



## Welcome



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest of our newsletters, designed to keep you up to date with what's happening here at the Dick Vet.

Our Cardiology Service has been in operation for over 35 years and during this time we have established and built upon our reputation as a referral centre for Cardiology. The Dick Vet is also the *Alma Mater* for many

clinicians who have gone on to practice as, and in turn, to train future generations of veterinary cardiologists.

We have also been in the vanguard of the study and research into pulmonary medicine and in this edition, we give an insight into the integrated service we offer.

Also in this edition, Professor Brendan Corcoran, Chair of Veterinary Cardiopulmonary Medicine, highlights the chronic respiratory disease, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. Importantly, this disease is also prevalent in humans and research is being undertaken with the aim of benefitting both canine and human patients.

We continue to plan further developments in the services we offer and I look forward to bringing you further details and updates throughout the year.

With best regards,

**Professor David Argyle**  
Head of School

## Putting the Pulmonary back in to Cardiopulmonary



Yolanda Martinez Pereira and Geoff Culshaw from the Dick Vet's Cardiopulmonary Team.

**A**t the Dick Vet we have a long history of Cardiology Service provision going back to the 1970s. We were one of the first centres to offer specialist cardiology referral options to practitioners in Europe and many cardiology specialists in the UK either trained at the Dick Vet or have been trained by someone who was trained by us.

We have also been at the forefront

of developing expertise in pulmonary medicine, not least because cardiac and respiratory cases can look so similar, particularly in dogs where differentiating a cardiac or respiratory cause of coughing and dyspnoea can be difficult.

At the Cardiopulmonary Service at the Dick Vet approximately 25% of our cases are pulmonary. Most are chronic cases that can prove problematic to diagnose in practice, and frustrating

for both veterinary surgeons and owners. We have wide-ranging expertise in pulmonary medicine and have an integrated service which means that dogs presenting with signs that could be cardiac or pulmonary are seen and managed by one team. We also have world-leading expertise in high resolution computed tomography and bronchoscopy, two techniques that are now fundamental in diagnosing pulmonary conditions, particularly chronic diseases. Lastly, and of equal importance, we have a team of experienced soft tissue surgeons to help with the diagnosis and management of upper airway conditions such as laryngeal paralysis and brachycephalic airway syndrome, and a fully equipped and expertly staffed ICU for managing acute and severe respiratory cases.

We would be very happy to help you with those difficult respiratory cases and can also provide assistance with radiographic interpretation. We always accept respiratory emergencies immediately, working closely with Emergency Medicine and Surgery colleagues, but can also provide that much needed assistance with the long-standing difficult chronic case.

# West Highland White Terrier Lung Disease A Call for Cases in One Health

The West Highland white terrier (WHWT) is particularly affected by the chronic respiratory disease Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF). At the Dick Vet we have had a long-standing interest in this disease, being the first to describe the disease clinically and to develop diagnostic criteria, and have disseminated what we know widely through CPD events. We are very interested in working to improve understanding of the disease, but are still no closer to identifying the cause or effective treatments. Most veterinary practitioners are comfortable with identifying affected dogs and since the outcome is predictable and the prognosis poor with no effective treatment, most owners see no value in referral for detailed diagnostic tests, not least because it will not affect the outcome and is costly. The only apparent benefit is confirmation that their dog is affected.

However, IPF is also emerging as an important disease in humans and there are increasing opportunities for us to learn from human medicine, borrow ideas and get access to novel treatments. The Cardiopulmonary Service is developing such



Professor Brendan Corcoran, Chair of Veterinary Cardiopulmonary Medicine.

a programme in collaboration with a major leader in human IPF research. Medics are increasingly intrigued by this disease being present in dogs and are willing to share their information and resources to improve understanding of WHWT IPF in the hope that that will also benefit their patients.

We are looking to encourage owners of affected WHWTs to attend the Hospital for Small Animals for complete clinical evaluation. We are looking for owners that are keen to help better understand this disease in dogs and at the same time can appreciate how what we learn from our canine patients might benefit human patients. Since full evaluation of an

affected dog can cost close to £2,000 considering the need for high resolution computed tomography, bronchoscopy, echocardiography and so on, it is clear even the most dedicated owners would find that cost difficult to justify. To that end we are sourcing funding that will cover all costs that a client would normally incur using our hospital services.



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## Professor Brendan Corcoran

Might you have owners who would be interested in such a study and how many WHWTs with IPF might you have attending your clinic (we know very little about the prevalence of this disease)? If you have clients that you think might be interested or you would like to find out more, please e-mail Professor Brendan Corcoran at [Brendan.Corcoran@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Brendan.Corcoran@ed.ac.uk) or phone 0131 650 7650 or 07717 484 585.

## Dick Vet Clinical Club CPD 2015

### Wednesday 4th March

**Nick Bommer - Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine**

Update on renal disorders focusing on management of renal failure and proteinuria.

### Wednesday 1st April

**Jessica Lawrence - Head of the Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre**

Update on Canine Osteosarcoma: Focus on Treatments and Common Misconceptions.

### Wednesday 6th May

**Nicki Reed - Head of the Feline Clinic**

An update on treatment options for hyperthyroidism.

### Wednesday 3rd June

**Pauline Jamieson - Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine**

Review of recent advances in the management of diabetic patients.

### Wednesday 1st July

**Tim Nuttall - Head of Dermatology**

Ears and paws: new solutions for intractable problems.

### Wednesday 5th August

**Tobias Schwarz - Head of Diagnostic Imaging**

How computed tomography can help in the diagnosis of urinary tract disorders.

### Wednesday 2nd September

**Dylan Clements - Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Orthopaedics**

Fusion confusion – a quick guide to arthrodesis.

### Wednesday 7th October

**Sam Woods - Lecturer in Small Animal Surgery**

Wound management – what's new?

### Wednesday 4th November

**Yolanda Martinez-Pereira - Head of Cardiopulmonary Service and**

**Geoff Culshaw - Senior Lecturer in Cardiopulmonary Medicine**

Advances in cardiopulmonary diagnostics and patient care: a partnership between practice and the R(D)SVS.



For more information about these courses and other CPD events, please visit us at [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/cpd](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/cpd)