



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

UVet

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE VET CLINIC & HOSPITAL

WINTER EDITION 2008



Vet Clinic
& Hospital



WHAT'S YOUR DIAGNOSIS?



During a short kennel stay in Queensland last year, Marli, an eight month old Red Heeler became anxious at being separated from her owners and severely damaged her teeth chewing on her cage.

She was taken to a local veterinarian for examination, but because of the extent of the damage, she was referred for treatment. However she only presented to the University of Melbourne's Veterinary Clinic and Hospital a year later. On examination she had multiple dental fractures and extreme wear often with pulp exposures. Few teeth were intact and they were all discoloured being a brown grey-colour due to pulpal death.

What steps would you take to reach your diagnosis and formulate a treatment plan?

See page 2 for our answers.

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

Welcome to the winter issue of UVet news. This issue includes a dental focus to coincide with Pet Dental Health Month, which is running throughout the month of August.

This month we feature a special staff profile on Dr Wayne Fitzgerald, a dental consultant, who provides consultations at the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital every Thursday. Dr Fitzgerald has also provided the "What is Your Diagnosis?" for this issue.

There is also a profile of one of the University's newer staff members, Dr Sandra Martig, who has joined us from Bern University in Switzerland. Sandra is a European Diplomate in Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging and further strengthens the University's Diagnostic Imaging team.

The combination of Drs Dayle Tyrrell and Cathy Beck, two Australian Fellows in this field, Dr Marjorie Milne, who will be sitting Fellowship exams in the near future, and Sandra and Loryn Andersen, the Hospital's radiographers, means that we can offer a very comprehensive service. You will be able to meet members of the team at the ultrasound workshop that they will be running in October and at the Australasian Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging (AAVDI) meeting that will be held on the 6 and 7 of September.

We are also currently working with Fujifilm to upgrade our computer systems to enable digital medical images to be electronically transferred to the Hospital server. This should further reduce our film reporting time. If you wish to find out more about this service please contact Diagnostic Imaging on 9731 2326.

Finally, I would like to congratulate two members of our staff, Drs Guy Yates and Trudi McAlees, who gained Fellowship of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists last month. Guy Yates was successful in the field of Small Animal Surgery and Trudi McAlees in Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care.

Mark Davis BVSc, MVS MACVSc
Director
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WHAT'S YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

Marli was anaesthetised so that her mouth could be examined in detail. Digital photographs were taken to document the problems and to help explain the extent of the damage to the owners. Radiographs were taken and the mouth was charted.

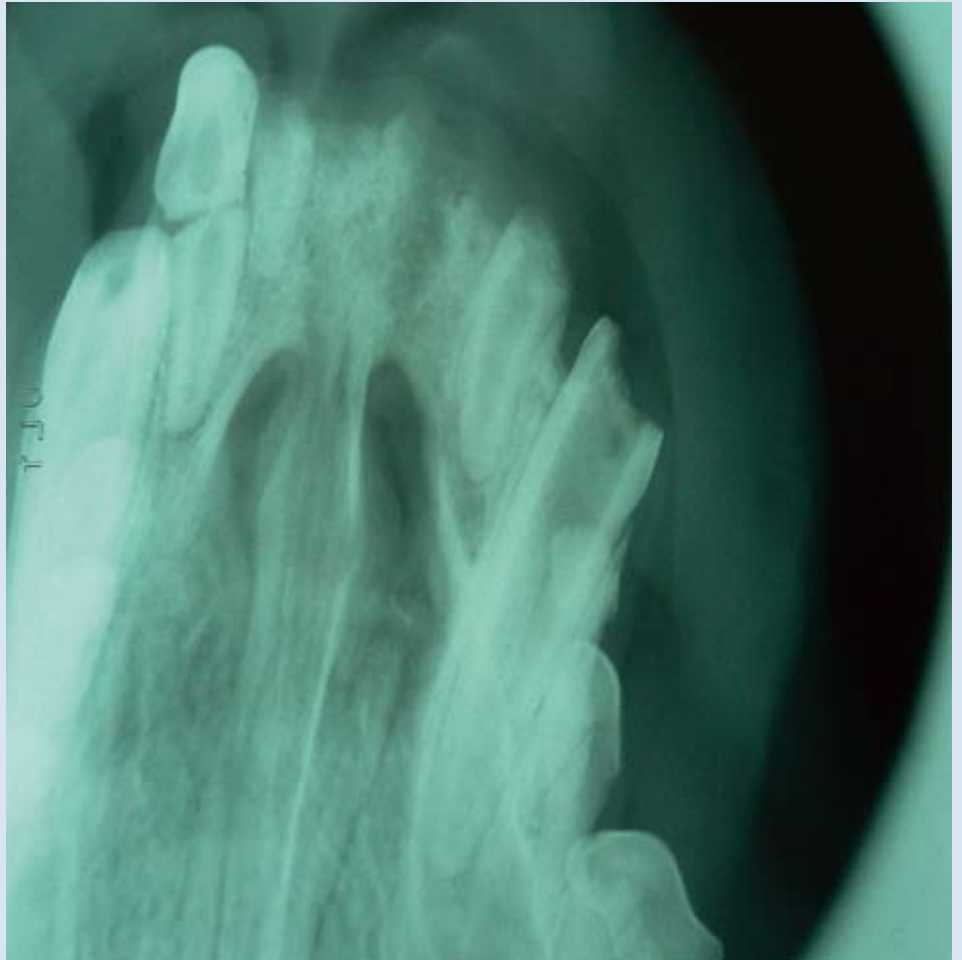
The dental radiographs demonstrated that most of her teeth had wide pulp canals similar to those expected in recently erupted teeth, and thus had died about a year ago. Only a few premolars had narrow canals consistent with being vital.

The gingiva was healthy; her upper right canine tooth (104) was fractured close to the gingiva but buccally below the gingival. The left maxillary canine (204) was also fractured with only a small amount of crown. Her mandibular canine teeth (3 & 404) were intact but had multiple microfractures in the enamel, seen as fine cracks, and were discoloured demonstrating advanced pulpitis.

A staged treatment was planned with the aim of extracting the teeth considered to be the most damaged. Fractured teeth: 108 and 9 were extracted; 307 and 407 were extracted; 303 was shattered and surgically extracted; 101, 102 and 201 were extracted; 203 had a transverse root fracture (mobile crown) and its extraction was left for another day.

Marli was again anaesthetised for further evaluation and extractions about two weeks later. Tooth 104 (upper right canine) was deemed too damaged for restoration and was surgically extracted. Her other three canine teeth (204, 304 and 404) had an initial pulpectomy (root canal) treatment; bleeding at the apex persisted so a calcium hydroxide dressing (filling) was temporarily placed. The very high pH of the calcium hydroxide will help clean and sterilise the canal. It will be removed at Marli's next appointment, in August, when we will complete the root canal treatments and extract the fractured incisor 203.

Dr Wayne Fitzgerald



STAFF PROFILES



Dr Wayne Fitzgerald - BVSc (Hons), MACVSc (Vet Dentistry), and former President of the Australian Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS)

Dr Wayne Fitzgerald graduated from the University of Melbourne in 1971. After a year in small animal practice in Melbourne, he returned to Werribee to take up a position as a 'farm clinic' intern for a period of two years.

He worked in a mixed practice in South Gippsland, Victoria between 1974 and 1980, then decided to return to Melbourne, and purchase the Reservoir Veterinary Clinic.

Over the years, his interest in surgery, dermatology and dentistry flourished due to the hands-on nature and the various technology gadgets that are utilised in these fields. He later undertook postgraduate studies in these disciplines.

His work has been published in various leading journals, the published papers have covered diverse subjects such as snakebites and horses, orthopaedics and dentistry.

In 1995 he sat the Membership exams with the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in the field of veterinary dentistry.

He has been active in the AVDS, currently as its immediate past-President, and has attended and presented at many dental meetings in Australia and internationally.



Dr Sandra Martig, DVM, Dr.med.vet., DipECVDI

Sandra started work as a lecturer in veterinary diagnostic imaging at the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital (VCH) in autumn 2008. She had previously worked as a locum in the diagnostic imaging department at the VCH in 2007. Currently, together with Dr Dayle Tyrrell, Dr Cathy Beck and Dr Marjorie Milne she participates in providing high quality diagnostic imaging services at the VCH. Furthermore, Sandra is responsible for

teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in the art of diagnostic imaging.

Sandra originates from the German speaking part of Switzerland. She studied veterinary science in Switzerland and France and graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bern, Switzerland in 1999.

Following successful completion of her doctoral thesis, the Swiss equivalent of a master thesis, Sandra enrolled in a small animal internship program at the University of Bern. The program consisted of rotations through multiple services, but did not include radiology. However an interest in radiology was kindled and Sandra decided to undertake a supplementary externship in the diagnostic imaging department.

It was during this externship she became more and more fascinated by the enormous amount of information which is hidden on a radiograph. This fascination, and the many exciting possibilities provided by other modalities of diagnostic imaging, prompted Sandra to undergo a three year residency training program in veterinary diagnostic imaging at the University of Bern under the supervision of Professor Johann Lang.

During her residency, Sandra participated in an interdisciplinary research project on canine osteoarthritis. She analysed the progression of lesions in cranial cruciate ligament deficient stifle joints

with magnetic resonance imaging and radiographic examination. Consequently she developed a special interest in the changes which occur in the bone marrow and the lesions affecting the menisci.

Independent of the exciting possibilities of advanced diagnostic imaging modalities, she believes there remains much information that can be gleaned from radiographs and this can be dramatically enhanced using radiographic contrast procedures.

A further area of interest for Sandra is in the promising field of imaging guided interventional procedures. Although diagnostic imaging modalities such as ultrasound or computed tomography are extremely sensitive to detect morphologic changes these techniques often do not provide histological information. Sandra feels there are exciting possibilities of complementary imaging guided procedures with diagnostic and therapeutic intentions. These range from fine needle aspiration or biopsies of parenchymatous organs to drainage of intra-abdominal abscesses.

After her residency, Sandra spent a year working as a radiologist in a private practice in the well-known wine region of Bordeaux in the South of France before she ventured to Melbourne for the first time. In 2007, she was awarded a diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging.

SMALL ANIMAL ABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND WORKSHOP

We will be conducting a small animal abdominal ultrasound workshop in October, which will provide practical, hands-on tuition in small groups supervised by our highly skilled team of radiologists. This one day workshop will prove useful to both beginners and those with more experience in abdominal ultrasound. The small groups will enable the instructors to tailor the examination to the experience level of the participants. The workshop will cover the techniques for a thorough examination of the abdomen, and the basic principles for interpreting abnormal findings.

The workshop is limited to 20 places, so be sure to register quickly!

Instructors: Dr Cathy Beck, Dr Dayle Tyrrell, Dr Sandra Martig, Dr Marjorie Milne, and Dr Sean Muir.

Ultrasound machines: MyLab30 provided by Medical Plus Australia

Date: Saturday 4 October 2008

Location: The University of Melbourne Veterinary Clinic and Hospital, Werribee

Time: 9:00am to 4:30 pm.

Cost: \$990 per person (incl. GST)

Lunch will be provided.



For further enquiries, please contact vet-radiology@unimelb.edu.au, or the radiology section on (03) 9731 2000. Registration forms are available online at the Diagnostic Imaging Section home page, follow the links from www.vch.unimelb.edu.au. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

UVET SEMINAR

PROVIDING FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS

Transfusion therapy - indications, applications and trouble shooting

This will be a combined presentation from our intensive care team and blood bank. Learn about the various blood products that are available and when they are indicated. See how transfusion therapy can save your day but also get you into trouble if you don't follow the rules.

Date: 14 October 2008

To book a place, contact Mrs Gerry Hardie on (03) 9731 2000.

The seminar will be held in the large lecture theatre, Veterinary Clinic & Hospital, the University of Melbourne, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee 3030. Light snacks will be served at 6.30pm, followed by the seminar, which will commence at 7.00pm.

OPENING HOURS

Referral practice (by appointment)

Monday to Friday:
8am–7pm
Tel: +613 9731 2000
Fax: +613 9731 2377

Emergency and Critical Care

24 hours per day,
365 days a year
Tel: +613 9731 2232
Fax: +613 9731 2377

Equine Centre

Monday to Friday:
9am–5pm
Tel: +613 9731 2268
Fax: +613 9731 2246

Clinical Pathology

Monday to Friday:
9am–5pm
Tel: +613 9731 2000
Fax: +613 9731 2377

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