

AZA Reproductive Management Center Workshop

PHARMACOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO AGGRESSION MANAGEMENT: FELIDS AND PSITTACINES

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TAKE-HOME #1: KNOW THE DIAGNOSIS/MOTIVATION

Aggression based in fear/anxiety or with a component of impulsivity responds best to psychopharmacology

- Diagnosis must be made first (motivation must be understood)
- Rule out medical causes (pain, endocrine disease, brain disease, etc.)
- Rule out poor husbandry/rough handling



TAKE-HOME #2: KNOW YOUR SPECIES

Few studies done on anxiolytic use in psittacines and wild felids beyond their role in sedation and anesthesia

- Avoid tricyclic antidepressants in psittacines
- Meds for psittacines will need to be compounded
- The act of giving the medication can increase aggression – remain “fear free”
- Gabapentin and trazodone are looking promising

TAKE-HOME #3: MANAGE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Behavior modification (desensitization and counterconditioning) typically leads to the resolution of aggression

- Medications make the learning possible
- Management is necessary in the meantime