

Pacific Tide

An informational newsletter

Pacific Veterinary Specialists & Emergency Service
1980 41st Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010
Specialty 831-476-2584 -Emergency 831-476-0667

Pacific Veterinary Specialists Monterey
2 Harris Court Suite A-1
Monterey, CA 93940
Monterey Office 831-717-4834 or Capitola 831-476-2584

www.pacificveterinaryspecialists.com



August 2013
Volume 8, Issue 1



About our Author

Merriane Burtch, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM)

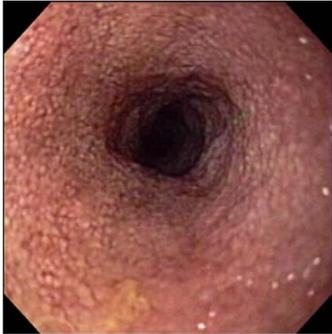
Dr. Burtch received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from UC Davis in 1993. She completed an internship at Santa Cruz Veterinary Hospital in 1994. In 1996 she completed an ACVIM approved residency in internal medicine at the same facility, which included out-rotations at UC Davis. She became board certified in internal medicine in 1999. Dr. Burtch's special interests include diabetes mellitus, gastroenterology and liver disease. She is one of the founding partners of Pacific. Dr Burtch is also the heart and soul behind Birch Bark foundation, a non-profit organization that provides support, education and resources to pet owners and veterinarians in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.



**Merriane
Burtch, DVM,
DACVIM
(SAIM)**

Endoscopy—What's New at Pacific?

Our profession has been progressing remarkably in the past decade with the advent of minimally invasive procedures. As internal medicine specialists our initial offerings were limited to endoscopy to remove foreign bodies and obtain samples- but the field has grown significantly. As owners become more aware of options for minimally invasive procedures and digital imaging has improved the resolution of very small diameter video-endoscopes, Pacific has expanded available diameter and length of video endoscopes this year and will be offering endoscopic procedures in both offices starting mid September.



The availability of a 140 cm long, larger diameter gastroscope allows diagnostic biopsies in larger dogs like Great Danes. As always our emergency service has access to the equipment and specialists on call to help with foreign body retrieval from the esophagus, stomach, nose and pulmonary tree. Dogs with ulcerative gastric disease can get definitive diagnoses with biopsies. Although surgical biopsies might be indicated in certain cases, obtaining biopsies from both upper and lower intestines increases the validity of

biopsy diagnoses including- inflammatory bowel disease, GI lymphoma and protein losing enteropathy with minimally invasive procedures.

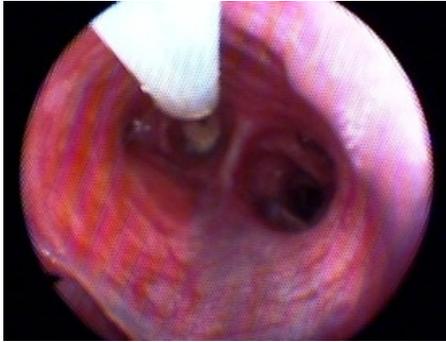
Our new set of equipment also includes a 8 cm long, 1.9 mm diameter rigid scope idea for evaluation of the bladder in small dogs and female cats. In cases where a female patient has cystic calculi of small diameter cystoscopy can be used to remove those stones with a combination of basket retrieval and hydro propulsion. Our larger longer 4 mm diameter rigid scope will allow thorough examination of the bladder in larger female dogs. The 140 cm long 2.1 mm flexible scope allows



evaluation of the urethra in male dogs > than 20#. Definitive diagnosis of bladder masses and urethra disease will be more available in our Capitola office with this equipment.

Rhinoscopy is a valuable way to evaluate the architecture of the nasal cavity and nasopharynx in order to diagnose inflammation, foreign bodies, fungal disease and cancer. Our three sizes each of rigid and flexible endoscopes allow evaluation of the nose and nasopharynx from small cats to Mastiffs with excellent resolution and ease of obtaining biopsies. Imaging such as CT is sometimes a necessary part of staging and evaluating head and neck disease- but initial rhinoscopic evaluation when sneezing, epistaxis and post nasal drip are present can provide a definitive diagnosis in many cases. Nasopharyngeal stenosis which can now be treated with balloon dilation or stents can be diagnosed with flexible endoscopy. Nasopharyngeal polyps can also be located and successfully removed decreasing the chance of reoccurrence when the stalk is removed with endoscopic confirmation.





Bronchoscopy and tracheoscopy remain the best way to evaluate a patient with a chronic cough. These techniques with accompanying anatomical maps of the airways allow evaluation of specific areas with radiographic abnormalities in the pulmonary parenchyma. Foreign body removal- foxtails, grasses, small pine cones and rocks can be removed with careful finesse and, yes I have removed each of those from a cat or dog airway. Chronic bronchitis and eosinophilic airway disease as well as lung parasites can be diagnosed with visualization and obtaining broncho alveolar lavage from the lower airways for

cytology and culture. Neoplasia in the lung that does not manifest as a solid mass but diffusely affects the airways can be diagnosed via this method either by cytology or in rare cases biopsies of the airway.



Newer high resolution otoscopic examination with a video otoscope is another tool available particularly to dermatologists to help determine the extent and severity of otitis. It allows good visualization for procedures that are both diagnostic and therapeutic; such as myringotomy with resultant irrigation, biopsy/mass removal, and/or foreign body retrieval. Because this newer technology allows excellent visualization, Dr. Katherine Doerr, who recently joined Pacific will be using this equipment for more thorough treatment and monitoring of external and middle ear disease.



Minimally invasive techniques of thoracoscopy and laparoscopy are also progressing with more diagnostic and therapeutic options. Some pet owners are pursuing these procedures with the intent of minimizing their pet's morbidity. UC Davis is developing remarkable techniques for thoracic duct identification and ligation using specific UV activated dyes and chemo embolism to treat certain subsets of neoplasia. UC Davis has also been using endoscopic laser technique to successfully treat ectopic ureters for more than a year with good success. Looking into these emerging and

newer techniques at universities and secondary or tertiary referral facilities is part of being good medical advocates for our patients and clients.

As we provide medical care for our patients and their owners in a service oriented business, offering all available options for diagnostics and therapeutics is vital to maintaining excellent client doctor relationships. Clients are becoming better educated about the availability of minimally invasive diagnostics, therapeutics and the availability of specialty medicine,. Discussing options with your clients so they can make a fully informed decision about how to proceed with their pet's care is ideal.

If you have a patient that might benefit from endoscopic procedures please call any of the internal medicine specialists at Pacific and we can discuss your case or let you know what is available at specialty hospitals in the area as well as the ongoing studies and availability at UC Davis.

Our Doctors

Internal Medicine

Kelly Akol, DVM, DACVIM (small animal)
Merrienne Burtch, DVM, DACVIM (small animal)
Michelle Pressel, DVM, DACVIM (small animal)
Ryan Garcia, DVM, DACVIM (small animal)

Surgery

Lisa Metelman, MS, DVM, DACVS
Tom LaHue, DVM, DACVS

Oncology

Theresa Arteaga, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

Critical Care

Colleen Brady, DVM, DACVECC
Lillian Good, DVM, DACVECC

Cardiology

Mandi Kleman, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)

Dermatology

Katherine Doerr, DVM

Radiology (VRS)

Larry Kerr, DVM, DACVR
Mark Lee, DVM, DACVR

Emergency

Christian Robison, DVM
Kim Delkener, DVM
Mark Saphir, DVM
Jessica Kurek, DVM

Behavior

Jan Brennan, DVM (practice limited to behavior)

About Our Hospitals

Pacific Veterinary Specialists was founded to provide high quality, specialized medical care to companion animal patients. Our practice is dedicated to serving the veterinary community as a partner in total patient care. We offer comprehensive specialized services including endoscopy, Doppler ultrasound, surgery, 24-hour ICU care, and emergency and critical care. Our staff is committed to providing compassionate and thorough medical care that meets the needs of the patient, client, and referring veterinarian. In September 2011 we opened PVSM and offer internal medicine, oncology, dermatology and cardiology Tuesday through Thursday in Monterey. Behavior consultations by appointment are available on Mondays.

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