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EDITORIAL

It is said the older you get, the faster time passes. Goodness, it'll be frightening in another 10 years or so. I now have another way of indicating how fast the clock is ticking and that is how quickly the time for the next edition of the ESVD Bulletin comes around. It is spring already, I can tell that because my cycle to work is in daylight now, so the winter lights have been put into storage but, with snow on the ground the shorts are still in mothballs.

This edition of the Bulletin has the usual features. Forthcoming ESVD courses and workshops are listed right up to 2011 so there is no excuse for not booking early! Also, for the first time within these pages, is information on forthcoming derm courses run by the European School of Advanced Veterinary Studies. The Abstract Watch is here and there is also information on a residency program in Barcelona.

Hong Kong-WCVD6

Another indication of how quickly time passes is that it's that time again, yes, four years has passed since Vienna and it is WCVD year again! This looks to be another meeting definitely not to be missed. If you are still swithering about going and trying to decide whether your CPD allowance will cover the cost of flight and hotel, let alone beer money, take heart! Within these pages, Dr Mandy Burrows gives some helpful suggestions on airlines flying to Hong Kong from Europe and suggestions for hotels. Prices are not as bad as you might initially think, in fact, it looks very good value.

Impassioned Plea

I've been flicking back through past issues of the Bulletin and whilst BVDSG regularly announce details of their forthcoming meetings, and I am pleased that GEDAC have included information on their forthcoming meeting in Montpellier this year, there is an absolute dearth of information on what is happening in the rest of Europe. What are you Germans up to? Are there no meetings in Scandinavia? What about you Italians, Spanish and Portuguese? Look, I'm stuck out here on the North Western corner of Europe in the wind and rain and I'd like to hear what the rest of the continent is up to (and so would everyone else). So please, please, send me details of your forthcoming meetings. The Bulletin is distributed to the vast majority of those vets in Europe with an active interest in derm, it is good advertising and even better, doesn't cost you a penny, sorry, cent. Why wouldn't you? Remember, we aim to distribute the Bulletin in April and October.

What would also be really great would be to publish reports of those meetings, good, bad or ugly. It doesn't have to be an essay, 150-200 words would be fine. Similarly, as I have said before, if you have any news or views that you would like to air, send them to me and I promise that they will be published. No exceptions. So please get writing!

See you in Hong Kong if not before.

Peter

Future ESVD Meetings and Workshops

23rd Annual Congress of the ESVD-ECVD 17th-19th September 2009

Bled, Slovenia

Golf Hotel (Sava Hoteli Bled)
Cankarjeva Cesta 6
4260 Bled
Slovenia

As the World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology will be held in November 2008, the next Annual ESVD-ECVD Congress will be in the beautiful setting of Bled in Slovenia.

For more information about this event go to www.esvd2009.org (soon available)

We would like to thank our Long Term Partners: Bayer, Janssen and Royal Canin and all the other sponsors and exhibitors for their support in our organisations. Without their help our annual meeting would be impossible to organize.

The Long Term Partners of the ESVD congresses are:



ESVD Workshops

You will find details concerning our next workshops on www.esvd.org. Please do not forget to register early enough. The only priority is the date of registration and the ESVD membership. Workshops are organised for small groups (max 50) and if you register too late you could be refused.

2008

Workshop on Dermatological Therapy

Clinician and Pharmacologist confronted

14th-17th May 2008

Cuneo, Italy

Speakers: Doug DeBoer (USA)
Manfred Kietzmann (Germany)
Chiara Noli (I)

Local organiser: Chiara Noli – pitnoli@iol.it

Cuneo is a town at the feet of the Alps, situated between two rivers (Cuneo means "wedge"), equidistant from the Mediterranean Sea and the Langhe, land of Barolo and Barbaresco vines. You can spend your free time strolling around the medieval centre, shopping under the arcades, walking along one of the two rivers or even hiking and biking in the mountains. Pre- or post-course tours can be organized upon request.

You can find tourist information on Cuneo and surroundings at:

www.turismo.provincia.cuneo.it or
www.langheroero.it

Programme

Day 1 – Wednesday 14th May 2008

- 8.30-9.30 Registration and welcome
- 9.30-10.15 Principles of drug action, pharmacokinetics and dynamics M. Kietzmann
- 10.15-11.00 Principles of drug interaction and reaction – M. Kietzmann
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-13.00 Antibiotics – the pharmacologist's perspective – M. Kietzmann
- 13.00-14.30 Lunch
- 14.30-15.15 Antibiotics – the clinician's perspective – D. DeBoer
- 15.15-16.00 Immunomodulatory therapy – D. DeBoer
- 16.00-16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30-17.15 Principles of topical therapy – M. Kietzmann
- 17.15-18.00 New trends in topical therapy – D. DeBoer
- 19.30- Welcome cocktail

Day 2 – Thursday 15th May 2008

- 9.00-9.30 Topical and systemic antifungal agents (mechanism of action, interaction, new molecules) – M. Kietzmann
- 9.30-10.45 Clinical use of antifungal therapy and problem cases – D. DeBoer
- 10.45-11.15 Coffee Break
- 11.15-12.30 Treatment of demodicosis old and new products – D. DeBoer
- 12.30-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 Antiinflammatory drugs, (steroids, cyclosporine, etc.) – M. Kietzmann
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00-17.30 Symptomatic management of atopic dermatitis and immunotherapy – D. DeBoer
- 17.30- Free evening

Day 3 – Friday 16th May 2008

- 9.00-9.45 Owner Compliance – C. Noli
 9.45-10.30 Food for skin – D. DeBoer
 10.30-11.00 Coffee break
 11.00-11.45 Immune-suppressive drugs – M. Kietzmann
 11.45-12.30 Treatment of immune-mediated and autoimmune diseases (protocols, different uses of cyclosporine) – D. DeBoer
 12.30-14.00 Lunch
 14.00-14.45 Different treatment options for Cushing's (mitotane, trilostane, ketoconazole, selegiline, etc.: mechanism of action, interaction, new molecules) – M. Kietzmann
 14.45-15.30 Treatment of endocrine disorders, non-inflammatory alopecia – D. DeBoer
 15.30-16.00 Coffee Break
 16.00-16.45 Treatment of leishmaniasis – Chiara Noli
 16.45- 17.30 Treatment of keratinization disorders – D. DeBoer
 19.30- Social Dinner

Day 4 – Saturday 17th May 2008

- 9.00-10.30 Chronic or Severe Otitis Externa: Primary Treatment, Long term Management I – D. DeBoer
 10.30-11.00 Coffee break
 11.00-12.30 Chronic or Severe Otitis Externa: Primary Treatment, Long term Management II – D. DeBoer

Workshop Fees

This price includes:

3 1/2 days of the workshop, proceedings, 4 nights (13/5 to 17/5) in the Hotel Lovera****, 4 Breakfasts, 7 Coffee breaks, 3 Business lunches, 1 Welcome cocktail, 1 Evening dinner

ESVD member:	non ESVD member :
- single room 740 €	- single room 840 €
- double room 610 €	- double room 710 €

Extra nights can be reserved directly from the Hotel at the special rate of single 95 € and double 120 €

Workshop on Equine Dermatology

Dates: September 25th-27th 2008

Venue: Thermes de Spa, Spa, Belgium

Speakers: Bergvall K. (Sweden),
 Bröjer J. (Sweden),
 Von Tschamer C. (Switzerland),
 Yu A. (USA)

Local organisers: Luc BECO and Kerstin BERGVALL

Come and visit Spa within the "Ardenne Bleue". Explore this remarkable natural heritage area comprising the Hautes Fagnes, 12 nature reserves, 5 of the 10 largest lakes in Wallonie, and valleys such as those of l'Amblève, la Vesdre, l'Our, la Warche or la Gueule. This is where names as well known as the Francorchamps Spa circuit, la Cascade de Coq, les Thermes de Spa and Herve cheese rub shoulders.

The meeting venue is the "Thermes de Spa". This magnificent new complex, with a view over "Les Fagnes" and the city, is a combination of the ancient and modern. It will take you aboard for a wonderful and relaxing trip through the water. Appreciate all the virtues of thermoludism in more than 800m² of outdoor and indoor pools with thermal water, heated to 32°C and coming from the Clementine spring.
<http://www.thermesdespa.com>

<http://www.ardenne-bleue.be>

Scientific Programme

- Clinical approach to the equine dermatologist
- Internal medicine considerations
- Basic pattern of equine inflammatory skin biopsies
- Pruritus – ectoparasites
- Proliferative lesions of draft horses with Chorioptes
- Pruritus – allergies and drug reactions
- Scaling and crusting: differential diagnosis and histopathology
- Ulcers, erosions and necrosis
- Nodules
- Hair coat abnormalities

2009

Workshop on Dermatopathology

Date: Spring 2009

Venue: Palazzo Trecchi, Cremona, Italy

Local Organizer: Fabia Scarampella

Workshop on Otitis

Date: Autumn 2009

Location: Abbotsfield Referral Hospital, St Helens,
United Kingdom

Local Organizer: Sue Paterson

2010

Workshop: From skin biology to cutaneous diseases in animals and humans: selected topics

Date: Spring 2010

Venue: Spa – Belgham

Local Organizer: Luc BECO

Workshop on Cutaneous Immunology

Date and venue to be confirmed

2011

Workshop on “Common and not so common dermatological diseases of companion animals: clinicopathological controversies”

Date: Spring 2011

Venue: Volos, Greece

Local Organizer: Alexander Koutinas

ESVD workshops are provided to help ESVD members and residents in dermatology to improve their understanding and knowledge in veterinary dermatology. We welcome suggestions for future topics and possible venues.

More information and provisional program on www.esvd.org (education)

Luc Beco

6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology

Hong Kong

November 19th – 22nd 2008

We are delighted to invite you to be a part of the 6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology to be held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from November 19th to 22nd 2008. Hong Kong is one of the

most beautiful cities in the world and the gateway to Asia.

The World Congress is the most prestigious and global event in veterinary dermatology. The conference programme has been designed for everyone with a role or interest in dermatology including educators, researchers, clinical specialists in practice and those with an interest in equine dermatology and dermatohistopathology, as well as general practitioners. A record number of high quality abstracts has already been received exceeding our expectations and promising one of the most exciting scientific programmes at a World Congress to date.

If you are a dermatologist, dermatology resident, or a practitioner with a special interest in dermatology, you cannot afford to miss this Congress. Why will it be easier to get to and enjoy Hong Kong than perhaps you first thought?

- Ease of access by air with direct or one-stop flights available from most major European cities
- Good value air flights ranging from 646 € to 775 € using major scheduled carriers from principal European cities. Air New Zealand is currently available for £379 from London, Heathrow. The low-cost carrier Oasis Hong Kong operates a daily flight from London Gatwick with round trip prices starting at £387
- Great selection of hotels providing excellent value; hotel prices range from a double room at the Congress Hotel: the 5-star Renaissance Harbour View for 300 € to the convenient 4-star Novotel at 130 €, and comfortable, clean 3-star hotels from around 70 € to 90 € for a double room.
- Hong Kong is a vibrant, exciting and modern city and very much orientated to tourism: from the ultra-modern and user friendly airport, to the highly efficient public transport systems, to superb restaurants – and all with levels of service reminiscent of a bygone era.
- Communication is easy...English is an official language and all signs, menus, etc. are in both English and Chinese
- Situated at the crossroads of Asia, Hong Kong offers an enormous range of economical pre- or post-congress tours to mainland China, to Vietnam, to Cambodia as well as the beaches of Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Add to this our fabulous social programme and we know we will not fail to fascinate and excite you with your first visit to Asia. As the Tourism Bureau logo says: “Hong Kong – live it, love it” We look forward to seeing you there! For further information visit www.vetdermhongkong.com

Forthcoming meetings and workshops

British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group Autumn Meeting

Dates: September 13 - 14th 2008

Venue: Thistle Hotel, East Midlands Airport

Programme

The themes for the meeting are diseases of the feet and oral cavity. A team of internationally renowned speakers will cover structure and function, and infectious and immune mediated diseases of these areas. The final programme has yet to be confirmed but will have a large animal component.

As there is no ECVD/ESVD Annual meeting this year because of WCVD6, the BVDSG meeting will incorporate the AGM of the ESVD.

Further details will shortly be available at <http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~timn/>

GEDAC Annual Meeting

Venue: Montpellier, France

Dates: 25 - 26 - 27 April 2008

The French Group of Veterinary Dermatology will meet in La Grande Motte (near Montpellier), for our next congress. This is a three day course, scheduled in collaboration with the internal medicine group. At this time of the year, the Montpellier area is beautiful and the beach is just walking distance from the congress center. The language of the congress is French. Top level speakers are Chiara Noli (Italy), Patrick Bourdeau (France), Dunbar Gram (USA), Z Alhaidari (France) and many others!

For further information, contact Dr Emmanuel Bensignor, GEDAC President, emmanuel.bensignor@wanadoo.fr

Program

Vendredi 25 Avril 2008

Thérapeutique

9h30-10h00 Cosmétologie: qu'est ce que c'est ? (E. Bensignor)

10h00-11h00 Antiparasitaires externes : quel choix en 2008 (C. Noli)

11h00-11h45 Pause

11h45-12h30 Antibiotiques : quel choix en dermatologie en 2008 (D. Héripret)

Déjeuner

Effets secondaires des médicaments :
GEDAC + GEMI

14h30-14h50 Epidémiologie surveillance : quand, comment, pourquoi (Ch. Hugnet)

14h50-15h10 Réaction médicamenteuse: quand y penser et comment confirmer? Démarche d'imputabilité. (A. Muller)

15h10-15h30 Réaction post-injection (vaccin, autres) :
Z Alhaidari

15h30-16h00 Toxidermie (A. Muller)

Effets secondaires des traitements au long cours :

17h00-17h30 Traitement antibiotique au long cours :
que se passe-t-il dans l'organisme ?
(M Gogny)

17h30-17h45 Traitement immunomodulateur au long
cours : que se passe-t-il dans la peau ?
(C. Noli)

17h45-18h30 Toxicité organique (foie, rein,...)
(M Gogny)

18h30-18h40 Législation- responsabilité du vétérinaire
(C Hugnet)

Courtes communications

14h30-18h30

Soirée: BAYER

Samedi 26 Avril 2008

Petits déjeuners VIRBAC

Infection et inflammation

Pseudomonas, autres germes Gram -
méthicilline-résistance

9h00-9h30 Pseudomonas : que faut-il savoir de cette
bactérie ? (C Prost)

9h30-10h30 Otites à Pseudomonas : diagnostiquer et
gérer (D Gram) ?

11h30-12h00 Pyodermites à Gram- : une nouvelle
entité clinique en dermatologie (D Gram)

12h00-12h30 Bactéries MSR : qu'est-ce que c'est ?
comment les reconnaître ? (C Prost)

12h30-13h00 Comment les traiter ? (C. Prost)

Déjeuner

Asthme félin et leishmaniose : GEDAC + GEMI

14h30-15h00 Les leçons de l'asthme humain (G Dutau)

15h00-15h30 Diagnostic et traitement de l'asthme félin
(J Hernandes)

15h30-16h00 Apport des tests allergologiques et de la
désensibilisation (C. Prost)

- 17h00-17h30 La leishmaniose : quand y penser ?
(P. Denerolle)
- 17h30-18h00 Leishmaniose : comment la diagnostiquer
(G. Bourdoiseau)
- 18h00-18h15 Leishmaniose : traitement (P. Denerolle)
- 18h15-18h30 Leishmaniose : prévention (P. Bourdeau)
- Soirée: ROYAL CANIN + Merial**
- Dimanche 27 Avril 2008**
- 8h30-10h00 **Cas cliniques interactifs**
- Nouveautés et histopathologie (Z. Alhaidari et C. Noli)
- 10h45-12h00 « **Best of** » bibliographie
dermatologique 2007-2008
(M.C. Cadiergues)

Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' Annual Science Week Meeting

- Venue:** Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers
Paradise, Queensland, Australia
- Dates:** Scientific Meeting: 3rd, 4th, 5th July 2008
Dermatology Chapter Presentations: 4th &
5th July 2008

Dermatology Program

The Dermatology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists meeting is scheduled over two days as part of Science Week. Science Week is the annual meeting of all veterinary specialist groups in Australia and provides delegates with cutting edge information in a broad range of subjects in a relaxed environment. We are privileged to have a group of expert speakers this year including medical experts Dr Alvin Chong, Senior Lecturer in Dermatology from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and Professor Bruce Black, Ear/Nose/Throat Specialist Surgeon, from Specialist Referral Practice and the University of Queensland. The theme for the first day is troublesome cutaneous neoplasia and oncology, with Dr Chong supported by a team of Australian dermatologists and oncologists to discuss the clinical presentations, and management challenges of solar-induced, viral and other cutaneous neoplasia, including the role of radiation therapy. On the second day we focus on otitis externa and media, with Professor Black discussing presentations, diagnosis and management of diseases of the human ear. He is supported by a team of Australian internal medicine specialists, dermatologists, and surgeons to contrast the problems faced in dogs with ear canal diseases.

Other attractions

The Queensland Gold Coast is ideal location for holidaying – lots of sunshine, world renown beaches, great restaurants, and theme, wildlife and national parks amongst the many attractions. It's a great location for a concurrent holiday, with or without the family.

For further information contact the Secretary of the Dermatology Chapter Mandy Burrows on a.burrows@murdoch.edu.au; or visit the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists' website: www.acvs.org.au

European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies



Forthcoming Courses

2008

Dermatology I – Course with Otoscopy Workshop, Vienna / Austria, 14 - 25 July 2008 (ESAVS)

Course Masters in charge: Prof. Dr. David Lloyd, DECVD, Dr. Peter Hill, DACVD, Dr. Craig Griffin, DACVD,

Subject: Dermatology course with wet labs. Participants of course part I in veterinary dermatology will discuss basics in anatomy and physiology of the skin and its appendages and will learn about a large number of common dermatological disorders. The successful management of difficult to treat problems will be discussed. Wet labs will provide practical approaches.

Further information: European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS), Tel: (+49) 6782 2329, Fax: (+49) 6782 4314, info@esavs.org or www.esavs.org.

Dermatology III – Advanced Course with Otoscopy Workshop, Vienna / Austria, 4 - 15 August 2008 (ESAVS)

Course Master in charge: Prof. Dr. David Lloyd, DECVD, Dr. Peter Hill, DACVD, Dr. Craig Griffin, DACVD, Dr. Wayne Rosenkrantz, DACVD;

Subject: This course concludes the ESAVS dermatology training programme, completing the coverage of small animal dermatology and reviewing the dermatological problems of other animal species encountered in veterinary practice. The most recent diagnostic and therapeutic procedures will be presented. Please note: this dermatology course is open to new-comers. The programme is designed for veterinarians with advanced knowledge and experience in veterinary dermatology.

Further information: European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS), Tel: (+49) 6782 2329, Fax: (+49) 6782 4314, info@esavs.org or www.esavs.org.

2009

Dermatology I – Course with Otoscopy Workshop, Vienna / Austria, summer 2009 (ESAVS)

Course Masters in charge: Prof. Dr. David Lloyd, DECVD, Dr. Peter Hill, DACVD, Dr. Craig Griffin, DACVD,

Subject: Dermatology course with wet labs. Participants of course part I in veterinary dermatology will discuss basics in anatomy and physiology of the skin and its appendages and will learn about a large number of common dermatological disorders. The successful management of difficult to treat problems will be discussed. Wet labs will provide practical approaches.

Further information: European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS), Tel: (+49) 6782 2329, Fax: (+49) 6782 4314, info@esavs.org or www.esavs.org.

Dermatology II – Intermediate Course with Workshops, Vienna / Austria, summer 2009 (ESAVS)

Course Masters in charge: Prof. Dr. David Lloyd, DECVD, Dr. Wayne Rosenkrantz, DACVD; Dr. Craig Griffin, DACVD,

Subject: Dermatology course with wet labs. Difficult and uncommon bacterial infections, viruses affecting the skin, protozoal skin diseases, deep mycotic infections, pigmentary diseases of the skin, clinical features of cutaneous neoplasia, diagnostic pathology and cytology of skin tumours, Therapy of skin tumours, nutrition and the skin, hypothyroidism, growth hormone related dermatoses, Cushing's syndrome, sex hormone alopecias, cytology and dermatopathology cases, basic concepts of scaling disorders and more...

Further information: European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS), Tel: (+49) 6782 2329, Fax: (+49) 6782 4314, info@esavs.org or www.esavs.org.

European Society of Veterinary Dermatology Research Award 2008

The ESVD is delighted to solicit grant proposals for the year 2008. The ESVD is planning to support private practitioners, pathologists or university faculty members for research projects up to 15,000 Euros. The proposals will be evaluated blinded by a sub-committee composed of one pathologist, one private practitioner and one university faculty member. The grant officer will not be a member of this sub-committee. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria: relevance and importance for veterinary dermatology, originality, clarity of the design and the budget, ability of the applicant to carry out the research. Awards will be announced during the next general assembly.

The information, including guidelines is available at the website www.esvd.org.

Please note that proposals should be submitted electronically (mail to: publications-grants@esvd.org) by April, 1st.

How many classes of membership does ESVD need?

Currently there are three main membership categories for ESVD: full, associate and affiliate*. Some members, myself included, feel that this should be reduced to one single type of membership. The reasons for this are as follows:

- It is administratively complex to have three types of membership
- It is the ultimate aim of the ESVD Board to allow members to pay their dues on-line and simplifying the underlying design of the web-site by only having one main class of membership would reduce costs and increase reliability
- It is inherently unfair to have 500 members of whom 350 are not entitled to vote at the AGM.
- There is a risk that full members may use their membership status on their CVs etc as though it were a further qualification.

Furthermore, it is my personal view that it is a little old-fashioned and elitist.

A quick search of the web-sites of 10 other European veterinary associations indicates that 7 have only one level of membership.

It is accepted that in the early days of the Society there was a need to restrict full membership to those 'who devote a significant portion of their professional activities to research, teaching or practice of veterinary dermatology'. Then there was no European College of Veterinary Dermatology and in its early days ESVD had a wider range of activities and responsibilities. Nowadays, ECVD is effectively the regulatory body responsible for professional standards, training and examinations. The role of ESVD is largely to facilitate the organisation of conferences and workshops, and to administer publications. Whilst there is a clear need for the affairs of ECVD to be conducted by 'senior' dermatologists (effectively ECVD Diploma holders), there is no reason why enthusiasts who don't hold a Diploma should not play a full role in ESVD.

The purpose of this brief article is to raise awareness of this issue and to invite comment. The matter has been considered by full members in the past. However, it is now felt appropriate that it should be considered by the wider membership. Please let me know your views.

Ian Mason (ian.mason@vetderm.co.uk)

*(Founder, life and honorary membership are outside the remit of this current discussion).

Abstract Watch

Olivry T, Dunston SM, Pluchino K, Porter K, Hammerberg B.

Lack of detection of circulating skin-specific IgE autoantibodies in dogs with moderate or severe atopic dermatitis. *Vet Immunol Immunopathol.* 2008 15;122(1-2):182-7.

Allergy Core, Center for Comparative Medicine and Translational Research, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC 27606, USA.

Human patients with atopic dermatitis (AD) commonly exhibit IgE reactivity to cutaneous self-antigens. The presence of serum IgE autoantibodies appears to correlate with disease severity, and it is suspected to reflect or contribute to tissue damage. The objective of this study was to determine whether IgE autoantibodies specific for cutaneous antigens could be detected in the serum of dogs with AD. Serum was collected from 19 dogs with untreated moderate to severe AD and four specific-pathogen free (SPF) dogs. Indirect immunofluorescence was performed using normal canine skin collected at four different locations (concave ear, nose, medial thigh and lateral thorax), while Western immunoblotting was done using normal canine ear pinna epidermal and dermal extracts and reducing conditions. In both methods, IgE was detected using a monoclonal antibody specific for heat stable epitopes of canine IgE. At 1:10 dilution, specific IgE autoantibodies against cutaneous autoantigens were not detected, with either method, in AD and SPF canine sera. Either IgE autoreactivity is not associated with moderate to severe AD in dogs, or the methods employed herein were not sensitive enough to permit IgE autoantibody detection.

Langan SM, Flohr C, Williams HC.

The role of furry pets in eczema: a systematic review. *Arch Dermatol.* 2007 143(12):1570-7.

MRCE, Centre of Evidence-based Dermatology, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH, England.
sinead.langan@nottingham.ac.uk

OBJECTIVE: To systematically search, summarize, and critically appraise the literature to examine whether pet exposure in early life is associated with an increased risk of eczema. **DATA SOURCES AND STUDY SELECTION:** We searched MEDLINE (1950 to June 2006) supplemented by citation lists in retrieved articles and contact with researchers. No language restrictions were imposed. **DATA EXTRACTION:** Cohort studies were sufficiently similar to allow pooled analysis. Meta-analysis was not possible for cross-sectional studies owing to differences in methods and populations. **MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES:** Incidence or prevalence of eczema. **RESULTS:** Evidence from longitudinal studies showed that previous exposure to cats (pooled odds ratio [OR], 0.76; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.62-0.92), dogs (pooled OR, 0.68; 95% CI, 0.53-0.87), or "any furry pet" (pooled OR, 0.79; 95% CI, 0.74-0.84) is associated with a lower risk of eczema. However, in the only cohort study adjusted for avoidance behavior, this "protective effect" disappeared (for cats: OR, 0.80; 95% CI, 0.33-1.97). Stratified analysis by family history in 2 birth cohort studies showed that dog exposure was protective in patients with atopic families. For cats, 1 study showed reduced risk in atopic families only; the other study showed no effect. Eight cross-sectional studies evaluated past pet exposure; a protective effect was seen in 3 studies for cat, dog, or any pet; no study demonstrated an increased risk. **CONCLUSIONS:** There was no clear evidence that early pet exposure is associated with increased risks of subsequent eczema. We found some evidence of a possible protective effect of early pet exposure, but this might be explained by avoidance behavior in high-risk families.

Rendle DJ, Cottle HJ, Love S, Hughes KJ.

Comparative study of doramectin and fipronil in the treatment of equine chorioptic mange.

Vet Rec. 2007 Sep 8;161(10):335-8.

Division of Companion Animal Sciences, University of Glasgow Veterinary School, Bearsden Road, Glasgow, UK.

In equids, chorioptic mange is a common dermatitis for which there are no licensed medications in the UK. Doramectin and fipronil are licensed for the control of ectoparasites in other species and were evaluated for the treatment of 17 cases of chorioptic mange in 13 equids. Equids were included if clinical findings were indicative of chorioptic mange, chorioptes mites were positively identified and concurrent disease that could affect response to disease was not evident. A random number table was used to allocate subjects to receive doramectin (group D, eight animals) or fipronil (group F, nine animals). Each of the horses in group D were given 0.3 mg/kg doramectin (Dectomax; Pfizer) on two occasions 14 days apart by subcutaneous injection. All limbs of the horses in group F were sprayed with fipronil 0.25 per cent solution (Frontline; Merial) to the level of the stifles and elbows. Both groups were examined on the day of treatment and 14 and 28 days later to assess the behavioural signs of pruritus and the severity of the dermatological lesions. Acetate tape impressions were collected from the distal limbs and the degree of mite infestation was assessed. By day 28 there were no behavioural signs of chorioptic mange in any of the animals, and there were significant reductions in the numbers of mites in both groups. However, there were no significant reductions in the mean lesion score in either group. There was no significant difference between the effectiveness of the two treatments.

Williams DL, Pierce V, Mellor P, Heath MF.

Reduced tear production in three canine endocrinopathies.

J Small Anim Pract. 2007 48(5):252-6.

Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0ES.

OBJECTIVES: Previous reports have suggested that hypothyroid and diabetic patients can be predisposed to keratoconjunctivitis sicca. This study aimed to measure tear production in dogs with diabetes, hypothyroidism and hyperadrenocorticism using the Schirmer tear test and to compare these results with Schirmer tear test values for a group of normal dogs. **METHODS:** Schirmer tear tests were performed on 16 dogs with hyperadrenocorticism, 18 with diabetes and 12 with hypothyroidism together with 100 control dogs. Corneal sensitivity was also measured in 12 of the 18 diabetic dogs with a Cochet Bonnet aesthesiometer and compared with age- and breed-matched normal dogs. **RESULTS:** Schirmer tear test values in dogs with hypothyroidism, hyperadrenocorticism and diabetes were 12.3±3.2, 14.0±4.0 and 12.3±5.3 mm/minutes, respectively. Schirmer tear test values were significantly lower than that for the control group (19.6±4.2 mm/minutes) in all dogs with an endocrinopathy. Only in two hypothyroid dogs and three diabetics, this was manifested as profound keratoconjunctivitis sicca with Schirmer tear test value lower than 5 mm/minutes. Diabetic dogs had significantly reduced corneal sensitivity compared with a matched set of control dogs. **CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:** This study shows a significant reduction in tear production in animals with diabetes mellitus, hypothyroidism and hyperadrenocorticism. Further research is needed to elucidate the mechanisms by which this reduction in tear production occurs. Assessment of tear production should be undertaken in animals diagnosed with these endocrinopathies, as these animals may progress to clinical keratoconjunctivitis sicca.

Dermatology Residency in Barcelona

The Hospital Clinic Veterinari (HCV), Facultat de Veterinària, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, offers a residency program in Dermatology.

The primary objectives of this program are to prepare the resident for the successful completion of all steps of the certification process leading to diplomate status in the European College of Veterinary Dermatology after 3 years. The program is designed to provide in-depth training in veterinary dermatology, related basic and applied sciences and areas of medical dermatology to allow a graduate veterinarian ("Resident") to develop a comprehensive knowledge of the dermatological conditions of domestic animals, including a service work and research. The program will commence on September 1st 2008 and run for three years.

The residency program is directed by Dr Luis Ferrer, Dipl. ECVD, and the resident supervisor is Dr. Mar Bardagi, Dipl. ECVD.

Applicants will require an EU validated degree in Veterinary Medicine; have completed a one-year rotating internship in a qualified hospital or have equivalent practice experience (minimum 2 years); be able to obtain a license from the "Col·legi Oficial de Veterinaris de Barcelona" and have fluency in Spanish (oral and written).

The gross salary for this position is 955 euros / month. Health insurance will be provided.

Applications must be presented to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Director or they can be sent by certified mail to:

Berta Juanola
Hospital Clinic Veterinari
Edifici V
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
08193 Bellaterra
SPAIN

Applications must be sent before May 1st 2008 and should include:

- Letter of Intent
- Identity card or passport copy
- Veterinary degree copy
- Curriculum vitae
 - Recent photograph
 - At least one letter of reference

Selected candidates will be appointed for a personal interview during May - June 2008



www.ecvd.org

What is the ECVD?

The European College of Veterinary Dermatology was established in 1991 with the objectives of advancing veterinary dermatology in Europe and increasing the competence of those who practice in this field by:

1. establishing guidelines for post-graduate education and experience prerequisite to becoming a specialist in the discipline of veterinary dermatology;
2. examining and certifying veterinarians as specialists in veterinary dermatology to serve the public by providing expert care for animals with dermatological disease;
3. encouraging research and other contributions to knowledge relating to the pathogenesis, diagnosis, therapy, prevention, and the control of diseases directly or indirectly affecting the skin of animals, and promoting communication and dissemination of this knowledge.

The ECVD and ESVD are co-sponsors and co-organisers of an annual congress.

How does one become member of the ECVD?

The constitution of the ECVD has established the following requirements for active membership. The applicant should:

1. be registered / licensed to practice veterinary medicine and surgery in the European Community.
2. have a satisfactory moral and ethical standing in the profession.
3. have devoted at least 3 years to general veterinary education, training, and practice and to special education, training, and practice of veterinary dermatology after the date of graduation from veterinary school. The following sequence of training is to be used.
 - a. A first period of at least 1 year must be a rotating internship, or equivalent experience in practice, as defined by the ECVD Credentials Committee.
 - b. A residency in dermatology of at least 2 years in total on a continuous or part time basis under supervision of a diplomate or diplomates of the ECVD, or its equivalent, as defined by the ECVD Credentials Committee.
4. have successfully passed the examination by the College and certification by the Executive Committee of the College.

What types of residencies are available?

Two types of standard residency programmes are available: formalised and individualised.

1. **Formalised Programmes** are those offered by the parent institution on a routine and regular basis without modifications for particular applicants. Such programmes are designed and approved for a specific number of Residents at any one time
2. **Individualised Programmes** are those offered periodically or on a part-time basis by an institution.

The list of current residency programmes and open positions can be found on the Colleges's website (www.ecvd.org).

An “**alternate route**” to the ECVD diploma examination has been designed to allow individuals who cannot enroll in a standard residency programme. Further details can be found on the ECVD website (www.ecvd.org).

For any questions regarding residency programmes and the credentialing process, please contact the chairman of the Education & Credentials Committee (Currently: Prof. Dr. Ralf Mueller, e-mail: Ralf.Mueller@med.vetmed.uni-muenchen.de)

Note on Title Abuse

We must remind all persons who have successfully passed the Alternate Route Part I exam of the ECVD (now termed the “Alternate Route Qualifying Examination”), that the College does not allow the use of any title in relation to this examination whatsoever.

The use, in any way, of titles such as “ECVD Certificate Holder”, “ECVD Part I Diploma Holder”, “ECVD Alternate Route Qualifying Examination Holder” or similar is therefore absolutely forbidden by the College.

Current Officers of the ECVD (2008-2009)

Thierry Olivry, *President*

Rosario Cerundolo, *Past-President*

Emmanuel Bensignor, *Vice-President*

Richard Harvey, *Treasurer*

Dominique Héripret, *Secretary*

Anke Hendricks, *Member-at-Large*

Peter Hill, *Member-at-Large*