



## New canine arthritis treatment option

-makes life easier for patient and owner alike

Dogs, just like humans, are prone to the development of arthritis which affects up to 20% of ageing dogs. It is a deceptively complex condition whose onset is often slow and insidious, making it difficult to diagnose, especially early on in the course of the disease. While its impact on agility, exercise tolerance and activity level are obvious in the later stages of the disease, less readily appreciated is the marked impact it has on quality of life and overall welfare of the afflicted dog.

Arthritis is best managed by a 'multi-modal' approach using a combination of weight control, moderated exercise and pain relief. Weight management is critical to both preventing arthritis in the first place (overweight dogs are at significantly greater risk of developing the condition) but also in reducing the impact of the condition once it has arisen. Exercise is important in maintaining joint movement and muscle mass which helps stabilise arthritic joints.

The major need of the arthritic patient is pain relief. While obviously relieving discomfort, it allows the dog to become more active, which in turn reverses the arthritic cycle- more activity results in more energy expenditure (and thus weight loss), increased muscle tone and greater joint flexibility. An important recent finding is that the longer pain relief is administered, the more effective it seems to become.

There is a new pain reliever specifically indicated for the treatment of arthritic dogs – 'TROCOXIL® Chewable tablets for Dogs'. These are different to what we are already using in that they are very long acting. After the first dose,



TROCOXIL is then dosed again two weeks later and thereafter only once a month. This makes long term management significantly easier with much less worry over missed doses. With no missed doses pain relief is continuous which is of obvious benefit to the treated dog.

TROCOXIL holds real promise as an exciting new option for the management of the pain experienced by arthritic dogs. If your dog seems a bit slower (especially on these chilly mornings) or a little less keen to exercise please get in touch with us - this new treatment option may be helpful in getting your dog back to their former self.

## TOUGH TYKE'S BONE TUMOUR

In 2008, a then 8 year old Tyke visited the clinic after jumping off the farm bike and becoming lame. The first x-ray has a black circle around the affected bone - the 4<sup>th</sup> metacarpal. This x-ray shows a loss of cortical detail, bone swelling and uneven bone density. This was an unusual presentation and it was assumed that he had probably knocked and hurt an old injury to that toe. Tyke soldiered on serving his owner well until he pulled up severely lame 3 years later. This time the x-ray showed a very different looking foot – the small lesion seen in 2008 was actually the beginning of a slow growing destructive bone tumour. The 2011 x-ray also shows what's called a pathological fracture of the neighbouring metacarpal bone, this has broken due to the changes caused by the tumour. It has been chosen given Tyke's age and the slowness of the developing tumour that symptomatic support and pain relief be used, rather than an aggressive surgical approach which may simply increase the morbidity of Tykes condition.

2008

Periosteal remodelling of bone as seen to support fracture repair. Time was to reveal this as bone reaction to the underlying destructive bone (osteoclastic) bone tumour



2011

Pathological Fracture (upper arrow)  
Slow growing destructive bone tumour (lower arrow)



### Case of the Month – Bungeye the cat with the chicken bone

Bungeye is a young female cat who had an unlucky incident with a chicken bone a few months ago. She came to us after vomiting for a few days then going missing. She had a fever and was a bit dehydrated. We took x rays of her belly, put her on a drip and started antibiotics and antiemetics. Blood and urine samples were taken. The x-ray just showed gas in the colon.

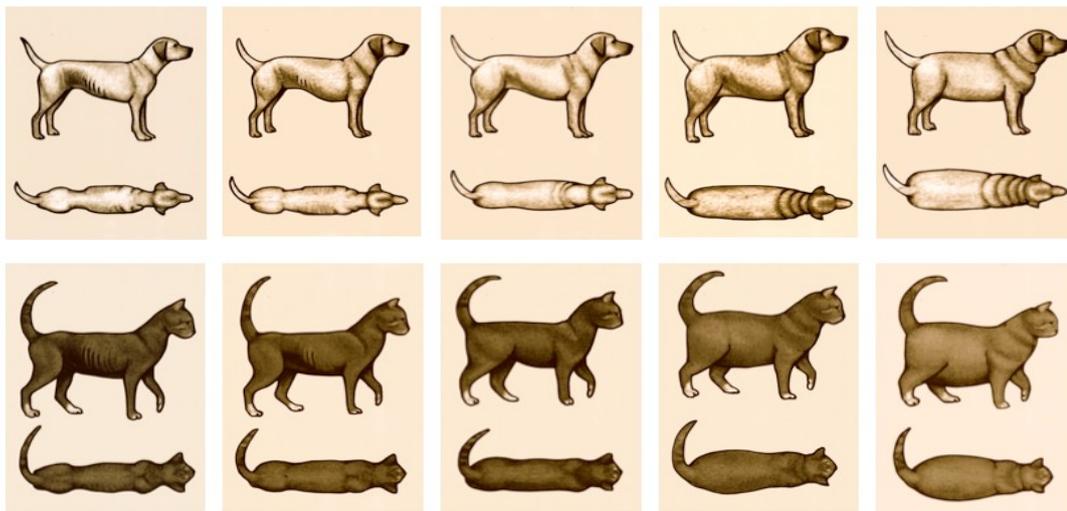
The next day Bungeye was still unwell. At this stage we recommended she have an exploratory laparotomy for further investigation. The only significant finding inside her gut was enlarged lymph nodes. After stitching her back up we passed a tube down into her stomach to ensure there was no obstruction in her oesophagus. We then had a better look down the back of her throat and found two small chicken bones embedded into her soft palate (membrane right at the back of the throat). These were gently removed. Over the next few days Bungeye recovered very well.

This case is a good lesson why we should not give our pets bones that they can swallow. Contrary to common belief the gut does not digest bones and bones cause a lot of problems when they get stuck. By the way Bungeye the cat has good eyes. She had a ‘bung eye’ when she was little and the name has just stuck.



### PODGY PETS

How does your pet compare to the chart below? The ideal shape is in the middle. If your pet's shape is to the left or right of the middle column then book in for a free nutrition consult with one of our knowledgeable vet nurses.



### **Animal Facts—Did you know.....**

- A common pond frog is ready to breed when it is only 3 years old
- An elephant can use its tusks to dig for ground water. An adult elephant needs to drink around 210 litres of water a day
- A goat's eyes have got rectangular pupils
- Rare white tigers carry a gene that is only present in around 1 in every 10,000 tigers
- A mosquito has 47 teeth
- Dogs have a remarkable sense of smell, they are capable of differentiating odours in concentrations nearly 100 million times lower than humans can



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