

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the Authors

About the Contributors

Preface

Acknowledgments

## **Part 1 Patient Care Considerations 1**

### **1 The Gold Standard, Standards of Care, and Spectrum of Care: An Evolving Approach to Diagnostic Medicine 3**

*Ryane E. Englar*

1.1 Defining the Gold Standard 3

1.2 Limitations of the Gold Standard 4

1.3 Returning to the Case of the Cat with Stranguria: a Different Perspective on Standards of Care 4

1.4 Limitations to Standards of Care 5

1.5 Spectrum of Care 6

References 7

### **2 Consultation Room Communication Strategies that Facilitate Dialogue on the Diagnostic Approach to Patient Care 9**

*Ryane E. Englar*

2.1 Emergence of Communication as a Clinically Relevant Skill in Human Health Care 9

2.2 The Evolution of Communication in Veterinary Health Care 10

2.3 Communication Skills That Are Essential to Diagnosis-Making 11

2.4 Concepts of Health Literacy and Compliance 13

2.5 Using Easy-to-Understand (Nonmedical) Language 14

2.6 Checking in 15

2.7 Assessing the Client's Knowledge 17

2.8 Signposting 18

2.9 Addressing the Cost of Care 20

References 22

## **Part 2 Quick Assessment Tests (QATS) Involving Blood 27**

### **3 Packed Cell Volume 29**

*Sharon M. Dial*

3.1 Procedural Definition: What Is this Test About? 29

3.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform this Test? 29

3.3 Equipment 29

3.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform this Test? 30

3.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 33

3.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 33

3.7 Interpreting Test Results 34

3.8 Clinical Case Example(s): Can We Link to the Cases in Chapter 5? 35

3.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 35

3.10 Key Takeaways 36

References 36

### **4 Total Protein as Measured by Refractometry 37**

*Sharon M. Dial*

4.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 37

4.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform this Test? 37

4.3 Equipment 38

4.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform this Test? 38

4.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 42

4.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 43

4.7 Interpreting Test Result 43

4.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 44

4.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Values 44

4.10 Key Takeaways 44

Reference 45

Suggested References 45

## **5 Gross and Microscopic Evaluation of the Buffy Coat 46**

*Sharon M. Dial*

5.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 46

5.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform this Test? 46

5.3 Equipment 47

5.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform this Test? 47

5.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 50

5.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 53

5.7 Interpreting Test Results 53

5.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 54

5.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 54

5.10 Key Takeaways 54

Reference 54

## **6 The Blood Film 55**

*Sharon M. Dial*

6.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 55

6.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 55

6.3 Equipment 55

6.4 Procedural Steps: Preparing the Blood Film How Do I Perform This Test? 56

6.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 64

6.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 64

6.7 Interpreting Test Results 69

6.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 70

6.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 70

6.10 Key Takeaways 70

References 70

Suggested Bench-Side Reference 71

## **7 Blood Glucose 72**

*Sharon M. Dial*

7.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 72

7.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 72

7.3 Equipment 73

7.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform This Test? 73

7.5 A Note on Quality Control 73

7.6 Procedure for Patient Samples 74

7.7 Time Estimate to Perform Test 76

7.8 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 76

7.9 Interpreting Test Results 77

7.10 Clinical Case Example(s) 78

7.11 Add-On Tests That you May Need to Consider and Their Additive Values 78

7.12 Key Takeaways 78

References 78

## **8 Blood Urea Nitrogen 79**

*Sharon M. Dial*

8.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 79

8.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 79

8.3 Equipment 80

- 8.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform this Test? 80
- 8.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 81
- 8.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 81
- 8.7 Interpreting Test Results 82
- 8.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 82
- 8.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 82
- 8.10 Key Takeaways 83

## **9 Whole Blood Lactate 84**

*Sharon M. Dial*

- 9.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 84
- 9.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 84
- 9.3 Equipment 85
- 9.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform This Test? 85
- 9.5 A Note on Quality Control 85
- 9.6 Procedure for Patient Samples 85
- 9.7 Time Estimate to Perform Test 87
- 9.8 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 87
- 9.9 Interpreting Test Results 87
- 9.10 Clinical Case Example(s) 88
- 9.11 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 88
- 9.12 Key Takeaways 88

References 88

## **10 Saline Agglutination Test 89**

*Sharon M. Dial*

- 10.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 89
- 10.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 89

10.3 Equipment 89

10.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform This Test? 89

10.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 91

10.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 91

10.7 Interpreting Test Results 92

10.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 92

10.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 92

10.10 Key Takeaways 92

Reference 93

## **11 Activated Clotting Time 94**

*Sharon M. Dial*

11.1 Procedural Definition: (“What Is This Test About?”) 94

11.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 94

11.3 Equipment 94

11.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform This Test? 94

11.5 Time Estimate To Perform Test 96

11.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 97

11.7 Interpreting Test Results 97

11.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 97

11.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 97

11.10 Key Takeaways 97

## **Part 3 Quick Assessment Tests (QATS) Involving Urine 99**

### **12 Assessing Urine’s Physical Properties 101**

*Ryane E. Englar*

12.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 101

12.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 101

12.3 Equipment	102
12.4 Procedural Steps	103
12.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test	105
12.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting	105
12.7 Interpreting Test Results	106
12.8 Clinical Case Example(s)	111
12.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value	113
12.10 Key Takeaways	113
12.11 Clinical Pearls	114
References	115

## **13 Urine Specific Gravity 116**

*Ryane E. Englar*

13.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About?	116
13.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform this Test?	117
13.3 Equipment	117
13.4 Procedural Steps	118
13.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test	124
13.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting	124
13.7 Interpreting Test Results	124
13.8 Clinical Case Example(s)	126
13.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value	127
13.10 Key Takeaways	127
13.11 Clinical Pearls	127
References	128

## **14 Chemical Evaluation of Urine 130**

*Ryane E. Englar*

14.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About?	130
14.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test?	132
14.3 Equipment	132
14.4 Procedural Steps	132
14.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test	136
14.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting	136
14.7 Interpreting Test Results	138
14.8 Clinical Case Example(s)	141
14.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value	142
14.10 Key Takeaways	143
14.11 Clinical Pearls	144
References	145

## **15 Urine Sediment Examination 146**

*Sharon M. Dial*

15.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About?	146
15.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test?	146
15.3 Equipment	147
15.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform This Test?	147
15.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test	149
15.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting	151
15.7 Interpreting Test Results	152
15.8 Clinical Case Example(s)	157
15.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value	157
15.10 Key Takeaways	157
Reference	157
Suggested Bench-Side References	158



## **Part 4 Quick Assessment Tests (QATS) Involving Feces 159**

### **16 Assessing the Physical Properties of Fecal Matter 161**

*Ryane E. Englar*

16.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 161

16.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 161

16.3 Equipment 164

16.4 Procedural Steps 166

16.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 166

16.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 166

16.7 Interpreting Test Results 172

16.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 183

16.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 183

16.10 Key Takeaways 185

16.11 Clinical Pearls 186

References 187

### **17 Direct Smears 191**

*Ryane E. Englar*

17.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 191

17.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 191

17.3 Equipment 194

17.4 Procedural Steps [1–5, 20, 30, 60–62] 194

17.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 196

17.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 196

17.7 Interpreting Test Results 197

17.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 198

17.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 201

17.10 Key Takeaways 203

17.11 Clinical Pearls 204

References 204

## **18 Fecal Flotation 207**

*Ryane E. Englar and Jeremy Bessett*

18.1 Procedural Definition: What is This Test About? 207

18.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 210

18.3 Options Available for Fecal Flotation 211

18.4 Equipment 213

18.5 Procedural Steps: Fecal Flotation with Fixed-Angle

Centrifuge [1–4, 8, 11, 22, 23, 28] 213

18.6 Time Estimate to Perform Fecal Flotation with Fixed-Angle Centrifuge 216

18.7 Brief Consideration of the Procedural Steps in the Event a Swinging Bucket Centrifuge Is Used 217

18.8 Equipment 217

18.9 Procedural Steps 217

18.10 Time Estimate to Perform Passive Fecal Flotation 221

18.11 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting for Fecal Flotation 221

18.12 Interpreting Test Results 221

18.13 Clinical Case Example(s) 227

18.14 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 227

18.15 Key Takeaways 229

18.16 Clinical Pearls 229

References 230

## **Part 5 Quick Assessment of Body Cavity Fluids 235**

## **19 Body Cavity Fluid Analysis 237**

*Sharon M. Dial*

19.1 Procedural Definition: What Is This Test About? 237

19.2 Procedural Purpose: Why Should I Perform This Test? 237

19.3 Equipment 238

19.4 Procedural Steps: How Do I Perform This Test? 238

19.5 Time Estimate to Perform Test 240

19.6 Procedural Tips and Troubleshooting 240

19.7 Interpreting Test Results 241

19.8 Clinical Case Example(s) 244

19.9 Add-On Tests That You May Need to Consider and Their Additive Value 244

19.10 Key Takeaways 245

References 245

Suggested Bench-Side References 245

## **Part 6 Clinical Cases 247**

### **20 Clinical Cases 249**

*Jeremy Bessett, with support from Sharon M. Dial*

Case 1: Fred 249

Case 2: Bella 253

Case 3: Benji 258

Case 4: Mittens 266

Case 5: Star 272

Case 6: Earl 277

Case 7: Sammy 281

Case 8: Coffee 286

Case 9: Dexter 291

Case 10: Tabitha 297

Case 11: Ace 301

Case 12: Timothy 304

Case 13: Duckie 307

Case 14: Angel 311

Case 15: Chase 314

Index 321.