

ANESTHESIA UPDATE

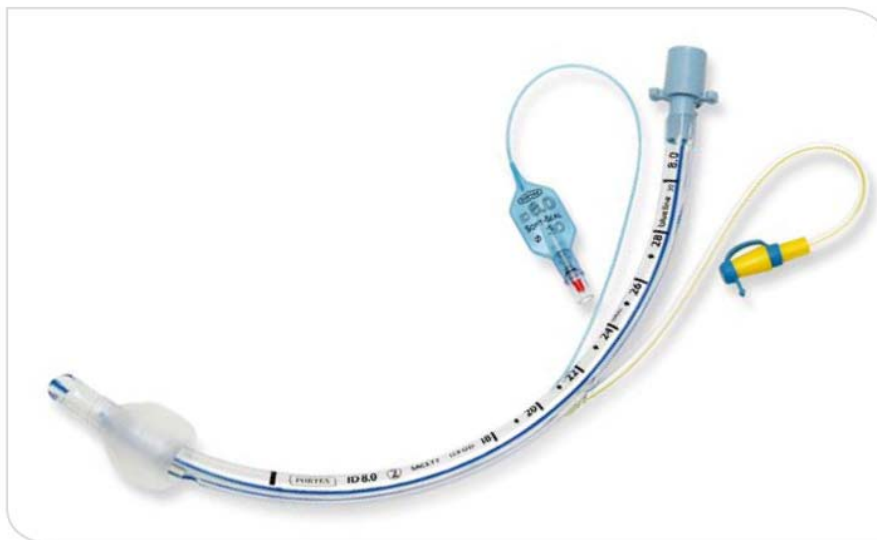
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It's a small....but important....thing.

Maintaining the integrity of an animal's airway in the peri-anesthetic period is an important part of the anesthetic process. This is particularly important and even more challenging when the animal is undergoing procedures in the oropharyngeal cavity – dentistry, biopsy, mass excision. Such procedures increase the likelihood that there will be fluid of some sort (saline, blood) introduced into the oropharyngeal cavity. This fluid can potentially contaminate the airway and even the lungs (in the event that the animal is either not intubated or the endotracheal tube cuff is improperly inflated). Proper cuff inflation can help prevent aspiration of the contaminating fluid into the lungs but fluid may build up at the level of the endotracheal tube cuff. This accumulated fluid may leak further down into the bronchial tree when the cuff is deflated during extubation.



The VEC is the first clinic in Canada to take delivery of the Portex Blue Line SACETT Suction Above The Cuff tracheal tube from Smiths Medical. Simple in design, yet very effective, the SACETT tube has a suction lumen just above (proximal) to the cuff. Fluid that has accumulated at the level of the cuff can be aspirated through this port, reducing the risk of airway contamination and fluid aspiration.



It's a small...but important... thing...and a demonstration of how, at the VEC, we strive to provide the very best in patient care.

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