



VETERINARY EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE SOCIETY  
**2010 SPRING SYMPOSIUM**  
**PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO**  
**APRIL 14-19**



MARRIOTT CASAMAGNA RESORT & SPA



# Marriott CasaMagna Resort & Spa

To view more information about the Marriott CasaMagna Resort, just click on the picture of the resort on the home page of our website at [www.veccs.org](http://www.veccs.org).

## Check-In and Checkout

Check-in: 4:00 PM

Check-out: 12:00 PM

## Parking

Complimentary on-site parking

## Pet Policy

Pets not allowed

## Swimming

El Salado Beach (On-site)

Indoor Pool

Outdoor Pool, heated

Kids Club Pool, heated

Whirlpool

## Fitness Facilities

Fitness Center at Ohtli SPA

## Golf

Marina Vallarta Golf Club (0.1 miles)

Vista Vallarta Golf Club-Nicklaus (4 mls)

Vista Vallarta Golf Club-Weiskopf (9 mls)

## Spa

Ohtli Spa

Appointment required

## Activities

Fly-fishing (9 miles)

Hiking (9 miles)

Horseback riding (7 miles)

Jet-skiing

Kayaking (10 miles)

Mountain biking, trail (10 miles)

Nature preserve, trail (9 miles)

Sailing

Scuba diving

Snorkeling (10 miles)

Squash (5 miles)

Tennis

Volleyball

Water-skiing

## Attractions & Landmarks

Our Lady of Guadalupe Cathedral

Marina Golf Course

Marina Vallarta

Shopping

Aquaventuras

Downtown Boardwalk

Vista Vallarta Championship Golf Courses

The Night of the Iguana film set

Los Arcos - Underwater National Park

# Marriott CasaMagna Resort & Spa

## Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

April 14-19, 2010

## Annual VECCS Members ONLY Spring Recreational Continuing Education Symposium

- Top Speakers - Internationally recognized subject Matter Experts
- Breadth & depth of EM/CC topics
- Luxurious tropical resort and spa
- Unbelievable hotel value - lowest rates
- Networking with Colleagues & Specialists
- Perfect Mix of CE and Personal Time
- World class shopping & dining experiences
- Unlimited outdoor recreation: nature tours, championship golf courses, surfing, diving, fishing, and more
- Ultimate in relaxation – stroll the beaches, enjoy the luxurious spa, breath-taking sunsets and sunrises from your hotel
- 15 hours CE credit

VECCS continues to provide its members with a combined CE – Recreational Meeting in a spectacular location outside the continental United States. The Executive Board has arranged VECCS Spring Symposium – 2010 in one of the most popular destination locations, the Marriott CasaMagna Resort and Spa in Puerto Vallarta Mexico.

This meeting will allow members to enjoy the perfect combination of VECCS cutting-edge CE in a world renowned Mexican resort with unbelievable outdoor recreation. The tropical beaches, jungle excursions and a variety of nature tours will provide attendees with unlimited opportunities to relax and recharge. The vibrant Puerto Vallarta downtown is only minutes from the hotel and provides unlimited shopping, dining and entertainment options.

The scientific program is designed to challenge the experienced emergency clinician and will focus on monitoring the critical and emergent patient to include cardiovascular, respiratory, acid-base, ventilatory monitoring and much, much more. The schedule will allow ample time to enjoy the cutting-edge lectures, visit one-on-one with the speakers, and enjoy the luxurious resort venue.

**Please join your VECCS colleagues for this exciting event!**

# SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, APRIL 15

**6:30am REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

**8:00-8:50am**

**(Brainard) Pathophysiology of Shock**

What really happens when shock occurs? Why we choose the endpoints of resuscitation that we do? This session will be a pathophysiological review of the body's response to the different types of shock, and how end-point resuscitation reflects the response to resuscitation.

**9:00-9:50am**

**(Syring) Clinical Management of Shock**

This lecture will focus on patient assessment, differentiating the types of shock and initiating patient treatment. We will delve into types of fluids, amounts and rates of administration and determining end-points of resuscitation. The importance of differentiating perfusion from blood pressure will be discussed.

**9:50-10:05am Coffee Break**

**10:05-10:55am**

**(Brainard) Blood Pressure Measurement in Small Animal Patients**

This lecture will review the available techniques and methodology for measurement of blood pressure in clinical small animal patients. Oscillometric, Doppler-based, and direct techniques will be reviewed, and interpretation of each technique will be discussed.

**10:55am-12:35pm**

**(Syring) Blood Gas Analysis Made Simple**

This lecture will use clinical cases to highlight the utility of venous and arterial blood gas analysis in your emergency practice. Acid-base, oxygenation, ventilation and electrolyte disturbances will be discussed.

**12:35-2:30pm Lunch**

**2:30-3:20pm**

**(Brainard) Analgesia in the ER and ICU**

This lecture will review pain assessment and therapy for the critical patient. Analgesic techniques will be reviewed, specifically in the context of how they affect the physiology of the critically ill patient.

**3:30-5:00pm**

**(Brainard) Coagulopathy: Newer and Older Diagnostic Techniques**

This section will cover diagnostics, clinical signs, and therapy of patients with defects in primary or secondary hemostasis. In addition, the utility of newer techniques (TEG, Sonoclot) and their relevance to clinical practice will be reviewed.

**6:30PM  
WELCOME RECEPTION  
(food & drink provided)**

**NO LECTURES  
ON FRIDAY  
HAVE FUN!!**



## SATURDAY, APRIL 17

**1:00pm REGISTRATION**

**1:30-2:20pm**

**(Syring) Preventing Transfusion Confusion**

This lecture will discuss transfusion triggers in veterinary practice, blood typing, cross-matching and the use of blood component therapy (packed red blood cells, fresh frozen plasma, stored plasma, cryoprecipitate, and platelet-rich plasma) to get the most out of this limited commodity. Monitoring of transfusions and transfusion reactions will also be discussed.

**2:30-3:20pm**

**(Brainard) Monitoring the Anesthetized Patient**

This section will cover the appropriate choice and use of techniques for monitoring the anesthetized patient, including end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> measurement, pulse oximetry, end-tidal inhaled measurement, ECG, and other techniques, such as NiCO.

**3:20-3:40pm Coffee Break**

**3:40-5:20pm**

**(Burkett) Dysrhythmic Rhumba: ECG Assessment Made Simple**

One of the primary goals of emergency therapeutics is to improve tissue perfusion. Generally, this is accomplished through support of the fluid volume and accurate evaluation and monitoring of the heart and its function. Even the most skilled clinician/technician will be unsuccessful if the function of the heart is not thoroughly assessed and appropriate intervention taken if needed. Two components of the heart that are responsible for its successful function are the electrical system and the myocardium itself.

Coordination between the two is possible due to the automaticity of the pacemaker tissues and to the intercalated discs of the conduction system. This presentation will review the basics of cardiac conduction, the accurate determination of heart rate and rhythm and common arrhythmias that are seen in the ER.



## SUNDAY, APRIL 18

**7:00AM REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

**8:00-8:50am**

**(Syring) Fixing Fluffy: Approach to the Cat with Labored Breathing**

This lecture will discuss the emergency approach to the cat with labored breathing. It will focus on physical examination findings and minimally invasive methods that can be helpful in sorting out the reason for respiratory distress in our feline patients.

**9:00-10:30am**

**(Syring) Managing the Neurologic Patient without the Headaches**

This lecture will focus on the assessment and management of the acutely neurologic patient. A discussion of fluid therapy, medications and techniques to lower intracranial pressure and the approach to cluster seizures will be included.

**10:30-10:45am Coffee Break**

**10:45am-12:30pm**

**(Rudloff) Cases with Poor Perfusion**

This panel will discuss the rapid assessment and intervention of difficult cases with poor perfusion related to acute respiratory distress, hypovolemia, cardiogenic shock, severe pain, pericardial effusion, ischemia, etc. A lively discussion is anticipated, and interaction with the audience will be encouraged.

**6:30 PM  
FAREWELL  
COCKTAIL HOUR  
ON THE BEACH**

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**Must be a VECCS Member** in good standing to register for the Scientific Program. New members are welcome and may join at this time to be eligible. See attached Registration Form (Part B) for details. Note the **early registration deadline of December 30, 2009**. Complete and return the attached Registration Form as soon as possible to secure your registration. The Scientific Program is limited to approximately 150 attendees. NOTE: Companion badges do NOT allow entry to scientific sessions.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

There are specific cancellation fees for the Scientific Program.

- Before December 30, 2009 - \$50 Fee
- December 30, 2009 – March 1, 2010 - \$100 Fee
- After March 1, 2010 - No Refund on Scientific Program Registration.

## TRAVEL RESERVATIONS

An airline request form is included with the registration materials (Part D) and we encourage booking your airline along with the rest of your meeting package through our agent, AJ Travel. They will make every effort to obtain the least expensive and most convenient method of travel for you.

## TRANSPORTATION

The airport is located approximately 1.5 miles from the Marriott.

- Transfers roundtrip: 17.00 USD (per person)
- Estimated taxi fare: 15.00 USD (one way)

You will need to request a taxi when you depart the airport as they are not at the terminal.

Transfers from the airport to the hotel **can be** arranged by AJ Travel. Email Laura at AJ Travel ([laura@ajtravel.com](mailto:laura@ajtravel.com)) for options and details.

## PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP

For entry into Puerto Vallarta, U.S. citizens must present valid passports that will not expire for at least thirty days after arrival, and a roundtrip/outbound ticket. No other documents will be accepted. Please make sure your passport has at least one blank page.



## HOTEL

Hotel Reservations for the group rate must be made through AJ Travel, the exclusive booking agent for this program. Hotel Packages are priced separately (see reservation form on page 6) from the Scientific Program. A deposit is due when submitting the forms and the balance will be invoiced with final (full) payment due March 1, 2010.

### The Hotel packages include:

- Five nights (in Wed, April 14 – out Mon, April 19) at the Marriott CasaMagna Resort & Spa - including hotel taxes, housekeeping, convention services, exercise facility, and baggage handling.
- Buffet breakfast
- Additional nights may be arranged for you (pending availability)
- Tour desk located in the hotel for local activities
- All amenities of a luxury hotel!!

**NOTE: An additional fee is charged for those registrants NOT staying in the Marriott CasaMagna Hotel room block.**

**Hotel Cancellation Policy**, which is standard for group tours utilizing major hotels, is applicable. If cancelled:

- December 30, 2009 – March 1, 2010: 1 night's room charge
- No Refund After March 1, 2010

### Optional Hotel Amenities:

- Wellness areas of the Spa: \$15 USD fee per day per person (tax included) to access the Wellness areas which includes use of the Jacuzzi, Sauna, Steam room, Showers, Hot & Cold plunge, the relaxation area and we will supply a robe, towels, locker and amenities in our vanity area. This fee does not apply if you have a Spa or beauty salon service. A link is provided online at [www.veccs.org](http://www.veccs.org) (click on the Spring Meeting picture on the home page). You may also purchase onsite through the Marriott. (Note there is no charge for use of the exercise/fitness facility.)

## RECEPTIONS - SOCIALS

- Welcome Reception Thursday night at poolside. Will include the traditional VECCS full buffet with drinks and entertainment. A must attend!
- Farewell Cocktail Party Sunday night on the beach. Join the VECCS Board and speakers for a farewell cocktail party. The sunset will be spectacular!

# REGISTRATION FORMS

## VECCS 2010 SPRING SYMPOSIUM

### Meeting, Hotel, Airline Reservations • Membership Application

#### PART A: SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM REGISTRATION:

Instructions: Please type or print clearly. Use one form per registrant. Be sure to fill out both sides of this form completely. Total the amount for each part, enter the totals in the summary box on page 6 and indicate your payment method. Enclose payment and mail or fax to address below. Note the Early registration deadlines below.

Dr./Mr./Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle One) First Name MI Last name (CVT, RVT, RN, etc.)  
 Emergency Clinic: Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Practice Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip Country  
 (\_\_\_\_\_) (\_\_\_\_\_) Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone Fax

Companion/Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**One Complimentary Companion Badge issued per scientific program registrant. Please complete PART C to purchase additional companion badges. Companion badges are NOT valid for scientific program.**

#### REGISTRATION FEES – SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Circle Your T-shirt Size

REGISTRANT	On/Before 12/30/09	Between 12/30/09 & 3/1/10	After 3/1/10
<b>Veterinarians (Incl, MD, RN, Etc.)</b>	<b>\$395</b>	<b>\$445</b>	<b>\$495</b>
<b>Techs, Interns, Residents</b>	<b>\$340</b>	<b>\$390</b>	<b>\$425</b>

S
M
LG
XLG
XXLG

**PLEASE INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL \$175 FEE FOR REGISTRANTS NOT STAYING AT HOST HOTEL.**

Cancellation Fees: Before Dec 30, 2009 - \$50 Fee • Dec 30, 2009 - Mar 1, 2010 - \$100 Fee • After Mar 1, 2010 - No Refund

#### PART B: VECCS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To be eligible to register for the VECCS 2010 Spring Break Meeting you must be a member in good standing at time of registration. If you are not a member and would like to be, complete the form below and include appropriate membership fee with your total payment.

Position	In North America	International		
Veterinarian	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$135	check boxes that apply:	
Intern/Resident	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90		<input type="checkbox"/> Small Animal
Technician	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> \$80		<input type="checkbox"/> Large Animal
Manager/Admin	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75		<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Animal
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$55	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65		<input type="checkbox"/> Zoo or Exotic Animal
Veccs & Eveccs Joint Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$160			<input type="checkbox"/> Private Practice
			<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	
			<input type="checkbox"/> University Practice	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Research	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Practice	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Student Chapter	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Private Specialty	

The Journal of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care (JVECC) is included with membership (online access included).  
 An e-mail address MUST be provided to receive online access.

#### PART C: ADDITIONAL COMPANION BADGES

A Badge is required for each person 12 years or older to attend all social functions and to enter the Exhibit Hall.

**Additional** badges: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50/Adult = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20/Child = **TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for badges: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

On Site Fee for Companion Badge is: \$60/Adult and \$30/Child

## PART D: AIRLINE/RENTAL CAR RESERVATIONS

Every effort will be made to obtain the least expensive and most convenient itinerary for you. Our travel Agent (AJ Travel) has contracts for this meeting with CONTINENTAL and AMERICAN AIRLINES plus several TOUR COMPANIES. Please complete this Travel Request. (You will be contacted with proposed itinerary)

Passenger Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Total Passengers \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm (departure city) \_\_\_\_\_ (departure date) \_\_\_\_\_ (return date) \_\_\_\_\_

Preference:  Window  Aisle  Frequent Flyer Information: (airline) \_\_\_\_\_ (FF#) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Credit Card authorization or check payments must be received before reservations and airfare can be secured. All airfare payments are subject to airline cancellation fees.

**Rental car information requested:**  No  Yes:  Car  Van  4-wheel drive

**Tour companies offer Air & Car packages. Please call AJ Travel for a quote at 800-344-8456**

## SUMMARY

**PAYMENTS:** Please include credit card authorization or a check for payment of fees indicated. **Make checks payable in US funds to VECCS.**

### TOTAL FEES:

Part A: Scientific Program Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Part B: VECCS Membership (new) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Part C: Additional Companion Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Part D: Airline Travel Reservation \$ **N/A**

Part E: Additional Fee - \$175 (Please include if you are not staying at host hotel) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL FEES (A+B+C+E)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Credit Card:  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Forms with payment to: **VECCS Puerto Vallarta, 16404 San Pedro Ave., San Antonio, TX 78232**  
**Or Fax to: 210-491-9484; Or Register On-line: www.veccs.org**

## HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Each Hotel Package Quote Includes: **Five (5) nights** April 14-19 (in Wednesday and out Monday) at the Marriott CasaMagna Resort & Spa, including buffet breakfast, fitness facility, hotel taxes, daily service charge (housekeeping, convention services, etc.), and baggage handling. Please check your preferences below.



### RUN OF HOUSE OCEAN VIEW ROOMS

Double – \$874/2 person/5 nights

Single – \$870/1 person/5 nights

Add. Nights:

Single/Double – \$168/person/night

### Additional Information Requested

Room Type Requested (subject to availability)

King Bed  Double Beds  Smoking  Non-Smoking

Sharing Room With: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A one night deposit will be charged by VECCS Booking Agent (AJ Travel) at the time of booking. Final payment will be charged to your credit card on file on March 1, 2010 by VECCS Booking Agent.**

### HOTEL CANCELLATION FEES

Dec 30, 2009 – March 1, 2010:  
1 night's room charge

No Refund After March 1, 2010

**Hotel Rate:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Add Nights:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ persons X \_\_\_\_\_ nights = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge deposit and final hotel reservation payment to:  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# TOURS

## Outdoor Adventure: 7.5 hrs

Boat Travel, hiking, rappelling, zip lining, mule riding and hanging bridges; our Outdoor Adventure has all the elements you're looking for in the most complete adventure experience of Mexico. It takes place in an area of unspoiled tropical forest where scenic beauty and rich ecological habitats create a true tropical paradise.

\$98.00 usd pp

## Dolphin Adventure: 2 hrs (Incl. travel time)

Take a journey into the intriguing world of the dolphin through amazing face-to-face encounters in which you can touch, feed, play, learn and swim with dolphins. Your journey of discovery transports you to a place where people and dolphins make life-long connections and dreams of touching and swimming with these magnificent beauties of the ocean come true:

Signature Swim: \$149.00 usd pp

Swim Experience: \$101.00 usd pp

Dolphin Encounter: \$79.00 usd pp

## Sea Safari: 6.5 hrs

You'll love this multi-activity trip. Observe marine life escorting us as we travel, ride horses to spectacular waterfalls, sea kayak along pristine beaches, visit remote fishing villages, snorkel in emerald waters and discover the amazing rainforest wonders of Banderas bay.

\$110.00 usd pp

## Mountain Adventure: 6 hrs

On your very own ATV, follow the guide through the country and canopy between the treetops. Adrenaline rush guaranteed!

Single ATV: \$136.00 usd pp

Double ATV: \$200.00 usd per bike

## Kontiki Colomitos Majahuitas: 6.5 hrs

This is certainly the most relaxing tour in town. Enjoy a fun cruise with stops for diving, snorkeling, kayaking or simply sunbathing. Great group tour.

\$70.00 usd pp

*All tours must be booked, and paid for by March 1, 2010. After this date it will be on a request only. There will be a tour desk at the reception desk to book on site. Prices listed for these tours maybe be subject to change. Tours offered are based on a minimum number of people. Please call or email Laura in the registration office for tour reservations (see below).*

## San Sebastian: 8 hrs

San Sebastian was a highly prosperous town during the Colony. Today, with only 600 inhabitants, one can still find scattered examples of its magnificent historical grandeur. You will observe tumbling colonial architecture merging with a colorful village square, quaint cobblestone streets, passing mules and a sleepy way of life far removed from the rest of the world.

\$80.00 usd pp

## Rhythms of the Night: 4.5 hrs

As we arrive to the secluded cove of Las Caletas, you'll be welcomed by flickering torches and soft music. You'll dine by candle-light beside the moon-lit ocean, with tropical palms swaying gently overhead. Then, a rhythmic drumbeat will beckon you into the heart of the shadowy jungle, the staging for our hypnotic performance of dance and mysticism. Excellent group tour.

\$89.00 usd pp

## Sierra Madre Expedition: 6 hrs

This tour will take you off the beaten track and offer insights to a breathtaking Mexican outback that few know exists. Our off-road voyage of discovery will take you over bumpy terrain and through mountain streams and remote villages, on a mission to reach the heart of the Sierra Madre.

\$88.00 usd pp

## Las Caletas: 6 hrs

Enjoy a day at magical Las Caletas, our own private beachfront hide-away, set in a sheltered cove. You can choose between pure relaxation or gentle exploration in the surrounding area. We offer kayaking and guided snorkeling tours, nature walks in the jungle, yoga lessons and the best opportunity to try our exclusive Hilltop Spa.

\$85.00 usd pp

## Canopy La Vista: 4.5 hrs

This fantastic canopy tour of 15 thrilling ziplines across the hills of the Sierra Madrel, gives you the opportunity to enjoy the huge tropical forest and the diversity of native birds, and other wildlife.

\$69.00 usd pp

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

REGISTRATION CTR: (800) 344-8456 OR

(210) 490-2400

FAX: (210) 491-9484

EMAIL: LAURA@AJTRAVEL.COM

VECCS OFFICE: (210) 698-5575

FAX: (210) 698-7138

EMAIL: INFO@VECCS.ORG

WEB SITE: WWW.VECCS.ORG

VECCS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
6335 Camp Bullis Road, #12  
San Antonio, Texas 78257

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**Hotel Space  
Limited**

**Early Registration  
Discount**



## SPEAKERS

### **Rebecca Syring DVM, DACVECC**

Rebecca Syring is a 1996 graduate of Michigan State University. She completed a small animal rotating internship at the University of Pennsylvania in 1997 and remained there for residency training in emergency and critical care medicine. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care in 2001. She has been employed at the University of Pennsylvania ever since as a criticalist in the Emergency Service where she works as a clinical veterinarian while teaching/mentoring students, interns and residents. Her interests include fluid resuscitation of the emergent patient and management of acute intracranial disease.

### **Benjamin Brainard DVM, DACVECC, DACVA**

Dr. Brainard received his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 2000, followed by a one year internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at the University of Georgia. Following internship, Dr. Brainard completed dual residencies in Veterinary Anesthesiology and Emergency and Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Brainard is currently an assistant professor of critical care at the University of Georgia, and is board certified in both veterinary anesthesiology and emergency/critical care. Dr. Brainard serves as an associate editor for the Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. Dr. Brainard is a recent recipient of the University of Georgia CVM clinical research award.

### **Dennis Burkett DVM, DACVECC, DACVIM (Cardiology)**

Dr. Dennis Burkett is a Past President of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (VECCS) and the current President of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC). He is a 1984 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, and obtained both MS (1980) and PhD (1986) degrees in Physiology and Biophysics from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine (with a concentration in Emergency and Critical Care Medicine) at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1987 and received professional certification as a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (DACVECC) in September 1993. In 2005 Dr. Burkett completed a residency in cardiology at both Red Bank Veterinary Hospital and the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He received professional certification as a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in the subspecialty of Cardiology (DACVIM, Cardiology) in 2007. He currently works in a specialty referral hospital in Malvern, Pennsylvania.