Lift with your legs, not your back! The first event in the 2014 Veterinary Olympics is the Large Dog Deadlift. What’s the largest dog you've had to lift?
Today's Veterinary Olympics event is always a fan favorite due to the "Ick Factor," but it's one that our contestants dread for much the same reason. Who's competing, either willingly or unwillingly, in this one?
For Day 3 of the Veterinary Olympics, we've got a large animal event. But everyone can compete, because odds are you did this at least once during veterinary school! Who are our contenders today?
Today’s event is primarily for the vet techs, but vets are permitted as well. Points awarded based on correctness, final appearance, and time. Who’s going for Gold here?
Today’s event is probably the longest-lasting event in the Olympics due to repeated, yet unsuccessful attempts by competitors to complete the event. The animal contestants are wily, for sure. Who’s got the secret to score Gold in this event? Scoring based on time, ratio of successful attempts to unsuccessful attempts, and stress caused to the cat (with points deducted based on amount of demonstrated stress).
Today’s event is a popular one for vets and vet techs alike: E-collar assembly! It’s a timed event, additional judging criteria include proper size selection and ‘installation.’ Bonus points for decoration (the Death Star one is a judge’s fave).
Today’s event is for equine and mixed animal vets and vet techs. Your team must properly bandage all four limbs of a young horse that has poor ground manners and a tendency to bite, strike, and kick. Scored on time, correctness of all bandage layers, and number of bruises sustained during the attempt (with deductions as more bruises are sustained). Who’s brave enough for this one?
Although it’s called “spit,” the fluid that a ticked-off llama can hurl at you is far beyond “spit.” The more PO’d that llama is, the more stomach juice the spit contains. This event rivals the anal sac squirt in its “Ick Factor,” and is scored on the competitor’s ability to dodge all spit particles from a very angry llama. Scoring criteria include spit soiling of skin or clothes (with points deducted for higher soiling) and duration of time avoiding multiple spitting episodes. Bonus points if your competitor is hit by a spitting episode that you dodged. This event makes our competitors wish they had skills like Neo in The Matrix. (Bonus llama trivia: the llama’s species name is lama glama, one of our faves.)
Today’s Olympic event is one where ALL veterinarians and vet techs dream for the Gold. It can be very tough to know exactly what a client needs or wants, and all too often it seems like you have to be a mind reader.
For the pet owners/animal owners out there, you can help your vet and vet techs immensely by having open conversations about any concerns and limitations you have, and by asking questions until you understand what your vet (or vet tech) is telling you. You’re an important part of your pet’s healthcare team!
This event all too often ends up resembling a reenactment of the Killer Rabbit scene from Monty Python and the Holy Grail. The goal is to catch, safely restrain, examine, and vaccinate and trim nails. Scoring based on time, completion of all tasks, and blood loss by competitors (more blood lost = lower points). Paramedics are on standby for this one. (FYI, velocichihuahua = part velociraptor, part chihuahua)
Today's event is a real challenge...you have to make a housecall to examine and treat minor health issues for 22 cats. Judging based on time, successful completion of tasks, physical injury (to vet or vet tech, bonus points for avoiding scratches and bites), accuracy of records, and ability to tactfully have a conversation about feline weight management with the Crazy Cat Lady owner. Who's up to this challenge?
Today's event presents a big challenge for small animal vets and techs: you must safely restrain a morbidly obese pug for a nail trim. You will be disqualified if the pug’s mucous membranes deviate from normal pinkish color. Who's up for this task?
Calling all equine and mixed animal practitioners! We know you’ve had plenty of practice for this event. You must properly assess the wound, lavage and debride the wound, determine and use an appropriate suturing technique (no staples or SuperGlue allowed), and place a bandage—all in barely enough light to see, and using only a dim headlamp. No car headlights allowed. Oh, and you have to walk at least ½ mile, carrying all of the supplies you’ll need (including water), to get to the horse’s location. Extra points awarded for successfully completing these tasks in below-freezing temperatures. You’ve got this one nailed, right?
Only 8 seconds to stay on a bull and win? Ha! Try wrangling a squirming pet while the rectal thermometer keeps going...and going...and going...so slowly that it seems an eternity before it beeps that it’s done.
We know you’ll ALL get Gold in this event, because vets and vet techs excel at this. The event is the Multitasking Pentathlon. You must 1) be on the phone with a client who’s calling about their vomiting pet but wanting to know if/how they can treat it from home without coming in; 2) on the phone with a specialist (or referring veterinarian), discussing a particularly difficult case; 3) eating your lunch because it’s 2pm and you haven’t had time to eat since last night; 4) writing in a patient’s record; and 5) answering questions from staff about appointments, medications to be dispensed, etc. Just another day in your life, right? Extra points if you can turn this into a decathlon but still get it all done well. Comment with your top choices to fill out the Decathlon version of this event.
The Olympics are starting to wind down (boo hoo), but today's event is a crowd pleaser. You and your team have to obtain free-catch urine samples from low-ground-clearance dachshunds without contaminating the samples, and you have to get enough sample to run the tests needed - that's more than a few drops!
Hope you've got your knee and elbow pads on!
The final Vet Olympics challenge is a doozy. You have to place a cephalic catheter in a short-legged dog. The placement is timed, which we know most of you can handle, but here's the catch: the catheter has to remain functional for at least 48 hours while connected to a fluid pump, and points are deducted every time the fluid pump beeps due to an occlusion. Who are our brave competitors in this one?
All good things must come to an end. The real Olympics have ended, and so have our Veterinary Olympics. You're ALL gold medalists in our eyes for your dedication and compassion.