



Use cases from the clinic and field

Cage side monitoring for a stressed feline patient. Recovery / Post op.

Background

Erica Whitcher is a Licensed Veterinary Technologist (LVT) at an exclusively small animal hospital in New Hampshire. She has been in the veterinary field for 25 years. She is a practice manager with many responsibilities including: Patient care, client education, inventory control, office management, surgical assisting, laboratory testing and anesthetic monitoring.

Clinical Story

Spencer is a 17-year-old castrated male Domestic Longhair. Spencer was presented for significant weight loss, frequent vomiting, and decreased appetite for a month. Physical examination revealed a 3-pound weight loss since his last vaccination appointment 6 months prior, loss of muscle mass, and a lump was palpated in the thyroid region.

Spencer was admitted for a complete work up and treatment. A CBC, blood chemistry profile, urinalysis, proBNP, EKG, and T4 were done. The CBC, blood chemistry profile, and urinalysis were within normal limits. The proBNP was abnormal. The T4 level was 12.9 micrograms/dL (0.8 – 4.7 micrograms/dL) indicating hyperplasia of the thyroid. The VetCorder was used to determine a heart rate of 165 beats per minute and atrial enlargement.

Spencer was started on 250mg taurine twice a day to help strengthen the heart muscle. Methimazole 5mg was administered twice a day for 2 weeks followed by surgical removal of both thyroid glands. This was decided to be the best choice as the travel for a radioactive iodine

procedure at the specialty hospital wasn't feasible for the owners of Spencer.

Monitoring Spencer's heart was challenging at times as he did not like to be handled. When handled, Spencer became agitated and difficult to keep still. The VetCorder was very useful for cage side monitoring of Spencer during recovery and for the five days he was hospitalized for post-operative care. The VetCorder allowed us to monitor Spencer's heart with minimal handling, which resulted in a more accurate representation of his heart condition than we would have had after moving him into the surgical suite where the large monitoring devices are located. Without the VetCorder, monitoring and treating Spencer's heart condition would have been more stressful and difficult. The VetCorder has allowed us to increase the standard of care that is offered to all our patients.

Results

Spencer made a full recovery after his thyroidectomy. His appetite returned. He gained the weight he had lost prior to surgery and then some. His heart rate returned to normal and the only medication he is on is taurine to continue to support heart muscle.

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