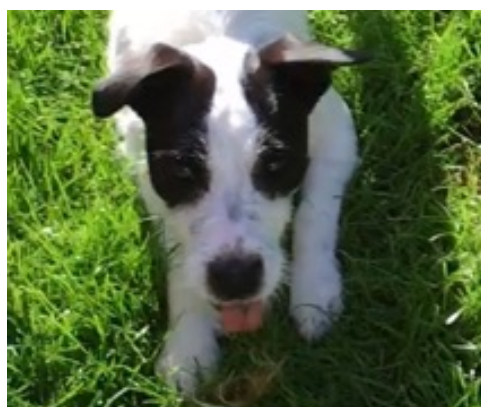


October 2021

Ronnie – an Orthopaedic case study

When pets have a problem with one of their joints, it can become a very big issue for them, particularly when problems occur in youngsters. Meet Ronnie.



He was only four months old when a limp prompted his owners to take him to their vet. X-rays didn't reveal the source of the problem so the images were emailed to Joe Fox, Orthopaedic surgeon at Rowe Referrals, for further assessment. Joe was concerned about how well the bones in Ronnie's elbow were fitting together so Ronnie was referred for a CT scan to investigate further.

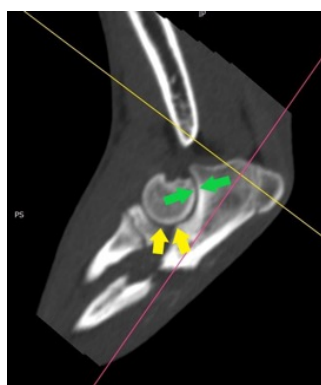
In the image to the right, the purple arrows show a big step between one portion of the ulna and the radius. There should be no step here; there should be a nice smooth continuous transition from one bone to the next. The red arrows show a big gap at the back of the joint that should be much smaller – the humerus is effectively falling forward causing pain and damage inside the joint which must be prevented in order to try and help him in the long-term.



Surgery is the only option to try and correct a problem like this, but it's a big procedure where the ulna needs cutting to allow it to move to a better position before the bone gradually knits in place. This takes many weeks during which time Ronnie would need careful management at home.

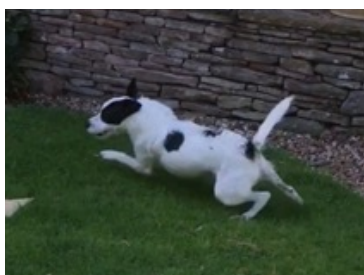
After Joe had discussed his findings with Ronnie's owners, they made the brave decision to go for surgery, which was undertaken without delay. He was well looked after during his stay in the hospital, with lots of cuddles and fuss to make him feel at home.

When he returned for a follow-up scan three weeks later, it was clear that everything was going nicely to plan: see image below.



The yellow arrows show the nice transition from the ulna onto the radius and the green arrows show the gap at the back had reduced down to normal. Even at this early stage, healing was underway and he was already more comfortable on the leg.

His owners are so happy with his improvement... "His leg is brilliant, he walks normally and would never know he had had a problem". And Ronnie? Well, he's pretty happy too.



What we do

- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- Soft Tissue & Spinal Surgery
- Dentistry
- Laparoscopy
- CT Scanning
- MRI
- Ultrasound
- Internal Medicine
- Radioactive Iodine
- Neuro Diagnostics
- Acupuncture

Meet the team spotlight on...



Javier Del Real Garcia
Veterinary Intern in Ophthalmology

Javier graduated from the University of Cordoba (Spain) in 2015 and has been working since in small animal practice. He made the move to the UK in August 2020, to start working in a lovely practice in Weymouth. Shortly afterwards he started his role as an intern at Rowe Referrals to develop his interest and skill in Ophthalmology. At Rowe, there is a broad range of cases that come through the door daily, and the team of experienced staff are willing to teach and help so he finds that you get the most out of them. Javier finds work days enjoyable from beginning to end. Outside of work, spending time with his four dogs and partner are at the top of his list, as well as being keen on reading and sports.

Update on BOAS

Brachycephalic dogs do not appear to be reducing in popularity and we have seen an unusually high number this summer. Unfortunately, we find that many owners only notice or become aware of the problem as the weather starts to warm up and hence are transporting their dogs to us in the heat, so Autumn and winter is an ideal time to refer these cases!

We routinely now do preoperative telephone consultations so that appropriate medication can be dispensed prior to the dogs' visit, this includes drugs to help prevent reflux such as omeprazole and also anti-anxiety medication which has improved recovery in these patients significantly.

Depending on the case, we will CT some of the patients (head and chest) especially if concerned about concurrent disease and to assess the lungs and nasal turbinates.

Those that are showing excessive gastrointestinal signs will receive an upper GI endoscopy.

Surgery usually includes a staphylectomy performed using cut and sew, vertical wedge resection of the nares and removal of everted sacculles if present and obstructive. Occasionally we combine this with tonsillectomy.

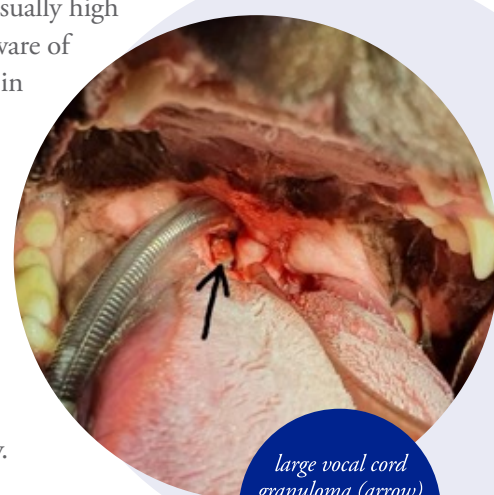
Vocal cord granulomas (see image above right) are found more commonly in French Bull dogs and are a result of turbulent air flow and irritation from gastroesophageal reflux. (1)

These granulomas can be large and cause obstruction inside the larynx and will often bleed when intubation is attempted. Animal will usually present with stridor and wheezing. Treatment involves surgical removal and follow up treatment with Prednisolone and antacids if reflux is present, but owners should be warned that they can recur.

1. *Vocal fold granulomas in six brachycephalic dogs: clinical, macroscopical and histological features. JSAP 2020 Jul;61(7):458-461*

Rowe Referrals will be at LVS...

Kate Murphy from Rowe Referrals will be speaking at the London Vet Show, in the IVC Evidensia Referrals Theatre on Thursday 11th November at 3.10pm. Kate's topic is "And it was all yellow... problem solving jaundice from the internal medics perspective" where she will cover how to approach icterus in the clinic in a logical way to try and get the most out of the different stages of the investigation and to decide if this is a case that requires medical or surgical treatment. This session is part of a series of three talks and Carlo Anselmi from Pride Veterinary Centre will cover imaging the jaundiced patient and Ben Miele from Hamilton Specialist Referrals will cover the surgical aspects.



large vocal cord granuloma (arrow) on the right vocal cord in a French Bulldog.