



Animals Are Art: Part II

As the dog days of summer are upon us - and warm memories of outdoor activities including those of the local county fair surround us - it may be worth considering Animals as Art with this context.

First, it's probably worth noting: The Haburjak Family LOVES the fair. The food, the exhibits, the concerts, the races, the cacophony of sound and noise, the Americana of it all is embraced fully by each of us. We simply cannot get enough! In particular, of special interest to us all, and probably of no surprise with two veterinarians as parents, are the animal exhibits. Wandering down the stalls looking at the tack, the gear, touching metal rails, the dust, all of the hooves, fur, feathers and scales mesmerizes each of us for moments turning into hours. Shielded from the 'heavy lifting' of farm life and the harsh realities of purpose raised animals, it is so lovely and so endearing to see one's children gobbling up the stories, and information so generously shared by the local 4-H educators. Who says learning only takes place in classrooms?!

Next, it's also probably fair to share the fact, that having gone to High School in Pleasanton - the Alameda County Fair was and is an endearing and enduring rite of passage for nearly every single able bodied high-schooler to 'work' the fair. Yes, it is true, yours truly sold Cinnamon Rolls for many summers to 'earn' my space and love of the fair.

This past year at the fair, as I traipsed about with our family, looking, feeling, touching, smelling and feeling our way around - so many of our senses in play - something seemed to catalyze my memory banks and loosen up images from the past. As I was also considering the Animals as Art piece for the VSC Newsletter, out of the funnel cake haze and soft serve cone drips - and with all our recent humidity - a rich memory from the Mid-West seemed to impress me.

While at the fair and just as enough drizzle hit the ground (rain in July!? in San Francisco?!), the smell of the hot-day pavement dust triggered it. Instantly, I remembered being in down-state Illinois during my residency. It was late summer - the corn fields were just above waist high - and Aimee and I had gone for a run along the county roads between the fields. On our way back we were drenched - as the humidity approached the same number as the Fahrenheit temperature - we spent some time cooling off and resting under the overhang of a building.

My memory of this, rekindled from a smell at the fair, recalled first a light sprinkle of rain - with the sun having set - as we looked across the top of one of the corn fields was a marvelous sight of hundreds of fire flies taking turns illuminating themselves upon the horizon above the corn fields. Saying this experience was marvelous is perhaps true, but describing it as appropriate, as artistic and truly a sensory gift might be even more true.

Whether or not visiting with Nubians or Yorkshires, cockerels or steers - or sharing the vision of a twilight landscape filled with twinkling fire flies - can it be any wonder why we consider Animals as truly Art?

Enjoy these long Summer days, and our newsletter for you to browse through. We look forward to visiting with you again this Autumn!

Sincerely,

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CONTINUE TO EXPECT...

Direct contact with a VSC surgeon 7 days a week for consultation, case support and for scheduling referral and mobile surgery.
(925-201-3400 or 510-595-4600)

Electronic case and radiographic case consultation 7 days a week.
info@vscdsurgerycenters.com

24 hour/day surgery by a completely trained veterinary surgeon. Residents will not be performing surgery on your referrals.

Mobile veterinary surgical services by a skilled and experienced surgeon with 'low-impact' on your daily staff and procedural operations.
Most surgeries (including TPLO) are performed in less than 2 hours.

THE SURGEONS OF VSC



FEATURED MEDICAL CASE

PERCUTANEOUS ANTEGRADE URETHRAL CATHETER PLACEMENT FOR THE TREATMENT OF URETHRAL TEARS

Urethral laceration or tearing can occur for several reasons but is most commonly seen after urethral catheterization in male cats who have developed a lower urinary tract obstruction (a common problem). The urethra possesses a great healing capacity and as long as complete transection of the urethra has not occurred the urethra can regenerate its mucosal surface and heal within 7 days. The mainstay of therapy includes passage of a urinary catheter to divert urine and provide mucosal apposition for healing. If a urethral tear has been present for several hours the extravasation of urine creates inflammation and edema of the tissues making urethral catheterization difficult or even impossible. The following report documents a recent case successfully treated by Veterinary Surgical Centers for this issue using a minimally invasive technique called "percutaneous antegrade urethral catheter placement".

Thomas is an 8 year old male neutered domestic short hair that presented to Veterinary Surgical Centers for treatment of repeated urethral obstruction. Thomas had developed a urethral obstruction over the weekend that had been treated with conservative management (urethral catheterization, IV fluids etc). The urinary catheter was removed on the Monday but unfortunately Thomas' urethra quickly became obstructed again. On presentation to VSCB Thomas had a large, firm and non-expressible urinary bladder. We attempted to re-catheterize the urethra under sedation but met with resistance within the intra-pelvic urethra which is unusual (the catheter should pass easily and smoothly into the urinary bladder). A retrograde urethrocytogram (a dye that shows up on x-rays is injected into the catheter) was performed (figure 1) and showed leakage of the contrast from the urethra, indicating a urethral tear. Urethral tears in this location often present a unique problem in that a catheter cannot be passed in order to decompress the bladder and prevent life threatening electrolyte and metabolic changes. This situation usually requires a

SUMMARY OF SERVICE OFFERINGS

WHAT CAN VSCD OFFER YOUR FACILITY?

- Board-certified surgical expertise
- Receiving referrals for advanced consultation, diagnostic and surgical services
- Providing surgical services at your facility with minimal impact on your daily operations and resources
- Offering telephone or electronic (email) consultations
- Giving on-site continuing education lectures personalized to the needs of your staff
- Providing complimentary informational brochures and pamphlets for use internally and for clients

...Featured Medical Case continued

surgical procedure to open the bladder (cystotomy) so that a catheter can be passed from the opposite direction, a procedure that is both invasive and costly. Advances in endourology and veterinary training now allow us to pass a urinary catheter in these situations without needing surgery, using a technique called “percutaneous antegrade urethral catheter placement”. For this patient the procedure was performed under ultrasound guidance, but fluoroscopy can also be used. First an IV catheter is placed into the urinary bladder through the abdominal body wall. A special hydrophilic guidewire is then fed through this catheter (figure 2) into the bladder and then up into the urethra (antegrade). The wire is advanced past the urethral tear to exit at the penis/vulva. A normal urinary catheter (in this case a 5 french foley catheter) is then fed over the guide wire and passed up the urethra (retrograde) into the bladder. The guidewire is then removed and the catheter



Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 2

placement is complete. This minimally invasive procedure was performed in just 20 minutes. The urinary catheter remained in place for 5 days while the urethral tear healed. Figure 3 shows a urethrocystogram on day 5 of treatment showing a smooth and intact urethra (urethral tear has healed). Thomas then underwent a perineal urethrostomy procedure to prevent the repeated urethral obstructions he had experienced and went on to make a full recovery.

This is a great example of not only how minimally invasive techniques can be used to both reduce patient morbidity and speed recovery times, but also provide rapid and effective treatments for issues that previously required open surgical procedures to correct.

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NEWSROOM FEATURES

COMMITMENT TO TECHNOLOGY *Game Ready - Dry Cold Therapy*

At VSC we strive and take pride in our ability to continually provide top level care for your patients, which is why we are proud to feature the “Game Ready” dry cold therapy system, which VSC has been utilizing since early 2010. This systems value is that it provides dry cold and active compression enabling the same physical therapy and post-operative treatment approaches used on humans calling for the proven benefits of cryotherapy and compression. These treatment principles have been shown to reduce pain, muscle spasms, tissue damage, and swelling—ultimately allowing for quicker and better healing and injury recovery. To learn more about the science behind this technology, please visit: www.gameready canine.com/science/index.htm



NOTABLE NEWS

PROPHYLACTIC FIBEROPTIC SERVICE!

VSC and Fiberoptic Vet are offering laparoscopic gastropexy in combination with alteration (spay or ovariectomy) for a complete fee of \$1400. All anesthetic, procedural and hospitalization fees are included.

For Details:

info@vscdsurgerycenters.com

Berkeley: 510-548-6684

Dublin: 925-556-1234

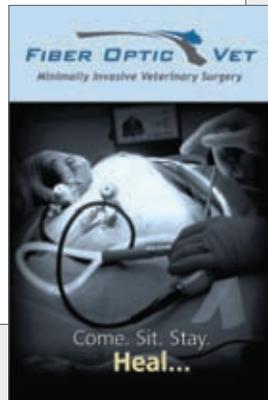
www.fiberopticvet.com



Figure 1



Figure 2



PROFESSIONAL INTEREST ARTICLE

Orthopedic Pearls

The Canine PARTIAL Cruciate Tear

Common History: 2-7 year old 60+ pound canine with stiffness and soreness on initial rising, that improves with light duty, moving around (limbering up) but that is easily exacerbated with any exercise. The condition is generally effectively treated with rest and NSAID's – but is made worse with any exercise at all. Over time this lameness becomes less intermittent and more persistent.

Physical Findings: palpable stifle effusion, pain on manual extension of the stifle, + sit-test – no drawer or thrust in extension on palpation.

Radiographic Findings: stifle effusion (especially evident on lateral) with small, emerging osteophyte on the distal pole of the patella, osteophytes along proximal trochlear ridge – on the cranial-caudal view of the stifle + pagoda sign.

Recommended Treatment: dynamic cruciate repair – with osteotomy – TPLO (Tibial Plateau Leveling Osteotomy) or TTA (Tibial Tubercle Advancement)

Contra-Indicated: static repairs (extra-capsule, Tight-Rope) and benign neglect

General Concept: Once a canine patient becomes lame from Cruciate Disease (Cruciate Insufficiency) this is a uniformly progressive condition leading to deterioration in the joints health, bio-mechanics and long- and short-term performance. There is little reason to delay intervention once this condition is diagnosed. Benign neglect will, under no conditions, lead to a stifle capable of athletic performance. Athletic performance of any capacity can only be assured with surgical intervention.

Figure 1: Positive Sit Test – failure of a sitting dog to flex the stifle such that the point of the calcaneus sits below the ischium. Positive Sit Test is indicative of stifle or hock pathology.

Figure 2: Lateral Stifle radiograph – demonstrating stifle effusion, distal pole of patella osteophytes and osteophytes on the proximal trochlear ridge

Figure 3: Cranial Caudal Stifle radiograph – demonstrating the so-called 'Pagoda' Sign – indicative of chronic inflammation, secondary to cruciate insufficiency.

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Figure 3

NEWSOOM FEATURE

VSC WELCOMES OUR NEWEST SURGERY TECHNICIANS JILLIAN AND CHANTALE TO THE TEAM!



Jillian

Jillian was born and raised in San Francisco. She attended UC Santa Cruz where she received a BS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in 2008. After moving back to San Francisco she began working at a veterinary clinic. It was there that she learned about the exciting field of Veterinary Technology. In 2011 she received her AS in Veterinary Technology from Foothill College. Outside of work Jillian likes to spend as much time outdoors as she possibly can. She enjoys camping, hiking, biking, SCUBA diving, and playing kickball. She lives in Berkeley with her Dachshund Piper.



Chantale

Chantale is a native of Quebec Canada and grew up for the most part in the Greater Bay Area. From a young age, Chantale had a fascination for all creatures big and small. This passion has propelled her through a fifteen year career in the animal care industry. Chantale holds a bachelor's of science in zoology from San Jose State University and is currently working towards becoming a registered veterinary technician. Chantale is excited to work alongside a team of surgeons and is looking forward to furthering her career in veterinary technology and anesthesia. In her spare time, she enjoys training dogs and empowering pet owners about canine behavior and care.



<http://www.petparents.com>

The site that celebrates the extraordinary bond between pets and the people who care for them. Here you'll find everything you need to be the best pet owner you can be, from your pet's puppyhood or kittenhood through adulthood.



<http://yourlocalsecurity.com/resources/protect-pets>

Protecting Your Pets from Natural Disasters: A great resource for creating a disaster preparedness plan for pets and a pet disaster supply kit for both evacuation and non-evacuation emergency situations.

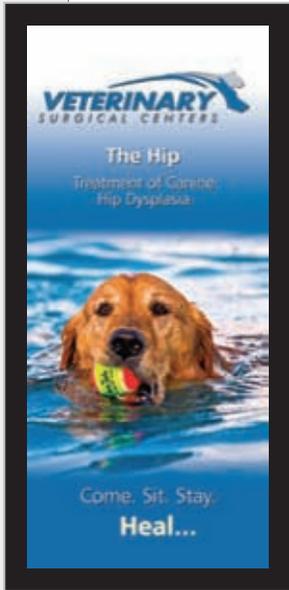
<http://www.splashdogs.com>

Weekend Fun: Splashdogs is a dog enthusiast company that organizes and promotes dock jumping competitions in the Western United States.

RESOURCE CORNER



FEATURED BROCHURE

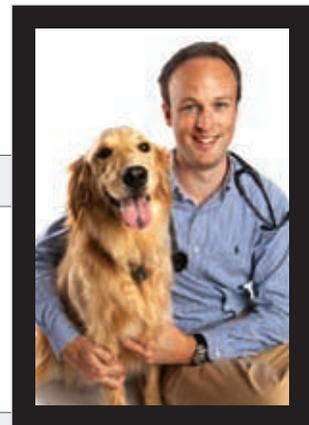


THE HIP - TREATMENT OF CANINE HIP DYSPLASIA

This month's featured brochure offers insight into the treatment of hip dysplasia in dogs. The brochure provides an explanation of what hip dysplasia is, how it is diagnosed, and the treatment options potentially available, including total hip replacement.

This is an excellent tool in conjunction with a doctor's examination to help supplement an owner's understanding of what is going on with their pet, and what options they have, prior to making a treatment decision. The use of straight forward language and helpful images of this particular pamphlet also make it a valuable resource for any staff and clientele who want to develop a fundamental understanding of canine hip dysplasia.

This and other brochures can be found at and downloaded from our website at www.vscdsurgerycenters.com. For complimentary copies of any of our brochures or business cards email us any time at info@vscdsurgerycenters.com.



This newsletter is dedicated to our very own Dr. Andrew Michael Grange, who celebrated his two year anniversary with VSC this July. Dr. Grange is a great team member, and our clients consistently shower him with praise for his approach and the care he provides for their furry family members. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication!

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www.vscdsurgerycenters.com

www.fiberopticvet.com