Day 21, and on Day 35. On Day 28, NexGard was 81.1% effective 12 hours post-infestation. Dogs in both the treated and control groups that were infested with fleas on Day -1 generated flea eggs at 12- and 24-hours post-treatment (0-11 eggs and 1-17 eggs in the NexGard treated dogs, and 4-80 eggs and 0-118 eggs in the control dogs, at 12- and 24-hours, respectively). At subsequent evaluations post-infestation, fleas from dogs in the treated group were essentially unable to produce any eggs (0-1 eggs) while fleas from dogs in the control group continued to produce eggs (1-141 eggs).

In a 90-day US field study conducted in households with existing flea infestations of varying severity, the effectiveness of NexGard against fleas on the Day 30, 60 and 90 visits compared with baseline was 98.0%, 99.7%, and 99.9%, respectively. Collectively, the data from the three studies (two laboratory and one field) demonstrate that NexGard kills fleas before they can lay eggs, thus preventing subsequent flea infestations after the start of treatment of existing flea infestations.

In well-controlled laboratory studies, NexGard demonstrated >97% effectiveness against *Dermacentor variabilis*; >94% effectiveness against *Ixodes scapularis*; and >93% effectiveness against *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*; 48 hours post-infestation for 30 days. At 72 hours post-infestation, NexGard demonstrated >97% effectiveness against *Amblyomma americanum* for 30 days.

Animal Safety:

In a margin of safety study, NexGard was administered orally to 8 to 9-week-old Beagle puppies at 1, 3, and 5 times the maximum exposure dose (6.3 mg/kg) for three treatments every 28 days, followed by three treatments every 14 days, for a total of six treatments. Dogs in the control group were sham-dosed. There were no clinically-relevant effects related to treatment on physical examination, body weight, food consumption, clinical pathology (hematology, clinical chemistry, or coagulation tests), gross pathology, histopathology or organ weights. Vomiting occurred throughout the study, with a similar incidence in the treated and control groups, including one dog in the 5x group that vomited four hours after treatment.

In a well-controlled field study, NexGard was used concomitantly with other medications, such as vaccines, anthelmintics, antibiotics (including topicals), steroids, NSAIDs, anesthetics, and antihistamines. No adverse reactions were observed from the concomitant use of NexGard with other medications.

Storage Information:

Store at or below 30°C (86°F) with excursions permitted up to 40°C (104°F).

How Supplied:

NexGard is available in four sizes of beef-flavored soft chewables: 11.3, 28.3, 68 or 136 mg afoxolaner. Each chewable size is available in color-coded packages of 1, 3 or 6 beef-flavored chewables.

NADA 141-406, Approved by FDA

Marketed by: Frontline Vet Labs™, a Division of Merial, Inc.
Duluth, GA 30096-4640 USA

Made in Brazil.

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