



10 TOP tips

for optimum outcomes

SPINAL TRAUMA

For suspected trauma, carry out a conscious x-ray and take bloods



1

In case of suspected disc problems, give NSAIDs, an opiate and cage rest



2

If there are chronic signs, withdraw medication before referral



3

If the patient is unable to ambulate for urination, catheterise the bladder to avoid overflow problems



4

Ring for advice sooner rather than later (01332 812500)



5

Make sure the owner is aware of the potential level of fees involved



6

Ensure that the owner is willing and able to nurse the patient for several weeks after diagnosis and treatment



7

Don't give steroids



8

Don't give a GA for x-rays if thinking of referring as often unrewarding and can delay further investigation



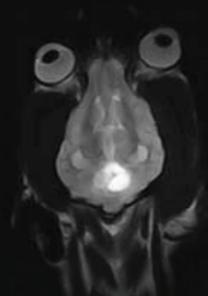
9

Although 9 out of ten cases are disc-related owners need advising that the other 10% have very poor outcomes



10

Ring this **helpline** number if you have any queries: **01322 812500**



focus

Look a little deeper...



Contents: Dovecote appointed as a Clinical Associate Practice to Nottingham Vet School
Recent events at Dovecote • The Spinal Case – handy referral tips poster

Spring 2010



Welcome

Welcome to our new practice newsletter – the place where you can find all the latest news, opinion and advice from the Dovecote referral practice.

Dovecote Veterinary Hospital exists to provide specialist surgical and diagnostic support to practices like yours, right across the Midlands and beyond. Our aim has always been to make the whole referral process as clear and straightforward as possible and our team are always happy to take calls with any questions you may have, on **01332 812500**.

We'll be producing Dovecote Focus every 3-4 months, ensuring that you are always up to date with the latest developments at the practice as we continue to expand our service to meet the changing demands of modern veterinary science. Our aim is for this newsletter to be both interesting and informative, so if there are topics you'd like us to cover, then please let us know – our contact details are below.

We trust that Dovecote Focus will help you to better understand the services we offer, and allow us to strengthen the links between our practice and yours.

Until the next issue,
Very best wishes from

Alison and Andrew Robinson, and the rest of the Dovecote team.

In this issue:

Dovecote Top Tips

Covering spinal patient care, this is the first of a regular series. We've designed the Dovecote Top Tips in a poster format so that you can simply tear out the page and stick it up in your consultation room, keeping all the information close at hand.

Vet school links

We will also feature the latest developments in our association with Nottingham University School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. On pages 2 and 3 you can find details of the Nottingham team who will be working at Dovecote, along with their specialist areas of expertise.

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5 Delven Lane, Castle Donington, Derby, DE74 2LJ

Email: info@dovecoteveterinaryhospital.co.uk Tel: 01332 812500 Fax: 01332 810659

Visit our website www.dovecoteveterinaryhospital.co.uk for a tour.

Open Days allow our colleagues and clients to 'look a little deeper' at Dovecote Veterinary Hospital

We held several Open Days in October and December to allow both our veterinary colleagues in referring practices, as well as our local clients new and old, to take a look behind the scenes, and find out more about the facilities and services we offer at our newly opened custom-built premises.

Each of the events was a great success, and we'd like to thank you if you were one of the practices who accepted our invitation to come and visit. If you weren't able to make it in October, you can find out more about the hospital and the services we offer, as well as taking a virtual tour of the hospital on our website www.dovecoteveterinaryhospital.co.uk.

We can also arrange tailored visits for your practice team, so why not call us on 01332 812500 to find out more.

Saturday 12th December saw us open our doors to pets, owners and their families for our Christmas Open Day. The event was a big hit, providing plenty of festive fun for everyone who came.

Dovecote association with Nottingham University School of Veterinary Medicine and Science



The University of Nottingham

We are delighted to announce that we are joining with Nottingham Vet School

as a Clinical Associate Practice in order to provide clinical rotations to final year veterinary students

In order to facilitate this, Nottingham staff will spend time at Dovecote on a regular basis; this means that we and our referring vets will have access to a broader range of specialisms, including neurology, cardiology, internal medicine and specialist anaesthesia.

The exact details have not yet been finalised, but be assured that we will inform you as soon as we have more concrete arrangements in place. Meanwhile, please see above for information about our new colleagues.

Kate Griffiths will continue to provide our dermatology service

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The Nottingham University Team

A short biography of each member of the Nottingham University School of Veterinary Medicine and Science team along with their specialist areas of expertise.

Rachel James MA Vet MB Cert SAM DVC MRCVS

Associate Professor in Small Animal Medicine



School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough. LE12 5RD

Rachel James graduated from Cambridge University in 1999. She worked in small animal general practice for 4 years during which time she gained her certificate in Small Animal Medicine. She then joined the cardiology team at Liverpool University for four years where she undertook a residency in Veterinary Cardiology achieving her Certificate in and then subsequently her Diploma in Veterinary Cardiology. Rachel then went into private referral practice at Nantwich Veterinary Hospital for a couple of years before joining Nottingham University as an Associate Professor in Small Animal Medicine. Rachel's research interests include collapse in dogs, cardiac performance in greyhounds and feline cardiomyopathies. Outside work she spends all her time with her young family, ponies and dogs.

Zoe Belshaw MA Vet MB Cert SAM MRCVS

Clinical Lecturer in Small Animal Internal Medicine



School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough. LE12 5RD

Zoe Belshaw graduated from Cambridge Vet School in 2003. After a year in rural mixed practice, she completed an internship at Dick White Referrals, Newmarket, and then returned to small animal practice on the south coast for 2 years. Zoe was then appointed Hills' Senior Clinical Training Scholar in Small Animal Internal Medicine at the Queens' Veterinary School Hospital, Cambridge in December 2006 where she spent 3 years undertaking specialist training in dog and cat internal medicine and oncology, which she completed in December 2009. Zoe holds the RCVS Certificate in Small Animal Internal Medicine and hopes to complete her European Diploma in Companion Animal Internal Medicine in 2010. Her main interests are immune mediated disease, gastroenterology, nasal disease and oncology.

Dr Mike Targett MA Vet MB PhD DECVN MRCVS

Clinical Associate Professor in Veterinary Neurology



School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough. LE12 5RD

Mike Targett graduated from Cambridge in 1991. Having spent time doing a PhD in neuroscience and a clinical residency at Cambridge he moved to a lectureship at Royal Veterinary College to head the Neurology referral service. From London he moved to Chester gates, a private neurology referral practice in Cheshire, before starting at Nottingham University as Clinical Associate Professor in Veterinary Neurology in 2007. Mike has experience in all aspects of small animal veterinary neurology with a preference for neurodiagnostics and neurosurgery. Mike has been using electrophysiology and MRI in the investigation of neurological disease in veterinary species since the early 1990's when MRI was first becoming available in veterinary medicine. Mike is a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Neurology and European Specialist in Veterinary Neurology.

Dr Rachel Dean BVMS PhD DSAM(fel) MRCVS

Recognised RCVS specialist in feline medicine

Associate Professor in Feline Medicine University of Nottingham

Director of the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine



School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough. LE12 5RD

Rachel Dean graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1996 and spent 6 years in general practice before spending a year travelling the world and working in Australia. She was the Fort Dodge feline fellow at the feline centre at the University of Bristol from 2002-2005. Rachel holds the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Diploma in feline medicine and is a recognised RCVS specialist in this field. Her particular clinical interests include infectious diseases and vaccination, urinary tract disease, endocrinology and geriatric medicine. Rachel recently completed a PhD on the epidemiology of feline injection site sarcomas in the United Kingdom and also examined some of the issues surrounding feline vaccination protocols. Rachel is currently an Associate Professor in Feline Medicine at the Nottingham Vet School where she directs the Centre of Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine.

Kate White MA Vet MB DVA Dipl ECVAA MRCVS

European Specialist in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia

Clinical Associate Professor of Veterinary Anaesthesia & Clinical Sub Dean



School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus, Loughborough. LE12 5RD

Kate White graduated from Cambridge Vet School and then worked in a mixed practice. She then undertook a residency in anaesthesia at the Cambridge vet school funded by the Horserace Betting Levy Board and gained both RCVS certificate and diploma in anaesthesia. She also gained her European College of Anaesthesia and Analgesia diploma. She was a founding partner in a large referral practice in Essex and ran an independent consultancy business offering anaesthesia services to referral practices, pharmaceutical companies, the government, zoos and first opinion practices. She joined Nottingham Vet School in 2009 and is currently Clinical Sub-Dean and Clinical Associate Professor of Anaesthesia. Her other interests are her young family, gardening, bridge and ski mountaineering.

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