

CAN YOU HEAR US?: VETERINARY PODCASTS

Information comes in all shapes, sizes and delivery methods. In our increasingly busy lives, podcasts can fill a desire to listen to information in small bites at convenient times.

Why are they called podcasts? The term is often credited to a BBC broadcaster in 2004 who combined “pod” from iPods with “cast” from broadcasting (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p038m811>).

A podcast is a series of episodes. You can listen to one or all. If you subscribe, the next episode will be downloaded and waiting. Listen using an app on your mobile phone, computer or other mobile device. Episodes are generally short; most are a few minutes to half an hour. Listen on the way to work, at the gym or walking the dog.

How do you get started? First, decide which device you want to listen to them on. Then decide if you want to click and listen (streaming) or download to your device to listen later. Your favorite search engine will point you to options for apps—and reviews of them—for your device and operating system.

Now you need to decide what to listen to. Are there search engines for finding podcasts? Yes. Do they work well for veterinary topics? No, in my experience, they do not. So how do you find them?

Look at the websites you already visit for veterinary information to see if they have podcasts. If they do, they should have a link to them. They are also nearly always published or distributed through a platform. Popular distribution platforms include iTunes, Google Play, PodBean, SoundCloud and Stitcher. Standardized platforms make it simple to find, listen and subscribe to podcasts. You can search them, which makes it easy to find podcasts that specific platform supplies, but every podcast isn’t available on



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every platform.

Subscribing to podcasts is usually free. Exceptions include platforms offering paid premium benefits and podcasts that charge a fee because there is an additional benefit, e.g., earning CE credits.

What kind of content do you find in podcasts? Great veterinary podcasts are produced by associations, conferences, journals and individuals. As always, consider the source of a podcast when deciding its worth. Here are some ideas to get you started.

Conferences share presentations as podcasts. Example: The Veterinary Evidence Today 2016 conference is in the process of releasing presentations as episodes of the Veterinary Evidence podcast at <https://veterinaryevidence.podbean.com>.

Journals enhance content with podcasts. Examples: The podcasts from *Equine Veterinary Journal* and *Equine Veterinary Education* feature interviews with article authors. The Sage Veterinary Science podcast features episodes from a variety of veterinary journals published by Sage Publishing. Recent episodes cover feline medicine, dentistry, toxicologic pathology and pathology. Episodes of the Veterinary Record podcast include interviews with article authors, association presidents and award winners.


Specialty foundations create podcasts.

Example: The Winn Feline Foundation episodes cover feline health conditions and their symposium.

Continuing education is delivered as podcasts. Examples: VetFolio, a collaboration of the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) and American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), offers podcast CE and includes some free episodes at <http://www.vetfolio.com/podcasts>. VETgirl, <http://vetgirlontherun.com>, has a podcast series that allows you to earn CE by listening to a collection of short episodes. Again, earning CE generally requires payment.

Associations and foundations produce podcasts. Example: AVMA produced podcasts until 2015. They remain available at <http://www.avmamedia.org/pas-vlist.asp?tid=207>. The Evidence-Based Veterinary Medicine Association recently launched a podcast series at <https://ebvma.org/category/podcast>.

Veterinary schools create podcasts. Example: The Royal Veterinary College currently produces Veterinary Clinical Podcasts at <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/small-animal-referrals/news-events/clinical-podcasts>. RVC’s WikiVet has a podcast about “unusual but important international diseases” at http://en.wikivet.net/WikiVet_Podcasts.

Whatever catches your interest personally or professionally, there is likely a podcast for it. 

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