

Newsletter for
Referring Vets

WINTER 2022
ISSUE
14

DIGEST Clinic

Safeguarding the gut health of your patients

REPAIR Centre

Supporting recovery from injury or surgery

Latest news

Expanded services, case studies and research updates

Clinical Club

2023 CPD dates announced



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.

Every case that you refer to us contributes either indirectly or directly to animal welfare. As a not-for-profit hospital, the income we generate from treating clinical cases with state-of-the-art equipment and care is reinvested into teaching undergraduates and postgraduates, for the benefit of animal health and welfare in the future.

The clinical cases themselves often contribute to our understanding of the condition that they suffer from and this information is then shared with our veterinary colleagues through scientific publications and presentations.

This newsletter reflects this – with articles on the Specialist-led DIGEST clinic, which is part of our internal medicine department, and a request to help with a study that may benefit cats with kidney disease.

We have also included an update on some of the Specialists of tomorrow – some of our seventy plus interns and residents – and the CPD and further education opportunities we offer to clinicians and nurses.

We are pleased to share with you two good news stories that illustrate the successful outcomes for neurology cases - one treated by physiotherapy and one with brain surgery.

We have also included an update on new staff joining the Hospital. We are happy to welcome Tori to our Dermatology Service and Ian and Sofia to our Small Animal Surgery Service.

Finally, I want to wish you a happy and successful 2023, and a stress-free holiday period!

Sue Murphy
Director of Clinical Services

Tori Robinson joins Hospital

We are delighted to welcome Victoria Robinson to our referral Dermatology Service at the Hospital for Small Animals.

A Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology (DipECVD), Tori, as she is more frequently known, is a hugely experienced dermatology Specialist and has a wealth of knowledge in the diagnosis and treatment of skin and ear diseases in dogs, cats and a variety of other animals. She has particular interests and expertise in video otoscopy and laser surgery.



Tori returns to the Hospital and her alma mater after previously spending a year working with the Dermatology Service in 2015 - an experience she thoroughly enjoyed.

She joins a recently expanded team of residents, interns and RVNs who, under the expert leadership of Dr Tim Nuttall, Head of the Dermatology Service, provide a gold-standard care to their increasing number of referral patients.

Ours is the only full-time Dermatology Service integrated into a multidisciplinary teaching hospital in Scotland. In addition to allergy testing, the Service offers CO2 and diode laser treatment, CT scans and video endoscopy. It also works closely with the other referral services across the Hospital and Easter Bush Campus to offer a truly holistic approach in patient care.

Tori will also contribute to the teaching of the undergraduate veterinary medicine students and help to train the next generation of veterinary dermatologists.

Welcome Tori!

Refer a case

 0131 650 7650

 hfsareception@ed.ac.uk

 www.edin.ac/hfsa-referral-form

The DIGEST Clinic: safeguarding the gut health of your patients

by Silke Salavati, Head of Small Animal Internal Medicine



Silke Salavati

We are delighted to offer a specialist referral clinic that provides specific support for dogs and cats with a range of gastrointestinal problems.

Established in 2017, The Diplomat-led Integrated Gastroenterology Edinburgh Specialist Team (DIGEST) Clinic is run by clinicians from our Small Animal Internal Medicine team who have a particular interest and expertise in the evaluation of stomach and gut problems such as vomiting, regurgitation, diarrhoea and weight loss.

State-of-the-art facilities

The DIGEST Clinic works with the other specialist referral services within the Hospital to help guarantee optimal results for referral patients with digestive problems.

We offer techniques like contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) and computed tomography as well as a

range of high-quality diagnostic imaging facilities such as live fluoroscopy (for swallowing studies, for example) and abdominal ultrasound.

The Hospital's video endoscopy suite also allows high-definition visual inspection of the gastrointestinal tract, safe removal of foreign bodies, oesophageal and rectal balloon dilations, biopsies and more.



New therapeutic approaches

One of the services we can offer is faecal microbiota transplantations (FMT) and special blends of probiotics for patients with inflammatory bowel disease and for dogs with acute haemorrhagic diarrhoea.

We are excited to announce that we plan to open the UK's first faecal donor bank in the next coming months and would love the help of first opinion vets to help recruit healthy donors. We will send you more information once we are ready to launch.

Nurse-led Nutrition Clinic

Our nurse-led Nutrition Clinic provides individualised dietary advice, as well as feeding plans (including tube-feeding plans) for hospitalised patients. The Clinic also offers a weight loss programme for dogs and cats.

We are happy to discuss details of patients with gastrointestinal or nutritional problems with practitioners to decide if referral is needed, and can also provide continuous support of patients once back under the care of their home practice.



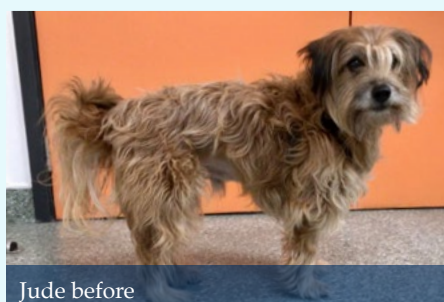
For more information about the DIGEST Clinic email HfSAreception@ed.ac.uk

Case Study: DIGEST

Chronic enteropathy successfully treated

Jude, an eight-year-old rescue dog, was referred to our hospital due to her persistent vomiting, diarrhoea and hyporexia. She had lost significant weight, had extreme lethargy and was in considerable pain, scoring 15 on the canine chronic enteropathy clinical activity index (CCECAI).

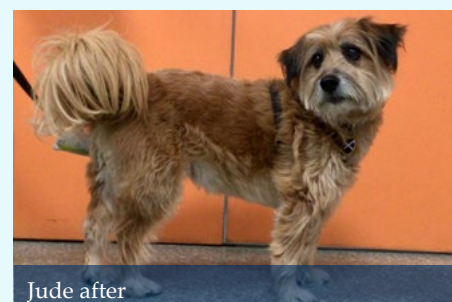
Our DIGEST team conducted a thorough series of tests on Jude including an abdominal ultrasound and endoscopy, with biopsies, which showed mild to moderate "typical" inflammation of her small intestine, but no cancer. Blood tests also showed that Jude was borderline low in vitamin B12.



Jude before

The DIGEST team recommended that Jude move to a strict elimination diet and nutrition plan to help her gut recover, and prescribed some strong anti-nausea medications along with cobalamin to boost her B12 levels.

Jude was discharged to her owners with a feeding tube in her neck so that her owners could feed her at home, as her appetite was suppressed. Jude was



Jude after

monitored closely over the following weeks and attended regular check-ups at our nurse-led Nutrition clinic.

One month later, Jude had the feeding tube removed and, whilst still on a strict prescription diet, is now eating normally with no vomiting or diarrhoea. She has gained weight, her energy is back to normal and she has a CCECAI of zero.

Research: Internal Medicine

Cats required for kidney disease study

The Internal Medicine Service is looking for cats with chronic kidney disease to help with a project that might lead to improved management of cats with disease.

They are investigating ways to prevent toxins that develop in the gut of cats with renal disease from entering the bloodstream and worsening disease.

New products

The study involves testing three novel products that, when added to food, have been proven to reduce inflammation and alleviate loss of kidney function in humans. Two of these comprise small carbon particles designed to bind to toxins in the gut, and the third is a probiotic supplement aimed at limiting the formation of gut toxins.



Marvin has chronic kidney disease and is a participant in this study

Can you help?

Our study has already shown that healthy cats fed these supplements displayed no side effects. The Internal Medicine Service is now recruiting cats with chronic kidney disease to the project.

Cat owners will have the option to administer one of the three products in their pet's food, and all participating cats will be closely monitored for adverse effects, including urine and faecal testing before and after the trial. Their welfare will also be assessed by a quality-of-life questionnaire. The products can be given alongside other treatments and are compatible with prescription kidney diets as well.

The study is being carried out by clinicians Ana Fernandez and Marina Domingues under the supervision of Silke Salavati. The study has been approved by the Veterinary Ethical Review Committee of the R(D)SVS.



The health and welfare of participating cats will be assessed throughout the study



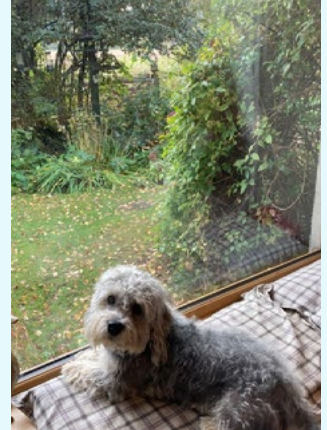
If you would like more information or would like one of your patients to take part in this study, please email: Silke.Salavati@ed.ac.uk

Case Study: DIGEST

Suspected spinal pain diagnosed as eosinophilic enteritis

Angus is a three-year-old Dandie Dinmont terrier who was originally referred to our Neurology Service in 2021 with episodes of suspected lumbar pain.

After examination and a series of tests (including an MRI and abdominal scan), Angus was diagnosed with myositis of the gluteal muscles but also had eosinophilic inflammation on his liver, spleen and mesenteric lymph nodes. After watching Angus move and reviewing videos provided by his owners, our Neurology and Canine Internal Medicine teams suspected that his pain could be abdominal rather than spinal.



Angus was diagnosed with eosinophilic enteritis

Angus was discharged with a strict hypoallergenic diet but was re-admitted shortly afterwards as his health deteriorated. Upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopic biopsies confirmed eosinophilic enteritis, the same type of inflammation found previously on his liver and lymph nodes, and suspected also of causing the inflammation of his gluteal muscles. Angus was prescribed prednisolone and was also given some worming medication to help reduce the inflammation in his intestine.

Our clinicians and Angus's own vets closely monitored his progress and, a year and a half after his diagnosis, Angus is doing well on his hypoallergenic diet and personalised nutritional plan developed by our Nutrition nurse. Angus no longer requires prednisolone, lives pain-free, has regained weight and is back to his energetic self.



Angus now lives pain-free

REPAIR Centre: Supporting recovery from injury or surgery

The Royal (Dick) Edinburgh Physiotherapy Assessment & Intensive Rehabilitation (REPAIR) centre optimises patient rehabilitation using physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and rigorous evaluation of treatment response.

Our team of qualified veterinary physiotherapists assess patients and develop bespoke treatment plans, supporting the



rehabilitation of patients from referring vets and from within the Hospital for Small Animals.

With manual therapy, electrotherapy and hydrotherapy available, as well as therapeutic exercise supported by home exercise programme, our treatment plans aim to facilitate movement, encourage muscle development, promote strengthen and balance, and maximise function.



For further info on REPAIR Centre visit
<https://edin.ac/3kW9SuB>

Case Study: REPAIR

Intense physiotherapy gets Beau back on her feet

Meet Beau, a three-year-old French bulldog, who woke up one morning without the use of her hind limbs. Her owners took her to her vet, who immediately referred her to our Neurology and Neurosurgery Service for assessment.

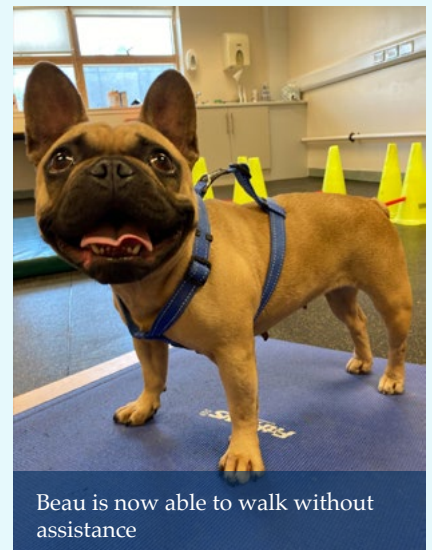
An MRI demonstrated that the cause of Beau's incapacity was a slipped disc in her lower back, which had bruised her spinal cord.

Following her diagnosis, the team of veterinary physiotherapists in our REPAIR Centre began Beau on an integrated programme of rehabilitation. Beau was initially hospitalised so that she could receive intensive physiotherapy involving massage, stretching, balance challenges and therapeutic Class IV laser treatment to aid tissue repair.



Beau received intensive physiotherapy including Class IV laser treatment to aid tissue repair

Within five days, Beau regained the ability to stand unaided and urinate without assistance, so was discharged to her owner's care. Her rehabilitation continued with a home exercise programme developed by our REPAIR team. Beau also visited our REPAIR centre weekly for specialised physiotherapy, including exercises on our underwater treadmill, to help strengthen her muscles and improve her balance.



Beau is now able to walk without assistance

Three weeks following her injury, Beau had regained the ability to rise from sitting to standing without any help. Our veterinary physiotherapists at the REPAIR Centre continue to support and challenge Beau to help her refine her movements and improve her balance, co-ordination and strength. Because of their expertise, and the dedication of her owners, Beau is now able to walk without assistance.

While still weak and a little wobbly on her back legs, Beau has made a remarkable recovery and the future is now looking promising for this young dog.



The Dick Vet is on LinkedIn, where we post 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.

Expansion of Small Animal Surgery Service

As part of the continued expansion of the Small Animal Surgery Service, we have welcomed two new clinicians to the team.

Sofia Garcia and Ian Faux both undertook rotating internships and surgical residencies at our hospital and have now been appointed as Lecturers in Small Animal Surgery. They will join our existing RCVS and European board-certified Specialists and wider surgical team and provide additional capacity to both the Orthopaedic and Soft Tissue Surgery Services.



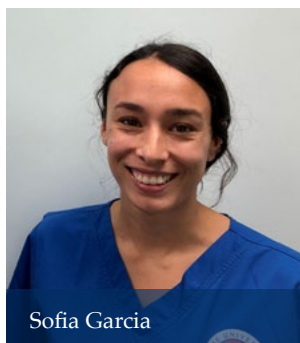
For further info on Soft Tissue Surgery Service visit <https://edin.ac/3yndT3b>



For further info on Orthopaedic Service visit <https://edin.ac/3L1xGYo>



Ian Faux



Sofia Garcia

Welcome to our latest Interns and Residents

A huge welcome to all the interns and residents who joined our hospital recently.

As well as supporting the clinician training of the undergraduates at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, each year our Hospital for Small Animals welcomes over 20 interns and residents wishing to continue their own professional clinical training.

Our interns and residents travel from all over the world for the opportunity to work under the supervision of our European Diplomates and RCVS Specialists in our multidisciplinary emergency referral hospital, gaining vital knowledge, skills and experience to take with them in their future careers. Welcome to the team everyone!



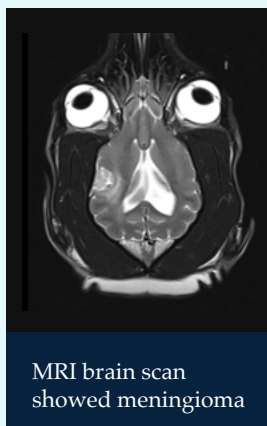
Some of our latest interns and residents

Case Study: Neurology

Dog continues to thrive two years after tumour removal

William, a twelve-year-old West Highland Terrier was referred to our Neurology and Neurosurgery Service in October 2020 after suffering a severe epileptic seizure.

An MRI scan of his brain revealed a meningioma. With oncology specialists and neurosurgeons as well as radiation and chemotherapy therapy suites, our hospital is able

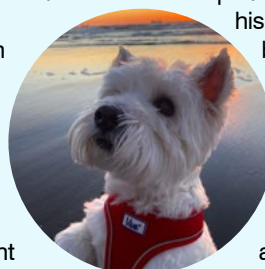


MRI brain scan showed meningioma

to offer a range of treatment options to patients diagnosed with brain tumours. Whilst radiation therapy was an option to kill William's cancer cells and shrink his tumour, it was on an area of the brain that could also be accessed with surgery.

After discussing the various treatment options with our

Specialists, William's family opted for surgery. Our neurosurgeons performed a craniectomy and safely removed the tumour. William was discharged from our hospital two days after his surgery and his owners reported him being back to his old self within a few days of being home.



Two years later, William, now 14 years old, hasn't suffered any more seizures and continues to live a full and active life.

Staff Successes

Congratulations to Geoff Culshaw and Kelly Blacklock, who have been appointed Fellows of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) in recognition of their meritorious contributions to clinical practice.



Geoff is a RCVS Recognised Specialist in Veterinary Cardiology and is the Head of our Cardiology Service. Kelly is a RCVS and EBVS Recognised Specialist in small animal surgery. She works in our Soft Tissue Surgical Service and provides cutting-edge specialist surgical care for small animals.



Geoff and Kelly were formally welcomed to the learned society at the RCVS Fellowship Day on 11 November.

Congratulations to Alisdair Boag, one of the clinicians from our Internal Medicine Service for receiving the Oxford Laboratories Award by the Society for Comparative Endocrinology.

Alisdair was presented with his award at this years Summer School in Veterinary Endocrinology in recognition of his research in critically ill dogs.



Congratulations to Silke Salvati, Head of Small Animal Medicine, who has been appointed a Gastroenterology (GI) Specialist by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), one of only two clinicians in the UK to hold this specialisation.

Silke is a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine for Companion Animals and has been conducting gastroenterology specialist work for almost 20 years. Her doctoral thesis (Dr.med.vet) looked at measuring gastric emptying times in dogs, and her PhD thesis researched the effect of probiotics on chronic gut inflammation in dogs.



Advanced Clinical Practice MVetSci, PGDip, PGCert, Short courses

This online programme is specifically tailored to veterinary professionals seeking training in advanced clinical practice. With modules in a range of topics that can be taken alone or as part of a larger qualification, you can build your own route through postgraduate study.

Learn more: www.edin.ac/vet-pgt2



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

Open to
the world

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. Details of the 2023 Vet Clinical Club CPD events are below. The 2023 Dick Vet Nurse Clinical Club CPD events can be found on our website.

Dick Vet Clinical Club CPD

- JAN 11** **Dr Jasmin Paris,**
Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine
Canine liver disease revisited
- FEB 01** **Professor Danielle Gunn-Moore,**
Personal Chair of Feline Medicine
Elderly cat care - new ideas about how to do the best for our precious Old Souls
- MAR 01** **Dylan Clements,**
Head of Small Animal Surgery
How to tackle fractures of the elbow
- APR 05** **Kathryn Pratschke,**
Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery
Portosystemic shunts - a surgeons view
- MAY 03** **Daria Starybrat,**
Lecturer in Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care
Point-of-care ultrasound of the chest
- JUN 07** **Glynn Woods,**
Senior Training Scholar in Small Animal Internal Medicine
An update on leishmania and brucella: dogs go on holiday too!
- JUL 05** **Craig Breheny,**
Senior Training Scholar in Small Animal Internal Medicine
Acute azotaemia - how to differentiate and treat
- AUG 02** **Nina Tomlin,**
Lecturer in Competency Based Veterinary Education
How to get the most from the EMS experience: helping them and you
- SEP 06** **Dr Alisdair Boag,**
Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine
Hyperadrenocorticism

OCT 04 **Professor Laura Blackwood,**
Head of Small Animal Oncology and Dr Paola Cazzini,
Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Clinical Pathology
Cytology of Tumours

NOV 01 **Magdalena Parys,**
Senior Lecturer in Oncology
What should I know about radiation therapy?
Indications and limitations of RT treatment.

DEC 06 **Dr Geoff Culshaw, Head of Cardiology Service**
Emerging cardiac therapies



For details of 2023 events and booking information, visit:
www.ed.ac.uk/vet/BookClinicalClub