

# Veterinary Medical Terminology

Introduction

# Objectives

- Identify and recognize parts of a medical term.
- Define commonly used prefixes, combining forms, and suffixes.
- Recognize the importance of spelling terms correctly.

# Introduction

- Medical terminology is used frequently in veterinary medicine.
- Terms are derived from Greek and Latin origins.
- Terms are based on eponyms, modern language, and Greek/Latin words.

# Anatomy of a Term

- prefix - word part found at the beginning of a word. Ex: postanesthetic (post-)
- root - word part giving essential meaning of the word. Ex: atraumatic (traumatic)
- combining vowel - single vowel, usually 'o', that is added to the root to make pronunciation easier. Ex: Leukopenia (o)

# Anatomy of a Term

- combining form - combination of root and combining vowel. Ex: Panleukopenia (pan-prefix; leuk/o-combining form; penia-suffix)
- suffix - word part found at the end of a word. Ex: cardiac (-ac)

# Prefixes

- Added to the beginning to modify meaning.
  - *operative* - *involving an operation*
  - (pre)operative - before an operation
  - (peri)operative - period around operation
  - (post)operative - after an operation

# Combining Vowels

- Used when suffix begins with a consonant (-scope)
- arthroscope - arth + scope - instrument used to visually examine a joint

# Combining Form

- Word root plus a combining vowel.  
(panleukopenia)
  - pan- prefix meaning all
  - leuk/o - combining form meaning white
  - -penia - suffix meaning deficiency
  - Can you tell what panleukopenia is?



- panleukopenia - a deficiency in all types of white blood cells

# Suffixes

- Attached to the end of the word to modify meaning.
- *gastr/o* - *pertaining to the stomach*
- gastro(tomy) - incision into stomach
- gastr(ectomy) - removal of the stomach

# Analyzing Medical Terms

- 1. Dissect: divide into basic components
- 2. Begin at the end: define suffix, then prefix, then roots from left to right
- 3. Put into anatomical order - define words in order that they are found in the body
- *Breakdown: ovariectomy*

- Dissect - ovari/o/hyster/ectomy
- Begin at the end - ectomy = surgical removal; ovari/o = ovary; hysteri/o = uterus
- surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus
- AKA - spay!

# Spelling

- Changing one letter can change entire word meaning!!!
- Hepatoma is a liver mass; hematoma is a mass of blood.
- Ileum is part of the small intestine; ilium is part of the pelvic bone.

# Commonly Used

- a- without, lack of
- post- after
- cardi/o - pertaining to the heart
- gastr/o - pertaining to the stomach
- -itis - inflammation
- -oma - tumor

# Conclusion

- Medical terminology is used in Vet Tech DAILY.
- Terms must be pronounced and spelled correctly.
- You must be able to dissect a term to figure out its meaning.
- Medical terminology is difficult, but doable!