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ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER

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Pearls for the Practitioner

Topic: 2009 New York State Veterinary Medical Society Meeting Notes

The Animal Medical Center has created this e-mail publication to keep you informed about the latest practices in veterinary medicine and how these practices are being applied at The AMC. If you are interested in obtaining past issues of "Pearls for the Practitioner" or if you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please e-mail allison.younger@amcny.org.

Notes from the 2009 New York State Veterinary Medical Society (NYSVMS) Meeting

This year's NYSVMS meeting was the second annual joint meeting co-sponsored by the NYSVMS and Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. The meeting made use of the College's lecture halls and laboratories, creating a congenial environment for exchange of knowledge and social interaction.

The full day OSHA seminar was loaded with useful tidbits, especially since Western New York State veterinary hospitals are experiencing OSHA inspections with increased emphasis on regulation compliance. Here are some of the highlights:

1. Create a workplace safety area on your hospital server. This area can contain all safety policies (radiology, regulated medical waste, etc.), material data safety sheets for hazardous compounds found at your hospital and also policies related to disaster planning and emergency management. The workplace safety poster can be posted on the server as a PDF file. Not only is this useful for employees, but it will facilitate AAHA and OSHA inspections.
2. Consider involving your local fire department in developing AND testing your emergency evacuation plan. They can offer helpful suggestions on how to evacuate most safely and instruct your staff in executing the plan.
3. Clients often have questions on how to dispose of unused medications. Direct them to this website:
<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/UnderstandingOver-the-CounterMedicines/ucm107163.pdf>
4. The OSHA accident/injury record keeping form can be downloaded from the OSHA website at: <http://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/RKforms.html>.

5. The OSHA workplace poster can be downloaded and printed from <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osh3165.pdf>.

Compounded medications were a frequent topic of discussion at the NYSVMS meeting. With the increased demand for compounded medications in veterinary medicine, there are concerns about the quality of products. The Pharmacy Compounding Accreditation Board is a non-profit organization that sets standards for compounding pharmacies. These standards are voluntary, but pharmacies that meet these standards have quality assurance, training and documentation protocols in place. Tracking of prescription ingredients and prescription recipient information allows the pharmacy to contact pet owners if a problem arises with a medication.

Questions about prescribing compounded medications were frequent. Compounded medications can only be prescribed in the context of a valid veterinarian-patient-client relationship and must be prescribed for a specific patient. They cannot be bought in bulk, relabeled and resold. Purchasing compounded medications by writing a prescription for your personal pet and using the medication to treat another patient is forbidden. Adding a flavoring to a medication is not considered compounding, for example, adding tuna water to encourage a cat to take medications is not considered compounding.

For more information on this topic or any referral concerns you may have, call Dr. Ann Hohenhaus at 212.329.8612 or email ann.hohenhaus@amcny.org.