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New staff and services,
plus more...

CPD

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DAVIES LONDON ON COURSE

VETS ARE EMBRACING DAVIES London, the capital's new private specialist veterinary service based near Hyde Park. Since it opened in February increasing numbers of practices are referring patients to all services.

Davies London is based at the premises of the centrally located Hyde Park Veterinary Centre on Connaught Street, W2. It gives clients the convenience of being able to consult with a leading team of RCVS Recognised Specialists in the heart of London, thus avoiding the need to make the lengthy and sometimes stressful journey out to a distant referral centre.

Caroline Murray, a locum vet who is based in London, said: "I have referred many animals to the main clinic over the years, and it makes things much easier now London-based owners and veterinary surgeons have the benefit of the expertise of DVS specialist clinicians virtually on the doorstep. This, combined with the free ambulance service,

hugely extends the range of possible referral services and treatment options for our clients."

Read more about Davies London in our special insert in this issue of DVS News or visit www.vetspecialists.co.uk/london.



PRO BONO SCHEME SAVES DOG'S LIFE TWICE

APOLLO, A YOUNG GERMAN shepherd dog who speared himself on a splinter of broken fencing, is thanking his lucky stars for the generosity of the DVS *pro bono* scheme. Big-hearted vets at the practice launched an emergency mission, free of charge, to save the dog's life and then responded again just two weeks later when Apollo suffered an unrelated GDV. The bill, which ran in to thousands of pounds, was waived by DVS in light of Apollo's owner's circumstances.

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KINGS OF THE DOWNLOAD

INTERNAL MEDICINE SPECIALISTS Clive Elwood and Nat Whitley have been successively crowned kings of the download with the most downloaded papers from the Journal of Small Animal Practice during 2010 and 2011. Clive and his co-authors' paper 'Emesis in dogs: A review' received 2031 downloads in 2010 and was still in the top 15 in 2011, with another 962 downloads. Nat and co-author Professor Michael Day took the crown in 2011 with their paper 'Immunomodulatory drugs and their application to the management of canine immune-mediated disease' receiving 3711 downloads during 2011. Interestingly 83% of overall downloads in 2011 were from outside the UK, predominantly Europe and the US.

WHO'S DONE WHAT?

NEUROLOGY SPECIALIST LAUNCHES NEUROLOGICAL EMERGENCIES BOOK



NEUROLOGY SPECIALIST
Laurent Garosi has teamed up with Dr Simon Platt of the University of Georgia to write a new book demystifying the practice of investigating, diagnosing and managing neurological emergencies in dogs and cats. *Small Animal Neurological Emergencies* was launched in April to guide practitioners on diseases of the nervous system, with the aim of radically improving outcomes and patient care.

Laurent commented: "Many vets are intimidated by neurological diseases, and yet such diseases are common. A high proportion present as emergencies and, if not assessed and treated rapidly, many are life-threatening to the animal."

The new book takes a practical, easy-to-follow, no-nonsense approach. It enables the practitioner to make rapid, step-by-step decisions based on assessment of the patient, investigations and decision trees. The primary focus is on the essentials of patient examination, and deduction from key presenting signs. The authors then go on to deal in greater depth with the diagnosis and management of specific neurological emergencies.

The book is available from Amazon and other mainstream booksellers.

NEW FACES

PETE SMITH

*BSc BVM&S
PhD DipECVN
MRCVS
European and
RCVS Specialist
in Veterinary
Neurology*



Pete has joined DVS's neurology team. After a PhD and residency at the University of Cambridge, Pete became head of veterinary neurology at the University of Liverpool and has particular clinical and research interests in surgical treatment of spinal cord problems, inflammatory diseases of the nervous system and seizures. He said: "The excellent range of clinical services available at DVS will enable me to reach a diagnosis and instigate the best treatment for my patients as quickly as possible."

FABIO CILLI

MRCVS



Fabio has joined the anaesthesia team. A graduate of the University of Bologna, Fabio undertook an internship in anaesthesia and analgesia at Bristol University and then a residency at the RVC before joining the RVC staff as a clinician in anaesthesia. He joined DVS in April. He said: "The high standard of patient care and the professional environment offered at Davies Veterinary Specialists make it an exciting opportunity for my continual professional development."

COMBATING ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

IAN BATTERSBY, INTERNAL MEDICINE Specialist at DVS and current Chairman of the Small Animal Medicine Society (SAMSoc), has been working with the BSAVA to address the need for rational guidelines on antibiotic selection. To this end Ian led the production of a special issue of Companion, the BSAVA membership magazine, which included a poster on the use of the most appropriate drugs for the correct duration, to maximise clinical efficacy but minimise selection of resistant bacteria.

Ian said: "By implementing an antibiotic prescribing protocol in our practices we

are treating our prescribing privileges responsibly. We must all endeavour to maximise the efficacy of the presently available agents for the benefit of both veterinary and human patients now and in the future. This is an evolving situation and hopefully more work will be undertaken, in particular looking at treatment durations, allowing further refinement of best practice."

The poster has been sent to all BSAVA and SAMSoc members and BSAVA members should have received their poster and special edition of *Companion* magazine in October 2011.



RUBY ACCIDENTALLY SWALLOWS AN EAR



RUBY, A THREE-YEAR-OLD FEMALE Labrador retriever, had suddenly started coughing after exercising in a wheat field. She didn't respond to simple antibiotic treatment and a foreign body inhalation was suspected. Ruby was not insured and, although the owner did not qualify for charitable help, she was unable to afford specialist treatment. Ruby was referred by Ashcroft Veterinary Surgery in Cambridge, via the DVS *pro bono* scheme, to internal medicine specialist, Ian Battersby. A chest CT scan showed a suspected bronchial foreign body in the left caudal lung and, subsequently, Ian performed a bronchoscopy and removed a wheat head from Ruby's bronchus. Following a short course of antibiotics Ruby made a complete recovery.

HOW YOU CAN APPLY...

All first opinion practices are eligible to apply for the DVS *pro bono* scheme, which enables an average of one patient per month to receive free treatment. Requests are based on advocacy from the clinical head of the referring practice and on genuine need.

To find out more visit www.vetspecialists.co.uk or call Dr Clive Elwood, Managing Director, on 01582 883950.

PRO BONO SCHEME SAVES DOG'S LIFE TWICE



APOLLO, AN 18 MONTH OLD MALE GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG, ACCIDENTALLY IMPALED HIMSELF ON SOME BROKEN FENCE PANELS WHEN HE WAS PLAYING.

THE SPLINTER OF WOOD, WHICH WAS around 5cm long and 1.5cm wide, became precariously lodged between his heart and his lungs but, because Apollo initially had no symptoms and there was no obvious puncture wound, his owner Sam Russell from Leighton Buzzard, wasn't aware that anything was wrong. It was a week later when the dog suddenly became very anxious, uncomfortable and was struggling to breathe, that Sam rushed him to her local vet practice, Heath and Reach in Bedfordshire.

Vet Hannah Johnston's initial diagnosis was that the dog had some foreign material lodged internally that was causing an infection. Without an urgent CT scan and surgery his chances of survival were minimal but his disconsolate owner was uninsured and had no means of affording the treatment. Hannah had recently read about the *pro bono* initiative introduced by DVS and put Apollo forward for referral under the scheme.

Manuel Jiménez Peláez, European Veterinary Specialist in Surgery at DVS, who operated on Apollo, takes up the story: "A CT scan showed a large, fluid-filled cavity, a partially

collapsed lung and a sharp, thin, elongated structure, lodged between Apollo's lungs and his heart. We drained the cavity and successfully removed the foreign body. We also had to remove most of the irreparably damaged left lung."

Apollo was in hospital for two weeks, five days of which were spent in intensive care in a critical condition. Sam was thrilled when she was eventually able to take him home but, just two days later, disaster struck again. Apollo was diagnosed with gastric dilation volvulus and DVS once again stepped in to operate as an emergency, free of charge.

Apollo has made a full recovery is now back at home with the Russell family. Sam Russell reports: "Apollo has always been so determined and full of life. Even when he was dangerously ill and in intensive care he wouldn't give up and tried to rouse himself to come home with me. For Davies Veterinary Specialists to save my dog once is nothing short of amazing, but for them to save him twice makes me speechless with gratitude. To be shown such kindness after a dreadful run of bad luck would leave anyone stuck for words."

NEW FELINE NEUROLOGY SERVICE

DVS HAS INTRODUCED A NEUROLOGY service specifically for cats. The new service is run by leading neurologist Laurent Garosi who has become a recognised expert in this particularly challenging field. Laurent is internationally renowned for developing a unique approach to performing a neurological evaluation in the cat. He has accumulated vast experience in feline neurology which he regularly shares at national and international veterinary meetings or through scientific publications.

He said: "At DVS we believe that cats require special attention to reduce their fear and pain, to reduce anxiety for their owner, and to reinforce the vet-client-cat bond and trust. During the consultation, our neurologists use specifically adapted techniques to examine the cat to limit stress. Our feline patients are hospitalised in our dedicated cat ward and cared for by specially trained nurses. Internal medicine and orthopaedic specialists are also on hand to help



manage more complex cases that require a multi-disciplinary approach."

You can contact Laurent by phone or email lsg@vetspecialists.co.uk for advice or to discuss potential feline neurology referrals.

SPECIALIST HELPS REMOVE ELEPHANT'S EYE

LAST CHRISTMAS OPHTHALMOLOGY Specialist David Gould was one of a team of 15 vets, vet nurses and animal keepers who was called to help to remove the irreparably damaged eye of an elephant, in the first operation of its kind in the UK.

Duchess, a 40-year-old African elephant who lives at Paignton Zoo, was diagnosed with intractable glaucoma caused by cataract and lens luxation. Initially eye drops had been used to try and decrease the pressure in Duchess's eye but this treatment became less effective over time and Duchess was in chronic pain. Realistically the best long-term treatment was to enucleate. Bristol-based ophthalmologist Jim Carter led the four-hour procedure. It was organised by Paignton Zoo vet Ghislaine Sayers with veterinary support from David Gould and John Lewis of the International Zoo Vet group, who co-ordinated the anaesthetic.

David Gould said: "It was an incredible experience to carry out what is usually regarded as routine surgery, on such a vast animal. I was Jim Carter's supervisor during his residency training at Bristol and he simply drafted me in as back up, in case there were any difficulties. As it was, Jim performed the operation without complication and we all cheered when Duchess recovered from the anaesthetic, rose to her feet and took her first wobbly steps."



BOOK CPD ONLINE

YOU CAN NOW SIGN UP ONLINE FOR DVS CPD. THE MEETINGS ARE ALL HELD IN DVS'S COMFORTABLE LECTURE THEATRE AND SESSIONS ARE PRECEDED BY DRINKS AND A FINGER BUFFET. VISIT WWW.VETSPECIALISTS.CO.UK TO BOOK YOUR PLACE.

FOR VETERINARY SURGEONS...

THURSDAY 21 JUNE

ONCOLOGY

Decision making with canine mast cell tumours

Speakers:

Frances Taylor BVSc MRCVS

DipECVIM-CA (Onc.)

Roger Powell MA VetMB DipACVP

DipRCPath FRCPath MRCVS

THURSDAY 19 JULY

ANAESTHESIA

What to do when it all goes wrong! An update on cardiopulmonary cerebral resuscitation (CPCR)

Speaker:

Louise Clark BVMS MRCVS CertVA DipECVAA

RCVS & European Veterinary Specialist in

Anaesthesia

FOR NURSES...

MONDAY 18 JUNE

ANAESTHESIA

ICU Triage

Speaker:

Louise Clark BVMS MRCVS CertVA DipECVAA

RCVS & European Veterinary Specialist in

Anaesthesia

MONDAY 16 JULY

ANAESTHESIA

Anaesthesia Monitoring

Speaker:

Sarah Thomson BVSc MRCVS CertVA