

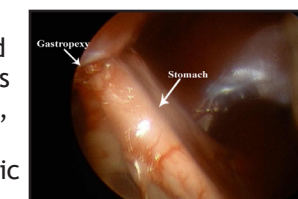
Newsletter

Minimally Invasive Gastropexy Leigh Glerum, DVM, DACVS VSA San Mateo



Unfortunately, we small animal veterinarians all have experience with gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV). Onset of clinical signs is rapid, and the systemic deterioration of the affected dog can be as well. Overall mortality rates as high as 45% have been reported. The patient's survival is dependent on prompt recognition of clinical signs and appropriate emergency stabilization--to include cardiovascular support and gastric decompression.

Gastropexy is strongly recommended for dogs suffering from GDV. Even if gastric position is self-corrected during the stabilization period, recurrence of torsion is highly likely (at least 80%). In an emergency situation, GDV patients are often stabilized and taken into the operating room for assessment and correction of gastric positioning, assessment of gastric and splenic viability, resection of stomach and spleen when necessary, and gastropexy. Post-operative hospitalization time generally ranges from 1-3 days.



Prophylactic gastropexy should be considered in large dogs of deep chested conformation--such as the Great Dane, Standard Poodle, German Shepherd, and Saint Bernard. Prophylactic gastropexy should be considered even more strongly for those dogs with a personal history of bloat/GDV or a familial history of GDV in a first order relative (parent or sibling). Prophylactic gastropexy may be performed via laparotomy or laparoscopy.

Laparoscopic assisted gastropexy is a fairly quick and simple procedure. Only 2 short incisions are required and the resulting adhesion (gastropexy) has been demonstrated to be durable and strong, very similar and even superior to certain methods of open gastropexy. Patient discomfort is minimized due to diminished incisional length and surgical manipulations. Patients are monitored closely during the initial anesthetic recovery period (particularly those individuals who have a personal history of GDV/bloat), but hospitalization time is generally no longer than 1 day. Activity is restricted to leash walks for the first 2 weeks to help insure adequate gastropexy healing.



In younger female dogs, prophylactic laparoscopic assisted gastropexy may be performed concurrently with ovariohysterectomy. OHE may be done in a completely closed fashion via laparoscope, aided by electrical hemostatic devices such as the Ligasure.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the surgeons at VSA regarding prophylactic gastropexy. If you have questions or concerns specific to laparoscopic assisted gastropexy, please contact Drs. Leigh Glerum or Sharon Gottfried in San Mateo, or Dr. Martin Aitken in Concord.



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LOCATIONS

800.834.7874

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Fax 925.827.2364

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Address
Correction
Requested

VETERINARY SURGICAL ASSOCIATES

Veterinary Surgical Associates

- Dwight Gaudet, DVM, MA
- Sharon Ullman, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS
- Lissa Richardson, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- Charles Walls, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- Julie Smith, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- Leigh Glerum, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- Andrew Staatz, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- Martin Aitken, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- Sharon Gottfried, VMD, Diplomate ACVS
- Timothy W.H. Sellmeyer, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- Paula West, DVM, Diplomate ACVS
- William Scherrer, DVM, Staff Surgeon
- William Banz, DVM, Staff Surgeon
- Angela Spann, DVM, Surgical Resident
- Sean Wells, DVM, Surgical Resident
- Marco Cervi, DVM, Surgical Resident
- Cassandra Ruthrauff, DVM, Surgical Resident
- Josie Mallinckrodt, DVM, Surgical Resident
- Michael Green, DVM, Surgical Resident

*Dedicated to the art of surgery for the
benefit of you, your client and
your patients.*



10th ANNUAL VSA/VMS SMALL ANIMAL SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 22, 2009!

Veterinary Surgical Associates and **Veterinary Medical Specialists** invite you to attend our 10TH annual Symposium to be held on Sunday March 22, 2009. We have enjoyed providing this day of continuing education to Bay Area veterinarians, managers and nurses for the last decade and we hope to continue for the next decade!

This year we will be hosting the symposium at the **South San Francisco Conference Center**. In an attempt to accommodate as many attendees as possible within the greater San



Francisco Bay Area, we continue to shift our venue throughout the region. We are also happy to report that there is more than ample free parking at this location through agreements to share the parking lot with neighboring hotels.

All of the meeting rooms are located adjacent to each other and the Vendor's Showcase area will be located along the walking path leading to the meeting rooms as well as in a dedicated room adjacent to the breakout sessions. This venue continues to provide a great opportunity to have discussions with the providers of equipment and services away from the usual pressures of running between exam rooms - we have been sure to include sufficient time in the program for everyone to visit this year's sponsors.

The Flow of the Day

We will again start the day off with the Keynote address for all attendees in a large ballroom located adjacent to the meeting rooms. **Dr. Suzanne Kurtz**, Professor of Clinical Communications at Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine will be commenting on educating veterinarians in communication skills. Dr. Kurtz has focused her career on improving communication practices in health care and education and on developing curricula and methods for teaching and learning communication skills. She has worked with a variety of groups:

medical and education students, residents, practicing physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, patient groups, veterinarians and students of veterinary medicine, teachers, and administrators in health and education. Dr. Kurtz served joint faculty appointments at the University of Calgary in both Education and Medicine for nearly 20 years prior to joining the faculty at Washington State. Communication is such an important topic today in veterinary medicine, that she will continue that discussion in more focused breakout sessions within our Management track. Following our kick off welcome and the keynote address, participants will break out to participate in any of 5 different tracks for the rest of the day. All three clinical tracks will feature the doctors of VMS and VSA. Diagnosis and treatment options for various disease states will be presented from an internal medicine, cardiology, oncology and surgical perspective.

This year we will again be offering a sit-down lunch, sponsored once again by Pfizer Animal Health. A big part of our search for the best possible facility for the Symposium includes a desire to accommodate all of you in this seated lunch format. This setting seems to be appreciated, as it allows everyone to socialize with one another and with the presenters. At the conclusion of lunch, **Dr. Dwight Gaudet**, co-founding and managing partner of VSA and VMS, will take both a retrospective and prospective look at where we have been and where we might go. From the scale of the profession, to the Bay area veterinary community, to your own practice, and where it all starts - with you; we'll explore "who are you and where are you going?" This was the title of the keynote presentation at our first Symposium more than 10 years ago, what do you suppose has changed and what do you think just won't go away?

As in the past, we will begin the day with a continental breakfast during registration and have plenty of refreshments during breaks. You can enjoy these as you stroll between the various vendor booths. We will end the day with a great wine and hors d'oeuvres reception - something this event is getting known for. We hope that you join us for the good food and libations while perhaps following up with the presenters or telling a story or two as you spend some relaxed time with colleagues.

More Guest Lecturers

We are always happy to welcome guest lectures to our Symposium year after year!

Joining Dr. Kurtz in our Management track is **Dr. Amanda Donnelly**. Dr. Donnelly is a consultant and a second-generation veterinarian with a diverse background in medicine, management, industry, speaking and business consulting. Dr. Donnelly owns ALD Veterinary Consulting in Rockledge, Florida. She provides expertise to veterinary practices to help them achieve financial success through better client service, human resource management, standards, and marketing. Prior to starting her consulting firm, Dr. Donnelly served as a Technical Services Veterinarian in industry. She also has 15 years of experience in small animal practice and emergency medicine. Dr. Donnelly is a graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri, Columbia. She has an MBA from Baker University in Overland Park, Kansas and she also holds a certificate in Veterinary Practice Administration from the AAHA Veterinary Management Institute (VMI) at Purdue University. Dr. Donnelly has published and spoken on a variety of practice management topics at regional, national and international veterinary conferences and was recently voted "Practice Management" Speaker of the Year for the 2007 NAVC.

Dr. Julie Churchill will be speaking on the hot topic of obesity in companion animals in both the clinical and nursing tracks this year, and we thank **Pfizer Animal Health** for sponsoring this very dynamic speaker. Dr. Churchill graduated from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and then went on to obtain her PhD in Nutrition at the University of Minnesota where she currently serves as their Clinical Specialist in Companion Animal Nutrition. Her work with obesity as a disease will be the focus of her presentations and how we can more effectively communicate with clients on how to manage this very prevalent problem in our patients.

We want to thank **IAMS Pet Imaging Center** for sponsoring **Dr. Susan Wynn** and her talk on the use of probiotics. Dr. Wynn graduated from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a residency in nutrition at the University of Tennessee. She is also a graduate of the Chi Institute and certified in Veterinary Acupuncture. She is currently serving

as the nutritionist at Georgia Veterinary Specialists in Atlanta and is an adjunct faculty member to the University of Georgia. Dr. Wynn lectures internationally and at several national veterinary conferences on integrative medicine.

We will be mailing the registration information and brochure soon. You can also find registration information on-line at www.vsasurgery.com and www.vmsmedicine.com. We look forward to spending another enjoyable and informative day with you on March 22nd and we will do our best to make it of benefit to you, your staff, and your patients!

Clinical Topics for 2009 Symposium

- Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia
- New Treatments in the Management of Canine Cardiac Disease
- Leptospirosis
- Tracheal Collapse and the Use of Intratracheal Stents
- Wound management
- Chylotractorax and Minimally-Invasive Treatment Techniques
- Brachycephalic Disease and Laser Surgery
- The Complete Neurologic Examination and What Does It Mean?
- Physical Rehabilitation: A Surgeon's Point of View
- Fracture Management: Decisions and Options for Treatment
- Histiocytic Disease
- New Drugs in Veterinary Oncology
- Injection Site Sarcomas
- Geriatric Patients: Decision Making in Surgery
- Oncologic Round Table: Your Questions Answered
- Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea
- Bandage Management: Applications and Complication
- Radiographic Positioning
- ECG Interpretation
- Integrating Natural Medicine