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SCHOOL OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

UQ VETS Small Animal Hospital Newsletter

Issue 3

September 2015

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Upcoming Events

23 September 2015

UQ VETS Dayboro
[CE session for Horse Owners](#)

3 October 2015

[UQ Small Animal CE Seminar](#)
 Topic: Parvo Party Tricks- fluid therapy and beyond

9 October 2015

[RSPCA QLD World Farm Animal Day Symposium](#)
 Topic: Back to the Future: Welfare in Animal Production

5 & 6 December

[UQ Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Conference](#)

Improved diagnostics for reptiles

The Inland Bearded dragon is universally accepted as the world's most popular reptile pet, replacing the South American Green Iguana because of its placid nature and prolific reproduction. In the last 10 years their numbers have exploded across the globe, and with this rising population they are being increasingly presented to veterinary clinics for care and treatment.

It's not just Bearded dragons though. Non-venomous reptiles and turtles are almost as popular, as are other lizards such as Blue Tongue Skinks. Vets seeing a lot of reptiles, such as Bob Doneley at UQ VETS Small Hospital, are even seeing the occasional venomous snake.

But how do you work up a sick reptile?

Characterised by thick, leathery skin, reptiles are renowned for been difficult to examine. But a work up is not impossible if modern diagnostics are used.

Haematology and biochemistry are a mainstay of reptile diagnostics. Blood is usually readily collected from the tail (in lizards and snakes) or the jugular vein (in turtles). Fresh blood smears should be submitted, as well as blood in lithium heparin and Na EDTA. Interpretation can be challenging, but several new texts are available to assist clinicians.

Ultrasound is an incredibly useful tool, even in thick-skinned reptiles. Sex identification, the presence of eggs, heart disease and gastric neoplasia are just some of the cases the UQ VETS has used in reptiles.

Radiography can be utilised, and is particularly useful for detecting bone problems such as metabolic bone disease or fractures. Its use in soft tissue problems can be a little limited however.

Occasionally we will use CT to work up some complex problems. This is not a common procedure in reptile medicine, but we are finding that many clients are willing to pay for this diagnostic service.

So, although reptile medicine can be challenging, the use of diagnostic technology can make a huge difference!



Clinical Trial - Canine Cancer

The trial of a new immunotherapeutic treatment for canine cancer has shown early results in slowing down and ultimately reversing the growth of a tumour at UQ's School of Veterinary Science.

[Dr Rachel Allavena](#), Senior Lecturer and Pathologist is currently looking to recruit dogs diagnosed with mast cell tumour or soft tissue sarcoma that are not treatable by standard veterinary therapies. Cases where the owners are unable to afford treatment, or where the mass is in an inoperable location or treatment has failed, are suitable for the trial.

The cost of the experimental treatment and follow up is covered by the research study, but owners and dogs must be able to travel to/from the Veterinary Medical Centre, Gatton Campus, for the initial treatment and for the follow up visits.

For further details contact Dr Rachel Allavena and PhD student veterinarian Kathryn Elliott on 0488514088 or email kathryn.elliott@uqconnect.edu.au

[Read more](#)

2015 Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Conference - Brisbane

The University of Queensland is once again hosting the annual summer conference for veterinary nurses and technicians, proudly sponsored by Hills and Provect.

The conference will be held on the 5th & 6th December and will include a quality educational program covering clinical, surgical, medical and behavioural topics relevant to veterinary nurses and technicians.

Guest speakers will include Mr Harold Davis, Jr and Ms Louise O'Dwyer.

Download the conference program [here](#)

Conference Details

Date: Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December 2015

Time: 8.00am start both days

Location: The University of Queensland, St Lucia

For further details, conference costs and registration [visit](#)



Meet Dr Lance Wilson

BVSc (Hons) FANZCVS (Small Animal Surgery)

Lance graduated from the University of Queensland in 2000 and worked for a number of years in mixed and small animal practice, including the obligatory U.K. stint.

He obtained ANZCVS membership in small animal surgery in 2008 and in 2009 returned to UQ as a staff surgeon, before commencing a residency in small animal surgery in 2010. In 2015 Lance successfully completed ANZCVS fellowship examinations in small animal surgery and has subsequently assumed the role of service leader in small animal surgery at the UQ VETS Small Animal Hospital.

Lance is interested in all aspects of surgery, especially oncological/reconstructive surgery, complex fracture repair and limb deformity management.



Meet Dr Fiona Campbell

BVSc(Hons) PhD MANZCVS [DipACVIM](#)

Fiona graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from the University of Queensland in 1996. After graduation, she worked in small animal practice in the United Kingdom and Australia for 2 years and in 2001, completed her PhD and was awarded Membership of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists (small animal medicine).

Her experience includes small animal medicine clinician in the University of Queensland Veterinary Teaching Hospital and another 6-month locum position in the United Kingdom. In 2003 she began a 3-year residency program in all-species cardiology at the



University of California, Davis and passed the board examinations to become a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology) in 2006.

Before returning to Australia in 2007, Fiona completed an externship at the paediatric cardiology facility of Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Fiona continues to enjoy collaborative cardiovascular research and working at the Small Animal Hospital allows her to pursue her passion of helping animals with heart disease.

UQ VETS - All Species Cardiology Services

Our Cardiology services for all species is led by Dr Fiona Campbell, a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology) who is dedicated to providing up-to-date and compassionate care to animals with heart disease. The department carries out advanced procedures and techniques, such as:



- Transthoracic/ Subcostal/ Transoesophageal Echocardiography
- 3-Dimensional Real Time Echocardiography
- Radiography, Phonocardiography
- Resting & Ambulatory Electrocardiography (24 Hour Holter Monitoring)
- Diagnostic Cardiac Catheterization (Fluoroscopically-guided haemodynamic and angiographic studies)
- Non-surgical Repair of Congenital Heart Disease including: Transvenous balloon valvuloplasty and Tranarterial patent ductus arteriosus embolization
- Non-surgical pacemaker implantation

[Find out more >>](#)

Lymphosarcoma - Call for cases from Clinicians

Any infectious contribution to neoplasia development will have a significant influence on treatment efficacy and prognosis. Some forms of lymphosarcoma (LSA) in species including humans, cattle and cats have a viral aetiology. Retroviral particles or retroviral activity and antibodies to herpesviruses have been sporadically reported in dogs with LSA, however, the significance of these findings remains uncertain. Further investigation into a possible infectious cause or contribution to LSA is warranted.

Eligible animals: dogs with confirmed or strongly suspected lymphosarcoma requiring a diagnostic or therapeutic biopsy.

Testing: in return for the samples, we will perform the following free of charge.

- Histological and immuno histochemical classification of the tumour

Histology results will be reported within 48 hours of collection and immunohistochemistry results within 4-7 days. This work is being performed under a University of Queensland Animal ethics permit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Helen or Greg at The School of Veterinary Science:

Helen Owen: h.owen1@uq.edu.au

Greg Simmons: g.simmons@uq.edu.au (07) 5460 1950.

UQ VETS sets police canine crew up for healthy service

German shepherd PD Maui and his canine colleagues are lean, keen policing machines, thanks to important surgery at [The University of Queensland's](#) Gatton campus.

The UQ Veterinary Medical Centre Small Animal Hospital is treating [Queensland Police Service](#) dogs to minimise their risk of developing gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV).

Police Dog Maui has had laparoscopic surgery to prevent GDV, a life-threatening condition that requires emergency veterinary treatment.



Tail wagging, Police Dog Maui was the latest to come in to UQ's Small Animal Hospital for this vital preventative surgery that all of the police dogs will undergo. Watch the video [here](#) [Read more](#)

UQ-led project to guide animal welfare standards in Asia

University of Queensland scientists are leading a ground-breaking international animal welfare project.

UQ's [School of Veterinary Science](#) has been working with partners in China, Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand to build awareness around improving animal welfare at slaughter and during transport in Asia.

Director of UQ's [Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics](#) Professor Clive Phillips and

project manager Michelle Sinclair have

returned from a mission to China, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia, where they were joined by other internationally recognised animal welfare experts.



[Read more](#)

Clinical Extra Mural Studies

Partner with us in the training of future veterinarians and technicians.

The School of Veterinary Science Clinical Extra Mural Studies (EMS) program places final year students in veterinary practices, research institutes, government departments, zoos or other forms of practice for the purpose of clinical skills development

Why Partner with us?

EMS providers play an important role in the practical and professional development of veterinarians and technicians. This is an opportunity to engage with future practitioners and potential employees, provide feedback to the school regarding the Veterinary and Veterinary Technology programs as well as accessing Continuing Education opportunities and a wealth of electronic library resources.

If you would like to find out more, please contact our EMS Academic Coordinator at 07 54601 834 or vetprac@uq.edu.au to discuss how partnering with the School can benefit your organisation.

Update your details and keep in touch!

As an alumnus of The University of Queensland you can enjoy the benefits of being part of the UQ community long after you graduate. Find out more here [Update your details](#)

Would you like to support UQ Veterinary Science and help make a difference today?

Your support can help prepare practice ready graduates, undertake more innovative research and provide the best possible care for the health and wellbeing of animals and wildlife. [Donate here](#)

If you wish to discuss other opportunities to support UQ's Veterinary School through philanthropic scholarships, prizes or program needs please contact Julia Keith on J.keith2@uq.edu.au or 336 53357

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