

Newsletter for

Referring Vets

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

Hospital for Small Animals

Welcome



Dear Colleagues,

It has been a challenging few months for us all, with the rules that we are living our lives by changing on a regular basis, let us hope we are over the worst.

As veterinary professionals, we have all been treating animals whilst working in a very different way from what we are accustomed to, with additional challenges such as being short staffed and with an increased demand for our services. Here at the Dick Vet, most of our challenges as a clinical entity are no different to yours, but we have also had to flex to allow the final year to join us on the clinic floor in a safe manner. Our class of 2021 Final Year students have now graduated, and a new batch of Final Years have joined us.

During the pandemic, we have been developing the services we offer. We now have a referral dentistry service, and an expanded Emergency and Critical Care service. We have a new, Diplomate-led behavioural service, and another experienced Specialist in Ophthalmology, Claudia Hartley, is joining us after the summer, increasing the Ophthalmology service team to five clinicians.

In this newsletter, we highlight the REPAIR centre, discuss the new dentistry service and report on a juicy ocular foreign body!

Please note that our free Clinical Club will remain online for the near future, and currently runs monthly on a Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. If you would like to be included in the mailing list for these sessions, please email and ask to be included in the subscription list for the Clinical Club: vet.marketing@ed.ac.uk

We have also started a Nurse-led Clinical club, every month. If you would like to be included in the mailing list, please email and ask to be included in the subscription list for the Nurses' Clinical Club: vet.marketing@ed.ac.uk

We are still offering free advice, as we know that this is something vets in practice value. However, please be mindful that we are receiving many requests so we would appreciate it if you would make it easier for us to help you by:

- Calling during service hours where possible
- Giving a succinct history, and defined questions for the case
- Letting us know how to contact you, and when you are going to be available

With very best wishes to you and all of our other colleagues,

Sue Murphy
Director of Clinical Services

REPAIR

Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Service

The REPAIR centre for physiotherapy and hydrotherapy is accepting cases again, within the limitations of the Covid-19 rules. All patients are required to be referred by their own vet to us.

We are here to help any cases following orthopaedic or neurological surgery to speed the patient's post-operative recovery. Non-operative or chronic cases with mild or moderate symptoms of reduced mobility, joint stiffness, muscle atrophy, balance and co-ordination, as well as obese animals can benefit too.



Here is Kaspar, a lovely 3-year-old Maine Coone with hip dysplasia diagnosed as a kitten, enjoying a stroll in the water treadmill.

As well as our canine companions, we have cats and rabbits that are receiving physiotherapy and hydrotherapy.

If you would like to refer a case, email us at the address below with the patient's diagnosis and medical history. We will contact the owner to book them in. One client can attend the session with their pet.



Refer a case

email us at sahrec@exseed.ed.ac.uk with the patient's diagnosis and medical history

Dick Vet Clinical Case Studies: Ophthalmology

A sticky situation

The Dick Vet Ophthalmology Service sees a wide range of cases, both in conjunction with other services at the Hospital and also referred directly from colleagues in private practice.

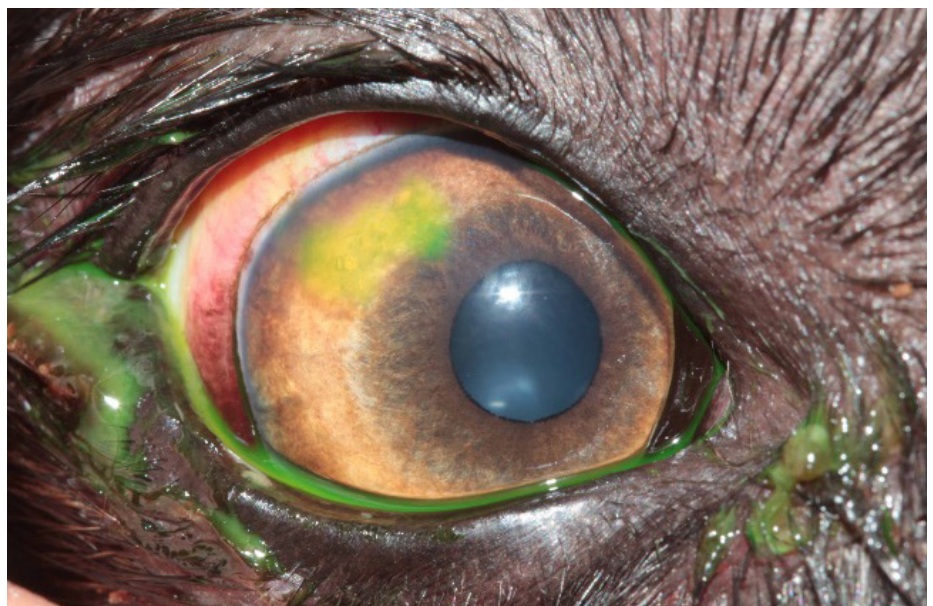
Mia, a lovely border collie, was out playing with her owners when she ran into some bushes and yelped with pain. When she emerged, her owners feared the worst, as a large stick was embedded in her eye socket. Mia was rushed to her local vets for assessment, who promptly advised referral to investigate how to best approach removal of the stick and if anything could be done to try to save her eye.



Despite being a dramatic injury, Mia was remarkably calm and comfortable during assessment at the Dick Vet. A CT scan of the head was advised; without advanced cross-sectional imaging, there's no way of knowing the extent of the injury or position of the stick. The scan also allows us to plan removal. If the stick had fragmented, then an invasive orbitotomy procedure would likely have been required.



Fortunately for Mia, the globe appeared to be intact on the scan, and the stick appeared to be in one piece. It was therefore decided to remove the stick from the way it had gone in. A lubricant gel that's usually use inside the eye during cataract surgery (viscoelastic) was instilled around the tract to try to facilitate removal in one piece. With very gentle and patient manipulation the stick was withdrawn, and the tract copiously flushed with saline to remove any debris. After 24 hours of nursing care, the swelling had decreased significantly and the globe had returned to its normal position – there was a superficial ulcer present, but amazingly that was the only damage to the eye. The tear in the conjunctiva was left open to heal itself (conjunctiva closes over very quickly).



In the end, the management of this case was straightforward, due to having a fantastic anaesthesia, imaging, and nursing team to assist with this dramatic case.

If referral hadn't been an option, the stick could have been removed and in this case the outcome would almost certainly have been the same. But if any foreign material had been left behind then it would have caused all sorts of problems. There are cases where the foreign material isn't visible externally – and that's one of the reasons why, where possible, to perform a CT or MRI on retrobulbar disease cases.

We are always happy to work with our referring veterinary colleagues.



Advice enquiries

For non-urgent matters please complete our form



Further info

Click here to visit the Ophthalmology website



The Dick Vet has joined LinkedIn, where we will be posting information on upcoming CPD, sharing postgraduate courses, covering clinical research, featuring alumni successes and much more. If you'd like to follow us then please search for us, or go to www.linkedin.com/company/TheDickVet.

Dentistry and Maxillofacial Surgery Service



This year has seen the introduction of our dentistry referral service at the Hospital for Small Animals.

The service is led by Ingrid Tundo, who joined the hospital in October 2020 as the UK's only full-time lecturer in veterinary dentistry

and maxillofacial surgery. Ingrid has completed a three-year residency in veterinary dentistry and is currently preparing for her board specialty examinations. The department is also supported by its specialist dentistry nurse, Claire Harrison, who is the only RVN from the United Kingdom to hold a Veterinary Technician Specialty in Dentistry.

Our experienced team, along with state-of-the-art facilities and support from our specialist anaesthesia team, allows for expert dentistry treatment and aftercare for our referral patients. On-site Computed Tomography and advanced diagnostic imaging, 24-hour nursing care, and our Intensive Care Unit provides fantastic care for the most complex oral and maxillofacial surgical patients.


Our dentistry service provides advanced dentistry treatment for all dental and maxillofacial abnormalities. Our comprehensive list of treatments includes endodontics (for example, root canal

therapy and vital pulp therapy), periodontics, restorative dentistry, prosthodontics (crowns), and oral surgery.

Common reasons for dentistry referral include:

- Damaged and/or fractured teeth
- Discoloured/ Non-vital teeth
- Malpositioned teeth and lingually displaced canine teeth
- Malocclusions
- Juvenile dental abnormalities
- Tooth resorption
- Periodontal disease
- Feline chronic gingivostomatitis
- Enamel defects and hypoplasia
- Dental caries
- Jaw fracture and maxillofacial trauma
- Unerupted teeth and odontogenic dentigerous cysts
- Temporomandibular joint abnormalities
- Cleft lip and cleft palate repair
- Jaw reconstruction

Our dentistry team are more than happy to discuss cases with referring vets that they wish to refer or continue managing in practice. A radiographic reading service for intra-oral imaging is also available.



Further info
Click here to visit our Dentistry and Oral Surgery Referral Service website.

2021 Clinical Club Webinars

The Dick Vet HfSA Clinical Club is currently running as online seminars. We ask that you book a place and a link will be sent to you prior to the session. For booking information, please visit: www.ed.ac.uk/vet/BookClinicalClub

Dick Vet HfSA Clinical Club CPD

SEP 01 Alisdair Boag - Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Internal Medicine
Diabetes Management - Not Always Sweetness and Light

OCT 13 Tobias Schwarz - Reader in Diagnostic Imaging
Back to basics: Thoracic Radiography

NOV 03 Efa Llewellyn - Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care
Optimising fluid therapy in your practice: Beyond 1x, 2x, 3x maintenance

DEC 01 Geoff Culshaw - Senior Lecturer Veterinary Clinical Services
Recent advances in veterinary cardiology

Dick Vet Nurses Clinical Club CPD

SEP 29 Claire Harrison - Dentistry Nurse
Getting the best from your practice dentistry service

OCT 27 Jess Randal - Exotics Nurse
Basic Skills and considerations for nursing the exotic patient

NOV 24 Caroline Mosley - Lecturer in Veterinary Clinical Skills
Make education fun for you and the students: creating ideas for small group teaching in practice for vet and nursing students

DEC 08 Emily Gorman - Senior Veterinary Nurse - ICU
CPR - How to be a life saver