

Autumn News



Welcome

As we settle into autumn, we're excited to share the latest updates and achievements from Vets Now Glasgow. This season marks a significant step forward for the hospital, with the investment in new anaesthesia machines, enhancing the care we can provide for our patients.

Additionally, we are nearly at the finish line of our CT upgrade project, where extensive building work has been underway to make room for our brand-new Siemens SOMATOM go. All 32-slice machine. This cutting-edge technology will elevate our diagnostic capabilities, and we can't wait to put it to use.

In this edition, we'll also catch up with Aimee from Medicine, who shares the unusual case of Suki, a patient presenting with haematuria and large clots of blood in her urinea situation that became more complex than anticipated.

We are also delighted to introduce Edward, one of our new rotating interns, and give you a glimpse of how he is settling into the team.

Finally, don't miss the inspiring story of Shaun, one of our incredible ACAs, who took on the 42.2 km Coppatrek Peak District challenge to raise money for breast cancer. We'll get the inside scoop on her remarkable achievement of walking that marathon distance.

Happy reading and thank you for being part of the Vets Now Glasgow family!



Above: Edward Selvaig, one of our latest cohort of rotating interns at Vets Now Glasgow



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New Dräger anaesthesia machines: elevating surgical safety & precision

We are excited to announce that our hospital has made a significant investment in expanding our surgical capabilities and enhancing patient safety by introducing three state-of-the-art Dräger Atlan A300/A300 XL anaesthesia machines to our theatre department. These new additions are a part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible care for our patients, as we continue to grow and refine our services.

The Dräger Atlan A300/A300 XL is a cutting-edge platform designed to meet a wide range of surgical needs with unparalleled flexibility. Equipped with high-precision piston ventilators, these machines support advanced lung-protective ventilation, helping us manage even the most challenging cases. A comprehensive set of parameters provides decision making support, ensuring that our veterinary team can monitor and adjust to patient-specific needs in real time.

Seamless communication

One of the most significant advantages of the Atlan A300/XL is its ability to seamlessly connect and communicate with other networked devices, improving efficiency and reducing the chance of errors in anaesthesia. This capability represents a new level of integration, helping our team to work smarter, safer, and more efficiently.

As Chris Miller, our European-recognised Specialist in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia, explains: "The new Dräger anaesthetic machines are a massive upgrade on our ability to provide anaesthesia to our



patients. They are the same as you would find in any human hospital, enabling us to ventilate and monitor our patients to a similar standard. We can now ventilate any patient under anaesthesia - from a 500g kitten to an 85kg Great Dane - and also monitor and adjust the ventilation technique to each individual patient. We are excited to put these complex machines through their paces and provide the best possible care to our anaesthetised patients."

This investment represents our hospital's dedication to staying at the forefront of veterinary medicine. The combination of advanced technology and expert care allows us to expand our surgical capacity while keeping patient safety at the heart of everything we do.

As we continue to grow, these machines will play a pivotal role in ensuring that every patient, regardless of size or complexity, receives the highest standard of care during surgery. We look forward to the future of veterinary surgery at our hospital with the confidence that we are providing our patients with the best in anaesthesia and surgical support.

Upcoming CPD events for Glasgow

This year's last CPD event, which is free, will be held at:
DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Westerwood Spa & Golf Resort, 1 St Andrews Drive, Cumbernauld, Glasgow G68 0EW
On-site parking available



Scan to see all upcoming events



07/11/2024
ECC

**Crash course:
Picking up the pieces**

An ECC guide to trauma patient management with Cormac Dolan, ECC resident. Exploring treatment options for critical cases such as road traffic accidents, impalement and falls from a height.

2025 CPD Events

We will soon be announcing next year's exciting CPD programme, so stay tuned for more details.

spotlight on...

Edward Selvaig Rotating Intern

Edward Selvaig joined Vets Now Glasgow in July as part of the latest cohort of rotating interns. We recently caught up with Edward to discuss his career journey so far, how he's been adjusting to his new role, and what it's been like settling into life in a new city.



What inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?

I feel like I was slow to decide on being a vet. You hear stories about people who've wanted to be vets since they were as young as five, meanwhile when I was that age, I wanted to be a bus driver. Once I gave up on my dream of being a bus driver, I decided to pursue a career in medicine. A few diversions later, I wound up studying at the Edinburgh Vet School. It was during my time there that I was fortunate enough to meet some truly inspirational vets who then inspired me to pursue this career. Better late than never I suppose!

Can you share a bit about your educational background and any previous experiences before joining us?

I was born and raised in Malta and lived there for most of my life. Originally, I had applied for medical school but wasn't accepted, so I read for a BSc in Biology at the University of Malta instead. There isn't an option to study veterinary medicine back home so when it came to vet school applications, I had to look overseas. I applied to study in the UK, got accepted into Edinburgh, and never looked back!

Malta unfortunately lacks specialist level care, so seeing the Royal (Dick) Vet School referral hospitals really broadened my perspective of what veterinary medicine could be. Now I am fortunate enough to find myself among another great team that I can learn so much from. Talk about good luck!

What has been the most challenging case you've encountered here so far?

I fortunately can't think of a specific case that has been particularly challenging at this stage, although I am sure that this will change soon enough. In a broader sense, I think that I find cases in which an animal is well loved but neglected uniquely challenging.

What I can find frustrating about these sorts of cases is thinking of the time and money that has been invested into the animal in ways that aren't beneficial or worse still, may even be detrimental. Such as expensive collars and harnesses or boutique nutritionally incomplete diets.

Meanwhile, important aspects of care such as flea and tick preventative, dental care, or appropriate diet aren't prioritised.

I think this is where the role of vet needs to be that of an educator and an advocate for the animal. We need to appreciate that the owners obviously care deeply about their animal, but we need to find ways to redirect their efforts in a way that benefits the patient.

What aspect of working in this hospital has surprised you the most?

Two things really jump to mind here.

Firstly, the nurses, ACAs and reception team are stellar! The people I spoke to before accepting this job all had mountains of praise for these teams. My expectations were exceeded when I saw just how competent, resilient and compassionate these teams are. I've also been impressed by the level of collaboration all the aspects of the hospital have when it comes to running the show.

Edward Selvaig

Rotating Intern

...continued

The second thing is that the clinicians at VetsNow are so keen to teach despite how busy things can get! I can think of several occasions where vets go out of their way to help me in my learning or checking in to see if I have any questions about a case. It genuinely means so much to me, especially as a new graduate.

How do you manage the demands of this fast-paced environment while maintaining your well-being?

One thing that helps me is being very willing to ask questions when I'm stuck. I need to remind myself that I am new to both the job and the profession so there will be heaps of things that I do not know. Knowing this, I try and just skip the 10-20 minutes of fumbling and just ask for help. Lucky for me, the team here are always happy to help.

I try to reflect on the good things I do and learn as much as I can when things go wrong. Mistakes are a fact of both life and medicine, but the most important thing is to learn from them. I try to remind myself that a mistake is only a problem if you refuse to learn from it, which is easier said than done at times.

Of all the pieces of advice I have been given, the one repeated the most is to set a hard line between where work starts and my life ends. It's challenging in 24-hour hospital, that also utilise online patient monitoring software, but I try to leave everything that happens during a difficult shift at the clinic floor.

What areas of veterinary medicine are you most passionate about for your future career?

I have only been a vet for a handful of months, so I still love learning about all aspects of the profession. If I had to pick a specific area, it would be neurology. Each case is like a puzzle which can be incredibly satisfying to work up, and I am fascinated with the unique ways that these cases can present.

Outside of direct clinical work, I find well-being in practice to be an interesting area. We had lectures about concepts such as burnout and decision fatigue and how they can be addressed during my time at the R(D)SVS. This focus on wellbeing seems to be on the rise, which has been exciting to see. I think that vets are generally quite self-critical people, so when things go wrong it can cut deep. Having tools and systems in place to protect ourselves is so important so that we can continue to do what we do in a healthy, sustainable way.



How have you found the transition to Glasgow - both the city and the work environment?

Glasgow is such fun! Whenever I find myself with a little bit of free time, I tend to just ride around and explore. I love to stumble on hidden markets or bookshops in places you'd least expect. I have already found a few favourite haunts that have become integral parts of my weekly routine.

Since this is my first job, I've also been transitioning to work life which has been a huge learning experience. Luckily all the hospital team have been so welcoming and helpful which has made this transition feel so seamless.

What's your go-to activity in Glasgow when you need to unwind after a long day at the hospital?

After a long day in the hospital, I hop on my bike and head straight to the gym. Powerlifting has been a great outlet during the weekdays, especially when I've been sat typing up letters all day.

During the weekends I try and make sure to fully disconnect from work and get some good quality rest. Odds are I'll either be at a concert, or reading a fantasy novel at a café, or at a board game night with friends.

Case Study

Internal Medicine

Idiopathic renal haematuria

Aimee Hope, an internal medicine specialist here at Vets now Glasgow, reports on an uncommon and complex case of haematuria in Suki, a two year old spaniel-cross.



Suki, our two year old spaniel-cross

Meet Suki, a two year old spaniel-cross who was presented to our Internal Medicine service to investigate haematuria, with large clots of blood in her urine.

This had occurred three times in the ten months prior to her presentation to our hospital - it had seemed to resolve spontaneously on the previous two occasions.

Suki underwent investigations to identify evidence of coagulopathies, including a platelet count, measurement of clotting times, thromboelastography (a global measure of coagulation status), and testing for A. vasorum. This was all normal and therefore a systemic coagulopathy was excluded. She also had blood pressure measurement (normal) to exclude hypertension. Urine culture was negative and so urinary tract infection was also excluded.

A full bladder

Abdominal ultrasonography was then performed to assess for structural causes of haematuria. This identified a large, heterogeneous structure in her urinary bladder which was most consistent with a haematoma. We could also see some mild dilation of the left renal pelvis, with some ill-defined echogenic content (suspected to represent haemorrhage/small haematoma in the pelvis).



Urinary bladder ultrasound image

A presumptive diagnosis

As no other cause of haematuria had been identified, we made a provisional diagnosis of idiopathic renal haematuria. Often cystoscopy would be performed (to identify haemorrhage from a ureteral orifice and check for structural abnormalities of the urethra). In Suki's case, because we could identify changes in the renal pelvis consistent with haemorrhage, this was not pursued.

Idiopathic renal haematuria

Idiopathic renal haematuria is an uncommon condition in dogs - it is a diagnosis of exclusion as there are no specific diagnostic tests for this disease.

There is limited information about its causes in dogs. This condition has been managed in the past with nephrectomy, however this is no longer considered a good treatment option. In the available literature, around 50% of dogs are described to respond to medical therapy (ACE inhibitors), but others require interventional techniques (sclerotherapy).

Progression

Suki was initially managed with benazepril (ACE inhibitor). Unfortunately, her haematuria continued and progressed. She developed iron deficiency anaemia, which was treated with oral ferrous sulphate, and ultimately developed obstruction of her urinary bladder with a haematoma. This was managed in the short term with indwelling urinary catheter placement and intravesicular instillation of tissue plasminogen activator to lyse the clot.

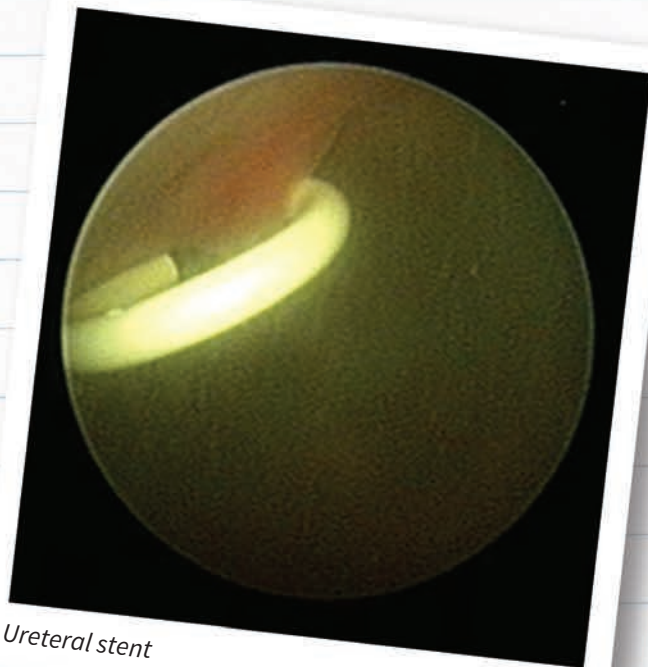
Ultimately, we came to the conclusion that medical therapy was not successful for Suki and we needed to get the surgery team on the case.

A multidisciplinary approach

When medical management fails to control the signs of idiopathic renal haematuria, sclerotherapy is recommended. This involves passing a catheter into the affected renal pelvis via the ureter under fluoroscopic guidance, and instillation of a compound which acts as a cauterizing agent. A ureteral stent is then placed to reduce the risk of ureteric stricture.

Endoscopic stent retrieval

Suki's haematuria completely resolved within days of her procedure almost immediately post-operatively, and she was re-presented six weeks later for her ureteric stent to be retrieved cystoscopically, to avoid a second surgical procedure.



Ureteral stent

Recovery

Suki's ureteral stent was retrieved cystoscopically, and she has now been well without any blood in her urine for six months. We are delighted with how successful her sclerotherapy procedure was. She is living life to the full!



Catheterisation of the renal pelvis



The Peak District

Challenge: Shaun's 42.2 km trek for CoppaFeel!

The Peak District, one of the UK's most iconic adventure playgrounds, offers a stunning backdrop for an epic charity challenge. Participants have the choice between two trekking distances: a half marathon (21.1 km) for those seeking a moderate challenge; and a full marathon (42.2 km) for the more adventurous. This year's event was in support of CoppaFeel!, a charity dedicated to raising awareness of breast cancer, encouraging young people to check their chests regularly, and promoting early detection.

At Vets Now Glasgow, our very own Animal Care Assistant, Shaun, decided to take on the full 42.2 km marathon challenge in mid-September.

It was more than just a physical test for her - it was a deeply personal journey. CoppaFeel! had been instrumental in supporting Shaun's sister during her breast cancer treatment over the past few years, and Shaun was proud to announce that her sister is now cancer-free.

Before setting out on the trek,

Shaun shared her thoughts on the challenge: *"Some of you might already know, but I will be doing a 42.2 km hiking trek in mid-September as a charity challenge with CoppaFeel! My little legs are already tired thinking about it! CoppaFeel! are a breast cancer awareness charity that has helped my sister massively during her cancer treatment and support after, and I'm happy to say she is now cancer-free!"*

Shaun's determination and enthusiasm for the cause carried her through the challenge, and she completed the marathon with strength and pride, knowing that her efforts were making a difference for many others. Her incredible journey stands as a reminder of the importance of awareness, community support, and personal resilience. We couldn't be prouder of Shaun and her inspiring accomplishment!







Shaun is still taking donations, so if you contribute - please scan the QR code and head straight to Shaun's justgiving page:





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