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2026 BARC BEHAVIOUR AND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE:

Diagnosing & Treating Lameness and Behaviour Like A Pro

BEHAVIOUR STREAM | REHABILITATION STREAM | DUAL STREAM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

IN PERSON AT THE
SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL
RICHMOND, BC, CANADA

Located where the Salish Sea meets the mighty Fraser River in the Strait of Georgia, explore the serenity of Fishers Walk in the quaint Steveston Village, study the sea and sky for marine and wildlife, or find your competitive spirit at ROX, the Richmond Olympic Experience, an interactive sports exhibition.

AAVSB RACE has approved this conference for 24.5 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions that recognize RACE approval, with a maximum of 14.5 hours available to any individual attendee.

Our continuing education is developed for veterinarians and is aligned with the expectations of a regulated profession; however, we do not restrict attendance by non-veterinarians.

AGENDA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Ticket prices include snacks and lunch on both days, but does not include breakfast or dinner.

6:30 am – 7:30 am

Registration

DUAL SESSION

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Tethered Cord Syndrome with Rachel Lampe, BVetMed, MVS, DACVIM



This session is generously sponsored by True North Veterinary Diagnostics.

Tethered cord syndrome is a newly recognized condition in dogs that results from tension on the end of the spinal cord, leading to a combination of chronic pain, gait changes, transient paresthesias, and behaviour disorders. This lecture will discuss occult tethered cord syndrome in dogs, reviewing the common clinical signs and presenting histories in dogs. The speaker will then discuss MRI findings suggestive of Tethered Cord Syndrome, as well as why this disease is so difficult to diagnose. Medical management will be briefly covered, followed by current surgical approaches and outcomes. Throughout the lecture clinical cases will be presented to highlight the wide variety of clinical presentations, surgical findings, and long-term outcomes of these patients.

9:30 am – 10:00 am

Break

BEHAVIOUR STREAM

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Behaviour in the Golden Years: Assessing and Managing Behavioural Change in Geriatric Dogs with Valli Parthasarathy, PhD, DVM, DACVB



This session is generously sponsored by ProConcepts Animal Health.

Dogs are living longer than ever, which is a wonderful thing! As they age, behavioural changes are common—but not always simply because of “old age.” This two-hour presentation will explore the complex interplay between aging, pain, medical comorbidities, and behaviour in geriatric dogs, providing a practical framework for clinical assessment in general practice. Participants will learn how to differentiate primary behavioural conditions from behaviour secondary to pain, sensory decline, cognitive dysfunction, and systemic disease, and how to incorporate behavioural screening into routine senior examinations. Emphasis will be placed on case-based decision-making, client communication, and multimodal treatment strategies that improve patient welfare and strengthen the veterinarian–client bond.

REHABILITATION STREAM

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Evidence-Based Updates in Canine and Feline Pain Management: IA Therapies, New Data on Epidurals for Lumbosacral Disease, and Critical Appraisal of Bedinvetmab and Frunevetmab with Matthew Brunke, DVM, DACVSMR (Canine), CCAT



This session is generously sponsored by ConturaVet.

This two-hour presentation will review current evidence surrounding intra-articular therapies, including platelet-rich plasma (PRP), 2.5 per cent polyacrylamide hydrogel (Arthramid), and tin-117m radiosynoviorthesis (Synovetin OA), with emphasis on mechanisms of action, safety profiles, case selection, and expected clinical outcomes. Attendees will receive a focused review of foundational epidural therapy principles in dogs with degenerative lumbosacral disease, along with emerging research evaluating outcomes in working dogs and performance populations. The session will also critically evaluate clinical trial data, post-marketing surveillance findings, and evolving regulatory guidance related to anti-NGF monoclonal antibodies (bedinvetmab and frunevetmab). Participants will leave with practical, evidence-based frameworks to guide therapy selection, procedural planning, and client communication across companion and working canine patients with osteoarthritis and spinal pain.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch Break

BEHAVIOUR STREAM

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Feline Aggression Toward People: Beyond the Bite with Isabelle Bazin, DMV, DACVB



This session is generously sponsored by Grey Wolf Animal Health.

Feline aggression toward people is a common behavioural concern that can significantly impact the human–animal bond, sometimes leading to relinquishment or even euthanasia.

Through the lens of a detailed clinical case, this lecture will examine the various underlying causes of feline aggression and their behavioural presentations. Participants will explore practical, evidence-informed strategies tailored to support cats whose behaviours are often misunderstood. A structured treatment plan will be outlined, including behavioural therapy, environmental modification, and, when indicated, appropriate pharmacologic interventions.

REHABILITATION STREAM

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Acute Myelopathies and the Neuro Exam with Rachel Lampe, BVetMed, MVS, DACVIM

This lecture will discuss how to use the basic neurological exam to determine if a patient’s gait is neurological and how to localize the problem. It will utilize videos and case examples to highlight common neurological exam findings. We will then discuss which imaging modalities can be used for the most common acute myelopathies, such as IVDD, FCE, and ANNPE.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Nutraceuticals for Mobility: What’s the Latest Evidence? (2026 Edition) with Matthew Brunke, DVM, DACVSMR (Canine), CCAT



This session is generously sponsored by Virbac.

In this session the speaker will review common terminology related to Nutraceuticals. The speaker will also review updates in research on Glucosamine/Chondroitin, Omega-3’s, UC-II, eggshell membrane, and fortetropin and ursolic acid.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Break

DUAL SESSION

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Medical Disorders and Behaviour – The Connection Between Behaviour and Physical Disease with Claudia Richter, DVM, DACVB

This session examines the bidirectional relationship between medical disorders and behavioural changes in dogs, emphasizing how pain and discomfort can alter behaviour and contribute to medical problems. Participants will review pathophysiological mechanisms linking medical dysfunction to behavioural presentations. The lecture will outline a diagnostic approach to differentiate primary behavioural disorders from medically driven behavioural changes. Attendees will learn to identify red flags for underlying disease, prioritize appropriate diagnostic testing, and make treatment decisions for their patients.

AGENDA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Ticket prices include snacks and lunch for both days, but does not include breakfast or dinner.

6:30 am - 7:30 am

Registration

BEHAVIOUR STREAM

7:30 am - 9:30 am

Psychopharmacology with
Claudia Richter, DVM, DACVB

This two-hour session will provide a structured and clinically relevant overview of psychopharmacological treatment in dogs. Emphasis will be placed on the mechanisms of action of different medications and on drug selection based on clinical symptoms and evidence in the scientific literature. The speaker will review safety considerations and multi-drug treatment planning for different psychopharmacological medications. By the end of this session, participants will be able to formulate a treatment plan for common behavioural disorders in their canine patients.

9:30 am- 10:00 am

Break

BEHAVIOUR STREAM

10:00 am- 12:00 am

Understanding and Treating Canine Fear, Aggression, and Reactivity: From Triggers to Treatment with
Isabelle Bazin, DMV, DACVB

Fear, aggression, and reactivity account for the majority of cases referred to specialized canine behavioural medicine services. This lecture will review the underlying causes, risk factors, and the most common behavioural presentations. Emphasis will be placed on practical, evidence-informed recommendations for families. The speaker will also discuss the development of a structured treatment plan, including behavioural therapy, environmental modification, and appropriate pharmacologic interventions.

12:00 am - 1:00 pm

Lunch Break

REHABILITATION STREAM

7:30 am - 9:30 am

Musculoskeletal Examination Techniques of the Back, Shoulder, and Hind Limb - Part I with
David Lane, DVM, DACVSMR, CVSMT, CCRT, CVA

The session will cover the relevant anatomy and physiology of the myofascial system and vertebral column, before delving into the mechanics of performing a detailed physical examination of the canine back. It will also focus on how to perform a detailed examination of the canine hip and stifle region, including research on the interplay between hindlimb and lumbopelvic positioning, and how to best perform an examination of the shoulder region, including physical examination techniques, diagnostic rule-outs, and treatment options.

REHABILITATION STREAM

10:00 am- 12:00 am

Musculoskeletal Examination Techniques of the Back, Shoulder, and Hind Limb - Part II with
David Lane, DVM, DACVSMR, CVSMT, CCRT, CVA

The session will cover the relevant anatomy and physiology of the myofascial system and vertebral column, before delving into the mechanics of performing a detailed physical examination of the canine back. It will also focus on how to perform a detailed examination of the canine hip and stifle region, including research on the interplay between hindlimb and lumbopelvic positioning, and how to best perform an examination of the shoulder region, including physical examination techniques, diagnostic rule-outs, and treatment options.

BEHAVIOUR STREAM

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Drivers of Aggressive Behaviour and Strategies for Mitigating These Factors in Clinic with
Pierrette Mercier, DVM, DACVB

Fear and pain are well-established primary drivers of aggressive behaviour in veterinary clinical environments.

This presentation will review the neurobiological and behavioural mechanisms through which fear and nociception contribute to aggressive responses and will outline evidence-based strategies for mitigating these factors across the veterinary care continuum—from initial patient visits and routine sterilization procedures to the handling of medically compromised animals.

Additionally, we will examine current best practices for the assessment and management of aggressive behaviour when it emerges, with emphasis on early detection, environmental modification, humane handling protocols and pharmacological interventions.

REHABILITATION STREAM

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Canine Spinal Radiographs, Patterns, Pitfalls, and Practical Tips and Canine Appendicular Radiography from Acquisition to Interpretation with Erin Keenihan, BVMS, MVetMed, MANZCVS, DECVDI



This session is generously sponsored by
Medna Medical Equipment Inc.

Lecture 1: Canine Spinal Radiographs: Patterns, Pitfalls, and Practical Tips

This lecture will cover SI joint interpretation and pathology. This will provide a practical guide to spinal radiography for canine patients, covering both acquisition techniques and a structured interpretation paradigm, while emphasizing the inherent limitations of radiographs compared to cross-sectional imaging modalities. Attendees will learn to identify and diagnose key pathologies, including articular facet osteoarthritis, intervertebral disc disease, degenerative lumbosacral disease and congenital spinal malformations. A key theme throughout is clinical decision-making to help practitioners determine when radiographs are sufficient and when advanced imaging, such as CT or MRI, is warranted.

Lecture 2: Canine Appendicular Radiography from Acquisition to Interpretation

This lecture will provide a practical guide to acquiring and interpreting diagnostic radiographs of the major appendicular joints with a focus on optimizing image quality. A structured interpretation paradigm will be provided to differentiate degenerative from aggressive disease processes, before diving into joint-specific pathologies, including elbow dysplasia, degenerative joint disease, bicipital groove sclerosis, osteochondrosis dissecans and coxofemoral dysplasia. Attendees will gain an understanding of the limitations of radiography for each joint and when cross-sectional imaging is warranted.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Break

DUAL SESSION

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Solving A Puzzle: Considering Pain and Behaviour Together Using A Case Study on Interdisciplinary Medical Approaches with
David Lane, DVM, DACVSMR, CVSMT, CCRT, CVA; Elizabeth Pask, PhD, DVM, CCRP; and
Claudia Richter, DVM, DACVB



This session is generously sponsored by True North Veterinary Diagnostics.

Follow a patient presenting with a behavioural concern and treated collaboratively for orthopedic and behavioural disease. General practitioners will learn how they can handle such cases as a first line of veterinary care.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



ISABELLE BAZIN, DMV, DACVB

Isabelle Bazin, DMV, DACVB, graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Université de Montréal in 2018. She completed a general internship in private practice in Montréal (Centre DMV) before pursuing a residency in behavioural medicine at the Université de Montréal in 2019. During her residency, she authored the first clinical publication on the use of fluvoxamine in dogs and received the RK Anderson ACVB Resident Award. A Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists since 2022, Dr. Bazin has been practising behavioural medicine at Centre vétérinaire Daubigny since October 2022. Through her lectures and active presence on social media, Dr. Bazin is committed to educating the public, animal behaviour professionals, and veterinary teams, fostering collaboration and teamwork to promote a unified, evidence-based approach to animal behavioural health.



MATTHEW BRUNKE, DVM, DACVSMR (CANINE), CCAT

Matthew Brunke, DVM, DACVSMR (Canine), CCAT, grew up in New York City and earned his DVM from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in St. Kitts in 2004. He is certified in rehabilitation, pain management, acupuncture, and manual therapy. In 2017, he completed his residency in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, achieving board certification in 2018. Dr. Brunke is also a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation and a Fellow of the International Association of Veterinary Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy. As a specialist in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, Dr. Brunke focuses on diagnosing and treating complex mobility disorders—both orthopedic and neurologic. He employs a wide range of advanced therapies, including orthobiologics, hydrogels, and radionuclide therapy. These modalities are used to treat tendon and ligament injuries, manage arthritis, and address neurologic conditions such as lumbosacral disease. Dr. Brunke has a particular passion for caring for active-duty and retired working dogs. He is a founding faculty member of the Certified Companion Animal Therapist (CCAT) Rehabilitation Program, serves on the scientific review boards of JAVMA and AJVR, and is actively involved in clinical research. In addition, Dr. Brunke serves on the Board of Directors for Paws of Honor, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing veterinary care for retired military and law enforcement K9s. He practices at Veterinary Referral Associates in Gaithersburg, MD. Outside of work, he enjoys running with his dogs and vacationing at the beach.



ERIN KEENIHAN, BVMS, MVETMED, MANZCVS, DECVDI

Erin Keenihan, BVMS, MVetMed, MANZCVS, DECVDI, is a board-certified veterinary radiologist and Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging (ECVDI). She completed her veterinary training at Murdoch University and advanced clinical training in diagnostic imaging at the Royal Veterinary College, UK. Dr. Keenihan is an internationally published author with research interests spanning advanced MRI and CT imaging, neurologic imaging, ultrasound innovation, and machine learning applications in veterinary diagnostics.



RACHEL LAMPE, BVETMED, MVS, DACVIM

Rachel Lampe, BVetMed, MVS, DACVIM, grew up in Seattle and majored in computer engineering at Tufts University. She then attended veterinary school at the Royal Veterinary College, graduating in 2015. She completed a neurology and neurosurgery residency at the University of Illinois and now works in private practice at Canada West Veterinary Specialists in Vancouver. Dr. Lampe is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in Neurology (2021).



DAVID LANE, DVM, DACVSMR, CVSMT, CCRT, CVA

David Lane, DVM, DACVSMR, CVSMT, CCRT, CVA, is a canine sports medicine specialist practicing in Squamish, BC, Canada. He has published numerous research papers on the topics of shoulder pathology and back pain and has authored or co-authored multiple textbook chapters on canine lameness, back pain, and osteoarthritis. Dr. Lane's days off are spent in the mountains, on either skis or a mountain bike, depending on how much snow there is.

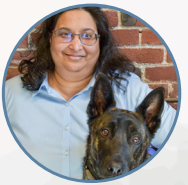
PIERRETTE MERCIER, DVM, DACVB

Pierrette Mercier, DVM, DACVB, earned her DVM degree from the University of Montreal in 1988. She practiced small animal medicine in Edmundston, NB, from 1988 to 2008, and in Matane, QC, from 2008 to 2020. In 2020, she joined the team at Riverview Animal Health Centre. After experiencing her own personal journey with a dog suffering from mental illness, Dr. Mercier developed a deep interest in veterinary behaviour medicine. Her dedication to the field led her to become a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists in 2025. Dr. Mercier is also a Fear Free Certified Elite Professional with Low Stress Handling Silver Certification. These credentials reflect her commitment to compassionate, science-based care that prioritizes the emotional well-being of animals.



VALLI PARTHASARATHY, PHD, DVM, DACVB

Valli Parthasarathy, PhD, DVM, DACVB is the owner of and a Board-Certified Veterinary Behaviorist at Synergy Veterinary Behavior, a behaviour specialty practice in Portland, OR. She helps families whose dogs, cats, birds, horses, and other species show problematic behaviours. Her goal is to help support positive behavioural change through greater mutual understanding and improved relationships between people and their animals. Dr. Parthasarathy has been invited to speak at national and international conferences on topics in veterinary behaviour, ranging from early recognition of problem behaviour and treating behaviour problems in various species to making veterinary care less stressful for patients. She regularly collaborates with general practice veterinarians and specialty clinicians, providing behavioural insight and support as part of a multidisciplinary approach to complex cases.



ELIZABETH PASK, PHD, DVM, CCRP

Elizabeth Pask, PhD, DVM, CCRP, holds a PhD in nutrition and toxicology from the University of Guelph and a DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College, graduating in 2014. Her passion for animal medicine, particularly dog sports, rehabilitation, geriatric animal care, and chronic pain management, was inspired by her experience rehabilitating her Labrador, Mr. Ripley, who suffered from arthritis and muscle atrophy. This journey ignited her commitment to rehabilitation medicine and pain management, leading her to establish Gilmour Road Veterinary Services in 2016. In 2017, she became a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner through the University of Tennessee. Dr. Pask is dedicated to excellence in rehabilitation medicine, consistently pursuing continuing education to stay current in her field. She shares her life with four Labrador Retrievers and actively competes in a variety of dog sports with her Labradors.



CLAUDIA RICHTER, DVM, DACVB

Claudia Richter, DVM, DACVB, has over 20 years of veterinary experience, including six years running her own community-focused small animal practice in BC, Canada, which achieved American Animal Hospital Association accreditation. She founded the annual Vets in Action program, providing free surgical and dental care for shelter animals, and initiated a monthly pro bono surgery program. In recognition of these community efforts, she received the BC SPCA Veterinarian of the Year Award in 2013. During her work with the BC SPCA, Dr. Richter discovered a strong passion for behavioural medicine. She implemented low-stress and fear-free methodologies within the hospital and started a Veterinary Behaviour Residency. In 2017, she founded Pacific Veterinary Behaviour Consulting in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and in 2024, became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. In November 2025, Dr. Richter relocated from Canada to Germany to take on a new role at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Hannover, where she is building a new Veterinary Behavioural Medicine Department. Her special interests include the connection between physical and behavioural disorders, as well as psychopharmacology. Outside of work, Claudia enjoys hiking, kayaking, and spending time with her family—furry or not.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2026 BARC Behaviour and Rehabilitation Conference: Diagnosing & Treating Lameness and Behaviour Like a Pro, is presented by the Society of BC Veterinarians with the guidance of co-leads David Lane, DVM, DACVSMR, CVSMT, CCRT, CVA; Claudia Richter, DVM, DACVB; and Elizabeth Pask, PhD, DVM, CCRP; and its own Continuing Education Committee (CEC) members Marco Veenis, DVM, CEC Liaison; Corrine Searle, DVM, CEC Chair; Caitlin Goeres, DVM; Ashton Wickramaratne, DVM.

SBCV members (SBCV dues-paying veterinarians residing in BC) attending 2026 BARC are eligible for a discount by emailing sbcvchapter2@gmail.com or phoning 604.283.3073.

We acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

2026 BARC BEHAVIOUR AND REHABILITATION CONFERENCE



PLEASE SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

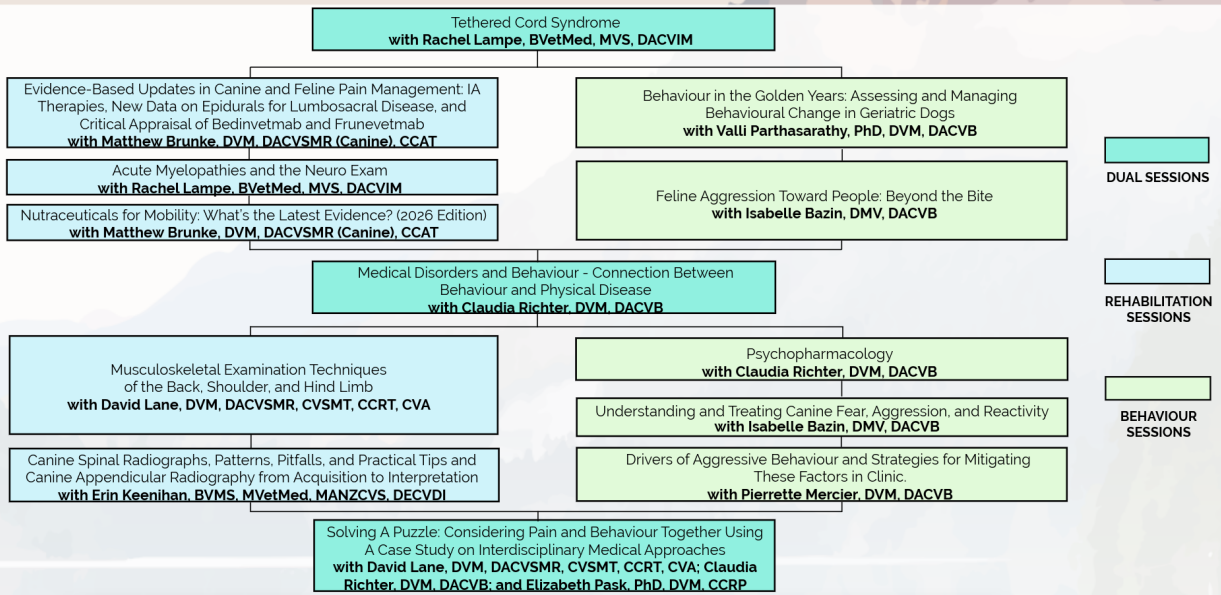


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