

friends

Better Together



SUMMER 2016



Veterinary Nurse Emma with feline patient Matilda

PHOTOGRAPHY ©Richard Dunwoody



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ONCOLOGY
& SOFT
TISSUE
HOSPITAL
1ST
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE



World-Class Veterinary Medicine, Hope and Healing

www.fitzpatrickreferrals.co.uk



Dr Laurent Findji

PHOTOGRAPHY ©Richard Dunwoody

WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE FRIENDS NEWSLETTER!

The first anniversary of our Oncology and Soft Tissue hospital in Guildford is fast approaching which is a good opportunity to reflect on this past year. Last September, our team of 21 people moved into our dedicated and purpose-built hospital with great aspirations.

This new hospital was a blank canvas which left us free to implement the systems known to work and rethink those known not to. Today, our team has more than doubled in size but the energy is unchanged.

First and foremost, we want our hospital to be a place of clinical excellence and to always put patients first without forgetting their families on the way. *Our aim was, and still is, for the hospital to eventually become the most advanced veterinary cancer centre in Europe offering all options to all patients at all times.* We saw patients coming from all parts of the UK and beyond, where we frequently offer options where clients had been told nothing could be done.

Current treatment options are not always enough and part of our chosen mission has always been to help veterinary medicine progress through clinical research and collaborations with the human and veterinary care industries. *We are already involved in several extremely exciting and promising projects that could help our patients, as well as human patients enormously in the very near future such as the world's first trial of a surgical device soon to be commercially released for use in human patients.*

Our third major intent is to share what we know and learn from these clinics and research, and help improve the care of all veterinary patients wherever they are. Giving advice every day to veterinary colleagues all over the country is one way, and giving presentations and workshops to practitioners at home and away is another.

This year also saw the opening of the Fitzpatrick Learning Academy Skills Lab in our hospital allowing us and our partners to provide high-quality practical courses to all. A wide range of courses are already planned for the upcoming year.



FLA relaunches with a brand new Skills Lab for a series of practical courses.

Looking back at one's own achievements can easily sound narcissistic and self-centred, but this truly isn't. Consider it a report of our progress, as well as a thank you to all of you working with us on a daily basis. In this rapidly changing professional landscape, we have used this first year to grow all aspects of the mission we set for ourselves - to set up an independent, flexible, focused and game-changing hospital which *benefits you and your patients.*

As I finish writing this, I am asked to check the referral history of a patient I am to see soon. Patient number 1003. What a year!

Dr Laurent Findji

GOLD for cat friendly care

Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue are proud to have been officially certified as an International Cat Care Cat Friendly Clinic at Gold level.

Being recognised for such an accreditation reflects not only the state-of-the-art facilities in the hospital, but also the highly trained and compassionate staff all of whom understand and appreciate the unique difficulties clients often face when bringing their cat into a veterinary hospital. This is led by nominated Cat Advocate Nurse, Emma Gough, who ensures the Gold standards are continuously being adhered to.

Professor Stuart Carmichael,
Managing Director of Fitzpatrick Referrals
Oncology and Soft Tissue, said:

"When we were planning our new hospital, we were insistent that it should be as suitable for cats as for dogs allowing them to access the treatment solutions that we are creating for both cancer and soft tissue problems. To this end, we placed a great deal of effort and innovation to ensure that the facility was completely feline friendly. We were delighted to obtain recognition from ICC as a Gold Standard Cat Friendly Clinic as this independent assessment confirms that our efforts have been a success and we look forward to welcoming many more feline patients in the future."

Professor Nick Bacon,
Clinical Director of Oncology
and Soft Tissue, said:

"The feline population is getting older and we are seeing an increasing number of cats with cancer. Ensuring the whole family has a supportive experience as possible is our priority as a diagnosis of cancer is very tough news. Recognition from ICC as a Gold Standard Cat Friendly Clinic means we are on the right path and we will continue to strive to keep our feline patients comfortable, stress-free and on the path to recovery."



Emma Gough
Nominated Cat Advocate Nurse

CELEBRATING A YEAR of our Oncology & Soft Tissue Hospital



Chris Evans, Professor Sir Christopher Evans and Professor Noel Fitzpatrick launched the hospital on 2nd September 2015



The team at Oncology and Soft Tissue



A group of veterinary technicians from Japan visited for a behind the scenes tour and a lecture



Professor Nick Bacon with Jim and Fiona Hindle from The Rumba Foundation who donated a C-arm fluoroscope which will aid research into cancer, its causes and explore new approaches to treatment.

CASE STUDY

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR ARCHIE

Archie is an eight year old Cocker Spaniel who lives with the Fellows family. His primary care vet, Sabrina Gillespie at Broad Lane Vets in Coventry, referred Archie to Fitzpatrick Referrals Orthopaedics and Neurology as an emergency for assessment of a large cancerous mass lesion on the palmer aspect of his left forelimb. Mrs Fellows wished to investigate the possibility of an osseo-integrated amputation prosthesis by Professor Noel Fitzpatrick to avoid a full limb amputation.

The cancer in Archie's foot was growing and spreading rapidly so immediate action was required by the Fitzpatrick Referrals team. Before Noel could give Mrs Fellows and Archie the green light for a prosthetic to replace the cancerous section of the foot, Archie needed to go through a rigorous staging process to assess if the cancer has spread from the limb to other areas of the body.

Noel took Archie to Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue hospital to consult with the team for FORCE rounds (Fitzpatrick Oncology Review Conference) where surgeons, imagers and clinical staff meet weekly to discuss cancer cases across both Fitzpatrick Referrals hospitals to offer the most informed diagnosis and treatment options available. The Oncology team confirmed Archie had a soft tissue sarcoma and that he was an excellent candidate for a bionic prosthetic because this type of tumour has lower recurrence potential. In this case, a forelimb PerFiTS implant at our Orthopaedics and Neurology hospital. PerFiTS stands for 'Percutaneous Fixation To the Skeleton'.

Surgery involved the removal of the section of Archie's limb affected by cancer to replace it with the PerFiTS implant. This special implant incorporates

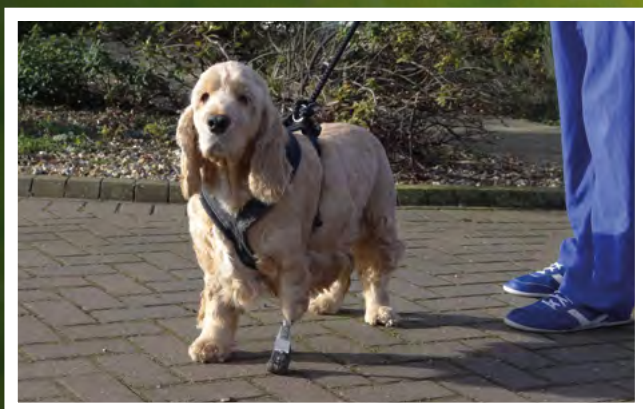
the joining of an endoprosthesis and exoprosthesis, avoiding amputation to provide the patient with a fully functional limb. The implant consists of a plate on the cranial radius and a plate on the lateral ulna which were anchored to a platform on which the distal extent of the radius and the ulna sit. An intramedullary peg is present in the distal radius.

Subjacent to the platform is a trabecular metal dome onto which the skin is sutured leaving an external spigot on to which the artificial limb is attached. The level of resection of the radius is at the junction of the middle and distal thirds.

Post op, Archie recovered well and remained in the care of the Fitzpatrick Referrals team until skin healing had progressed. Noel was happy to discharge Archie two weeks later and he went back home with his family walking well on his external artificial limb.

6 months after the surgery and Archie is doing fantastically well on his new bionic foot, and lives a fully functional and happy life with his family! He will continue to be closely monitored by Broad Lane Vets and have imaging rechecks with a team-based approach at Fitzpatrick Referrals to ensure he receives the best level of care.

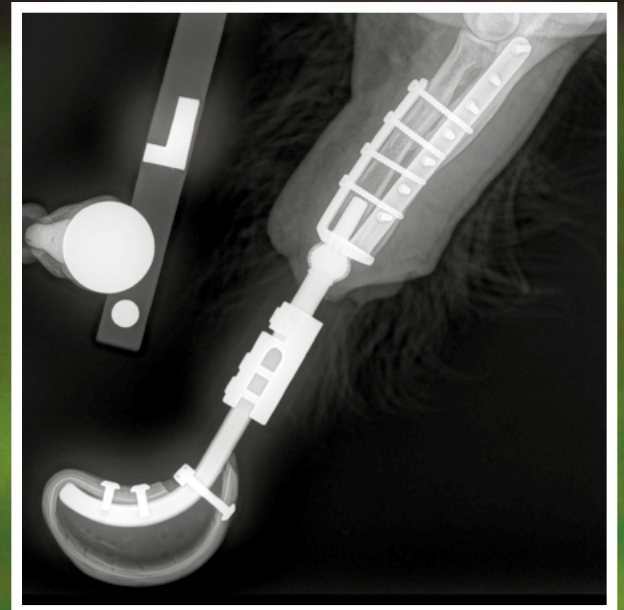
Fitzpatrick Referrals Orthopaedics and Neurology is the only hospital in the world offering this unique custom-made amputation prosthesis invented by Professor Noel Fitzpatrick and his engineering associates. We feel very honoured to have given the gift of mobility to many cats and dogs across the country to pursue a normal lifestyle.



Archie's first step to a fully functional and happy life



Immediate action was needed to replace the cancer growing in Archie's foot



An X-Ray of Archie's left forelimb with the PerFiTS implant

On 5th June, we celebrated Cancer Survivors Day by sharing inspiring patient stories including Archie! To read more patient stories, please visit fitzpatrickreferrals.co.uk/pet-owners/case-studies/



Auxiliary Glenda caring for a patient in the kennels at the Orthopaedics and Neurology hospital



Archie with Auxiliary Vicky at the Oncology and Soft Tissue hospital



Auxiliary Zoe caring for a feline patient at the Oncology and Soft Tissue hospital



A patient enjoying a walk with a Ward Auxiliary at the Orthopaedics and Neurology hospital

MEET THE TEAM OUR AUXILIARIES

Our team of auxiliaries provide dedicated care to each and every patient admitted to Fitzpatrick Referrals and all work tirelessly to deliver the very best in veterinary care. We are fortunate to have four teams of auxiliaries across our two hospitals: Ward, Prep, Surgical and Chemotherapy. They took time out of their very busy schedules to explain more about their role and why it matters to them! A special thanks goes to those who shared their thoughts.

Prep Auxiliary

Our Prep Auxiliaries have a thorough, technical knowledge of the equipment and surgical theatres in order to prepare for each surgery. They ensure infection control protocol is adhered to for the safeguarding of our patients. This is incredibly important with the use of implants and prostheses, due to the nature of Fitzpatrick Referrals' life-saving and enhancing surgical techniques.

From caring for the animal in the pre-operative stage to handling the animal just for reassurance, our Prep Auxiliaries are directly involved in the treatment process of the patient.

"As a practice, Fitzpatrick Referrals is on the cusp of veterinary innovation. The constant development of new surgical techniques requires Prep Auxiliaries to continuously learn and remain up to speed. The ability to take initiative and adapt to changing conditions is fundamental." - Becky Chapman

Chemotherapy

Our team of auxiliaries at the Oncology and Soft Tissue hospital rotate their shifts in Ward, Surgical, Prep and also in Chemotherapy. This involves a lot of preparation - from organising and readying the therapy products to appropriately disposing the patient's faeces to ensure everything is completely sterile.

It is essential to create a stress free environment for the animal prior to surgery and during recovery. This may mean going into extra detail to understand each patient's dietary requirements and source the correct food and hand prepare it in their specifically allocated ward kitchen. It is essential to comfort and aid patients, particularly those with a loss of appetite after chemotherapy to ensure the healing process goes as smoothly as possible.

"It is rewarding being able to follow a case from the theatre to the wards enabling you to be a part of the patient's journey from start to finish. Each area comes with a different perk and a different challenge. The theatre has the excitement of surgery, whereas working in wards is fulfilling when you gain a patient's trust and encourage them to eat for the first time after chemotherapy." - Pat Matthews

Ward Auxiliary

Our Ward Auxiliaries walk, feed, clean and groom the patients during their stay at the practice. It is both a clinical and hands on role - from running bloods to handling the animals. Responsibilities can vary hugely depending on the patient's specific requirements as each patient has unique needs physically and emotionally.

"It is important to be able to think on your feet and remain one step ahead at all times to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Every day is a learning process where you add and refine your skills." - Pat Matthews

Surgical Auxiliary

Owning the critical task of overseeing all of the surgical instruments and the practice's most valuable equipment is a demanding job - that is why we have dedicated Surgical Auxiliary roles which are unique to Fitzpatrick Referrals.

Due to the specialist surgeries some of our patients undergo, our clinicians have developed different methods of performing the same surgery which then involves different equipment for the same procedure. Our Surgical Auxiliaries do a fantastic job in developing a detailed knowledge of each clinician's techniques by frequently communicating with the clinicians to understand their specific requirements.

"The Surgical Auxiliary role is unique to Fitzpatrick Referrals and was born out of a growing demand for expert care for their constantly expanding inventory of specialist instruments. Surgical Auxiliaries carry the huge responsibility of being among the few personnel who have the authority to handle some of the practice's most valuable equipment." - Kathy Haskins



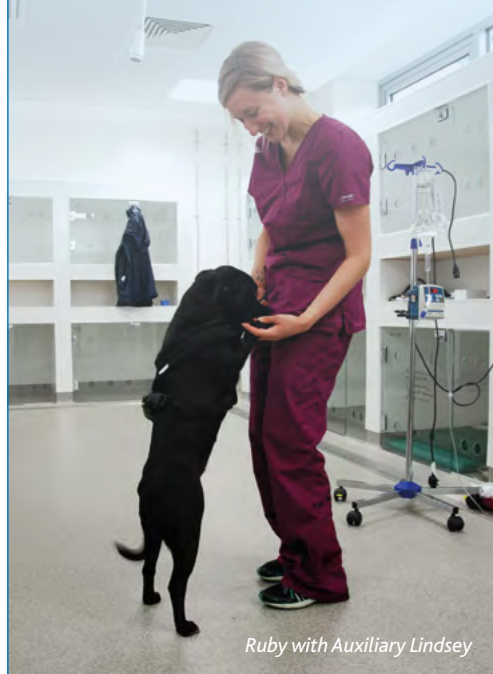
Auxiliaries comfort a patient in the sunshine

“ *Fitzpatrick Referrals searches out those who are genuinely compassionate about animals. They understand that the tools and skills needed for the job can be taught along the way, but to truly care for an animal's wellbeing is an inbuilt quality.* **”**

Tessy Connell

“ *Everyone at Fitzpatrick Referrals has the same understanding – when knowledge is shared both the patient and the team benefits.* **”**

Helen Hulley



Ruby with Auxilliary Lindsey

“ *No one day is the same, it is a constant learning curve. To be a Prep Auxiliary you must thrive under pressure and be willing to work hard to constantly perform. Although it can be a challenge at times, it's extremely rewarding.* **”**

Becky Chapman

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Taking time to get to know more about the people behind the referral!

NAME	Pete van Dongen
AGE	54
TRAINING	Utrecht University, Netherlands
FIRST JOB	Mixed practice in Louth, Lincolnshire for 3 years
CURRENT JOB	Clinical Director at Pennard Vets in Sevenoaks, Kent

WHY ARE YOU A VET?

This is a combination of loving animals and my brother studying at medical school. But mostly it is due to James Herriott!

BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Seeing our patients improve, especially after surgery. And making a difference!

THREE WORDS THAT DESCRIBE YOU?

Driven, passionate and happy.

WHO IS YOUR HERO?

David Attenborough - the most amazing wildlife and nature ambassador.

MOST UNUSUAL ANIMAL YOU HAVE TREATED?

A monkey from the local circus.

YOUR PASSION?

Professionally: surgery, radiology and rehabilitation. Personally: travel, fitness and food!

WHAT KEEPS YOU AWAKE AT NIGHT?

Nothing! I sleep tight.

IF YOU COULD BE GRANTED A WISH, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

No red tape, no H&S, no forms!

WHAT WORDS WOULD INSPIRE A CHILD TO BECOME A VET?

Every working day is different and it's awesome making a difference to a pet's life and the owner's happiness.

WHAT DOG BREED WOULD YOU BE?

A Border Collie - always on the go!

WHAT WOULD YOU BE IF NOT A VET?

A human surgeon!

WHERE IS YOUR HAPPY PLACE?

The Mountain Sky Ranch in Montana, on horseback in the mountains.

DO YOU NEED TO LOVE ANIMALS TO BE A GOOD VET?

Absolutely!

YOUR DREAM DESTINATION?

Masai Mara, Kenya.



CLIENT COLUMN

Our Daniel

By Kate and Neil Bradbury

My family recently had a terrible shock when our adored 5-year-old English Springer Spaniel, Daniel was diagnosed with a tumour in his upper jaw. We were given a poor prognosis by our local vets and were devastated. Being doctors ourselves, an Orthopaedic Surgeon and Anaesthetist/Specialist in Intensive Care Medicine, we wanted to give Daniel the best possible

chance by seeking specialist advice and Fitzpatrick Referrals was the obvious choice.

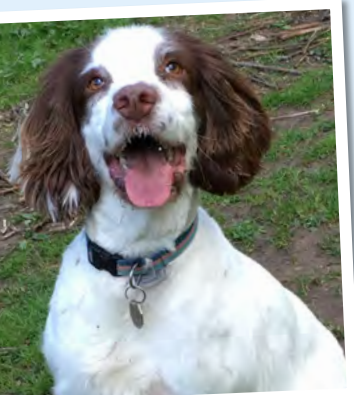
Our first interaction with Fitzpatrick Referrals was a desperate and tearful phone call for an urgent appointment which was dealt with by the team on reception with sensitivity and genuine kindness and the appointment was scheduled for the following day. We met with Dr Kelvin Kow, Senior Consultant in Medical Oncology, and his team who were gentle, authoritative and very knowledgeable - and Daniel seemed to like them! We arranged for Daniel to have surgery

the following week to try and excise the whole tumour.

It was so hard taking him back for his surgery. Like most pets, he is so loved and absolutely a member of the family and we didn't know what was going to happen or what the outcome would be. It was heart-breaking. He was operated on by excellent surgeons, Professor Nick Bacon and his team, and cared for by lovely nurses who updated us daily on his progress via text and numerous phone calls - everyone was very patient.

I am delighted to say Daniel has the 'all clear,' the tumour has gone and the bone margins clear. He has a slightly misshapen head but this is a totally inconsequential price to pay for having our beloved Spaniel back.

We cannot thank everyone at Fitzpatrick Referrals enough. I can't find the words to express how grateful we are. What a wonderful team of people who can perform miracles.



ONE LIVE - A Concert for One Medicine

A crowd of 5000 concert-goers descended upon Loseley Park on the 4th June for ONE LIVE - A Concert for Medicine. Professor Noel Fitzpatrick received celebrity messages of support including Take That member Mark Owen, BBC Radio 2' DJ Chris Evans, Queen member Brian May and magician Dynamo all championing One Medicine in support of The Humanimal Trust - the first UK charity to generate awareness and inspire participation and development of new clinically-relevant healthcare initiatives for the benefit of both animals and humans.

PARTNERS IN CARE

Following a fantastic few months of Partners in Care lectures, next up on 20th September Dr Laurent Findji is presenting 'How can I close this wound? A case-based presentation on the approach to skin closure and reconstruction.' We also have Dr Miguel Solano on 11th October on 'Patella luxation - the exam, approach & treatment' and Dr Anna Tauro on 'An Update on Epilepsy' on 29th November.

To book a space, please contact Sarah on SarahC@fitzpatrickreferrals.co.uk or visit www.fitzpatrickreferrals.co.uk/veterinary-professionals/lecture-series-for-veterinary-surgeons/

We hope to see you soon!

Fitz & Pieces



**FITZPATRICK
LEARNING ACADEMY**
Driving Innovation in World-Class
Veterinary Education

FITZPATRICK LEARNING ACADEMY

We are delighted to announce the first practical courses from FLA since relaunching earlier on this year. Located in a purpose-designed skills lab within Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology & Soft Tissue, world-class speakers and organisers are set to deliver a new paradigm in practical training of surgically related subjects.

15TH-16TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Managing skin tumours & closing difficult wounds

13TH-14TH OCTOBER 2016

Reconstructive surgery & an introduction to abdominal surgery

19TH-20TH JANUARY 2017

Digestive and head & neck surgery

For further information and full details of the course programme, please visit fitzpatricklearning.com or contact Ray Girotti on 01483 668114 or RayG@fitzpatricklearning.com

Pub Hubs

We hold regular Pub Hubs bringing CPD to a location near you, so far ranging from Portsmouth to Petersfield and across to Maidstone. Pub Hubs offer you the opportunity to gain some fantastic CPD from our clinicians, and to meet some of the Fitzpatrick team for an evening of free CPD and dinner courtesy of Fitzpatrick Referrals.

To find out the next Pub Hub happening near you, please get in touch with Sarah on SarahC@fitzpatrickreferrals.co.uk



VET FESTIVAL 2016

A huge thank you to everyone who attended this year's VET Festival on the 3rd & 4th June at Loseley Park in Guildford. Inspiring medical scientist, Sir Christopher Evans, delivered the keynote speech explaining why he has the "most worthwhile job in the whole world." Sir Christopher joined a line-up of 21 world leading speakers and visionaries who were brought together to truly deliver 'Veterinary Education for Tomorrow.'

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE NEXT
VET FESTIVAL IS ON THE 9TH & 10TH JUNE 2017!**

**SAVE
THE DATE!**

IN AN EMERGENCY

To discuss a case or for any urgent or emergency referrals, please call us

For Orthopaedic and Neurological emergencies
TEL 01483 423761

For Oncological and Soft Tissue emergencies
TEL 01483 668100

For opening times and more information visit
www.fitzpatrickreferrals.co.uk



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