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Editor in Chief

EDITOR'S LETTER

"Water, Water Everywhere"

As veterinarians, we are very aware of the health dangers posed by leptospirosis to our patients. First identified in 1886 by Adolf Weil, who described severe cases of jaundice, kidney failure, and fever in humans, it was subsequently named Weil's disease and was often associated with outdoor occupations in which people encountered water, such as sewer workers, rice-field workers, and coal miners. The World Health Organization estimates there to be more than 1 million human leptospirosis cases annually, with mortality rates reaching 20% in untreated individuals. Leptospirosis disproportionately affects disadvantaged socioeconomic communities that are most vulnerable to outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, primarily due to contact with infected animals and contaminated soil and water. Urbanization, climate change, and extreme weather events have heightened exposure to polluted waters, making it likely to remain a frontline concern for us, our patients, and our clients. In this issue, Dr. Jane E. Sykes presents an up-to-date **review on leptospirosis** in our companion animal patients (p. 62).

WHAT WE'RE READING

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

Dietary Magnesium Supplementation in Cats With Chronic Kidney Disease: A Prospective Double-Blind Randomized Controlled Trial

Tang PK, van den Broek DHN, Jepson RE, et al.
doi:10.1111/jvim.17134

WHAT WAS INVESTIGATED? This study evaluated the effects of a short-term (4-month), magnesium-enriched, phosphate-restricted diet (PRD) in cats with chronic kidney disease (CKD). The purpose was to determine whether dietary magnesium supplementation could influence plasma total magnesium (tMg), ionized calcium (iCa), and fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) concentrations since increased iCa and FGF23 concentrations are associated with progression of CKD in cats, and increased tMg has been shown to lower these concentrations.

WHAT WAS FOUND? The study enrolled 60 cats with CKD and divided them into 2 groups: 27 in the magnesium-enriched PRD group and 33 in the control PRD group. Cats on the magnesium-enriched diet showed a significant increase in tMg levels over time. The magnesium-enriched diet group was less likely to have an increase in iCa while its FGF23 concentrations remained stable.

TAKE-HOME POINTS

- Dietary magnesium plays an important role in FGF23 and calcium concentrations, both of which are associated with CKD progression in cats.
- While cats in this study tolerated magnesium supplementation, cats with advanced IRIS stage 4 kidney disease can develop hypermagnesemia due to decreased clearance; therefore, it is important to evaluate each patient on an individual basis before considering feeding a diet that is higher in magnesium.

— *Camille Torres-Henderson, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), DACVIM (Nutrition)*

New: A Guide to Poultry in Your Practice

In the United States, general practice veterinarians may see an increase in "backyard chickens" or other poultry species presenting to the clinic and need a guide on how to approach the most common diseases and conditions. The NAVC's new e-book, *Poultry in General Practice: Veterinary Medicine for Chickens in Small Flocks*, was developed to serve as a resource for these professionals.

SCAN THE QR CODE to learn more.

CORRECTION

The article titled "How to Take and Submit Skin Biopsies: Getting the Most Out of Your Pathology Report" in the January/February 2025 issue incorrectly listed the ratio of specimen to fixative to be used in samples to avoid fixation artifacts. The correct sample ratio is 1 part specimen:10 parts fixative. We regret the error.