

4th International Veterinary Specialties Symposium Neurological Diseases and Conditions in Veterinary Medicine

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The Croatian Academy of Science and Arts (CASA), Department of Medical Sciences, Committee for Animal and Comparative Pathology, organized the 4th International Veterinary Specialties Symposium entitled “*Neurological diseases and conditions in Veterinary Medicine*”. The symposium was held on 25th of November 2025 in the Library Hall of the Croatian Academy of Science and Arts (CASA), Zagreb.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, Academician Dražen Matičić emphasized the excellence of the lecturers from Germany, Switzerland, and Croatia, who were brought together by a shared mission to promote knowledge in clinical veterinary medicine. He noted that this year’s topics were focused on veterinary neurology and dermatology, particularly on current issues encountered in everyday practice.

On behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, the participants of the Symposium were welcomed by Academician Vida Demarin, Secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences. She recalled a recent and very successfully organized symposium by the Department and welcomed all lecturers from Croatia and abroad.

The Symposium was opened with the lecture by Anna Knebel, Dipl. ECVN, MRCVS, who highlighted the challenges in diagnosing epileptic seizures and emphasized the importance of differential diagnosis in treating patients with seizures. Particular attention was given to the value of obtaining a detailed medical history and performing a thorough clinical exam.

This topic continued by dr. sc. Petra Dmitrović, who is a resident trainee in ECVA and delivered an engaging lecture entitled “*Anesthesia and epilepsy - friends or enemies?*”. Her presentation focused on clarifying whether anesthesia acts as an ally or an adversary in epileptic patients, offering valuable insight into appropriate drug selection while minimizing the risk of seizure occurrence.

The Symposium also explored the connection between neurological disorders and dermatological conditions. It was an extreme honor to hear Ana Petak, Dipl. ECVD, who explained the importance of recognizing dermatological manifestations of neurological diseases. Accurate identification of these signs is crucial for correct diagnosis, avoiding misinterpretation of some neurological diseases as primary skin pathology and ensuring appropriate therapeutic strategies.

Addressing a common yet frequently underdiagnosed condition, Tamara Weitzer, Dipl. ECVD, ACVD, presented a practical and up-to-date framework for diagnosing and treating otitis media in dogs and cats. The lecture emphasized individualized and evidence-based approaches aimed at optimizing patient outcomes while mitigating antimicrobial resistance.

Dr. sc. Filip Kajin, Dipl. ECVD, delivered an insightful lecture on neuropathic pain. This lecture provided guidance on distinguishing acute from chronic pain and effective recognition of chronic neuropathic pain as well as its treatment.

The Symposium concluded with an engaging lecture by PD Jasmin Nessler who quite literally woke up the audience with “*I can’t get no sleep - sleep disorders in dogs*”. This presentation offered an overview of common and clinically relevant sleep disturbances in canine patients.

The Symposium addressed current key topics and offered a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to neurological diseases in veterinary medicine. It represented a highly valuable educational experience, contributing significantly to the exchange of knowledge and professional development. The organizers efforts are greatly appreciated, as meetings of this kind are essential for the continued advancement of veterinary science and clinical practice. The opportunity to host such distinguished speakers and recognized experts was a great honor, and continued collaboration and the organization of similar future high-quality scientific events is highly anticipated.