

Spring 2021



# S E R V I C E SPOTLIGHT

## INTERNAL MEDICINE



### The Most Complex Cases Benefit From An Internist's Expertise

That's why BEVS is here – to help examine every angle of the complicated, chronic or just confounding conditions your patients present. Our internal medicine department offers you and your clients expert detectives in treating even the most challenging diseases and disorders. We also have the most modern veterinary diagnostic equipment and technology available in our region at our fingertips. When you refer your puzzling patients to BEVS, you can feel confident that they will receive the most thorough and thoughtful care available.

24/7/365 Emergency and Critical Care • Acupuncture • Dentistry • Diagnostic Imaging  
Internal Medicine • Oncology • Radioiodine • Rehabilitation • Surgery

802.863.2387 | [bevsvt.com](http://bevsvt.com)



# A Team Of Expert Diagnosticians



Clues are key to solving any mystery, but you also need brilliant sleuths with the vision to put all the pieces together properly. At BEVS, our internal medicine specialists and team of licensed veterinary technicians pore over each patient's medical history and clinical symptoms, then use our comprehensive suite of sophisticated diagnostic tools to uncover evidence and locate the most likely suspect.

## Conditions Our Internal Medicine Team Treats:

- Bleeding disorders or anemia
- Chronic sneezing or nasal discharge
- Chronic vomiting or diarrhea
- Coughing and other breathing problems
- Disorders that require nutritional support with feeding tube placement or partial parenteral nutrition (PPN)
- Endocrine diseases: adrenal and thyroid disorders, complicated diabetes, Cushing's disease
- Gastrointestinal disease
- Immune-related disorders
- Infectious diseases
- Kidney and bladder disease
- Liver disease
- Multiple concurrent conditions
- Pancreatitis
- Suspected neoplasia
- Unexplained fever
- Unexplained weight loss

## Tools & Technology

BEVS has invested in cutting-edge equipment and offers a full range of diagnostic capabilities onsite, including imaging technology:

**Computed Tomography (CT):** Our CT technology is multi-slice with a gantry large enough to accommodate a giant breed canine's chest, which allows us to perform images on even the largest patients. In BEVS' oncology cases, CT is immeasurably valuable for assessing local and distant disease, as well as providing a substantial amount of information about deep tumors (pulmonary, cardiac, vascular, and visceral). For general surgical planning, CT can be vital in determining the proper approach to maximize outcomes and minimize complications.



**Digital X-rays:** Allow for adjustment of brightness, contrast, zoom, and pan to assess bone and soft tissue in one image.

**Echocardiography:** Employs color flow and contrast studies to explore almost all heart conditions.

**Endoscopy:** Useful for examining inside surfaces of hollow organs, finding and extracting foreign bodies, and collecting biopsy samples of tumors or other lesions. The various types of endoscopy we perform include bronchoscopy, colonoscopy, cystoscopy, laparoscopy, rhinoscopy, and thoracoscopy.



**Fluoroscopy:** This allows our specialists to see movement of body structures. We use it to view bone stability as well as tracheal, swallowing, and urinary tract function.

**Interventional Radiology (IR):** Used in minimally invasive procedures, including endoscopic placement of tracheal, urethral, and esophageal stents. IR facilitates shorter hospital stays, decreased pain, and a more rapid return to function compared to surgery.

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):** Our MRI is a 1.5 tesla magnet that lets us run shorter scan times, reduce possible motion distortion, and create higher-quality images that can be interpreted within hours.



**Ultrasound:** Ideal for imaging soft tissue and internal organs in non-anesthetized patients.

In addition to imaging, our internists take advantage of additional on-site methodologies to sniff through clinical clues, including:

- Fine-needle aspiration or biopsy
- Bone marrow aspiration or biopsy
- Sophisticated in-house laboratory testing
- Advanced blood pressure monitoring



# Case Study: Poe, The Anemic Kitten



**History:** Poe, a 9-month-old MN Siamese mix, presented to his primary care veterinarian for a one-week history of lethargy and vomiting. His owners looked at his gums and noted they were white. A CBC showed a severe macrocytic, normochromic, non-regenerative anemia of 6.5%. A chemistry panel showed a stress hyperglycemia and mild panhypoproteinemia. An FeLV/FIV/HW test was negative. Poe was then referred to BEVS for a blood transfusion and additional diagnostics.

Thoracic radiographs showed mild cardiomegaly (likely associated with anemia). Abdominal ultrasound showed no significant abnormalities. A pathologist review of a CBC confirmed a non-regenerative anemia, and thrombocytopenia with no intracellular parasites or neoplastic cells identified (Figure 1). A feline anemia PCR panel was negative. A cobalamin (B12) level was submitted to Texas A&M.

**Finding:** Severe cobalamin deficiency (<150ng/L).

**Conclusion:** Poe received a blood transfusion and a B12 injection while diagnostics were pending.



Poe

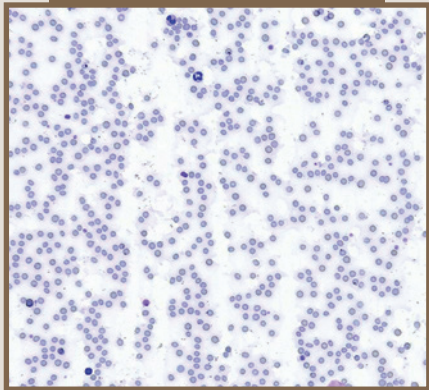


Figure 1

Additionally, he was empirically treated for fleas and intestinal parasites, and started on doxycycline to cover for mycoplasma. To ensure that Poe’s B12 deficiency was not secondary to exocrine pancreatic insufficiency, Poe’s primary care veterinarian submitted a TLI level, which was normal.

**Takeaway:** Poe is a happy, healthy cat with chronic B12 supplementation. Cobalamin deficiency is a rare cause of macrocytic, non-regenerative anemias in young cats that is very treatable. It usually occurs secondary to GI or pancreatic disease, but, as Poe’s case shows, it can occur without related causes. When seeing anemic cats, it should be considered as a differential.

“When Poe was weighed at BEVS, he was 3.7lbs. The last time he was weighed, he was 8.5 lbs. He’s growing fast and gaining weight now that we have everything under control. He’s been very playful and active. We are so grateful for all the work put into diagnosing and developing a treatment plan for our little guy. Thank you again!” —Nate P., Massena, NY

## Meet Our Internal Medicine Experts



**Bryan Harnett, DVM  
DACVIM, Medical Director**

**DVM:** Kansas State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

**Internship and Residency:** Animal Medical  
Center, New York City

From 2000 to 2007, Dr. Harnett was a staff internist at Mission MedVet in Kansas City. In 2007, he moved to Vermont and joined BEVS as medical director and its first veterinary specialist. He subsequently purchased the practice in 2009, combining ER and specialty services to provide greater collaboration and continuity of care.

Dr. Harnett lives in Jericho with his family and their dog and two cats. Outside of work, he enjoys mountain biking, skiing, mowing the grass and plowing the driveway.



**Elisabeth Zenger, DVM  
PhD, DACVIM (SAIM)**

**DVM:** Texas A&M University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

**Internship:** Sacramento Animal Medical Group  
**Residency:** Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center

After completing a formal PhD in molecular biology examining cellular mechanisms of feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)-associated neuropathogenesis, Dr. Zenger co-founded Bay Area Veterinary Specialists (BAVS), where she served as medical director and staff internist. While wearing multiple hats at BAVS, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the AIDS Oncology Program at the University of California, San Francisco.

In addition to her love for clinical medicine, she regularly participates in and lectures at scientific meetings and veterinary schools around the world. She currently shares her home with Chester, a 4-year-old Shollie (Border Collie/Shepherd).



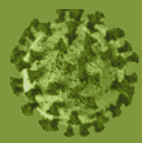
**Rebecca J. Stevens, VMD  
(Practice Limited to IM)**

**VMD:** University of PA School  
of Veterinary Medicine

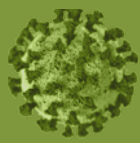
**Internship:** Foster Hospital for Small Animals at  
Tufts University  
**Residency:** Matthew J. Ryan Hospital, University  
of Pennsylvania

Dr. Stevens joined the BEVS family and became a Vermont resident in 2020. During her internship and residency, she enjoyed being a mentor and tutor to veterinary students on internal medicine and emergency cases. She has a special interest in oncology, cardiology and neurology.

When she’s not at work, Dr. Stevens enjoys biking, running, and soccer, as well as spending time with her Pit Bull mix Lavender and two cats, Jean Raphio and Mona Lisa.



# COVID Update



The COVID-19 pandemic has created a number of challenges for all of us, both personally and professionally. Our first priority is to keep our team, your clients, and their pets safe until this public health concern is stabilized. To help you understand how we're doing that, here is a summary of our current protocols:

- We continue to follow social distancing safety guidelines. Therefore, only hospital personnel and pet patients are allowed in the building.
- Due to a high demand for emergency veterinary services, we have implemented new triage priority levels to care for the most critically injured or ill pets first. This also means that the wait time for less serious cases can be lengthy.
- For scheduled appointments, our technicians receive pets at our front door. Clients remain in their cars and all communication, including administrative and financial information, is handled via telephone.

These are unprecedented and constantly changing times. Please be patient with us as we, like you, navigate through this uncharted territory. Call us anytime at 802.863.2387 if you have questions.

# S E R V I C E S P O T L I G H T

Spring 2021

## INTERNAL MEDICINE



BURLINGTON  
EMERGENCY & VETERINARY  
SPECIALISTS

1417 Marshall Avenue • Williston, VT 05495

## Referring Patients and Clients to BEVS

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you in the care of your patients. As a referral practice, our aim is to complement your practice by providing advanced diagnostics, specialty services, and 24/7 emergency care when you and your clients need us, all while staying close to home. To help expedite the referral process, please visit our website at **bevsvt.com** to access our "Patient Referral Portal." For your convenience, you can either complete and submit the form online or fax it to us at 802.863.2348. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss internal medicine capabilities with one of our specialists, please call us at 802.863.BEVS (2387). We're here to help in whatever way we can.

