



James Mackey AAS, BS, CVT, VTS (AA) United States

Q: Why did you join IVAPM?

A: Over the last ten years, I have worked at dozens of veterinary hospitals. The spectrum of care that I have witnessed, particularly when it comes to the subfield of anesthesia/analgesia, is dramatic. Many hospitals are providing excellent care to their patients. Unfortunately, and for a variety of reasons, many other hospitals struggle to provide that same level of care. I joined the IVAPM, which has long advocated for the adoption of best practices in the prevention, detection, and management of pain, in order to elevate the level of care throughout the veterinary industry. I hope to see the day when veterinary patients receive the same level of care as their human counterparts, and I believe the IVAPM will play a role in fulfilling that dream.

Q: What is the importance of pain management in veterinary medicine?

A: From a moral standpoint, veterinary professionals have a duty to alleviate pain and suffering. That responsibility is prominently enshrined in the oaths that both veterinarians and veterinary technicians undertake. From a medical standpoint, providing effective analgesia improves patient outcomes as pain is associated with negative effects on nearly every body system (cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, endocrine, immune, etc). Finally, from a financial standpoint, providing preemptive analgesia can reduce overall hospitalization costs (medication amounts, frequency of administration, level of care required, duration of hospitalization, etc). In short, the importance of providing analgesia, regardless of the viewpoint adopted, cannot be overstated.

Q: What vet medicine pain management related initiatives are you involved with and/or most proud of accomplishing?

A: Where does one begin? The amount and quality of information available right now is astonishing: AAHA, WSAVA, Vetbloom, IVAPM, VETgirl, Clinician's Brief, NAVAS, AVTAA, ThinkAnesthesia. The list never ends, and I am eternally grateful to all the dedicated veterinary professionals who generated that content. A special thank you goes out to Dr. Andi Looney who has been instrumental in my own development. I am fortunate to have worked with her, and my biggest accomplishment is having understood a fraction of what she attempted to teach me.

Q: What passion veterinary projects are you currently involved?

A: Despite the aforementioned resources, veterinary anesthesia lags behind human anesthesia. It seems to me that this paradox implies a lack of training rather than a dearth of information. For the last couple of years I have dedicated myself to traveling around the country to provide onsite training. I look forward to visiting more clinics in the months and years to come. In between training sessions, I plan to dedicate myself to my new role with the IVAPM, completing the Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner certification, and completing a Masters degree in Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia.