



Bath Vet
REFERRALS

Together in Practice

Summer 2025





Welcome to our latest Bath Vet Referrals newsletter

Arrivals and returns

We're pleased to tell you that our capacity to accept emergency and urgent referrals has significantly improved this Spring. We've had a new arrival into the team, alongside the return of some familiar faces. We welcome Ted back from paternity leave, so we are now back to our full complement of surgeons. Our medic, Giulia, will be returning later this year from maternity leave, and our diagnostic imager, Lucy, will also return from maternity leave in early 2026.

Our congratulations to them and their families. Please also see our introduction to Lauren Demos on page 7, Lauren is our latest addition to the medical team. We hope you'll join us in welcoming her.

Stay in the loop

Following the success of our recent BOAS and TTA/TPLO offers, we have more plans in the pipeline. We would encourage everyone to sign up to our email mailing list for more regular updates of offers and news.

Please scan this QR code for easy sign up via a smart phone or follow the link on our home page - **bathvetreferrals.co.uk**



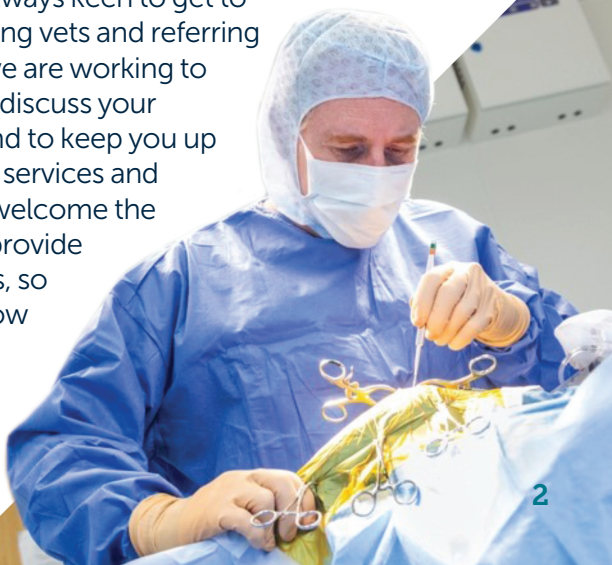
Referrals made easy

As always, our focus is on quality of care, and our goal is to make referring to us as seamless for you and your client as possible. We accept referrals by phone or via a form on our website. On page 8, we have introduced our Bath Vet Referrals Commitment. We know how important it is to get a prompt response to enquiries and referral requests, and we will always do our best to help.

CPD for 2025

We are excited to announce our full-day CPD event to be held in early October 2025 near Bath. Find out more about this on page 6. New for 2025, we are also launching Clinical Clubs : free to attend, informational presentations and case discussions held in the evenings. Hot food will be provided.

Finally, we are always keen to get to know our referring vets and referring practices, and we are working to arrange visits to discuss your requirements and to keep you up to date with our services and offers. We also welcome the opportunity to provide lunch and learns, so please let us know if your practice would like us to visit.



A case of congenital laryngeal paralysis in a labrador

Dr Samantha Lane

BVSc BSAVA PGCertSAS MRCVS
RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery

Dr Lisa Gardbaum

BVet Med CertSAM MRCVS
RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Medicine

A three-year-old Labrador Retriever cross dog that was imported from the USA was referred to the medical department at Bath Veterinary Referrals with a two-month history of increased upper respiratory noise and effort leading to severe exercise intolerance and dyspnoea.

On clinical examination, he was markedly distressed and displayed an unusual inspiratory wheeze sound that originated from his larynx but differed from the classic stridor associated with laryngeal paralysis in geriatric Labrador Retrievers.

On thoracic auscultation there were referred sounds from the upper respiratory tract, but heart sounds were normal. His temperature was slightly elevated at 39.2C and he had mildly cyanotic mucous membranes.

Routine haematology and biochemistry blood tests were unremarkable and total T4 and TSH were normal ruling out hypothyroidism. A conscious lateral thoracic radiograph showed no evidence of a megaesophagus; a mild alveolar pattern in the cranioventral lung fields was present.



His larynx was examined under light anaesthetic and found to be oedematous and had an abnormal dorsal motion on inspiration with minimal abduction.

A CT examination of Milky's thorax and abdomen showed a generalised mild interstitial pattern considered most likely to be caused by mild aspiration pneumonia.

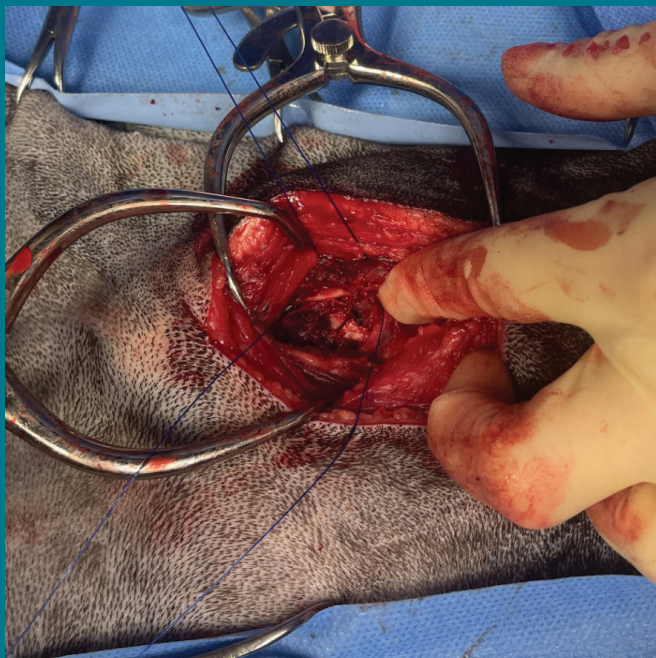
Bronchoscopy showed no evidence of tracheal or bronchial collapse, but copious amounts of bronchial secretions were retrieved on bronchoalveolar lavage. Cytology of these showed evidence of a neutrophilic bronchitis.

Recovering after laryngeal tie-back surgery

Treatment

A lower respiratory PCR panel was negative; *Pasteurella* and beta haemolytic *Streptococcus* were cultured. Treatment was commenced with a one-week course of amoxycillin-clavulanate at 12.5mg/kg twice daily for the aspiration pneumonia and prednisolone at 0.3mg/kg daily to treat the laryngeal oedema.





Blood test results

A genetic blood test for type 3 laryngeal paralysis and polyneuropathy (LPPN) showed him to be homozygous for the causal mutation for LPPN3 in the CNTNAP1 gene meaning that he was likely to be affected by laryngeal paralysis and polyneuropathy. He could also pass it to his offspring as the inheritance is autosomal recessive. This mutation tends to affect young Labrador Retrievers, Leonbergers and St Bernard dogs.

After starting treatment, Milky developed a cough which later resolved. At this stage he was referred to our senior referral surgeon, Samantha Lane in the soft tissue surgery department at Bath Veterinary Referrals for arytenoid lateralisation ("laryngeal tie-back") surgery.

In surgery, the cricothyroid and cricoarytenoid articulations were broken down and two sutures were placed (cricoarytenoid and thyroarytenoid) to hold the left side of the larynx in an open position.

Recovery and discharge

Milky recovered well from his anaesthetic and was discharged from the hospital the following day. At re-examination four weeks post-surgery Milky was full of energy, exercising at a much-increased level and his stridor was no longer present. His owners are aware that he is at an increased risk of aspiration pneumonia; they are closely monitoring him for new respiratory signs and will avoid swimming indefinitely.

Surgery to treat laryngeal paralysis significantly improves the quality of life in patients with laryngeal paralysis. Information about survival of Labradors affected by the mutation is limited but survival of geriatric onset laryngeal paralysis polyneuropathy is 3-5 years. Although there are currently no signs of a polyneuropathy, we will monitor Milky for any signs suggestive of this with regular re-examinations.

Laryngeal Tie-back Offer

Between 1st May and 31st August 2025 we are offering our laryngeal tie-back package for £3000 (usually £3800) for laryngeal paralysis cases which includes a referral consultation, bloods including T4/TSH, CT scan (if required), surgery, overnight hospitalisation and peri-operative medication.

CPD event October 2025

We are excited to announce that Bath Vet Referrals are hosting a full-day CPD event for vets on Tuesday 7th October 2025, at Bailbrook House Hotel, situated on the edge of Bath.

Lecture topics to include:

Are you sure it's osteoarthritis?

Dr Jon Shippam

BVSc CertSAS MRCVS

RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery
Clinical Director & Head Referral Surgeon

Stuck in the middle:

GI foreign body surgery simplified

Dr Samantha Lane

BVSc BSAVA PGCertSAS MRCVS

RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery
Senior Referral Surgeon

Acute thoracolumbar disc disease - when is it surgical?

Dr Cate Khursandi

BVSc CertSAS MANZCVS AFHEA MRCVS

RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery
Referral Surgeon

Skin flaps & grafts - when and how to use them

Dr Edward Corfield

BVSc CertAVP(GSAS) MRCVS

RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery
Referral Surgeon

Does this patient need an ex-lap?

Using diagnostic imaging to help with clinical decision making

Dr Lucy Andrews Hird

MA VetMB CertAVP(VDI) MRCVS

RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging
Referral Diagnostic Imaging Clinician

Seizures - causes and the great pretenders

Dr Lisa Gardbaum

BVet Med CertSAM MRCVS

RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Medicine
Senior Medical Referral Clinician

Treatment of seizures

Dr Giulia Grenga

BVetMed CertAVP(SAM) MRCVS

RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Medicine
Medical Referral Clinician

The Feline Microbiome: Using the latest diagnostic and therapeutic options

Dr Lauren Demos

BVMS DipABVP(Feline Practice) MRCVS

Medical Referral Clinician

What's on offer:

- Extensive CPD program
- A delicious 2 course hot and cold buffet
- 7 hours of CPD
- Certificate of completion
- On-site parking

A whole day of CPD for only £85!



Places are limited, so book now to avoid disappointment.

To secure your place on Eventbrite use the QR code, or follow the link on bathvetreferrals.co.uk



Introducing Lauren Demos

We are proud to announce the arrival of our newest member of the medicine team, Dr. Lauren Demos.

Lauren completed her veterinary degree at Murdoch University in Australia in 2012 along with a research degree in virology, and then completed her residency training in the United States in 2016 before becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Feline Practice) in 2019.

In addition to Lauren's extensive clinical experience, she is a published author in peer-reviewed international veterinary journals and is actively involved in lecturing and other aspects of veterinary training. Outside of work, Lauren competes in various activities, and is currently training for a 200 mile ultramarathon.



The Bath Vet

Referrals Commitment

We will always meet our clients before procedures to discuss their concerns and answer questions*. We will also provide clients with a comprehensive update in person or by phone after procedures or investigations are completed.

We will email the referring practice with a copy of the discharge sheet on the day of discharge, and letters will be sent to the referring vets within 48 hours of discharge or of receiving results of an investigation.

We will call or email referring practices with an update if a patient hasn't been discharged by day three.



We will always provide written discharge sheets which will clearly explain the next steps such as recheck appointments or a phone call with results.

We will promptly respond to referral requests and enquiries.

Emergency referral requests

(by phone):

We aim to confirm availability and estimated costs within 30 minutes

Urgent referrals

(by phone, email or web form):

We aim to confirm availability and estimated costs within 2 hours

Routine referrals

(by phone, email or web form):

We aim to contact clients within 24 hours (working days only) to book initial consultations

Telephone calls

We will answer calls promptly and, if our lines are busy and you choose to leave a message, we will get back to you as a priority

How to refer



If you have a **non-urgent** case to refer, scan the QR code to fill in the form.

To make an **urgent referral** please call one of our

Referral Administrators who will be happy to take down the case details and speak with the team regarding an appointment. Where possible we will see emergency cases on the same day they are referred to us. **Please call 01225 982777**

*Patients for outpatient imaging rather than full referral will be admitted by our nursing team, and the imaging report will be sent to the referring veterinary surgeon to report to the owners

Clinical Clubs

We are pleased to announce our new quarterly Clinical Club - free evening CPD. The evening will start with a hot buffet on arrival, followed by two informal presentations with opportunity for discussion.

The first one will be held on:

Wednesday 17th September 2025

Venue near Bath TBC

Hot buffet	7:00pm
Presentations start	7:30pm
Scheduled finish at	9:00pm



Session topics

The topics for this session will be *Urine Trouble: diagnosis and management of the blocked cat* (Dr Samantha Lane) and *Medical Management of feline lower urinary tract disease* (Dr Lauren Demos).

To reserve your free place please email contact@bathvetreferrals.co.uk with details of your name, practice and any dietary requirements.

Please sign up to our email updates for details of topics and dates for further Clinical Clubs planned later this year.



Meet the team

Surgery



Jon Shippam
BVSc CertSAS MRCVS
RCVS Advanced
Practitioner in Small
Animal Surgery



Sam Lane
BVSc BSAVA
PGCertSAS MRCVS
RCVS Advanced
Practitioner in Small
Animal Surgery



Ted Corfield
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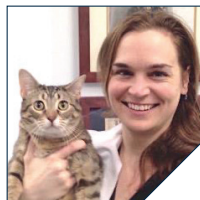


Cate Khursandi
BVSc CertSAS MANZCVS
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Medicine



Lisa Gardbaum
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RCVS Advanced
Practitioner in Small
Animal Medicine



Lauren Demos
BVMS DipABVP
(Feline Practice)
MRCVS



Giulia Grenga
BVetMed CertAVP(SAM)
MRCVS
RCVS Advanced Practitioner
in Small Animal Medicine



Lucy Andrews Hird
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MRCVS
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in Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging

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