

Newsletter for
Referring Vets

SUMMER 2023
ISSUE
15

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Providing surgical solutions for our patients

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

Hospital for Small Animals

Welcome



Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the latest newsletter from the Hospital for Small Animals at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Included in this newsletter is an update on more new staff joining the Hospital, qualifications achieved by my hardworking colleagues, a request for help with a study looking at Westies with lung disease as well as information of future CPD events for both vets and nurses offered by clinicians and nurses at the Dick Vet.

Often cases referred to the Hospital for Small Animals involve more than one discipline. It is truly rewarding to work together in a multidisciplinary team where diverse expertise pulls together to get the best outcome for an animal. That team also includes you, the referring practice. In this newsletter we have a feature on soft tissue surgery and how it plays a pivotal role in many cases, and a case report on using interventional laser surgery that highlights this multidisciplinary approach.

As we gain more staff, we can improve our services. Within the newsletter is an update on FMT-faecal microbiome transplantation, and an update on how we offer advice on cases of suspected Mycobacterial disease.

With EMS in focus at the moment, we would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who look after our students so well. There is some information on how you can offer a EMS placement in this newsletter and a free Dick Vet Clinical Club CPD event on 2 August will highlight how you can get the most from the experience.

Let us all hope for a glorious summer!

Sue Murphy
Director of Clinical Services

Refer a case

- 0131 650 7651
- hfsareception@ed.ac.uk
- www.edin.ac/hfsa-referral-form

Hospital Services Attract International Expertise

We are delighted to welcome Dr Lauren Lacorcía, Dr Julien Dandrieux and Dr Aran Nagendran to our Hospital for Small Animals.

Both Dr Lacorcía and Dr Dandrieux join our Internal Medicine Service from Melbourne Veterinary School, part of the University of Melbourne. They are both Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (DipACVIM) and have significant clinical knowledge and veterinary teaching experience.



Lauren Lacorcía



Julien Dandrieux

Dr Dandrieux, who is from Switzerland, has an interest in gastro-intestinal disease and immune-mediated diseases while Dr Lacorcía, an Australian, has a clinical interest in immune-mediated diseases, kidney and urinary disorders and gastrointestinal and liver disorders.

Dr Aran Nagendran also joined the Neurology and Neurosurgery Service recently from North Carolina State University in the United States of America.

A Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery (DipECVN), Dr Nagendran has a particular interest in neurosurgery, neuroimmunology, neuroimaging and canine and feline epilepsy.



Aran Nagendran

We are delighted to have attracted such international expertise to our hospital and their combined knowledge and expertise will further strengthen our existing Referral Services.

As well as managing a clinical caseload and research portfolio, Drs Lacorcía, Dandrieux and Nagendran will teach on the School's BVM&S programme and help train the many residents that are working towards their European Board exams with us.

Welcome to you all!

Soft Tissue Surgery Service: providing surgical solutions for our patients

by Dr John Ryan, European Diplomate in Small Animal Surgery

The Soft Tissue Surgery team offer an emergency surgery service that is available 24/7 for animals requiring surgical intervention. We also provide specialist training to six residents and intern vets.

In addition to patients seen directly through the Soft Tissue Surgery Service, we also contribute to the care of animals with a wide range of conditions seen primarily by our colleagues in the Hospital's Oncology, Emergency and Critical Care, Dermatology and Internal Medicine Services.

Collaborative Working

As a team within the Hospital, we work together to optimise the outcome for all our patients.

One such example is in dogs with porto-systemic shunts, a condition in which the normal blood-flow from the intestines is directed away from the liver and instead bypasses this detoxification stage through an aberrant vessel, the 'shunt.' This leads to a number of metabolic derangements and can result in vague clinical signs of poor growth, lethargy and variable neurological signs, including seizures and comatose states. These animals are often seen primarily by our colleagues in Internal Medicine, who investigate and diagnose the condition with the help of our colleagues in our Clinical Pathology and Diagnostic Imaging services.



John Ryan



When diagnosed, medical and surgical options are offered to an owner and our vets explain the aims and risks associated with medical management, use of interventional radiography or surgical management.

As abnormal vessels, shunts vary widely in their size, shape and location. These variations are considered by our surgeons when discussing management with owners and when carrying out surgery.



Complexity and risk are case-dependent and are recognised by the surgeon and communicated with owners and the rest of the team involved in management of the condition.

Anaesthesia and pain relief

Surgical management requires general anaesthesia. Our Anaesthesia team provide anaesthesia and pain relief, monitoring closely to ensure that the animal remains healthy and comfortable throughout surgery and recovery. Following recovery from anaesthesia, patients are cared for in our ICU under the care of our specialists in Critical Care, monitoring closely 24 hours a day, intervening and supporting at this most critical time, to ensure the best outcomes can be achieved.

Holistic approach to patient care

Most animals being cared for in the Hospital will benefit from the expertise of clinicians from several of our specialist referral services, often unseen by the pet owner. This case example highlights our benefits as a multi-disciplinary hospital in managing complex cases. As a team of surgeons, we are fortunate to be able to offer surgical options to pets with the support of Specialists in other disciplines, along with our dedicated veterinary nurses, animal care assistants and theatre support staff.

We are privileged to be part of the largest multi-disciplinary hospital in Scotland and proud of the role our team of Soft Tissue surgeons play in optimising the welfare and outcomes of all the patients in our care.



Further info visit

Soft Tissue Surgery Service
<https://edin.ac/3yndT3b>

Interventional laser surgery cures incontinence in young dog

Clinicians from our Internal Medicine Service were able to cure a young dog with persistent incontinence following the successful cystoscopic-guided laser ablation of an intramural ectopic ureter.

Perdi, a one-year-old female entire Labrador was referred by her vet to our Hospital in August 2022 due to her persistent incontinence that had failed to respond to medical management.

Initial test results excluded a urinary tract infection or urinary stones as a potential cause. Following an ultrasound and a 4D CT excretory urography to examine the kidneys, ureters and bladder (a protocol designed by our in-house Diagnostic Imaging team) confirmed diagnosis of an ectopic ureter.

Fluoroscopy and cystoscopy were then used to confidently confirm Perdi had an intramural ectopic ureter.

Intramural ectopic ureter

This congenital anomaly sees the ureteral orifice abnormally positioned. Instead of the ureter leaving the kidney and terminating in the bladder, it inserts into the bladder but tunnels within the bladder and urethra wall opening straight into the urethra.



Ectopic ureters are the most common causes of congenital urinary incontinence in young female dogs. Unfortunately, as the preferred option of medical management of the condition had proved unsuccessful in Perdi's case, she became a candidate for intervention.

Keen to avoid abdominal surgery, clinicians Dr Glynn Woods and Dr Marissa Ferreira performed a cystoscopic-guided laser ablation whilst Perdi was anaesthetised to effectively re-locate Perdi's ureter orifice into the bladder. The young dog also had a persistent vaginal band, which was also successfully lasered.

The procedure went ahead without any intra-operative complications and Perdi recovered uneventfully after a modest two-hour anaesthesia. The young dog was kept comfortable with multi-modal analgesics whilst she recovered from the general anaesthetic and was discharged the following morning.

Successful resolution

Perdi's incontinence resolved immediately post procedure and owners reported no incontinence in the weeks that followed as medication was weaned. At Perdi's six-week post-operative recheck there were no urinary complications associated with the laser procedure.

Dr Woods commented, "Perdi's case is a great example of how a step wise medical approach. Application of advanced imaging techniques and minimally invasive interventions can make remarkable difference to both dog and owners' life.

Perdi's owner's and local vet worked closely with our team to ensure that Perdi was the most suitable candidate for the procedure prior to embarking on the trip to Edinburgh."

Referral Dermatology Service goes from strength to strength

Our Dermatology Service continues to lead the field in its offering to referring vets, clients and patients.

The only full-time Dermatology Service integrated into a multidisciplinary teaching hospital in Scotland, our specialist referral team is one of the largest in Scotland, boasting RCVS and European Specialists in Veterinary Dermatology, two dermatology residents and a dedicated dermatology nurse.

Our specialist referral service is the only dedicated allergy service in Scotland that offers allergen testing and a wide range of immunotherapy (desensitisation) protocols including fast track inductions, intralymphatic and sublingual treatments for cats, dogs, and horses.

In addition, our Dermatology Service is the only service in Scotland to offer both CO2 and diode laser surgery, CT scans and video-endoscopy, ensuring the very best of care for your referral patients.



For more information about the Dermatology Service email hfsareception@ed.ac.uk

Clinical advice service for Mycobacterial diseases moving online

We are proud that the Hospital for Small Animals is home to the only specialist clinical advice service for companion animal Mycobacterial diseases, including tuberculosis.

Professor of Feline Medicine, Daniëlle Gunn-Moore, who has over 25 years of internationally recognised expertise in diagnosing and managing these cases, first established the service in 2018.

The service has now expanded to include more clinicians from our Small Animal Internal Medicine team who have a particular interest and expertise in these infections in both cats and dogs.



M. bovis skin lesion - close up. Photo credit Rachel Biddle

In the five years that the service has been operational, the number of animals helped has increased dramatically as awareness of mycobacterial disease has improved, and diagnostics have become more widely available. This is great news for affected patients as it has allowed us to dramatically improve clinical outcomes based on a wealth of experience and cases.

As a result of the growing number of advice requests we are now in the process of moving the service into an online format, so that all the information about mycobacteria, the clinical signs, diagnostics, treatment, prognosis, plus so much more, will be readily available to clinicians at the click of a button.

It will still be possible for clinicians to contact us directly about particularly challenging or complex cases, but going forward, this will incur a small fee to allow us to fund continued research and clinical improvements in this field.



For more information, please contact
Companion.AnimalTB@ed.ac.uk

Faecal microbiota transplantation service now routinely available for cats and dogs

Clinicians from the Internal Medicine Service, led by Dr. Silke Salavati, have established a new service that allows a novel treatment for acute and chronic gut diseases to be treated more routinely.



FMT can help improve gut microbiota and health in cats and dogs

Faecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) involves transferring trillions of healthy gut bacteria from a healthy donor dog or cat to a matching patient to help improve their gut microbiota and health.

The Hospital has established a faecal donor bank so that FMT is readily available at all times to animals that might need it. Donor animals are regularly health screened and all faecal samples collected are screened using the Dysbiosis Index (DI) to ensure maximal gut health.

With two gastroenterology experts in the Internal Medicine Service, Dr Julian Dandrieux and Dr Silke Salavati, our hospital is leading the way in this emerging therapeutic option for our patients. Our FMT bank is the first and only bank of its type in the UK to our knowledge that fully adheres to the strict donor selection criteria recommended by the Companion Animal Faecal Bank Consortium, a group of international experts who are currently compiling guidelines for vets on how to screen, process and administer FMT to dogs and cats.

Dr. Salavati said: "We are committed to provide the best care possible to our patients and give our clients piece of mind that everything is done to the highest standards possible."



For more information about this service,
please email fmt@ed.ac.uk

Westies required to help with study

We are looking for vets and owners of West Highland White Terriers to help us with an ongoing study into Westie Lung Disease (WLD).

Otherwise known as Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) or Non-Specific Interstitial Pneumonitis (NSIP) the condition causes degeneration of the lung function over time.

We would like to hear from owners of Westies that have been diagnosed with WLD to take part in a survey and share their experiences of living with a dog with this condition.

We are also offering a trial of a novel immunosuppressive treatment for Westies with confirmed WLD, which has shown initial promising results. Participation can be remote; however, cases can also be seen at the R(D)SVS as a referral if it is convenient. Clinical researchers from the R(D)SVS will provide guidance and advice on patient management throughout the trial.

If you have a patient that has been diagnosed with WLD via HRCT or x-ray and would like more information about them taking part in the clinical study, please email: westie.lungdisease@ed.ac.uk and our study nurse will get back to you. Diagnosis does not have to be confirmed to get in contact regarding completing our survey.



For more information

Please visit our website at <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/westielungdisease/>

EBVS Radiation Oncology Programme launched

We are excited to announce that the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS) has announced a new three-year residency programme in Radiation Oncology, and our Hospital for Small Animals is the first approved training centre in Europe for this new programme.

Studied as a subspecialty shared between the ECVDI and ECVIM-CA (Onc), the new residency will give vets the opportunity to study in Europe towards ECVS Diplomate status, the highest qualification in veterinary medicine.

Our hospital has one ACVR/ECVDI Diplomate in Radiation Oncology; Dr Magdalena Parys, and two ECVIM-CA Diplomates with additional radiation oncology qualifications; Dr Juan Carlos Serra and Dr Laura Blackwood. The combination of their expertise and the opportunity

of working in the only veterinary centre in the UK with a Vital Beam linear accelerator, makes our hospital the ideal place to study radiation oncology.

We are delighted to welcome Silvia Caeiro, the first vet to begin this residency programme in Radiation Oncology in Europe who will be studying at our hospital. Ms Caeiro developed a keen interest in radiation oncology whilst working in practice and during her oncology internship with us and is keen to begin additional training in this area.

Ms Caeiro's residency programme will last three years and during that time, she will gain extensive training under the mentorship of Drs Parys, Serra and Blackwood. She will also sit annual exams and complete a research project as part of her training.



The Dick Vet is on LinkedIn, where we post information on upcoming CPD events and postgraduate courses, highlight our clinical research, feature news on our staff and student and much more. If you'd like to follow us then please search for us, or go to www.linkedin.com/company/TheDickVet.

Staff Successes

Many congratulations to five of our clinicians who are celebrating their recent exam success:

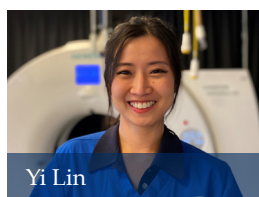
- Sabina Diez Bernal has become a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (DipECVAA)
- Yi Lin Tan and Sumari Dancer have both become Diplomates of the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging (DipECVDI)

- Megan Madden has become a Diplomate of the European College of Neurology (DipECVN) and
- Maria Ines Oliviera has become a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Medicine in Internal Medicine (DipECVIM-CA (Cardiology))

The Hospital for Small Animals has over 40 European and American Diplomates working across its 14 referral services, and we are delighted to welcome four more to our team.



Sabina



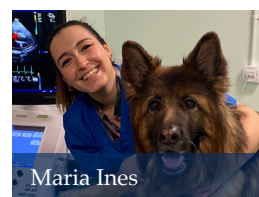
Yi Lin



Sumari



Megan



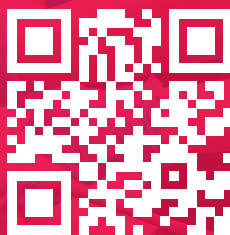
Maria Ines

Supporting Future Vets

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to mentoring our Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery students during their Extra Mural Studies (EMS) placements. These placements are invaluable to our students and also provide an opportunity for practices to meet and support future graduates.

If you would like to meet our soon-to-be R(D)SVS graduates, then you may be interested in attending our Careers Fair, held in October each year at our Easter Bush campus. For more information please contact VetSEO@ed.ac.uk

We also run an EMS noticeboard for any practices who wish to advertise EMS placements. Please use the following link or the QR code opposite if you want to submit a placement for the EMS noticeboard: <https://edin.ac/3LMpY8x>



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2023 Clinical Club Dates

The Dick Vet Clinical Club and Nurses Clinical Club hold monthly online CPD webinars. These free events are hosted by leading experts who discuss recent advances in an area of their speciality to help vets and vet nurses develop or refresh their clinical knowledge. For details of 2023 events and booking information, visit www.ed.ac.uk/vet/BookClinicalClub

Dick Vet Clinical Club CPD

- JUN 07** **Glynn Woods, Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Internal Medicine**
An update on leishmania and brucella: dogs go on holiday too!
- JUL 05** **Craig Breheny, Senior Lecturer in Emergency and Critical Care**
Acute azotaemia - how to differentiate and treat
- AUG 02** **Jennifer Marshall, Anaesthesia Nurse and Nina Tomlin, Lecturer in Competency Based Veterinary Education**
How to get the most from the EMS experience: helping them and you
- SEP 06** **Alisdair Boag, Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Internal Medicine**
Hyperadrenocorticism
- OCT 04** **Laura Blackwood, Head of Small Animal Oncology and Paola Cazzini, Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Clinical Pathology**
Cytology of Tumours
- NOV 01** **Magdalena Parys, Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Oncology**
What should I know about radiation therapy?
Indications and limitations of RT treatment
- DEC 06** **Geoff Culshaw, Head of Cardiology Service**
Emerging cardiac therapies

Dick Vet Nurses Clinical Club CPD

- JUN 28** **Kerry Melville, Veterinary Nurse - Medicine**
Coaching in Veterinary Nursing - helping ourselves so we can help others
- JUL 26** **Lisa Telford, Veterinary Nurse - Surgical Soft Tissue**
Be prepared! Considerations for exploratory laparotomy
- AUG 30** **Laura Edwards, Veterinary Nurse - Emergency and Critical Care (ECC)**
One Health and why it matters to RVNs
- SEP 27** **Monika Nawrocka, Veterinary Nurse - Exotics**
Handling and Hospitalisation of Avian patients
- OCT 25** **Jess Davies, Veterinary Nurses - Anaesthesia**
Take a Deep Breath - Taking the Stress out of Brachycephalic Anaesthesia
- NOV 29** **Jess Randall, Veterinary Nurse - Exotics**
Anaesthesia in exotic patients
- DEC 13** **Emily Gorman, Senior Veterinary Nurse - ICU**
How to Promote Positive Feline Welfare in a Busy Clinical Environment



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