this revealed suppurative meningoencephalitis. Postoperatively, were administered opioids, NSAID's and antibiotics.

**RESULTS**

After 24 h, the neurological deficits had returned and appetite was good. By 48 h menace response was considerably improved. By three days all neurological deficits had resolved, and the cat was discharged. Repeat examinations revealed an unremarkable recovery and there had been no recurrence of signs in the 18 months since surgery.

**STATEMENT**
The use of omentum could apply in cases of encephalitis do not respond to antimicrobials.

---

**An evaluation of attitudes and the level of compliance of a surgical safety checklist used for small animal surgery**

*Hayley Kilbane, Mickey Tivers*

Langford Vets, University of Bristol, Bristol, North Somerset, UK

**OBJECTIVES**
The aim of the study was to investigate the attitudes of theatre staff to the use of a surgical safety checklist and the perceived level of compliance.

**METHODS**
A questionnaire was designed and distributed to theatre staff. The questionnaire was completed by a range of theatre personnel, including surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and theatre assistants, to obtain responses on their attitudes and the level of compliance of the hospital’s surgical checklist. Reponses to each question were allocated a five-point scale from 1 = Strongly disagree to 5 = Strongly agree.

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the data.

**RESULTS**
Responses were obtained from 36 theatre staff. The majority of staff (77%) strongly agreed that they believed the checklist improved patient safety. The majority (77%) also strongly agreed that the checklist was used for every procedure in theatre. However, only 19% of staff strongly agreed that when the checklist is being carried out, everyone stops and listens. Only 58% strongly agreed that the surgeons were in full support of the checklist. Staff stated that barriers to the use of the checklist included a lack of staff (27%), a lack of staff assertiveness (22%) and lack of time (19%).

**STATEMENT**
Although staff believed that the use of a surgical checklist improves patient safety there are a number of barriers to its effective use. Staff training should focus on overcoming these to improve the effectiveness of the checklist.

---

**Salivary cortisol as a screening test for endocrine diseases in dogs and cats**

*Hannah Zheng¹,², Carolina Arenas²,₄, Helen Evans³, Mike Heritage²*

¹ Medivet, London, UK
² The Queen’s Veterinary School Hospital, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, UK
³ NationWide Specialist Laboratories, Pampisford, Cambridge, UK
⁴ PETSAVERS, Quedegeley, Gloucester, UK

**OBJECTIVES**
Salivary cortisol measures free cortisol and follows the fluctuations of serum cortisol. The aims of this study were to measure salivary cortisol in small animals and to determine if there was a good correlation between salivary and serum cortisol.

**METHODS**
The pilot study included 5 dogs and 5 cats to test four different methods of saliva collection: filter paper, cotton wool balls, 6-inch (‘small Q-tip’) and 5-inch (‘large Q-tip’) single cotton wool tip applicators. For the main part of the study, animals were included if their diagnostic work-up required a serum sample or an ACTH stimulation test. Saliva samples were frozen at −25°C after collection. Samples were thawed and centrifuged (20 minutes, 3000rpm, 4°C) and salivary cortisol was determined...