

Newsletter for  
**Referring Vets**

from the Edinburgh Veterinary Teaching Hospitals

ISSUE  
**11**

**Emergency & Critical Care**

## 'Emergency Room' now open

**Orthopaedic Surgery**

**New staff, procedures and expansion**

**Ophthalmology Service**

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**2021 online CPD dates**



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



Welcome



Dear Colleague,

I hope you are all managing to stay well, both mentally and physically, in these most challenging of times.

There is a lot of change happening at the Dick Vet Hospital for Small Animal at the moment and not just in accommodating social distancing and facial coverings. We are reorganising our Emergency and Critical Care Service so that we will have an 'Emergency Room' – an admitting room for triage and stabilisation before the patient moves to appropriate hospital care, whether in the ICU, or to another discipline. This has been made possible by recruiting additional diploma holding staff and we have more on this below.

We're happy to also be able to announce that we have been joined by a residency trained dentist who will, Covid permitting, soon undertake her board exams. This means we will be offering a range of procedures in the very near future, including root canal treatments and advanced oral surgery like mandibulectomy, maxillectomy, cleft palate repair, jaw fracture repair, and advanced oral cystic lesion treatment.

We also have re-opened the REPAIR (physiotherapy and hydrotherapy) centre under strict Covid guidelines. One client per appointment is allowed with their pet into our physiotherapy space, which is large enough to accommodate social distancing.

We continue to develop the Hospital and have added another five consult rooms which will be becoming operational before the end of the year. This will allow us greater flexibility in seeing cases, making things easier for you and your referred clients.

Enclosed with this newsletter is our wall planner for 2021, which we hope will be useful for your planning into next year.

I would like to wish a healthy, stress free and happy New Year to you, our mutual clients and the animals we care for.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Murphy  
Director of Clinical Services

## Hospital for Small Animals opens 'Emergency Room'

The Hospital for Small Animals is delighted to be able to announce the opening of its new 'Emergency Room,' an admissions area where our Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) Service will be able to triage, assess and stabilise all arriving emergency patients before they are transferred to specialist services within the hospital.

This new area will create an improved experience for emergency referrals and has been made possible thanks to the arrival of two new members of staff into the ECC team. We are pleased to welcome Daria Strybrat and Johanna Wolf, who have joined us following their specialist training at the Royal Veterinary College and the North Carolina State University respectively. Both join us as Lecturers in ECC having gained the speciality status of Diplomate of the American College of Emergency and Critical Care (DACVECC). This takes the senior ECC team to four members who hold either American or European Specialist status, with our new team members joining Efa and Craig. This will allow us to provide specialist care to many more critical patients.



Daria Strybrat

The ECC nurses are pivotal to our service. We are incredibly proud that many of our nurses have spoken at national and international conferences and have obtained or are pursuing additional ECC speciality nursing qualifications, helping to advance nursing care for the most critical patients. We are particularly proud of ECC nurse Lindsey Ashburner, who successfully achieved Veterinary Technician Specialists (Emergency & Critical Care) [VTSECC] speciality status. Currently, there are less than 15 other nurses within the UK who have achieved this worldwide specialist status. We have a number of other nurses now pursuing



Johanna Wolf

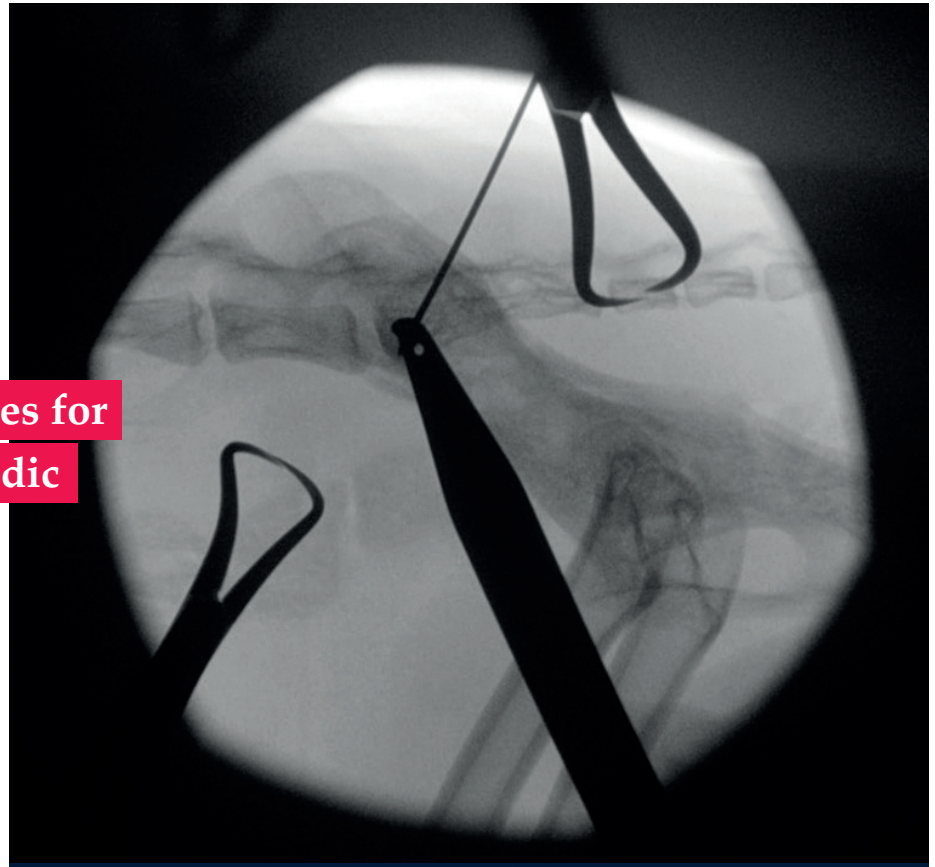
this training and hope to gain further success in the near future. Patients presenting as emergencies and/or requiring critical care can be the most challenging cases to manage. The growth and continued development of our ECC team will allow for greater support to be provided 24/7 to our colleagues working in practice. The ECC team are only a phone call away and are always ready to help.



For more information or to refer a case, please call us on 0131 650 7650.

## New staff and procedures for the expanded Orthopaedic Surgery Service

Our Orthopaedic Surgery Service continues to grow as we welcome Francisco Silveira, who joins us as a Lecturer in Small Animal Orthopaedic Surgery. Fran graduated from the University of Lisbon in 2013 before moving to East Yorkshire, where he worked for just over a year in general practice. He then completed a rotating internship and went on to do a 4-year ECVS-approved residency programme in small animal surgery. Fran is a skilled orthopaedic surgeon, with a particular interest in implant and fracture biomechanics, joint replacement techniques and fracture management.



We can now place implants precisely under fluoroscopic guidance.

With the arrival of Fran, the Orthopaedic Surgery Service is able to expand provision of trauma management, joint disease treatment, hip replacement and lameness investigation. The Service has

unparalleled support from Specialists within the Hospital for Small Animals, in anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging, emergency and critical care and neurology, which allows us to manage the most complex and challenging cases.



We also have the facilities and expertise to increase our provision of minimally-invasive fluoroscopically guided fracture stabilisation, with the acquisition of a new fluoroscopy unit in our theatre complex. This new unit enables us to undertake orthopaedic procedures, such as sacroiliac luxation, through small stab incisions rather than using traditional extensive surgical approaches. This procedure is underpinned by research we have recently published, showing how the accuracy of implant placement is improved by using this procedure, compared to traditional "free-hand" placement.



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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](https://www.linkedin.com/company/TheDickVet).

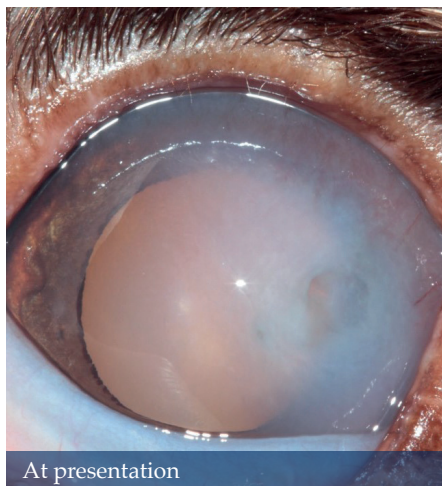


## Case Study

### Ophthalmology Service: Medical management and corneal cross-linking (CXL) of deep corneal ulcer

Bracken, a beautiful 9-year-old cocker spaniel, was referred to the Ophthalmology Service earlier this year with an ulcer that had been affecting her left eye for 3 weeks. The ulcer had extended into her corneal stroma, affecting around 60% of corneal thickness, and there was a yellow-ish discolouration around the edge of the ulcer, indicating an inflammatory +/- microorganism infiltrate.

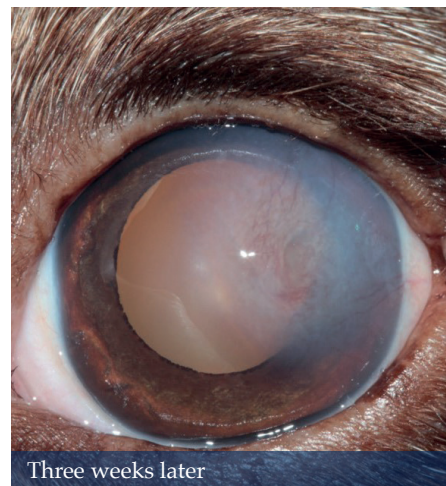
RCVS and EBVS® Recognised Specialist in Veterinary Ophthalmology Ben Blacklock performed a corneal cross-linking (CXL) procedure to sterilise the cornea and make it more resistant to further degradation. CXL utilises UV light following saturation of the cornea with riboflavin (which acts as a photosensitising agent), and has been widely used in human ophthalmology to treat keratoconus. Following the procedure, Bracken remained hospitalised for intensive medical management for 7 days by our dedicated 24/7 nursing staff, and Bracken's owners were provided



At presentation

detailed care instructions when she returned home. This meant that the cornea healed without requiring surgery and as a result her vision and corneal clarity should return to near perfect.

Conventional wisdom suggest corneal grafting should be carried out when >50% of the thickness of the corneal stroma has been lost – this is a good



Three weeks later

rule of thumb, but when appropriate the Ophthalmology Service prefers to treat cases with intensive medical management as the long term outcome for vision is usually better.



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## 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](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/BookClinicalClub)

JAN  
13

**Brendan Corcoran - Personal Chair of Veterinary Cardiopulmonary Medicine**  
Crackling Westies: not just another country and western band

FEB  
03

**Dylan Clements - Personal Chair of Small Animal Orthopaedics & Katia Marioni-Henry - Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Neurology**  
Is the lameness neuro or ortho?

MAR  
03

**Ingrid Tundo - Lecturer in Small Animal Dentistry and Maxillofacial Surgery**  
Traumatic dentoalveolar injuries: diagnosis and update on management options

APR  
07

**Adam Gow - Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine**  
Hepatotoxins: Drug-induced liver injury

MAY  
05

**Danielle Gunn Moore - Personal Chair of Feline Medicine**  
Improving geriatric cat care in the clinic & at home

JUN  
02

**Spela Bavcar - Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Oncology**  
Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors - treatment of Mast Cell Tumours and beyond

JUL  
07

**Kathryn Pratschke - Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery**  
Principles of surgical oncology

AUG  
04

**Bronwyn Koterwas - Lecturer and Clinician in Rabbit, Exotic and Wildlife M&S**  
Triaging exotic emergencies

SEP  
01

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

OCT  
06

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