Distinguishing Anesthetic Fiction from Fact: A Discussion (Part 1)

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1. Certain dog breeds are more sensitive to anesthesia
2. Fact and fiction
3. Anesthesia is a risk for any dog, any breed
4. Owner communication is extremely important
5. Very few scientifically documented true breed sensitivities
6. Greyhounds and thiobarbiturates
7. All sighthounds?
8. Boxers and acepromazine
9. Brachycephalic breeds
10. Not a true sensitivity
11. Consider referral if anesthesia is a concern
12. Geriatric animals should not undergo anesthesia
13. Fiction
14. Geriatric animals can be more profoundly affected by sedatives and general anesthetics due to decreased metabolism
15. Alter drug dosages wisely
16. Monitor wisely
17. The animal’s quality of life should not be compromised by a fear of anesthetizing and older patient
18. Preanesthetic medication complicates anesthesia and delays recovery
19. Fiction
20. Decreases stress on the patient
21. Safer handling for personnel
22. Smoother anesthetic plane
23. Lower the MAC of inhalants
24. Smoother recovery
25. Acepromazine is a dangerous drug
26. Fiction
27. Older literature cites doses that are 10-100 times the doses routinely used today
28. Can still cause heavy sedation and hypotension
29. Although it is safe, it should still be used judiciously
30. Avoid in patients with:
31. Dehydration
32. Blood loss (prior or anticipated)
33. Shock
34. Severe CV disease
35. Hepatic failure
36. Pulse oximetry is a good indicator of ventilation
37. Fiction
38. Non-invasive method for monitoring oxygen carried by Hb in blood
39. Estimate of arterial Hb saturation
40. Based on oxyhemoglobin dissociation curve
41. End-tidal CO2 should be used to monitor the adequacy of ventilation
42. Low doses of alpha-2 agonists have no effect on CV function
43. Fiction
44. Potent sedation
45. Cardiac output can decrease as much as 40%
46. Dose-dependent, but significant even at 1 mcg/kg
47. Most animals can tolerate this decrease
48. Choose patients wisely