

friends

Better Together


fitzpatrickreferrals
SUMMER 2017



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RVN Fraje Watson with patient Rowley



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WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF THE FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Firstly, thank you for your continued support and for entrusting us with the care of your patients and their families. It matters greatly to us that we deliver unparalleled care but also to ensure that we are giving you the service you need to give your clients all of the options.

Noel



Russell Brand and Professor Noel Fitzpatrick in conversation at VET Festival 2017

We are delighted that comedian Russell Brand has been announced as the keynote speaker and will join Professor Noel Fitzpatrick on stage for a discussion on **'Wellness and what that means to us'**. Professor Noel Fitzpatrick said: *"I am deeply grateful to Russell for being here with us and for sharing his own personal story and experiences. I truly believe that this collectively shared vulnerability in the face of life's challenges will make a difference and I sincerely hope that you will feel the same."*

Friends of Fitzpatrick Referrals receive a 20% discount rate for tickets. Book today using VFFRIEND20

Every day we increasingly experience families who want the same level of care for their animals as we would expect for ourselves. We know you share our goal to deliver exactly that. We are entering an incredibly exciting time at Fitzpatrick Referrals as we announce the launch of a new service and the imminent launch of another.

I am delighted that Dr Gerard McLauchlan has joined the team at our Oncology and Soft Tissue Hospital to lead the new dedicated Interventional Radiology service. Gerard has an exceptional skill set that will complement our growing compassionate team. Since joining he has already made such a positive impact including helping Rags, a patient who had not urinated independently for over seven years. Read his story on page 4 and 5.

We are also in the midst of an exciting new construction project, where we are expanding our existing Orthopaedic and Neurology Hospital to host a brand new centre called FIRST. This will transform the way we treat orthopaedic conditions as regenerative medicine takes to the fore.

We are also once again approaching the VET Festival, which is taking place on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th June in Loseley Park, Surrey. My goal in founding this event was that we would have great fun learning and that ultimately the finances would return to help the animals we committed to serve when we started our professional journey. A core theme for this year is 'Wellness' - for the animals of course - but also for those of us looking after them. Our vocation can be stressful and extraordinarily demanding. We selflessly give ourselves, we worry and we take failure very personally. We often have the weight of the world on our shoulders and sometimes our daily lives do not match up to our expectations when we came into the profession. I sincerely hope that we will all find a sense of solidarity in a community spirit of mutual support and that we become stronger going forward together to tackle these issues head on in unity of purpose.

Thank you and I wish you a wonderful summer.



IN CONVERSATION...

Dr Gerard McLauchlan

BVMS DipECVIM-CA FHEA MRCVS

European and RCVS Specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine

We are very pleased to announce Dr Gerard McLauchlan is joining Fitzpatrick Referrals and launching the new Interventional Radiology service based at our Oncology and Soft Tissue Hospital in Guildford, Surrey.

Gerard qualified from Glasgow Vet School in 2006 after which he completed an Internship and worked in general practice before undertaking a three year residency in Internal Medicine. He is a European and Royal College Recognised Specialist in Internal Medicine. Gerard was a Senior Lecturer in Internal Medicine at the University of Glasgow as well as Head of the Emergency Service and Director of both the Internship and ECVIM Residency Programmes. Gerard recently became one of few specialists in the world to have completed a 12 month Fellowship in Interventional Radiology at the Animal Medical Center, New York. Gerard has lectured nationally and internationally and authored multiple scientific papers. In April 2017, he joined Fitzpatrick Referrals as a Senior Clinician in Interventional Radiology. His clinical interests focus on minimally invasive interventional radiology and critical care. Gerard is delighted to join Fitzpatrick Referrals and develop the new Interventional Radiology service alongside the other specialists.



*If you have any questions about
Interventional Radiology, Gerard is very
happy to discuss any case with
you should the need arise
guildford@fitzpatrickreferrals.co.uk
01483 668 100*

*We asked Gerard about Interventional Radiology and this next exciting
step in his journey. Welcome to the Fitzpatrick Referrals team Gerard!*

Q. Why did you decide to specialise in Interventional Radiology?

I specialised in veterinary internal medicine and obtained my European Diploma in 2011. I was particularly interested in further developing my training in minimally invasive options which would be able to offer our patients improved survival and quality of life. This led to me completing a 12-month Fellowship in Interventional Radiology (IR) at the Animal Medical Center in New York with Chick Weisse and Allyson Berent who are the pioneers of these techniques. I am one of only a handful of specialists in the world to have completed this level of advanced training and am delighted to be able to expand the field of IR within the UK and Europe.

Q. Are there any advances in Interventional Radiology that you are excited about?

Interventional Radiology techniques can be employed to treat many conditions. Historically it has been used to significantly improve survival and quality of life in patients with diseases of the urinary tract (stones, tumours, incontinence) and respiratory tract (tracheal collapse). There has in the last few years also been significant development in treating unresectable cancers by delivering chemotherapy directly to the blood supply of the tumour. It is in the field of oncology that I am particularly excited about developing new techniques along with the specialist surgeons here at Fitzpatrick Referrals.

Q. Why did you decide to join us here at Fitzpatrick Referrals?

When I returned to the UK, it was a natural fit for me to join Fitzpatrick Referrals. The team that work here all share the same ethos and together I know we will be able to offer a truly world-class service to our patients and their family. I genuinely believe we will be able to change what is accepted as the gold standard of care for animals in the UK.

Q. What are the most common cases that are referred to you?

The majority of cases which will require Interventional Radiology will normally have a urinary tract disorder including stones, strictures, cancer or incontinence. It is my personal feeling that obstructive ureteral stones are very under diagnosed and raising awareness of this is incredibly important in improving the survival of our patients with increased kidney values.

Q. Do you have any advice for vets about Interventional Radiology?

Training in Interventional Radiology has taught me to think outside the box and not to accept that there isn't a better way of doing something when the traditional options don't have great results. Never accept that there isn't a solution to a problem that you are presented with. I would be delighted to discuss with any of our referring vets any cases they feel could benefit from IR.



*Dr Gerard McLauchlan
and Rags before surgery*



RAGS' STORY

Rags is a loving nine-year-old Wire Hair Fox Terrier who lives with the Davis family. He was referred to Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue as he was unable to pass urine normally. Rags' family haven't left his side as they have needed to drain his bladder multiple times a day, every day for seven years.

As a young dog, Rags developed an obstruction of his urethra caused by stones in his urinary tract. He unfortunately developed a stricture in his urethra after initial surgery which resulted in Rags being unable to pass urine normally. To help Rags to pass urine, a tube with an open/close valve was placed directly into his bladder but it did not ever function properly. As Rags has been unable to empty his bladder fully, he has also developed several urinal tract infections and has been on long-term antibiotics.

Clinical Director of Oncology and Soft Tissue, Professor Nick Bacon admitted Rags and performed a contrast fluoroscopy which showed the stricture in the urethra. Fluoroscopy is a procedure to view internal structures using X-rays to produce live imaging. The moving X-rays are beneficial to visualise tissue and internal organs while they are in motion. Using a fluoroscopic C-arm, we can perform minimally invasive surgeries such as opening an obstruction or delivering targeted chemotherapy. Nick sought the assistance of Dr Gerard McLauchlan, Senior Clinician in Interventional Radiology, for surgical planning and execution.

Interventional Radiology combines imaging such as fluoroscopy and scopes to gain access to structures within the patient's body. Gerard is a leading, world-class specialist in Interventional Radiology and for cases such as Rags, is able to provide new treatment options for patients where conventional therapies are not available or where the benefits do not exceed the risks.



Professor Nick Bacon & Dr Gerard McLauchlan both in surgery



The fluoroscopic C-arm camera images Rags' bladder before the stent was in position



The 0.014 micro guidewire has successfully been positioned across the stricture



The stent was placed over the micro guidewire into the correct position

Gerard and Nick manipulated a 0.014 micro-guidewire across the stricture using fluoroscopy, with the instrumental help from Radiographer Sally Morgan. A laser-cut nitinol stent was guided over the micro-guidewire into the correct location spanning the stricture. Once the stent was positioned correctly, it was then deployed and the stricture was seen to open under fluoroscopy. Gerard and Nick flushed contrast up Rags' urethra which easily passed across the stricture through the stent.

Rags was admitted overnight following the surgery for close observations. Within a few hours of the stent being placed, he started to pass urine normally - this was the first time Rags had passed a normal stream of urine in seven years.

The following morning, Rags had improved enough to be allowed home with a short course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication. Since then, he has been able to empty his bladder himself and passing urine normally. The Davis family no longer have to drain his bladder for him.

Rags is continuing to recover well and able to exercise regularly because the procedure was minimally invasive meaning the recovery time was almost zero. He is being closely monitored by the Oncology and Soft Tissue team with follow-up appointments scheduled to assess urine culture and stent position. The Davis family are a remarkable example of the dedication and perseverance families provide for their animal friend, and together with the team of surgeons, radiographers, veterinary nurses and auxiliaries there has been a true transformation of their lives and Rags'.

"Rags is a lovely dog with an amazing dedicated family. It has been wonderful to be able to help Rags and Ms Davis when they had been told multiple times that there was nothing that could be done. Interventional Radiology offers us new and exciting ways to treat patients like Rags and offer new treatment options to many of our cases."

Dr Gerard McLauchlan

"The first 17 months with Rags were normal and fun, everything anyone would expect with a lively Wire Hair Fox Terrier pup. Then out of the blue, Rags developed stones in his bladder and needed emergency surgery. He had a small valve placed in his abdomen, and for over seven years has needed his bladder drained three times a day as he could only wee a few drops. Various complications meant he has had to deal with nasty allergies and constant bladder infections. He has been on antibiotics for years and seen many vets, and coped bravely with so many setbacks.

I thought he had run out of options, but our family vet spoke to Fitzpatrick Referrals and between them they had other ideas. He came in and for the first time the exact problem was revealed, a narrowing of his urethra close to the

bladder. Next was a procedure which didn't work. Disappointing, but Professor Nick Bacon said "I'm not giving up" and Rags came back for another try with him and Gerard McLauchlan. A tricky operation, but this time it worked and Gerard managed to place a stent in the damaged part of Rags' urethra. That evening Rags peed for the first time in seven years.

Rags is now nine. The combination of state-of-the-art equipment, brilliant professional expertise and unshakeable optimism has transformed his life and meant he now has a future. He should be bouncing around happily until he is 14 or 15, all thanks to the team who were determined to try their absolute best and not to give up."

Rags' mum, Judy



Happy Rags is heading home with mum Judy

MEET THE TEAM

OUR INTERNS

Fitzpatrick Referrals has a team of 18 interns consisting of Veterinary Surgeons that have decided to devote one year of their working life to the sole aim of improving their understanding of specialist treatment and care in orthopaedic and neurological disease, as well as oncological and soft tissue cases.

Our interns are supervised as they rotate through each discipline - with duties such as working in kennels caring for the inpatients, to imaging patients with the radiography team and also assisting clinicians during surgery. They have a daily involvement in both routine and cutting-edge surgical procedures meaning they are exposed to the complexity of orthopaedic and neurosurgery. Daily didactic rounds, a weekly journal club and weekly radiograph classes also help to rapidly build their surgical and decision-making skills. Interns are pivotal in our clinical care team and provide truly exceptional veterinary care and management options for our patients and clients.

We were thrilled to have former intern Leonor Roses kindly answer a few of our questions about her time at Fitzpatrick Referrals. We were so sad to see Leonor go but the entire Fitzpatrick Referrals team wish her every success in her next adventure!

NAME: Leonor Roses

AGE: 30

JOB TITLE: Veterinary Surgeon

UNIVERSITY: Ceu Cardenal Herrera in Valencia, Spain

HOMETOWN: Palma De Mallorca, Spain

1. What were the most important factors for you when choosing a practice to apply to?

Personally I look for a high case load, a supportive, professional and dedicated team and good facilities to provide the best possible care.

2. What made you decide to do an internship at Fitzpatrick Referrals?

Fitzpatrick Referrals had all of the qualities I was looking for, plus obviously the fact that you can see ground-breaking surgeries that are not performed anywhere else in the world! It is definitely worth the hard work.

3. Talk us through a typical day as an intern.

Wake up, have a big breakfast and smile - a new day starts! In a normal day in surgery, an intern's day starts by checking what is coming in. Then the fun begins! Reading histories, examining a patient, help with the anaesthesia, taking radiographs, assisting in surgery, helping with the recovery, and then be ready for the next one! Interns here have a massive exposure to orthopaedic, soft tissue surgery and neurology cases, but also get involved in imaging, anaesthesia and rehabilitation on a daily basis. Interns work alongside nurses, other interns and clinicians aiming to provide the best possible care whilst learning at the same time. This process allows you to familiarise yourself with a wide range of conditions and you can learn everything about the management of these in one of the most important referral hospitals in the UK.

4. How have you found the internship?

This internship has been one of the most intense experiences of my professional and personal life. I have learnt so much without even realising! It has given me a great knowledge in the management of surgical and neurological cases as well as a whole new family. Also, being able to see all of the amazing things that can be done (that I didn't even know existed!) has been extremely motivational.

5. What were your highlights?

It has been a pleasure to work with the team at Fitzpatrick Referrals and everything I have learnt from them has made the whole experience absolutely worth every second. Working with Noel has inspired me to believe that there are no limits in this profession. He made me realise that just one person can make the difference as long as you put your heart and soul in it. He taught me not to give up!

6. Were there any tough moments?

Absolutely, but isn't that a part of every internship? Even more, I would say that tough moments are most likely part of every step you take in your career as a veterinary surgeon. Working under pressure is an important aspect in this profession, so stress and tough moments are to be expected in a busy hospital like Fitzpatrick Referrals!

7. What skills do you feel you have developed as a result of your internship?

Now I can see a lameness from miles away! I am able to confidently assess orthopaedic and neurological conditions, and more importantly I know now what options are available so I can give the best advice to my clients.

8. What are your plans now you have completed your internship?

My plan is to work somewhere I can put into practice everything that I have learnt during this time and to keep training to become the best surgeon I can be.

9. What would you say to a vet considering doing an internship?

I encourage everyone to do an internship as you get to see a wide variety of conditions and treatment possibilities that are not always available in general practice, and that experience is helpful no matter where you work. It is also very enjoyable to work alongside specialists and imbibe their knowledge, so it is a unique experience that I would definitely recommend to everyone.



MEET PROFESSOR JONATHAN BRAY

BVSc MVSc MSc(ClinOnc) MACVSc CertSAS DiplECVS

"My prime passion is working directly with animals and their families in a supportive and exceptional clinical setting. I enjoy pushing boundaries, and not accepting the status quo. I want to identify better ways of improving outcomes for patients, and minimising the impact of the disease (or its treatment) on an animal's quality of life. My sabbatical at Fitzpatrick Referrals exposed me to their tremendous energy and real passion for patient and client care which is wonderful to be a part of. From the moment the clients walk in the door, I feel there is an embrace that lets them know we truly care and want to do the best for their animal friend. I'm looking forward to discovering what we can achieve together. Cancer management is such an important opportunity, with the power to change both animal and human lives positively. The direction and focus of Fitzpatrick Referrals in this area is already incredibly exciting."



OUR NEW SENIOR CLINICIAN IN ONCOLOGY

Jonathan graduated from Massey University, New Zealand in 1988 and completed specialist training in Soft Tissue Surgery at Cambridge University becoming a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1997. He gained a Masters degree in Veterinary Science in 1990, and a Masters degree in Clinical Oncology in 2013. Jonathan has spent periods of time in both academia and private referral practice since completing his residency, including positions as Head of Oncology and Soft Tissue Surgery at Davies Veterinary Specialists, Hertfordshire (2004-2010), and Head of the Companion Animal Group at Massey University (2012-2017).

Jonathan has active research interests in several clinical areas including soft tissue sarcoma, injection-site sarcoma, endoprosthetics and haemangiosarcoma. He is currently completing a PhD, with the hope of developing better prognostic tools and treatments for soft tissue sarcoma. The impact of his research typically shares a similar philosophy:

Attempts to improve patient outcomes by identifying new treatment options or using new adjuvant therapies.

Managing patient morbidity by identifying tumours that could be successfully managed with less aggressive surgery, or those that warrant multimodal treatment.

Embracing the concept of 'One Medicine', with outcomes of treatment in veterinary patients serving as valuable tools for improving management of similar disease in humans.



FITZPATRICK INSTITUTE FOR THE RESTORATION OF SKELETAL TISSUE

We are so excited to be launching a game-changing new centre at our Eashing site later this year.

The Fitzpatrick Institute for the Restoration of Skeletal Tissue (FIRST) is dedicated to rebuilding parts of the skeletal system using stem cell technology married with manmade scaffolds. This revolutionary centre will be the very first of its kind for animals where biology and mechanics will come together at the clinical coalface where it's really needed to forge a better future for our patients.

For the very first time in the UK, we will provide treatment for osteoarthritis with validated evidence-based stem cell and blood derived autologous treatments. This will create a new standard for the application of regenerative medicine therapeutics where strict protocols are adhered to with regard to quality control, and outcome measures are validated and standardised.

Fitzpatrick Referrals will have an even greater capacity and potential to provide our animal patients and their families with more advanced treatments for their skeletal conditions. This new centre will expand on our existing service where we provide custom implants from the most advanced 3D printing and manufacturing facility for animals in the UK. We will now combine this technology with biological enhancement using stem cells to optimise surgical outcome for every patient.

We are already using this incredible technology to enrich the lives of our patients in our existing orthopaedic centre, and this extension of our services will ensure we are able to continue to provide the very best level of care available in the world today. The centre will also be part of a new vista of One Medicine where animal and human regenerative technologies move forward in tandem.





CLIENT COLUMN Our Jasmine

By Andrew Odak

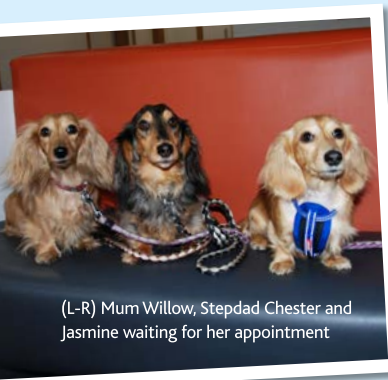
Jasmine, who we bred ourselves, has always been a very loving and interactive girl who is happy at home with her mum, her step-dad and her extended cat family. When she first developed severe diarrhoea and started vomiting, we visited our local vets who advised it was probably a parasite, but she lost so much weight so quickly that we felt it necessary to go back. The vets advised us that at 18 months old things such as this really take their toll. She became very reclusive and continued with diarrhoea and

losing weight. The third time we took her back they felt some lumps in her tummy, and operated to find the cause. The news came back she had Lymphoma - utterly devastating!

We asked for a referral to Fitzpatrick Referrals and was given an appointment 2 days later. When we arrived, she was hiding underneath chairs to get away from everything but the team did as much as possible to make Jasmine more comfortable.

We went in for the consultation with Professor Nick Bacon and her diagnosis was made. It was Lymphoma stage 5, the worst it can be. The staff were very friendly and compassionate, and Jasmine was admitted for a couple of days and started chemotherapy.

The care Fitzpatrick Referrals has given Jasmine is remarkable. She has gained approximately 1.5 kilos, is brighter, playing 'ruff' and tumble with the other dogs and cats at home and she is no longer hiding in dark places. I have hope now, which would not have been possible without Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue. Their care for patients and their families is with true affection, amazing knowledge and understanding. Fitzpatrick Referrals is the leading light in animal cancer care and they have made me feel that Jasmine and I are definitely at the right place. I cannot thank them enough. I honestly believe that without their help, she wouldn't be with us today and we pray that she continues to improve and be happy.



(L-R) Mum Willow, Stepdad Chester and Jasmine waiting for her appointment

Fitzpatrick team at BSAVA Congress

Many of the team presented at BSAVA Congress, which this year marked its 60th anniversary. Congratulations to Senior Nurse in Oncology and Soft Tissue Jessica Barnes, Surgical Resident (ECVS) Dr James Guthrie, Surgical Resident (ECVS) Padraig Egan and Chief of Neurology Dr Clare Rusbridge!

Also a huge congratulations to Professor Noel Fitzpatrick for being awarded the prestigious Blaine Award for outstanding contributions to the advancement of small animal veterinary medicine or surgery.

"I was deeply honoured to receive the Blaine Award at the BSAVA Congress. But this honour is not about me - I would achieve nothing without my wonderful team. Now more than 240 talented, kind, magnificent human beings who care passionately about the animals entrusted to our care and the families who love them."



A NEW MILESTONE

Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue have recently welcomed their 2000th patient through their doors. A huge thank you to all of the team for all you do for our patients!

Human and veterinary medicine together in the fight against cancer

Back in March, Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue invited a team from St Luke's Cancer Centre at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford, Surrey to help break down barriers between human and veterinary oncology. This is another important step for Fitzpatrick Referrals in our goal is to forge closer links with human medicine and share expertise in the fight against cancer. The team were invited by Sarah Holliday, Senior Medical Oncology Nurse, following her visit to the St Luke's Cancer Centre along with Emily Ryder, Staff Oncologist. Sarah said:



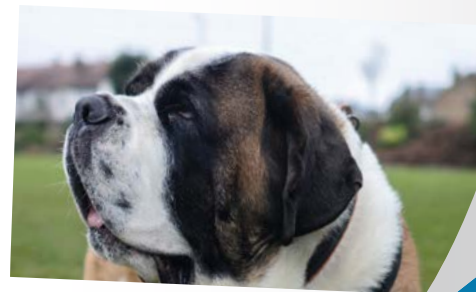
"I was lucky enough to visit St. Luke's Cancer Centre at the Royal Surrey County Hospital and spend the day with the dedicated and amazing team. This week, I returned the invite and some of the team came to visit Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue. They were impressed and moved by our facilities and level of care for our patients. I am proud to be able to say I have met their team and I am continuing to build a strong bond between our hospital and the human oncology facility. This will allow us to continue to expand our service and ensure we deliver the highest level of care possible. We are discussing the options to combine forces to help develop patient care for both animals and humans."



Fitz & Pieces

Epilepsy Awareness Day

Fitzpatrick Referrals marked Epilepsy Awareness Day on 26th March with some top tips to help families help their animal friends with epilepsy. We also shared the story of lovely St Bernard Huxley, who was referred to Dr Clare Rusbridge with idiopathic epilepsy. Read Huxley's story on our website.



IN AN EMERGENCY

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

For Orthopaedic and Neurological emergencies
01483 423761

For Oncological and Soft Tissue emergencies
01483 668100

For opening times and more information visit
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