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EDITOR'S LETTER

Fresh Perspectives and Skills

Spring—the reset button that we all need! Everything seems possible in the Spring, and looking at this issue, I see endless possibilities. This issue offers us a fresh look at **blood smear skills** (p. 26) and reminds team members **how to decrease potential risks to our pregnant team members** (p. 12). Speaking of refreshing opportunities, our nutrition article offers a fresh perspective on **the weight loss conversation with pet owners** (p. 40). As NAVTA continues to elevate our profession, it announces in this issue **a new policy on recommended requirements for veterinary nurse/technician license renewal** (p. 8). Renewal can also be seen in our article on the **2024 RECOVER guidelines** (p. 68), which highlight updated CPR guidelines based on advancements in research. Spring is a lovely reminder of just how beautiful change can be. This Spring issue offers a reset and reminds us that anything is possible—even a perfect blood smear!

WHAT WE'RE READING

A member of our Editorial Advisory Board shares a recent open access publication, including their key takeaways and its practical conclusion.

Feline Aortic Thromboembolism: Recent Advances and Future Prospects

Guillaumin J. *J Feline Med Surg*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1098612X241257878>

WHAT WAS INVESTIGATED? This literature review summarizes recent advances in treatment standards and improved prognosis for cats suffering from feline aortic thromboembolism (FATE), also known colloquially as a saddle thrombus.

WHAT WAS DISCUSSED?

- FATE presentation includes pale or cyanotic paws, pulselessness, paralysis, and pain and may affect 1 leg or both.
- More than half of cats presenting with FATE have concurrent congestive heart failure; however, this is not associated with a worse prognosis.
- 25% of cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) overall will develop FATE; 75% of FATE cases are male due to their predisposition to HCM.
- Recent advances in treatment include thromboprophylaxis (thrombus preventing) and thrombolysis (thrombus breakdown) medications.

TAKE-HOME POINTS

- Recent FATE survival rates are as high as 40%.
- Post-FATE median survival times have been reported at 500 days with rivaroxaban and clopidogrel.
- Nursing care involves physical therapy; during neuromuscular recovery, efforts must be focused on reduction of stress, nutrition, and elimination.

— Jennifer Lyons, CVT, LVT, MS, VTS (ECC)



MORE FROM THE NAVC

blendVET Brings 5 DEIB Courses to VetFolio

In partnership with blendVET, the NAVC has launched 5 new courses related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) on its virtual learning platform, VetFolio. Titled “Building Bridges: Foundations of DEIB in Veterinary Medicine,” the programming is a part of the NAVC’s continued commitment to a more inclusive veterinary profession. Individual course topics include communicating across cultures, purposeful leadership, unconscious bias, understanding transgender experiences in veterinary medicine, and psychological health and safety.



◀ **SCAN THE QR CODE**
to learn more and take
the courses