



Audio Summaries: Lori Teller – Veterinary Telemedicine: A literature review

Dr Lori Teller

Hello. This is Dr. Lori Teller a veterinarian and clinical associate professor at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences together with Heather Moberly, a Veterinary Information Specialist and Librarian, also at Texas A&M we wrote veterinary telemedicine, a literature review brought to you by RCVS Knowledge.

Veterinary telemedicine has been a hot topic for the past few years, and interest has grown exponentially during the COVID pandemic. After an exhaustive literature search, we identified over 100 articles to evaluate for this narrative review. There is robust data supporting veterinary teleconsulting, which has been occurring for the past 40 years. Ever since veterinarians began sending electrocardiograms to cardiologists for interpretation. Now it is possible for a general practitioner in the field to have a specialist remotely guide and interpret an ultrasound in real time, oncologists in one location can provide chemotherapy protocols to a primary care clinician located elsewhere for a patient that would otherwise not have access to specialty care.

Virtual consults increase efficiencies by eliminating back and forth phone calls or email exchanges. There is not as much data published about telemedicine delivered directly by the veterinarian to the client. In many jurisdictions, a veterinarian must perform a hands-on physical exam to establish a veterinarian client patient relationship in order to provide a diagnosis or make a treatment plan. Once this has been done though, than a veterinarian can conduct a telemedicine visit with a client and patient overall, both animal owners and veterinarians are pleased with telemedicine in one study owners, even noted that their dogs were much less anxious during a telemedicine visit compared to an in-hospital consult. Veterinary medicine is often compared to human pediatrics.

There is lots of good data there for us to learn from, and it covers things from diagnoses to antimicrobial prescribing. The successful utilization of telemedicine is also enhanced by data collected from wearables and remote monitoring devices. There is very little evidence of medical malpractice or liability issues in both human and veterinary telemedicine. Certainly there's a need for more perspective studies comparing hospital visits with telemedicine visits to determine concordance between findings telemedicine is a tool and is not appropriate for every health care issue. However, there is enough evidence supporting its use in the veterinary profession to improve animal health and welfare. Please read the full article at RCVS Knowledge.

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