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In the Shadow of a Rainbow: The History of Animal Hospice  477
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This article outlines the young history of animal hospice by first focusing on the history of human hospice, with special emphasis on the last 200 years. It then examines similarities between the two, showing how human hospice has informed its animal counterpart and defined it as specialized comfort care benefiting terminally ill companion animals in their home setting as well as a unique journey wherein the caregiver understands that quality of death is as important as quality of life. The article includes a bibliography and two specialized reading lists—on human hospice and on the growing field of animal hospice.

Delivery Systems of Veterinary Hospice and Palliative Care  499
Tamara S. Shearer

There is great flexibility in how palliative medicine and hospice care can be delivered to pet owners. The veterinarian needs to develop a plan based on the professional’s individual preferences. Variations in the services that are offered, the location of where the services are delivered, and the composition of the professional team will vary with the veterinarians preferences. Marketing and legal issues must be addressed when considering to offer palliative and hospice care. An organizational worksheet is provided at the end of this article to help with planning.

Pet Hospice and Palliative Care Protocols  507
Tamara S. Shearer

Starting a palliative or hospice care plan as soon as possible after a pet qualifies allows for better care of the pet and the family. The process is made more efficient by applying the 5-step strategy for comprehensive palliative and hospice care. The veterinarian and staff can immediately begin applying the philosophy of palliative and hospice care by following this protocol and be sure that no area of care is being neglected.

Quality-of-life Assessment Techniques for Veterinarians  519
Alice E. Villalobos

The revised veterinary oath commits the profession to the prevention and relief of animal suffering. There is a professional obligation to properly assess quality of life (QoL) and confront the issues that ruin it, such as undiagnosed suffering. There are no clinical studies in the arena of QoL assessment at the end of life for pets. This author developed a user-friendly QoL scale to help make proper assessments and decisions along the way.
to the conclusion of a terminal patient's life. This article discusses decision aids and establishes commonsense techniques to assess a pet's QoL.

**Pain Management for Veterinary Palliative Care and Hospice Patients**  
Robin Downing

When negotiating the challenges of end-of-life care for animal patients with clients, veterinary health care providers must continually engage in ongoing evaluation of the pet's quality of life, as well as assessing the client's quality of life to ensure that the best decisions possible are made. By combining regular physical evaluations, including careful palpation to unmask pain, with open and honest dialog with the client about the pet's day-to-day reality, the partnership of pet owner and veterinary health care team can accept the challenge of anticipating, preventing, finding, and relieving pain in the veterinary palliative care and hospice patient.

**Assessment and Treatment of Nonpain Conditions in Life-limiting Disease**  
Alice E. Villalobos

The “Pawspice” philosophy, which the author introduced at the 2000 American Veterinary Medical Association meeting, focuses on symptom management along with a kinder, gentler, or modified approach to standard therapy. Many veterinarians have preconceived bias or ingrained beliefs about aging, serious illness, multiple comorbidities, and cancer, which may cause a negative or dismissive approach toward palliative treatment, especially in geriatric pets. Veterinarians and their v-teams must overcome this insensitive attitude about life-limiting disease. This article describes assessment, treatment, and home management of some nonpainful life-limiting diseases, including cancer and age-related decline of vital functions in the Pawspice setting.

**Clinical Signs and Management of Anxiety, Sleeplessness, and Cognitive Dysfunction in the Senior Pet**  
Gary M. Landsberg, Theresa DePorter, and Joseph A. Araujo

Physical signs of old age may be obvious, but mental and cognitive changes require more careful observation. Changes in behavior may represent the earliest indications of medical problems, or disorders of the central nervous system, and these may be bidirectional. Cognitive dysfunction syndrome is underdiagnosed and affects a substantial portion of aged companion animals. This article describes potential treatment regimens to address age-related behavioral problems, as well as a framework for investigating differential diagnoses. Early identification of changes in behavior is essential for the adequate treatment and management of medical and behavioral problems, and for monitoring outcomes.

**The Role of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for Patients in Palliative and Hospice Care**  
Robin Downing

Veterinary patients in palliative and hospice care have progressive and often degenerative diseases that can cause pain as well as loss of function and decreased quality of life. These patients can often benefit from the
application of physical medicine and rehabilitation techniques to maximize comfort and function. Physical medicine and rehabilitation are most effective as adjuncts to pharmacologic pain management. Physical medicine and rehabilitation can decrease the doses of analgesics required to keep these patients comfortable. The blend of physical and pharmacologic medicine allows an optimum balance between maximum comfort and maximum mentation.

Managing Mobility Challenges in Palliative and Hospice Care Patients

Tamara S. Shearer

Some pet owners may have more difficulty managing a pet’s mobility challenges than any other disorder. This problem is especially frustrating because the pet is often otherwise healthy. The decline in mobility is also connected to many disease processes, such as the neuropathies seen in poorly regulated diabetes and the weakness associated with degenerative myelopathy. As death nears, a decline in mobility toward becoming recumbent or moribund is expected. The progression of the mobility disorder will vary according to the disease process. As the pet’s mobility declines, the burden of care will increase. This article addresses how to care for pets with mobility changes.

Comfort, Hygiene, and Safety in Veterinary Palliative Care and Hospice

Robin Downing, Valarie Hajek Adams, and Ann P. McClanagahan

Hygiene, comfort, and safety during pet palliative care and hospice are usually straightforward. The veterinary health care team must coordinate care to ensure that the pet and the family are fully informed and engaged in the process. End-of-life issues, euthanasia, and death are typically not everyday concerns for the pet owner. Pet owners and veterinary patients rely on the veterinary health care team to help create the structure within which the pet will die. The veterinary team can give the family-pet unit the gift of structure and multifaceted comfort. The veterinary profession must take seriously this unique niche of care.

A Veterinarian’s Role in Helping Pet Owners with Decision Making

Amir Shanan

End-of-life care frequently requires owners and veterinarians to make decisions of monumental consequences while feeling they sorely lack essential information. This feeling can be distressing to owners and veterinarians and lead to strains in their relationship. This article illustrates an approach to end-of-life decision making that offers the greatest benefit to the animal, the owner, the veterinarian, the veterinary practice, and, ultimately, the veterinary profession. The article introduces issues and concepts that underlie all companion animal end-of-life decision making—the human-animal bond, quality of life, and veterinarians’ nonmedical helping roles—and discusses major end-of-life decisions.

Ten Tips for Veterinarians Dealing with Terminally Ill Patients

Azaria Akashi

This article discusses tips for veterinarians dealing with terminally ill patients. These tips include veterinarians taking care of themselves
physically, mentally, and spiritually and exploring beliefs about pets dying. This article also addresses veterinarians’ relationships to pets and owners and their role as facilitator; studying the ethics of end-of-life-treatment; referring owners to other specialists; and taking care of staff.

Euthanasia, Moral Stress, and Chronic Illness in Veterinary Medicine

Bernard E. Rollin

Euthanasia is a double-edged sword in veterinary medicine. It is a powerful and ultimately the most powerful tool for ending the pain and suffering. Demand for its use for client convenience is morally reprehensible and creates major moral stress for ethically conscious practitioners. But equally reprehensible and stressful to veterinarians is the failure to use it when an animal faces only misery, pain, distress, and suffering. Finding the correct path through this minefield may well be the most important ethical task facing the conscientious veterinarian.

Legal Concerns with Providing Hospice and Palliative Care

Amir Shanan and Vandhana Balasubramanian

Most veterinary hospice services are provided in the pet owner’s home. Recognized standards of care have not yet been established in this emerging field. This article explores the legal implications surrounding the provision of veterinary hospice care in the United States; and provides veterinarians with the legal information necessary to determine whether and how to prepare for offering palliative and hospice care services. The legal issues that may arise in the context of veterinary hospice are largely duplicative of those that arise in the course of other types of small animal veterinary practice.

A Case Report: Veterinary Palliative Care and Hospice for a West Highland Terrier with Transitional Cell Carcinoma

Robin Downing

In providing palliative care and hospice in a veterinary outpatient primary care setting it is important to manage all aspects of the patient’s needs as well as the primary disease process, and to understand that veterinary palliative care and hospice do not require a special degree or board certification. They only require compassion for the terminally ill patient and the human family members, a commitment to keeping patients united with their families for as long as they are comfortable, and a willingness to keep a comprehensive perspective on the patient’s changing needs as death nears.

A Case Report: Pawspice for a Visla with Splenic Lymphoma

Alice E. Villalobos

This author’s experience in oncology proposes “Pawspice,” a new concept that offers early supportive care for pets with life-limiting disease, embracing palliative care and standard care. Pawspice offers compassionate and comprehensive symptom relief at diagnosis while addressing life-limiting diseases. The concept of Pawspice is to maintain quality of life with
palliative care that improves the patient’s debilitating conditions by 30% to 50%, while simultaneously administering standard care via gentle chemotherapy modified for low toxicity. This combination makes Pawspice different than palliative care (pain and symptom relief) or hospice (intense comfort care that precedes imminent death), which prevail in most conventional thinking.

A Case Report: Caring for a Golden Retriever with Nasal Cancer 689

Tamara S. Shearer

This article is a case report of a veterinarian caring for a golden retriever with nasal cancer. It addresses the 5-step strategy for comprehensive palliative and hospice care protocol, which organizes examinations, consultations, and conversations with clients. The case report presents diagnosis, treatment, and euthanasia.

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