

**Management of the Ferret
for Veterinary Professionals**

The American Ferret Association
c/o Symposium Registrar
11018 Powell Road
Thurmont, MD 21788

Address Service Requested



**The American Ferret Association, Inc.
and the VA-MD Regional College of
Veterinary Medicine**

Present

A Two-Day Advanced Course

**Management of the Ferret
for Veterinary Professionals**



May 22-23, 2010

VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Virginia Tech, Duck Pond Drive (0442)
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061



Your Symposium Support

Registration/Advertising Information:

Vickie McKimney, Symposium Registrar
 afaevents@earthlink.net
 Phone: 301-898-1568
 Fax: 240-358-0673

AFA
 Phone: 1-888-FERRET-1
 afa@ferret.org

Symposium Sponsors:



Advertising

Advertising is available in the proceedings book. All ad copy must be camera ready – NO colored business cards please. Ad copy must be received by April 1, 2010. Please send ad copy to the address on the registration form.

A:	Full Page	7.5" w x 10" h	\$250.00
B:	Half Page Horizontal	7.5" w x 4.5" h	\$150.00
C:	Half Page Vertical	3.65" w x 10" h	\$150.00
D:	Quarter Page	3.65" w x 4.5" h	\$100.00
E:	Business Card	3.65" w x 2" h	\$ 50.00

Registration Form

Name _____

Preferred Mailing Address Please Check Home Business _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Registration Fees

Prices include tax and service charge.

- Saturday Lectures and Sunday Wet Lab** **Veterinarian \$375.00**
This fee includes all lectures, instructional materials, refreshment breaks, continental breakfast, and lunch for both days.
 ** Limited to 30 vet/vet student registrants. **Student \$275.00** _____
 - Saturday Session Lectures Only** **Veterinarian \$200.00**
This fee includes all lectures, instructional materials, refreshment breaks, continental breakfast, and lunch for Saturday. **Student/Tech \$125.00** _____
 - Late Registration Fee, add \$50** **\$50.00** _____
(after April 1, 2010)
 - Non-AFA Member Fee** **Veterinarians add \$100.00**
Students/Techs add \$ 50.00 _____
 - AFA Membership Fee** **Veterinarian \$75.00**
For One-Year Veterinarian add \$75.
 For One-Year Student/Technician add \$30. **Student/Tech \$30.00** _____
 - Proceedings Book Advertising** _____
See Page 2 for advertising rates.
 Circle: A B C D E
 - Charitable Donation** _____
\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25, Other
(Donations may be tax-deductible for those who itemize.)
- Total Amount:** _____

Method of payment to guarantee registration:

- Check Made Payable to AFA Discover MasterCard Visa Visa Debit

Card Number _____ Expiration Date (MM/YY) _____ VCode _____

Signature of Card Holder _____

Please send this form and payment to:
AFA Veterinary Symposium
11018 Powell Road
Thurmont, MD 21788
Fax Number: (240) 358-0673

- Yes! Sign me up! Check these boxes if you want to share a hotel room.**
- Female Only
 - Male Only
 - Surprise Me!

WET LAB STATION: RADIOLOGY AND ULTRASOUND

The Station Master will present a variety of ferret radiology and ultrasound cases, including the proper techniques for correct radiograph and ultrasound reading. An interactive discussion will highlight this wet lab station.

WET LAB STATION: MISCELLANEOUS PROCEDURES

The Station Master will demonstrate several procedures that veterinarians frequently need to perform on their ferret patients. This wet lab station will focus on lymph node biopsies, hepatic biopsies, splenic biopsies, and bone marrow aspirates/biopsies.

Curriculum

Sessions for this symposium are set up to offer a selection of fundamental and in-depth instruction so that veterinarians entering at any level of experience will gain useful information.

This course has been approved for 14.5 hours of continuing education credit through the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. Registrants who elect to attend only the Saturday lectures will receive 6.5 hours.

Register Early, Join AFA, and Save On Registration Fees!

AFA reserves the right to limit the number of non-licensed veterinarians, due to space considerations. Registration fee includes all lectures, instructional materials, refreshment breaks, continental breakfast, and lunch for one or both days.

Saturday Session Lectures (6.5 hours CE):

Veterinarians	\$200.00	Students and Technicians	\$125.00
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Saturday Session Lectures and Sunday Wet Lab (14.5 hours CE):

Limited to 30 registrants - veterinarians and veterinary students only

Veterinarians	\$375.00	Students	\$275.00
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AFA Non-Member Veterinarian	Additional Fee	\$ 100.00
AFA Non-Member Student/Tech	Additional Fee	\$ 50.00
Late Registration Fee	Additional Fee	\$ 50.00
(After April 1, 2010)		

AFA Membership Fees

One-Year Veterinary Membership	\$ 75.00
One-Year Technician/Student Membership	\$ 30.00

Purpose

The American Ferret Association is an organization devoted to the health and welfare of ferrets. We want our veterinarians to give the best care and know the most about these special animals. That's why AFA is sponsoring this in-depth veterinary symposium, with the following goals in mind:

- To help veterinarians meet the growing demand for quality ferret care.
- To encourage new practitioners to learn more about ferrets.
- To provide continuing education for experienced ferret veterinarians.

This two-day symposium is a must for anyone who provides ferret health care, including those who wish to institute ferret medicine and surgery into their practices. There are millions of ferrets currently residing in United States households. Due to their ease of care and engaging personality, ferrets have become a very popular interactive companion pet. The wide range of lecture topics about this fascinating carnivore species will captivate veterinarians, veterinary technicians, students, and allied health professionals. The hands-on surgical experience will enthrall the lucky attendees who gain admission by registering first to the limited-access surgical wet lab. Join us to learn about innovative technology and new approaches to diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of many ferret disorders.

This Symposium is dedicated to the memory of Pamela Slack, DVM, who died in an airplane accident on May 4, 1999. As an AFA professional member, Dr. Slack chaired several past AFA veterinary symposiums and practiced Exotic Medicine at the Alexandria Animal Hospital in Alexandria, Virginia. She owned many ferrets and was a savior to many more.

Saturday Lecture Schedule

7:00 am	Registration Opens
7:00 am - 8:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am - 8:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:15 am - 8:45 am	Session I: Exotic Mammal Board Certification
8:45 am - 9:00 am	Break
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Session II: Cardiology
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am - 12:15 pm	Session III: Radiology and Ultrasound
12:15 pm - 1:45 pm	Luncheon
1:45 pm - 3:15 pm	Session IV: Caval Resection
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Session V: GnRH Agonists and Vaccine Study
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Break
4:45 pm - 5:45 pm	Session VI: Distemper Titer Study
5:45 pm - 6:00 pm	Closing Remarks

Sunday Wet Laboratory Schedule

The number of registrants for this wet laboratory will be limited to thirty (30) veterinarians and/or veterinary students.

7:00 am	Registration Opens
7:00 am - 7:45 am	Continental Breakfast
7:45 am - 8:00 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks
8:00 am - 9:20 am	Station One
9:20 am - 9:30 am	Break
9:30 am - 10:50 am	Station Two
10:50 am - 11:00 am	Break
11:00 am - 12:20 pm	Station Three
12:20 pm - 1:40 pm	Luncheon
1:40 pm - 3:00 pm	Station Four
3:00 pm - 3:10 pm	Break
3:10 pm - 4:30 pm	Station Five
4:30 pm - 4:40 pm	Break
4:40 pm - 6:00 pm	Station Six
6:00 pm - 6:15 pm	Closing Remarks
6:15 pm	Conference Adjourns

Sunday - A Wet Laboratory: Surgery, Radiology, Ultrasound, and Practical Techniques of the Ferret for Veterinary Professionals

- *Each registrant will have his or her own male ferret cadaver for the surgical stations.*
- *Each registrant and cadaver team will move from station to station to learn and perform all of the procedures.*
- *The Station Master will demonstrate and discuss the procedure(s), and then assist the registrants as each performs the procedure(s).*
- *Registrants will obtain blood from live volunteer and shelter ferrets at the phlebotomy station. The AFA will use the blood acquired from each ferret for the AFA distemper study.*
- *Registrants will practice intravenous catheterization on willing live volunteer and shelter ferrets.*
- *Registrants will place an intraosseous catheter in his or her cadaver ferret.*
- *Registrants will attempt urinary catheterization on his or her male cadaver ferret.*

WET LAB STATION: PARTIAL PANCREATECTOMY

A partial pancreatectomy can be an integral part of the management of ferret insulinoma disease. This wet lab station will include insulinoma management techniques and the partial pancreatectomy surgical procedure.

WET LAB STATION: PHLEBOTOMY WITH INTRAVENOUS, INTRAOSSEOUS, AND URINARY CATHETERIZATION

The Station Master will instruct the proper technique to collect blood samples from various sites, place an intravenous catheter, place an intraosseous catheter, and catheterize the urethra in male ferrets.

WET LAB STATION: GASTROINTESTINAL BIOPSIES

Gastrointestinal and abdominal lymph node biopsies are essential to the proper diagnosis and therapeutic planning for some of the most commonly encountered medical conditions found in ferrets. The Station Master will review and demonstrate anatomic considerations, surgical approaches, and biopsy techniques.

WET LAB STATION: CAVAL RESECTION AND ADRENALECTOMY

This wet lab station concludes the previous day's lecture with instruction of the caval resection surgical technique to remove the right adrenal gland completely. In addition, the Station Master will also demonstrate a left adrenalectomy.

Saturday Lectures - An Advanced Course in the Management of the Ferret for Veterinary Professionals

SESSION I: EXOTIC MAMMAL BOARD CERTIFICATION

The American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) has three Exotic Specialties: Avian, Reptile/Amphibian, and Exotic Companion Mammal (ECM). This lecture will cover a brief history of the development of these specialties along with credentialing and examination requirements. Emphasis will be on ECM.

SESSION II: CARDIOLOGY

This lecture will focus on cardiac diseases, such as Dilated Cardiomyopathy and Heartworm Disease, their diagnoses, and their treatment. In addition, this lecture will include a brief overview of anatomy and venipuncture techniques.

SESSION III: RADIOLOGY AND ULTRASOUND

This lecture will include a discussion of general radiography of the ferret including normal anatomy and common diseases. In addition, the speaker will present the basic physics of ultrasound and the ultrasound appearance of common diseases.

SESSION IV: CAVAL RESECTION

A diseased right adrenal gland often invades the caudal vena cava, making it extremely difficult to excise the tumor completely. In these situations, one surgical option includes caval resection. This lecture will focus on the indications for caval resection and the surgical procedure.

SESSION V: GnRH AGONISTS AND GnRH VACCINE STUDY

GnRH analogs, at pharmacological doses, suppress production and/or release of the gonadotropins (FSH and LH) by down regulating GnRH receptors at the pituitary. These analogs are the mainstay for medical management of adrenal cortical disease (ACD) in ferrets. Studies show that Lupron® depot injections and Deslorelin® implants have excellent clinical efficacy in treating ACD in ferrets. This clinical response to GnRH agonists helps to support the theory that LH receptors on ferret adrenal glands and their tumors regulate sex hormone production, and possibly adrenal hyperplasia and tumor growth. Prolonged suppression of the pituitary gonadotropins FSH and LH with GnRH agonists appears to be the best approach for medical management and possible prevention of ACD in ferrets. In the near future, vaccination against the GnRH protein may offer promising reduction of circulating LH concentrations with possible long-term prevention of ACD.

SESSION VI: DISTEMPER TITER STUDY

Veterinarians often vaccinate ferrets against canine distemper with an annual booster vaccination. With the use of serum neutralizing (SN) antibody titers, studies have shown that many cat and dog vaccines provide protective antibody titers for three to four years. Establishing an effective distemper vaccination protocol for ferrets is necessary to insure kit and adult protection against this deadly and contagious disease. Limiting ferret distemper vaccination to every three years or longer may prevent the risks and expense associated with these vaccinations.

Sunday Wet Lab Schedule (continued)

The wet lab will be set up into six stations, including:

- Caval Resection and Adrenalectomy
- Partial Pancreatectomy
- Gastrointestinal Biopsies
- Miscellaneous Procedures (Lymph Node Biopsies, Hepatic Biopsies, Splenic Biopsies, Bone Marrow Biopsies, etc.)
- Radiology Reading and Ultrasound
- Phlebotomy with Intravenous, Intraosseous, and Urinary Catheterization

Confirmation and Accommodations

Confirmations will be sent out as registrations are received. The symposium hotel is the Holiday Inn University and Collegiate Inn, 900 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. AFA will coordinate room sharing for those who would like to save on hotel costs. **Check the boxes on bottom of registration form and be sure to include your email address.**

Reservations: (540) 552-7001

Reservations ID: Veterinary Symposium

Room Rates: \$89.00 single/double plus tax

Internet address:

<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/roabb>

Getting to Blacksburg, Virginia by Air

Roanoke Regional Airport (ROA) is the closest airport to Blacksburg.
<http://www.roanokeairport.com/>

Ground Transportation from the airport to the Holiday Inn in Blacksburg (or the university) can be found at <http://www.roanokeairport.com/Home/TravelInformation/GroundTransportation.aspx>

The Airport Transportation Service Shuttle runs from the airport to Blacksburg three (3) times daily at 10:30 am, 2:30 pm, and 6:30 pm. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Private cars can also be reserved for up to three (3) people for \$60.00 - reservations required at <http://www.roanokecats.com/>

Speaker Faculty

Anne K. G. Bazilwich, DVM – Symposium Chair

Dr. Anne K. G. Bazilwich was only twenty-three years old when she received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine without a Bachelor degree from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. With over thirteen years of experience, she currently practices in Vermont at the Grand Isle Veterinary Hospital, which she owns and operates, and where she enjoys treating companion and exotic mammals. Dr. Bazilwich is the respected Director of Health Affairs for the American Ferret Association (AFA) and she has chaired the last three AFA International Veterinary Symposiums. Often joined by one of her pets, she frequently lectures about ferrets and other topics at veterinary and community venues. In April of 2009, Dr. Bazilwich traveled to Japan to lecture about ferrets at a Japanese veterinary conference sponsored by the Japan Ferret Association.

Michael A. Dutton, DVM, Diplomate ABVP

Mike Dutton, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), DABVP (Avian) is an exotic pet practitioner in New Hampshire. He founded the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians (www.aemv.org) and spearheaded the formation of the Exotic Companion Mammal Specialty under ABVP. He has published articles on ferret insulinoma and is a chapter author in an upcoming Elsevier text on insulinoma. He also teaches about ferrets at the New Hampshire Great Bay Community College to Veterinary Technician students.

Rene C. Gandolfi, DVM, Diplomate ABVP

A 1981 graduate of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Gandolfi developed his expertise in ferret medicine and surgery by combining his volunteer work for the California Domestic Ferret Association and local ferret rescue groups and extensive consultation with many of the top authorities across the country. His 1995 publication on basic ferret medicine was the lead article for the California Veterinary Medical Association's *California Veterinarian*, heralding the recognition of this species as an important part of the veterinary experience in the State of California. Since then he has lectured at numerous veterinary conferences both nationally and internationally as a guest speaker in Tokyo and Osaka. Dr. Gandolfi has served as the Veterinary Editor for the AFA's *American Ferret Report* and is still a regular contributor to *Ferret USA*, *Ferrets*, and *Critters USA*. Dr. Gandolfi owns and runs Castro Valley Companion Animal Hospital, where he treats all pet species. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners with certification in Canine and Feline Practice.

Mark Finkler, DVM

Dr. Finkler is a private practitioner with twenty-nine years of clinical experience working with ferrets. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine where he teaches an elective on ferret medicine and surgery.

Otto I. Lanz, DVM, Diplomate ACVS

Dr. Otto I. Lanz is an associate professor of surgery in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences and the section chief for small animal surgery and anesthesia in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. He received his DVM in 1992 from Auburn University. Prior to joining the faculty in 1998 as an assistant professor, he was a resident in small animal surgery at the University of Florida. He has also been in private practice. Lanz's research interests are reconstructive surgery and neurosurgery. He is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. In addition, he is a member of several professional organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, and the Veterinary Wound Healing Association.

Reid Tyson, DVM, Diplomate ACVR

Dr. Tyson attended North Carolina State University for undergraduate and veterinary school. After veterinary school, Dr. Tyson worked in small animal general and emergency practice. He then did his residency at Central Florida Veterinary Radiology, LLC. Dr. Tyson became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology in 2004. He then joined Oregon State University in 2005 when the school transitioned to a four-year veterinary program. In 2008, Dr. Tyson joined VA-MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. His research interests are in ultrasound, computed tomography, and using technology in education.

Robert A. Wagner, VMD, Diplomate ABVP

Dr. Wagner holds joint positions at the University of Pittsburgh as a Clinical Associate Professor of Veterinary Medicine in the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources and as a Research Associate Professor of Medicine in the School of Medicine's Department of Medicine. He also practices exotic animal medicine part-time at Fox Chapel Animal Hospital and North Boros Veterinary Hospital. With close to thirty years of exotic animal experience, Dr. Wagner has had a fascinating job history, including veterinary positions at the Pittsburgh Zoo, the National Aviary of Pittsburgh, and several wildlife conservation organizations.