SIMINI

WORLD VETERINARY ORTHOPAEDIC CONGRESS

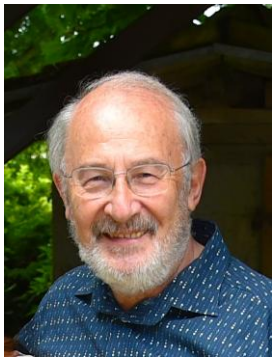
7° World Veterinary Orthopaedic Congress

jointly organised by ESVOT European Society of Veterinary Orthopaedics and Traumatology · Veterinary Orthopedic Society

Beyond Sterility: Practical Strategies to Prevent Surgical Site Infections

Meet the instructors

Aldo Vezzoni, Med. Vet., S.C.M.P.A., Dipl ECVS, Private practitioner



He earned a degree in veterinary medicine in 1975 and attended the University of Milan, specializing in small animal medicine (S.C.M.P.A.) in 1978. He was board-certified by the European College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1993 in Cambridge. In 1976, he founded his veterinary practice in Cremona, where he is working as a referral specialist in orthopedics. President of the Italian Small Animal Veterinary Association (SCIVAC) from 1989 to 1991, Secretary of the European Society of Veterinary Orthopedics and Traumatology (ESVOT) from 1993 to 2006, and President from 2006 to 2008, and again Secretary from 2012 to 2022. Editor of OrthoVetSuperSite, the educational website of ESVOT since 2007. Secretary of SIOVET (Italian Veterinary Orthopedic Society) from 2004 to 2007 and President from 2007 to 2012. Member of the Technical Commission of the Italian Kennel Club from 2000 to 2010. President of Fondazione Salute Animale (FSA) and Chairman of the FSA Panel for Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Official Control since 1995. Orthopedic consultant at the Veterinary School of Vienna in 2010 and 2011, Associate Professor in Orthopedics at the Veterinary School of Milan from 2009 to 2017. The speaker in several national and international meetings and Author on orthopedics, radiology, SSI, and surgery. His main interests are early diagnosis and treatment of Hip Dysplasia, Elbow Dysplasia, and Joint Replacement, and prevention of SSI. Recipient of the 2013 ACVS Merit Award in San Antonio, Texas, 24th October 2013 for his sustained and distinguished contributions to the art and science of veterinary surgery. In 2025, he received an award from Movora in Vienna for performing the highest number of hip replacements in dogs and cats worldwide, with more than 5,000 animals operated on.

Augusta Pelosi, DVM, Dipl ACVS, Dipl ACVIM (Cardiology)

Dr. Pelosi was born and raised in Italy. She attended the College of Veterinary Medicine at Università di Pisa and the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (Erasmus program) and earned her DVM degree from the Università di Pisa. Upon moving to the US in 2001, she obtained the ECFVG certification. Dr. Pelosi completed a small animal rotating internship at the Cumming's School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. She has continued her education with surgery and cardiology residency at Michigan State University where she remained as a professor in cardiology until 2016. She is boarded in both surgery and cardiology. She created and directed the Michigan State University – Open heart Team. In South Florida, she has founded the Veterinary Heart Institute. She is part of the Idexx Laboratories Telemedicine cardiology team. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota – Department of Surgery. She has taught veterinary students, interns and residents for over 20 years, she has contributed to research advancement in human and veterinary cardiac surgery and has been

actively involved in several leadership positions, including within the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM). Dr. Pelosi has authored several publications and book chapters. Her primary focus is cardiac and cardiovascular surgery. She has been actively promoting the concept of One Health and scientific knowledge for years through publications and as a speaker at international conferences in the field of cardiology, veterinary surgery and prevention of hospital-acquired and antibiotic-resistant infections. She provides consultation for various companies both in the field of cardiology and thoracic surgery.
Outside of work, she is a certified yoga teacher, she enjoys spending time with her kids and friends, golfing, traveling, cooking, and learning languages.

Denis Verwilghen, DVM, MSc, PhD, DES, Dipl ECVS, Dipl EVDCeq

Currently Clinical Director at Goulburn Valley Equine Hospital, Denis graduated from Ghent University Belgium in 2003, worked in private practice before enrolling in a surgical residency at Liege University in Belgium. After a period as Head of Equine Surgery at Uppsala University in Sweden, Denis ran a private surgery consultancy service then became Associate Professor at Copenhagen University Denis before moving to Australia, first at Sydney Uni, now at Melbourne University's Equine Practice. Denis has a particular interest in hand hygiene, aseptic procedures and methods for prevention and control of surgical site infections.

Fergus Allerton BVsc, Dipl ECVIM

Fergus Allerton graduated from the University of Bristol and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Liege, Belgium. He is a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Medicine and currently works at Willows Referral Service in the UK. Fergus is actively involved in veterinary antibiotic stewardship and contributed to the development of the PROTECT ME guidelines. Within ENOVAT he prepared recommendations for antibiotic use for surgical prophylaxis and canine acute diarrhoea. He is the current editor of Companion and the BSAVA formulary, a member of the WSAVA Therapeutic Guidelines Group and clinical medicine lead for RCVS Knowledge.

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Start Time	Classes	Speaker
08:00	Welcome and introduction	
08:15	Strategies to prevent spread of infectious diseases in my surgical practice	**Denis Verwilghen**
08:45	Peri-operative pathways of surgical contamination and infection	**Aldo Vezzoni**
09:45	Evidence based review of surgical site infection prevention	**Denis Verwilghen**
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Surgical team preparation techniques	**Augusta Pelosi**
11:45	Patient preparation protocols - Year 2026	**Denis Verwilghen**
12:30	Lunch break with experts	
13:30	Management of Surgical infections: surgical revisions when and how	**Aldo Vezzoni**
14:15	Time, Room flow, briefing and debriefing and checklist. How team approach can improve outcome	**Augusta Pelosi**
15:00	Prophylactic antibiotics in orthopaedics – are they necessary? ***Online talk***	**Fergus Allerton**
15:45	Coffee break	
16:00	Team Building and Practice	**All**
17:45	Final Remarks and questions	
18:00	End of the Course	

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Focus group

- Primary focus is toward Veterinarians and operating room technicians/nurses
- Veterinary surgeons interested in improving their surgical outcomes and reducing the risk of surgical site infections by reviewing their basic surgical skills knowledge and learn techniques to improve team flow will find the lab quite educative

Learning Outcomes (Concise)

At the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Identify key peri-operative factors contributing to surgical site infections in veterinary patients.
2. Apply evidence-based principles for SSI prevention, including patient and team preparation.
3. Implement structured peri-operative workflows (checklists, briefing/debriefing, room flow) to improve surgical safety and outcomes.
4. Make informed decisions regarding antimicrobial prophylaxis in line with stewardship principles.
5. Recognise and appropriately manage surgical site infections, including indications for surgical revision.
6. Improve operating-room communication and teamwork through practical, team-based exercises.

Number of Participants

- Min 10 – Max 30

Course Outline (Lean)

- **SSI Fundamentals**
  Pathways of contamination and evidence-based prevention strategies.
- **Patient & Team Preparation**
  Updated patient prep protocols and surgical team aseptic techniques.
- **Managing Surgical Site Infections**
  Early recognition, decision-making, and surgical revision strategies.
- **Operating Room Flow & Team Performance**
  Checklists, briefing/debriefing, time management, and safety culture.
- **Antimicrobial Prophylaxis**
  Evidence-based use of antibiotics in surgery and orthopaedics.
- **Team-Based Practical Session**
  Interactive exercises focused on communication, coordination, and workflow optimisation.
- **Wrap-Up & Discussion**
  Key take-home messages and implementation in clinical practice.

Background To the Course

Despite major advances made in the technical aspects of many procedures, Surgical Site Infections remain a major burden on the outcomes of surgical procedures. A veterinary survey on personnel and patient preparation performed amongst ACVS & ECVS diplomates revealed that application of accepted guidelines is poor (Verwilghen et al, unpublished). This finding corroborates the findings of a large body of human literature and the single veterinary report[10] and suggests that improving the actual outcomes of procedures lay in anchoring better basic surgical concepts into the procedure. Updating one's knowledge on current concepts of aseptic technique, perioperative antimicrobial use and early recognition of surgical infections is key to improving surgical outcomes.

This workshop has three folds: 1. Provide a better understanding of the factors that may lead to the development of surgical site infections in veterinary surgical patients. 2. improve the quality (and quantity) of work in practice by applying and refining teamwork techniques. 3. provide a forum for reviewing and standardizing basic surgical skills training;

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Further this workshop will provide techniques focused on OR teamwork. Team efficiency, which implies strong coordination and teamwork efforts, has been shown to increase productivity, enhance employee and client satisfaction and are therefore essential items in any veterinary practice. Team building activities performed regularly have been shown to significantly decrease errors and improve employee performance.

Over the last few years, a large body of literature has flourished to prove the importance and establish operating surgical skills standards as part of the training of human surgeons, surgical residents and the OR teams.[1] In parallel, alternative learning resources (like simulation laboratories) have been explored in order to enhance and accelerate the learning process for surgical residents.[2]

This lab aims to improve surgeons and the surgical team's knowledge and skills around prevention of surgical site infections and improving outcomes also by increasing communication and planning skills.