



Animals Are Art: Part III

Well, here we are, at the end of another calendar year, Fall is here. Earlier in the month as I was driving about, I heard a commercial on the radio that posited the notion that our sense of 'smell' was our most evocative 'sense'. Apparently, connected to our sense of smell are our deepest and most powerful memories. Who knew? Somehow, I believe many of us might be able to echo this sentiment, as I myself have several aromas that trigger very meaningful memories.

Within the last few weeks, as I traveled around the Bay Area doing mobile surgery, I found myself in a local Starbucks. It just so happened to be during the 'roll out' of the traditional favorite pumpkin spiced latte (PSL). All of the café aromas of coffee, steamed milk, and the noises and ambiance of a bustling bistro combined with the nutmeg and cinnamon in the PSL provoked other, older Fall Time memories. The Autumn memory that seemed to find me was of my residency days in San Diego – and specifically on a beach in Del Mar. I was there with my dog Rickie, strolling up and down beach along with my SLR camera. Yes, I must admit it, this was pre-digital days! I can remember this stroll not because of moments or specific memories of the day or even of little things I may have photographed, but rather – this day looms so clearly, so many years later because of a single, specific photograph I took.

The photograph, in retrospect, was some luck and some choreography and even today ranks as one of those pinnacle shots that f-stop, aperture, lighting and the moment all cooperated masterfully. The sun was beginning to set, and I had brought a tripod to set up in anticipation of longer, low-light exposures. In this particular shot, I set the delayed timer – and began to make my way with Rickie toward the shore-line. While walking into the landscape I had framed with the camera, I slipped and dropped the clutch lead I had Rickie on. While

righting myself my profile turned toward the Pacific Ocean and Rickie raised her head to look at me. Simultaneously, the sun was lighting up the southern California haze and clouds into a magnificent array of bubble gum colors – then snap – the shutter sprung and captured the moment. At the time, I had no way of confirming the effectiveness of the shot...remember it was not digital!

The photograph of Rickie and myself, taken in Del Mar, on a tripod nearly as an after-thought and mistake was in fact a beautiful, evocative and singularly and emotionally a perfect shot. The image of an owner, a dedicated pet dog was so perfectly captured, that many times, over many years as I would glance and view the shot – I would immediately be returned in my mind to that short stretch of sand in the San Diego Autumn over and over again. The smells of Fall, the carved pumpkins and scarecrow mazes all continue to remind me of this photograph.

Sadly, the shot is gone – lost in a move, but still very rich in my mind. The truth is: the photograph is likely of little professional merit, but with the presence of my loving and loved dog Rickie – is of tremendous emotional and artistic significance. Without Rickie, the shot is just a man and the setting sun. With the pet, with the love of that pet, it is Animal as Art.

As the Autumn leaves turn toward the holidays, we at Veterinary Surgical Centers would like to wish you and yours all that you dream of. Happy Holidays from us to you.

Sincerely,

John J. Haburjak, DVM Diplomate ACVS

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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)

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

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THE SURGEONS OF VSC



FEATURED MEDICAL CASE

TRACHEAL COLLAPSE: TREATMENT USING INTRA-LUMINAL TRACHEAL STENTING

Tracheal collapse is a progressive condition of the lower airways responsible for varying degrees of airway obstruction. The condition is characterized by early laxity of the trachealis muscle and progresses to weakening and collapse of the cartilaginous rings of the trachea. This collapse of the airway lumen stimulates a persistent cough and tracheal inflammation. Eventually the tracheal epithelium is lost and replaced by a fibrinous epithelium and formation of squamous metaplasia, loss of ciliated cells, and production of an increasingly viscous mucus. The condition most commonly affects middle aged toy and small breed dogs. Clinical signs include a cough, intermittent dyspnea (sometimes severe causing cyanosis and collapse) and exercise intolerance. Diagnosis can be made on survey radiography but some more dynamic cases require fluoroscopy or tracheoscopy for accurate assessment and diagnosis of tracheal collapse. Bronchial collapse is also a common concurrent finding and was noted in 83% of dogs with tracheal collapse in one study. The treatment of tracheal collapse involves initiation of medical management including corticosteroids, bronchodilators, cough suppressants and often weight loss. For dogs that cannot be sufficiently managed medically then intra-luminal tracheal stenting is a good option for long term management of the condition. Tracheal stenting has undergone a significant amount of research and development of the implants to improve outcomes and minimize complications. The most common stent currently used is a woven, reconstrainable, nitinol (nickel/titanium alloy) stent. The stent is placed under general anesthesia through the animal's endotracheal tube using fluoroscopic, digital radiographic or rigid bronchoscopic guidance and the majority of patients are discharged the same day as the procedure. An immediate improvement in the patient's stridor and respiratory effort is noted upon extubation although a mild cough may persist and improve with time. Our most

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

recent case of tracheal collapse presenting to Veterinary Surgical Centers was Stitch, a 10 year old Male-neutered Chihuahua. He presented with a 6 months history of a cough that was progressing in both severity and frequency. In the past 2 weeks Stitch had also experienced two episodes of severe difficulty breathing necessitating presentation to an emergency clinic. Stitch had been undergoing medical management during this time but his clinical signs were now considered refractory to the treatment. A radiograph was obtained (Fig. 1) and showed a severely collapsed caudal cervical and cranial thoracic trachea. A tracheal stent was recommended, performed (fig. 2), and Stitch was discharged into his owner's care later that evening. Stitch recovered remarkably well from the procedure and had an immediate and notable improvement in his respiratory stridor, respiratory effort, and cough. Over the course of the following 2 weeks his medications were tapered and discontinued, and he now only requires very intermittent treatment with a cough suppressant.

Intra-luminal tracheal stenting is an exciting new minimally invasive treatment option for dogs with tracheal collapse. If you have any questions regarding the diagnosis or treatment of tracheal collapse please do not hesitate to contact one of our surgeons.



Figure 1

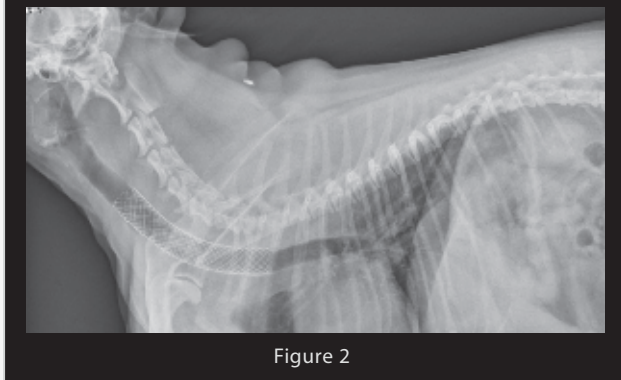


Figure 2

Andrew Grange,
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NEWSROOM FEATURES

OPHTHALMOLOGY AT PETS REFERRAL CENTER!

MITZI ZARFOSS, DVM, DACVO JOINS THE TEAM!

In annual surveys and in conversations with referring veterinarians over the years, PETS management has often asked, "What additional services would you like to see?" Consistently, "ophthalmology" is one of the top three responses. PETS is happy to announce that, as of October, Dr. Mitzi Zarfoss, DACVO, will be offering ophthalmology services two days a week, every Tuesday and Thursday!

Dr. Zarfoss has served the East Bay veterinary community for the last 4 years. She is excited to join PETS in offering a team-based approach to serve the needs of you, your clients and their pets.

She will be offering full service ophthalmology expertise in medical as well as surgical ophthalmology. She is enthusiastic about the opportunity to be working in a multidisciplinary specialty referral practice and in our community.

Of course, PETS will be taking Dr. Zarfoss to your practices to introduce her in person, but don't be shy – feel free to give her a call if you have any questions. She has begun actively receiving clients as of October 21st.

Please help us welcome Dr. Mitzi Zarfoss to PETS and to our veterinary community!

510-548-6684 • www.petsreferralcenter.com



NOTABLE NEWS

Ironhorse VetCare Open House Celebration!

VetCare - your Tri-Valley veterinary emergency and specialized care center - has undergone some changes, and Dr. John Haburjak and his staff would like to extend thanks to everyone who came out on October 23rd to celebrate the new beginning of Ironhorse VetCare. The open house was a celebration of the hospital's new ownership, refreshing of the facility, and renovation of the brand.

The turnout was great! And guests throughout the evening enjoyed the hospital tour, drinks, appetizers, baked sweets, and freebies, such as hats and reusable grocery bags. We'd also like to give thanks to some sponsors - Henry Schein Animal Health, Merial, Infiniti Medical, and AHAA Market Link/MWI helped make the event possible and as great as it was, including the generous donation of some great raffle prizes. Raffle winners took home a Fitbit, a premium bottle of tequila, a Kindle Fire, and a Samsung Galaxy tablet.

Ironhorse VetCare

Veterinary Emergency & Specialty
Care Center

7660 Amador Valley Blvd
Dublin, CA 94568

925-556-1234

www.emergencyvetcare.com



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

We'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome to Samantha, who joins the VSCB team as our Client Service Representative.

She has been in the veterinary field for eight years working primarily in client service. She absolutely loves working with animals and people, and believes this couldn't be a more perfect fit.

"Sam" is a Bay Area native, and grew up in Benicia. She lives in Oakland and loves taking advantage of the endless options of new and exciting things to do. She particularly enjoys walking around the lake, finding new yummy brunch spots, and going to see movies at the New Parkway. Also, in her spare time, she plays slow-pitch softball and played competitive fast pitch softball through junior college.

She has one cat named Ilean, who has three legs. Sam rescued her about 8 years ago and loves her to pieces.

Sam is currently working on a Sociology degree and just completed a program to earn her dog walking license and pet CPR/First Aid Certification. She plans on continuing to educate herself in all aspects of working with animals, as it is her passion.



NEWSOOM FEATURE

VSC 2014 Holiday PAAAAR-TAY!!!

We'd like to thank everyone who joined us this fall in celebration of the 2014 holiday season. We sincerely enjoyed having you all there. To end 2014 with a bang, our staff, as well as friends and family came together to celebrate the holidays at Lark Creek Restaurant in Walnut Creek. Everyone had a blast, with excellent food, drink, and service. We reminisced on the fond memories of the past year, shared stories, laughter, and Santa even made sure to drop off some prezies for all the good boys and girls of VSC.



ACVMA STAFF NIGHT 2014

We'd like to thank the Alameda County Veterinary Medical Association and the Oakland Zoo for hosting another wonderful event this year! The night included dinner, served by a gourmet taco truck, dessert, served by a gourmet ice cream truck, after-hours access to the zoo, a scavenger hunt, photo ops, and the outstanding RVT and team member of the year award presentations. Our team had a blast!



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The Pet Concierge is there to provide you and your pet an array of pet services to support your lifestyle with peace of mind. Through online bookings, The Pet Concierge provides a full menu of pet care services for your pet. Holistic veterinary packages include pet therapy, canine fitness, canine massage and many more. You can also pre-order nutritious meals customized to your pet's health plan as well as find reliable in home dog care. To help you with transportation, The Pet Concierge offers a "Pet Taxi" service to escort your pet to and from their appointments. Book yours today!

RESOURCE CORNER

FEATURED BROCHURE



**THE UPPER AIRWAY
RECOGNIZING AND TREATING UPPER AIRWAY DISEASES: SURGICAL OPTIONS**

This newsletter's featured brochure covers the two most commonly occurring upper airway diseases in dogs, Laryngeal Paralysis and Tracheal Collapse. Each topic is broken down into some general information about the condition, a discussion about symptoms, as well as diagnosis and treatment. This is an excellent tool to supplement the information you already provide your clients. The brochure is also a useful tool for your staff to achieve greater familiarity with these procedures as well as cultivating a common language to use with one another as well as with your clientele. This and other brochures can be found at and downloaded from our website www.vscdsurgerycenters.com by clicking the "Resources" tab. For complimentary copies of any of our brochures or business cards email us any time at contact@vscdsurgerycenters.com.



VSC believes in the importance of giving back to the community and helping those in need, so each year we make donations to 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. This year's recipients were the Montclair Pet & Wildlife Fund, The Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano County, and Shepherd's Gate. Also, we'd like to give special thanks to our staff for their individual contributions included with our donations. For info or to donate, please visit www.petandwildlifefund.org, www.foodbankccs.org, and www.shepherdsgate.org.

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