

The QVS Quarter

THE NEWSLETTER OF QUEENSLAND VETERINARY SPECIALISTS, WEST CHERMSIDE

Queensland Veterinary Specialists – New Name, Same Professional Service

As many of you are aware by now, West Chermiside Veterinary Clinic has changed its name to Queensland Veterinary Specialists. Due to our continual expansion and increased services, it was appropriate for the name change to incorporate who we provide services for.

As a result of this name change, new stationery has been prepared. If you would like to receive our new business cards and referral notices please contact Derek Smith to organise a visit or mail out.

We are committed to providing you all with excellent service, keeping you informed and updated on your client's case and ensuring that clients are aware that we only do 'specialist' procedures. Queensland Veterinary Specialists will still provide the same professional

services. Our goal is to give you and your clients the best possible care.

Website Development

Our website will be operational within a few weeks. The website will feature the services we provide, staff profiles and contact details. If you or your clients would like to learn more about Queensland Veterinary Specialists please bookmark and visit us at www.qldvetspecialists.com.au



QVS at Science Week

Members of staff contribute to the Australian College of Veterinary Science (ACVSc) annual meeting, Science Week, every year. This year our achievements included:

Dr Alison Griffin – 'The use of D-Dimers in Veterinary Clinical Practice'

Dr Nic Spooner – 'Dog bite injuries'

Dr Lisa Smart – 'Use of Bisphosphonates in the Management of Osteosarcoma' 'Drugs and CPR: New Approaches'

Fellowships: QVS trainees **Drs Steve Fearnside** and **Simon Kudnig** were awarded fellowships in Small Animal Surgery—they were the only two of five candidates to pass all sections of the examination at the first attempt.

Award: **Drs Richard Eaton-Wells, Tania Davey** and **Steve Fearnside** were awarded the Most Commendable Paper published in the Australian Veterinary Practitioner Journal for Surgical Management of Urethral Injury following Pelvic Trauma in three cats.

Award: **Dr Philip Thomas** was awarded an Honorary Fellowship (to go along with his Fellowship by examination) for exceptional service to veterinary science or the practice thereof or eminent Veterinary Scientist who has been actively involved in the affairs of the college.

Appointment of a Practice Manager

After a career in the finance industry, Derek Smith has joined the team at QVS as the Practice Manager. Derek's goals are to ensure that QVS provides excellent customer service to referral vets and clients. He is dedicated to commitment, professionalism and service and aims to ensure that

every client leaves QVS happy and satisfied with the treatment their pet has received.

Derek would welcome any feedback on the clinic and will always be available to discuss any service issues that you may have.

Mac – Medicine Success Story



Mac in recovery

Mac is a four year old entire male Border Collie, who is a working cattle dog from Kingaroy. He was referred with a four and a half month history of dyspnoea, which initially responded to antibiotic treatment.

On presentation to QVS, Mac was dyspnoeic, with bilaterally dull lung sounds, muffled heart sounds, tachycardia and a temperature of 39.2. Mac's workups included CBC/MBA, thoracic radiographs (revealed severe bilateral pleural effusion) and thoracic ultrasonography. Thoracoentesis produced cloudy haemorrhagic fluid which contained main non-degenerate neutrophils on cytology.

Mac was diagnosed with pyothorax, and pleural fluid was sent to IDEXX for culture and sensitivity (cultured *Fusobacterium* sp.).

Mac was anaesthetised for bilateral chest drain placement and more than two litres of fluid was removed from his pleural cavity. He was placed on intranasal oxygen, intravenous fluids, broad spectrum injectable antibiotics (amoxicillin-clavulanic acid, metronidazole and enrofloxacin), Dextran 70 CRI and pain relief (bupivacaine into thoracic cavity initially, also methadone).

Drainage of his thoracic cavity was performed initially two hourly, then four hourly as the amount of effusion decreased. Lavage with sterile saline was performed six hourly. The chest drains were replaced twice due to migration and obstruction. After intensive treatment for nine days, Mac's chest drains were removed. He was discharged with oral Amoxyclav and metronidazole several days later.

Mac visited us again a month later for recheck thoracic radiographs which were completely normal! Mac was continued on antibiotics for a further three months and he was allowed to gradually increase his exercise. Currently, Mac has been off antibiotics for one month, is back to his normal work schedule and is very well. His owners report that he is catching up on the six months he missed!

QVS Winter Seminar

The QVS/Pfizer Winter Conference was a huge success. Attendees commented that the talks were informative and practical. The next seminar will be our Summer Conference at the end of February 2005, and we look forward to seeing some new faces there.

New Addition to the Medicine Team at QVS

Dr Matt Reeves has recently joined specialist Alison Griffin and resident Inar Swift as part of the internal medicine team at QVS. Matt has successfully completed residency training in canine and feline internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, which followed an internship at West Chermside and Veterinary training at the University of Queensland.

Matt's special interests are in feline medicine and endoscopy. Matt will be visiting local clinics over coming weeks and looks forward to meeting and working with you. At QVS we aim to provide an excellent referral medicine service – please let us know how the QVS medicine service can assist you.

Surgical Oncology Service

Maurine Thomson continues with her successful oncology referral service, treating a wide range of interesting surgical and medical conditions. She also treats general soft tissue surgery cases, particularly reconstructive surgery, and thoracic and abdominal cases.

Advances are continuously occurring in Veterinary Oncology, please feel free to call Maurine at any time with help regarding the treatment or long distance management of cancer patients.

Maurine has recently been appointed to the remaining member position for the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland.



Surgical News

The surgical team of Richard Eaton Wells (grey beard), Richard Mitchell (no grey beard) and the surgical intern Matt Holmes (no grey at all) continues to strive to provide the best possible service to all referring vets and your clients. Further improvements continue to be made both in communication and surgical knowledge.

All referring vets from now on will receive an immediate surgical fax summary at discharge plus ongoing updates as necessary, in addition to the customary phone call. The aim of this is to ensure that all of our clients are completely up to date on all cases.

The telephone call report will continue to be used and we encourage discussion of any cases or queries you may have. We would encourage your comments on this refined reporting method to enable modification as necessary.

Surgical knowledge continues to advance and some new techniques have been added to our repertoire. The most recent addition is the use of thoracoscopy and laparoscopy, which will complement the minimally invasive technique of arthroscopy already extensively used by Richard Mitchell. This will allow minimally invasive exploration, biopsy and treatment of a variety of thoracic and abdominal conditions.

This is to be used as an adjunct to traditional surgical treatment. Applications will include general thoracic and abdominal exploration, liver, renal, pancreatic biopsies, prophylactic gastropexy, feeding tube insertion, pericardiectomy, lung biopsy, pyothorax investigation and a variety of other conditions. Many diagnostic procedures will be performed safely as day surgery cases. We welcome your enquiries and discussion in this ever-expanding field.

Soft tissue surgery continues to play an increasing role in the QVS caseload, and with the expanding medicine and critical care team, a variety of challenging surgical cases are seen. As always, we welcome all enquiries and are happy to provide advice in all disciplines. We also encourage referring vets to accompany cases and become involved in the surgical management of our important canine and feline friends.

The complementary radiography reading service has been well accepted and we would encourage you to keep submitting films.

Finally, Richard Mitchell has successfully passed the European College of Veterinary Surgeons Diploma in Small Animal Surgery, that means no more exams ever!

The Team at Queensland Veterinary Specialists

The team at QVS would like to thank all the referral veterinarians for their continual support and enthusiasm as our business grows and undertakes exciting new developments.

The enhancement of our services and facilities are designed to improve the service that we provide to you. We would welcome any veterinarian who wishes to attend the clinic with

a patient and be involved in the case. We also have Grand Rounds on a regular basis. If you would like to attend the rounds please contact Alison Griffin, our Medical Specialist.

SURGERY

Richard Eaton-Wells (SPECIALIST)
Richard Mitchell (CONSULTANT)

SURGERY 1979 – 1981
SURGERY 1998 – 2001

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

MEDICINE, IMAGING & CRITICAL CARE

Alison Griffin (SPECIALIST)
Matt Reeves (CONSULTANT)
Tania Davey (CONSULTANT)

INTERNAL MEDICINE 2000 – 2003
INTERNAL MEDICINE 2002 – 2004
INTERNAL MEDICINE 1994 – 1995
DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING 1992 – 1993

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

ONCOLOGY

Maurine Thomson (SPECIALIST)

SURGERY 1993 – 1994
SURGERY 1994 – 1996
ONCOLOGY 1997 – 1998

QLD VETERINARY SPECIALISTS
MURDOCH UNIVERSITY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

DERMATOLOGY

Mike Shipstone (SPECIALIST)

DERMATOLOGY 1995 – 1998

ANIMAL SKIN AND ALLERGY CENTRE

THERIOGENOLOGY

Phillip Thomas (SPECIALIST)

REPRODUCTION 1987 – 1988
REPRODUCTION 1988 – 1990
REPRODUCTION 1990 – 1994

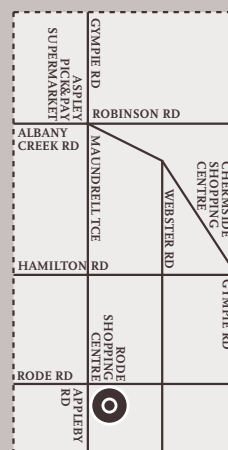
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

TRAINEES

Matt Holmes
Claire Roberts
Lisa Smart
Nic Spooner
Inar Swift
Rae Wouda

SURGERY 2004
ROTATING 2004
ROTATING 2004
EMERGENCY 2004
INTERNAL MEDICINE 2004
ROTATING 2004 – 2005

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Feedback and submissions are welcomed from all readers. For further information please contact Derek Smith, Practice Manager.