



### Animals Are Art: Part I

For sure, as the time changes, and the trees in our neighborhood crank out the buds, – it is no doubt near: Spring. As we, the San Francisco east bay enjoy these very early days of spring, I am reminded, often, of my friends and family in the Midwest, that it is still winter somewhere! For me, so far removed from this winter seclusion – I find it hard to believe that the weather could be anything but marvelous as it is here!

Although many years ago now I can remember visiting relatives in northern Indiana and being outside for a snowball fight. There were several back to back snows during our visit, so in addition to the deep pack of frozen solid ice, was a soft, moldable layer of powder – excellent for forming into perfect palm sized missiles. I can remember traipsing around the yard, in hot pursuit of my sister with a gigantic snowball. I can recall very clearly, that we were laughing loudly (at least I was, as my sister screamed for allied support!) – when I heard the footfalls of a benefactor for my sister's cries for assistance. It was my grandfather to the rescue! Very clearly now, I can even see it in my mind's eye, I can remember pivoting to see where his attack would come – and square in my chest was a snowball thrown accurately and from a man who for 25 years picked up sheets of steel to feed into a mill – and the next thing I remember was being flat out on the ground! That snowball, thrown across the yard, knocked me clean off my feet! Well, it might already be clear, the allies scored a decisive victory!

Later that afternoon – in the comfort of a warm home, with the smells of Midwest cooking filling the whole house – I can remember being in the back room of my grandparents home. The shades were still open, and the late afternoon sun, and shadows were dancing off the snow covered trees in the backyard. I can recall looking out into the backyard and on one

of the barren trees, near the end of a branch was the most magnificent bird I've ever seen. On the branch was a male Cardinal preening and grooming himself. For a moment, I can easily recall, I just stared at him until he could sense my stare through the window and he interrupted his grooming to ensure I was no threat. After assessing my mortal status – I remember his crown, brilliant as brilliant red can be – twirling about in a radius to convince himself it was all safe. He did all this before taking off. I watched from the window as he flew into the wooded area behind my grandparent's home – and could hardly believe what an incredibly beautiful sight this was: the incredible contrast, and juxtaposition of the vibrant, nearly radiant red, cardinal red, against a back drop of stark white – brilliant white snow. I thought at that time, and many times since, that I was witness to a truly beautiful scene, one only Mother Nature could produce.

Well, what is also true, as this experience lives on in my memory– I remain inspired and intrigued of any experience in which animals, wild or domestic are set against a backdrop in an artful way. Whether captured in memory, or the frame of a camera or the canvas of an artist – nothing is more inspiring to me than the natural 'art' of an animal in nature. And, it is this theme: "Animals Are Art" that we hope to bring reflections to in 2014.

As we warm up our weather and the 2014 year ahead we look forward to sharing the fruits of the season.

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)

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.  
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## THE SURGEONS OF VSC



## FEATURED MEDICAL CASE

### PERINEPHRIC PSEUDOCYST

Quentin is a 16 year old male cat who was recently diagnosed with a left sided perinephric pseudocyst. A perinephric pseudocyst is an accumulation of fluid surrounding the kidney trapped within a dense fibrous connective tissue membrane. Fluid most commonly accumulates between the kidney parenchyma and capsule and leads to increased pressure on the kidney and exacerbation or worsening of any kidney disease that is concurrently present. Clinical signs range from no adverse effects or signs to anorexia/weightloss, abdominal pain, and vomiting. Although the underlying cause of this condition is not known, it has been linked to chronic diseases of the kidney such as glomerulonephritis and interstitial nephritis. The cysts can be percutaneously drained using ultrasound guidance to alleviate some pressure on the kidney, but will refill within a short period of time in 100% of cases. The definitive treatment of choice of perirenal pseudocysts are resection of the thick membrane surrounding the kidney allowing drainage of fluid directly into the abdomen where it is subsequently absorbed by the peritoneal tissues/omentum. Treatment of the perinephric pseudocyst does not alter the course of any underlying or concurrent chronic kidney disease and continued management is required.

Quentin was taken to surgery and the perinephric pseudocyst operated laparoscopically. Image 1 shows the initial view of the pseudocyst, a large fluid filled structure surrounding the left kidney. The thick outer membrane was then perforated to drain a large volume of clear fluid (Image 2) and then further dissection performed to completely remove the outer membrane. Image 3 shows the left kidney with the pseudocyst completely removed to prevent recurrence of the fluid accumulation. Quentin recovered well from the procedure and was discharged from the hospital the following day.

## 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

Approximately 50% of cats that are affected by this condition are affected bilaterally, and although the right kidney appeared unaffected on initial ultrasound and laparoscopic examination, Quentin developed signs of inappetence, abdominal discomfort and a large abdominal mass effect 4 weeks later. A right sided perinephric pseudocyst was subsequently diagnosed and Quentin underwent laparoscopic surgery on the right kidney. Quentin has since recovered well from both procedures and is doing great 9 months post-surgery.

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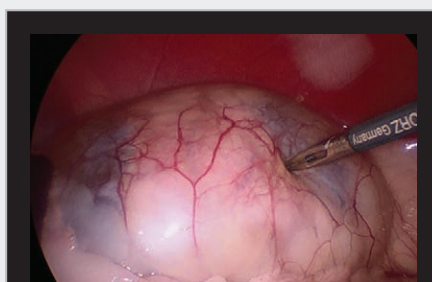


Figure 1

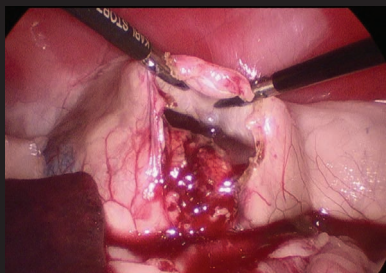


Figure 2

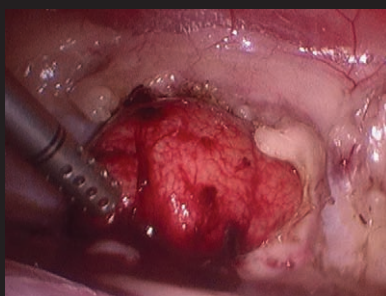


Figure 3

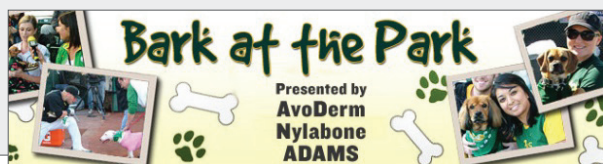
## NEWSROOM FEATURES

### VSC 2013 Holiday PAAAAAR-TAY!!!

We'd like to thank everyone who joined us this last fall in celebration of the 2013 holiday season. We sincerely enjoyed having you all there. To end 2013 with a bang, our staff, as well as friends and family came together to celebrate the holidays at Postino's Restaurant in Lafayette. Everyone had a blast, with excellent food, drink, and service. We reminisced on the fond memories of the past year, shared stories, laughter, and even started a new tradition. VSC and our staff and guests generously came together to make a combined contribution of nearly \$500 to the Contra Costa Food Bank. This is enough to enable them to distribute 952 meals to those in need. Check out pics of the festivities on our facebook page, facebook.com/veterinarsurgicalcenters.



## RESOURCE CORNER



<http://oakland.athletics.mlb.com/oak/ticketing/dogday.jsp>

**SAVE THE DATE - Friday, July 18, 2014 vs. Baltimore Orioles**

In 2013, over 800 dogs enjoyed the Oakland A's 2013 Dog Day as the A's defeated the St. Louis Cardinals on June 28. Thanks to AvoDerm, Nylabone & ADAMS participating Dog Day fans arrived to the Pup Rally to receive samples and congratulate the winners of Dog Day Photo Contest. The Pup Rally also hosted a special guest, Tony La Russa, who stopped by in conjunction with the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). La Russa thanked fans who were participating in the Dog Day festivities and urged everyone to think of ARF when rescuing a dog or cat. After the Pup Rally fans and their dogs had a parade around the warning track of the field before heading to their seats to enjoy the game. Before the game was underway Central Garden & Pet awarded Dogs 4 Diabetics with a \$15,000 donation. For more information about Bark at the Park on July 18 and related events please email [dogday@oaklandathletics.com](mailto:dogday@oaklandathletics.com) to be added to an email update list.

## NOTABLE NEWS

### WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

We'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome to Marcela and Lauren, the most recent additions to the VSCB team.

Marcela grew up in Fremont. Marcela graduated from U.C. Riverside with a bachelors of science in biology in 2008. She got her first position as a veterinary assistant in 2009, and has been loving working in the veterinary field ever since.



Marcela currently lives with her sister, her Yorkie Marley, and her Chihuahua mix Pepe. She hopes to get her license to become an R.V.T. in the near future. When not helping animals she enjoys playing soccer, going to Golden State Warriors games, hiking, and spending time with family & friends.

Lauren is a Registered Veterinary Technician. She has earned a BA in Psychology from UC Santa Barbara and an AS in Veterinary Science from Foothill College. She is excited to be working for a group of surgeons so she continue to learn and grow in her career.

Lauren has lived in the Bay Area most of her life. She grew up in Fremont and after graduating from UCSB returned and has lived in San Francisco, Pleasanton, Dublin & Walnut Creek. This past August Lauren said "I do" to her husband Mike. They now live in Pleasant Hill with their fur-babies- a French Bulldog named Darla, a shepherd mix named Murph, and two cats named Jack and Lucy. In her spare time Lauren enjoys hiking, biking, crafting and spending time with her friends and family.



## PROFESSIONAL INTEREST ARTICLE

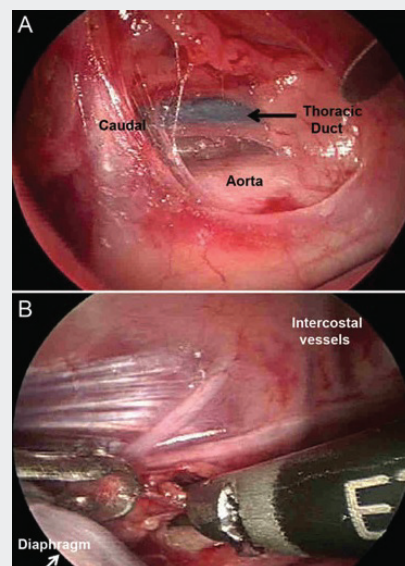
### Soft Tissue Surgery Quick Tip: IDIOPATHIC CHYLOTHORAX

Idiopathic chylothorax is the accumulation of chylous fluid within the pleural cavity which occurs secondary to cranial mediastinal lymphatic obstruction and thoracic lymphangiectasia. Prior to assuming an idiopathic etiology, trauma, neoplasia, mediastinal masses, cardiac disease, congenital anomalies and diffuse lymphatic disease must be excluded via an extensive diagnostic work-up. Advanced imaging, such as thoracic CT or MRI, in combination with lymphangiography may be useful in documenting the location of the thoracic duct and the associated branches.

Medical treatment for chylous effusions that are idiopathic in nature often has a poor success rate. Therapy includes repeated thoracocentesis as needed to provide relief from dyspnea and to limit the formation of fibrosing pleuritis from chronic chylothorax. A low-fat diet can help improve resorption of chyle from the pleural

space. Rutin, a benzopyrone drug used for lymphedema treatment in humans, may help reduce the quantity of chylous pleural effusion. Octreotide is a somatostatin analogue that may also limit chylous thoracic fluid, but this drug has also been poorly studied and reports of success are limited. Ultimately, most patients in whom an underlying cause for the chylothorax is absent will require surgical intervention.

The thoracic duct is the cranial lymphatic continuation of the cisterna chyli. It consistently terminates in the venous system of the neck, but often has unpredictable branching along its route through the mediastinum. Ligation of the thoracic duct forces new anastomoses to open between the lymphatic and venous systems. The duct is approached via a





...Professional Interest Article continued

right intercostal thoracotomy in dogs and a left intercostal thoracotomy in cats, and all branches are ligated either individually or en bloc. Injection of methylene blue into a mesenteric lymph node (requiring a small paracostal abdominal incision) vastly improves visualization of the thoracic duct branches and may improve success.

Subtotal pericardectomy is routinely performed in addition to thoracic duct ligation and reportedly decreases right heart and venous pressures, easing flow across and enhancing formation of lymphaticovenous anastomoses.

Ablation of the abdominal cisterna chyli has proven useful in limiting chylous pleural effusion by allowing abdominal lymphatic drainage to reroute to major abdominal vessels or the azygous vein. Thoracic omentalization (through the diaphragm) may also improve success rates by providing increased intrathoracic venous surface area for chyle absorption and mechanically sealing leaky thoracic lymphatic channels.

Recently, thoracoscopic thoracic duct ligation and pericardectomy have been successful in the management of this disease. The advantages of minimally invasive surgery are improved visualization and illumination of the thoracic cavity, decreased morbidity, reduced blood loss and shorter hospitalization times.

The reported success rates for combined surgical procedures range from 80-100% in cats and dogs, however the chylous effusion may not resolve immediately post-operatively. Patients remain hospitalized until thoracostomy tube production diminishes or, if it is relatively slow to accumulate, they are discharged and may return for intermittent outpatient thoracocentesis. Recurrence of effusion may be managed by re-operation and performance of any surgical procedures not initially utilized or placement of percutaneous drainage systems or indwelling pleuroperitoneal shunts.

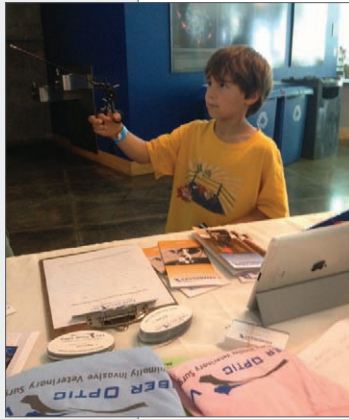
If you have a case of idiopathic chylothorax that you feel would benefit from surgery, please do not hesitate to consult with us! As always, we greatly appreciate your referrals and the opportunity to work compassionately with your patients and their families!

**Tracy Nicole Frey, DVM**

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons

## NEWSOOM FEATURE

### VSC AT CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER "DOG DAYS OF SUMMER"



This last summer VSC had the pleasure of running a booth at the Chabot Space & Science Center's "Dog Days of Summer" event. This was a great opportunity for the public to meet and chat with an array of vendors that provide products and services

for the canine loving community. Led by our own Dr. Andrew Grange, we had a blast educating the public about our minimally invasive surgical options. We had demonstrative videos, poster boards, brochures, instruments on display, and even gave away some cool logo shirts and water bottles. We are excited to return to this event next summer, and hope we'll see you there. You can check out more pictures of us at the event on our facebook page:

[facebook.com/veterinarysurgicalcenters](https://facebook.com/veterinarysurgicalcenters)



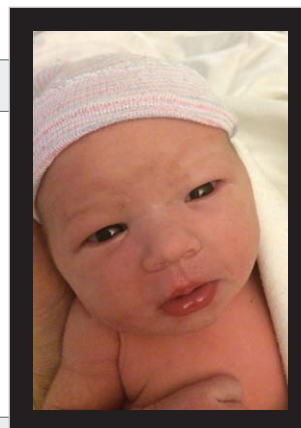
FEATURED BROCHURE



UPDATED! - THE LOW BACK

This month's highlighted pamphlet is our most recently revamped. If you've never seen it, or haven't seen it since the changes, we are excited to have you take a look. This brochure discusses symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and post operative information. 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 all our brochures can be found and downloaded from our websites at [www.fiberopticvet.com](http://www.fiberopticvet.com) or [www.vscdsurgerycenters.com](http://www.vscdsurgerycenters.com). We are also happy to send you hard copies of this or any of our brochures.

This newsletter is dedicated to Amelia Elizabeth Grange, newborn daughter of VSC surgeon Andrew Grange, and his wife Allison. Amelia was born at 10:10pm on 2/23/14, weighing in at 7 lbs 7 oz, and measuring 20 inches long. Mom and baby are happy and healthy. Amelia is the couple's first child. Veterinary Surgical Centers wishes Amelia and her parents a long life full of happiness, health, and service to those causes they find worthy.



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