

Electrocardiogram (ECG) Interpretation

A PowerLinks Page Presented By



There are several fantastic on-line and interactive resources for brushing up on your ECG interpretation skills. This PowerLinks review provides a brief assessment of the resources and some advice on how to focus on the most important information within them for board exam preparation.

Electrocardiogram PowerLinks

Vetgo:

<http://www.vetgo.com/cardio/concepts/concsect.php?conceptkey=165>

This is a fantastic website from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) that is moderated by two ACVIM board-certified cardiologists: Michael R. O'Grady and M. Lynne O'Sullivan. This is an excellent review of how to systematically read an ECG and a review with example ECGs of the major rhythm abnormalities seen in animals. While all of the information here is useful, the most pertinent items for board preparation are items 1-5 and 19-36.

For testing yourself, there is a link at the top to review "Quarterly Cases" which all have a rhythm lead ECG under the diagnostics for the case. You can evaluate it and then link to the interpretation, which provides a thorough evaluation of the ECG and most importantly, the rhythm diagnosis. For a more focused review, there are multiple ECGs of just about every conduction problem you might see on boards at <http://vetgo.com/cardio/ecgmonth/ecgmonth.php> with written interpretations.

Going through the full cases is a fun and interesting way to brush up on all of your cardiology including therapy. This can be time-consuming and may be a better resource if you still have a lot of time before your exam or if your VetPrep statistics indicate that cardiology is a major area that you need to focus on.

At <http://www.vetgo.com/cardio/concepts/concindx.php#sect3> the site also has a good review of many other aspects of cardiology; it is not just ECG interpretation.

They also have a radiograph of the month and a radiograph database which are great for review if you have time. The drug formulary is a great resource, even after your exam, for future reference.

UC Davis

<http://www.vmeth.ucdavis.edu/cardio/cases/index.htm>

This is also a great, case-based, interactive cardiology resource. It is from the University of California, Davis and is maintained by a board certified cardiologist, Mark Kittleson. This site lacks the basic information seen at the Vetgo website on interpretation but has a larger set of sample cases and ECGs to review.

For board review, VetPrep recommends the ECG review and believes it is the best part of this website. In addition to showing an ECG, each one has multiple choice questions about the disease and treatment that are comparable in difficulty to some NAVLE questions as well as a brief answer explanation. VetPrep believes this is one of the most effective ways to learn.

There are also full cases to go through from this site. They are interactive and full of useful information but can be time-consuming. We recommend going through the full cases if you have sufficient time before your exam or if your VetPrep statistics indicate that cardiology is a major area that you need to focus on.

Merck

http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/index.jsp?cfile=htm/bc/toc_11200.htm

The Merck review of cardiology and ECG interpretation is available on-line but is less interactive and thorough compared to the other resources on this page.

