



August 2022 Bulletin

Nevada Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners

The Physical Exam Toolkit

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Life often judges us most harshly not by our actions but what we fail to do. Accordingly, most cases of veterinary negligence don't stem from a doctor missing a complicated constellation of clinical signs or misinterpreting an advanced diagnostic. Most cases occur when we forget to do the most basic test.

Imagine a typical Thursday afternoon at your practice. You've just finished checking in your second parvo case for the day making you 30 minutes late for your next appointment when your assistant asks if you could squeeze in a walk-in vaccine appointment. Mr. Thompson is a longtime client, so you say "sure". You jump over to the room and see Mr. Thompson there with his 9 year old golden retriever, Bailey. You see that your assistant wrote down a normal temperature, pulse, and respiration. You do a quick exam, and Bailey seems fine. After you finish updating his vaccines, you're off to the next patient.



The next morning you have a message to call Mr. Thompson because he is very upset. On the phone you learn that Bailey vomited and collapsed last night. After Mr. Thompson took Bailey to the emergency room, Bailey was diagnosed with a large abdominal tumor and pericardial effusion. How could you have missed a large abdominal tumor? Do you remember palpating Bailey's abdomen?

Although a physical exam is probably the most common procedure we do, it can be easy to become complacent while performing and documenting an exam.

Vince Lombardi once said 'Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect.' The same can be said for our physical exam. If we fail to do a complete exam, just "eyeball" our patient, or just focus on the presenting complaint, we will fail our patients and our clients. However, if we perform a consistent, high quality, and thorough physical exam every time we see a patient, we will find that small abnormality that makes all the difference for our patient even if our client missed the signs.

Pillars of the Physical Exam:

- 1. Be Consistent. Be Systematic:** If we start at the same place, move through our exam in the same manner, and end at the same place, we are unlikely to miss something.
- 2. Take Our Time:** Time is short, but if we shortcut our exam and miss something, we create problems that take more time to correct than if we had taken the appropriate time initially. Also, if we conduct the same exam every time, our efficiency will improve dramatically.
- 3. Document Everything:** If we perform a perfect physical examination, but don't record findings, did it really happen? It is as important to ensure accurate medical records reflect the physical findings of an exam as the examination itself for long term monitoring, defensibility against consumer complaints, and diagnostic accuracy.

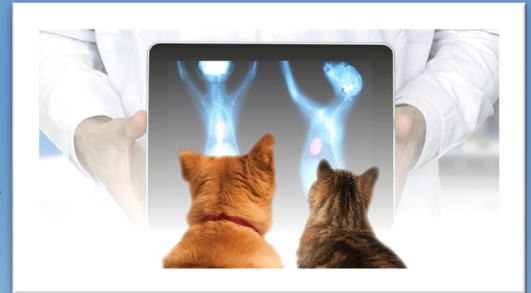
Standard of Care Guide: Radiologic Studies

Over the past year, there has been a consistent question that has arisen as to whether obtaining two-view radiographs would be considered the standard of care in most cases.

At the January 2022 quarterly Board meeting, the members of the Board reviewed information obtained from the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR), information published in the European Journal of Radiology in 2021, and discussed what would be considered the standard of care.

Questions that the Board considered included:

- Is there scientific consensus that at least two two-view radiology should be a clear standard of care for all/most practitioners?
- What are the possible drawbacks of requiring at least two radiologic views be obtained?
- Are the situations where one would not need to obtain two-views? Should it be done in every case? Should it be offered to owners? If it is offered to owners, will they understand the importance of two-view imaging?



After thorough discussion, the Board reached a consensus that the recommendation for standard of care regarding radiologic studies is that two views, made orthogonal to one another is the standard of care for x-ray studies. The two-view as standard of care has long been common practice, but should be considered at this time to be the minimum recommendation for proper diagnostic imaging. Two-view imaging increases accuracy and less questionable radiographic diagnosis as well as preventing having to obtain additional radiographs later and facilitate better clinical outcomes.

Regional Alert: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Detected in Nevada



The first case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) was detected in a backyard flock of domestic birds in Carson City. The Department of Agriculture and the USDA are recommending that owners practice bird health safety measures and report illnesses. Please do your part to minimize the spread of HPAI by informing clients and reminding them of proper biosafety measures and report any birds that display symptoms of illness.

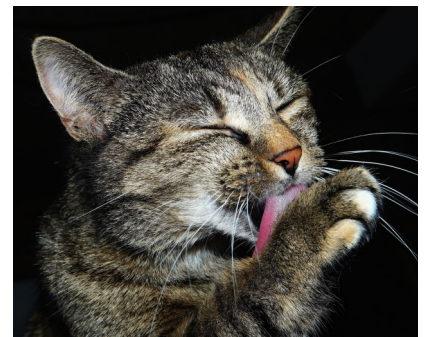
You can find more information using these links:

USDA Safety Protocols: https://tinyurl.com/USDA_Safety_Protocols

Nevada Department of Agriculture: <https://tinyurl.com/NVDeptOfAgInformation>

AAHA and AAFP Release Updated Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines

The Association of American Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) have updated their antimicrobial stewardship guidelines to bolster information regarding the importance of antimicrobial stewardship in veterinary medicine. Echoing the antimicrobial stewardship defined by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the guidelines for proper antimicrobial stewardship have been updated and presented in an educational guide that can be found here:



<https://catvets.com/public/PDFs/PracticeGuidelines/Guidelines/2022-AAFP-AAHA-Antimicrobial-Guidelines.pdf>

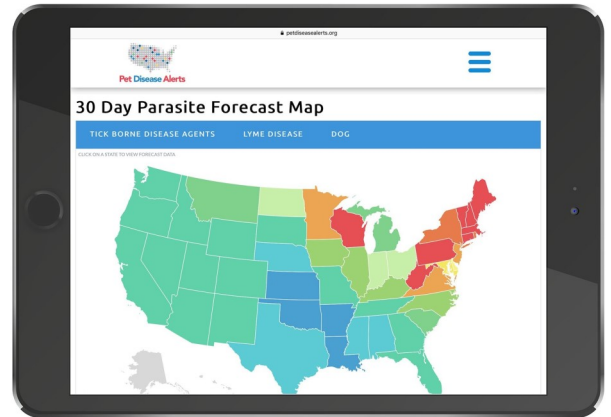
Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) has released its Annual Pet Parasite Forecast for 2022.

The forecast can be found here:

<https://capcvet.org/articles/2022-forecasts>

And get information on disease alerts at:

<http://www.petdiseasealerts.org/>



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!
THE IN-PERSON REQUIREMENT
FOR CE
FOR 2022-2023 HAS BEEN
WAIVED.

This means you are able to obtain all CE online for your license renewal due 6/30/2023

Upcoming Board Meetings:

September 14, 2022 Teleconference Regulation Workshop

October 20, 2022 Board Meeting (LV)

January 19, 2023 Board Meeting (Reno)

April 20, 2023 Board Meeting (LV)

The Board intends to hold meetings in-person and with a teleconference option for those that would like to participate remotely. Please contact staff with any questions.



CE CORNER

Please refer to NAC 638.042 for a complete list of the types of courses approved the Board to ensure that CE you are taking is approved.

Searchable CE Sites:

- Free AVMA seminars online: <https://axon.avma.org/page/covid19-courses>
- List of 2022's Best Conferences: <https://tinyurl.com/2022BestConferences>
- VetFolio is offering free CE here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8r97x4>
- VetMedTeam List of Free CE: <https://www.vetmedteam.com/classes-free.aspx>
- NAVTA's List of Free CE: navta.net/page/continuing_education
- Search for Board approved CE any time at <https://www.aavsb.org/RACE>
- WVC Viticus Group Academy Courses: <https://www.viticusgroup.org/wvc-academy>
- Veterinary Practice News: Webinar and In-Person CE Courses <https://www.veterinarypracticenews.com/events/>

Upcoming CE Courses:

- Veterinary Dental Forum: Sept 28-Oct 1, 2022: Reno, NV: Registration opens May 2022: <https://tinyurl.com/3nsypza3>
- Vet Show: Oct. 12-15 (Reno) Nov 3-4 (NY)-Register here: <https://us.vetshow.com/>
- Ongoing: AVMA Workplace Wellbeing Certificate Program: 5 credit hours-Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/ye26u4et>
- Free CE with Clinician's Brief: <https://www.cliniciansbrief.com/continuing-education>
- DVM360 On-Demand and Live Seminars: <https://www.dvm360.com/view/july-ce-unlock-your-veterinary-learning-potential>
- Fetch DVM360 August 26-28, 2022: Kansas City, MO: <https://tinyurl.com/DVM360Conference>
- Wild West Vet Show: October 12-15, Reno, NV: <https://tinyurl.com/WildWestVetShow2022>
- Free CE: Controlled Substance Management in Veterinary Medicine (2 hours) <https://www.vetmedteam.com/class.aspx?ci=947>

