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## What's Glue With You? or The Case of the Missing Glue

Ozzie, an 11 month old male Terrier dog was seen by our emergency service shortly before the holidays for acute onset of vomiting. More than 10 episodes of vomiting were reported in the 12 hours before presentation. Physical exam revealed no abnormalities.

Radiographs (Fig. 1) revealed distension of his stomach with granular ingesta. Upon further inquiry, it was suspected Ozzie had access to Gorilla Glue™, which was being used to prepare holiday gifts.

Lab work showed mild declines in Na and K, consistent with Ozzie's protracted vomit-

ing. Gastrotomy was advised to remove the suspect foreign body. Surgery revealed distension of the stomach with an object resembling a cantaloupe. A large gastrotomy incision was needed to extract the firm foreign body composed of dried glue (Fig. 2). Recovery was uneventful with supportive care, and Ozzie was discharged the day after surgery.

Gorilla Glue™ is a polyurethane adhesive used for bonding wood, stone and metals. The material is waterproof, and expands rapidly after ingestion. Dogs chewing on bottles containing as little as 2 oz.

have developed gastric obstructions. Clinical signs usually develop within 12 hours of ingestion as the glue expands and hardens in the stomach. Radiographs of the stomach may mimic kibble ingesta or a diagnosis of overeating/gluttony without further inquiry. As the foreign body develops within minutes of ingestion, inducing emesis is not advised, nor is using activated charcoal, which may provide more liquid for the glue to absorb. Per the Animal Poison Control Center, cases have been reported with increasing frequency in the past few years.



Figure 1



Figure 2

# CHANCE GETS A SECOND CHANCE

Chance, a 10 year old male neutered Australian Shepherd was seen by our surgery service for progressive straining to defecate. Physical exam confirmed a large mass in his right perianal region. Lab work and chest radiographs performed by the referring veterinarian

were unremarkable, and aspirates confirmed anal sac carcinoma. Abdominal ultrasound at VetCare revealed a large (3.6 x 6 cm) right perianal mass, with two large sublumbar lymph nodes (U/S picture), each approx 4.8 x 6.0 cm and 4.4 x 6 cm. Diagnosis was metastatic anal sac carcinoma. These lesions were considered too large to excise with adequate margins, and post-op risks of fecal incontinence were considered high.

After consultation with Dr Kipperman, a course of chemotherapy was advised to attempt to reduce the size of the masses, hopefully making excision more tenable. Chance received a single dose of Carboplatin and was placed on Palladia™ to be administered at home. Lactulose was dispensed on an as-needed basis for the tenesmus. Serial CBC revealed significant neutropenia 2 weeks post-Carboplatin, and Primor was dispensed. Clinical signs of illness were not reported. Recheck 3 weeks after starting chemotherapy revealed resolution of straining and repeat ultrasound revealed a 45% reduction in size of the primary tumor and the sublumbar lymph nodes.

Surgery was performed the fol-

lowing week. The perianal tumor was excised with narrow margins and the sublumbar nodes could only be partially debulked. Chance made an uneventful recovery after IV narcotics and an epidural anesthetic. He will remain on Palladia™ in-

definitely with treatment goals to prevent regrowth of the primary tumor and enlargement of his abdominal lymph nodes. Clinical goals are to alleviate tenesmus.

Serial ultrasounds will be used to monitor his progress.

Palladia™ (toceranib) is a new, oral chemotherapy drug approved for use in dogs with advanced mast cell cancer. Activity is via tyrosine kinase inhibition and anti-angiogenic activity. The drug was made available to specialists last year for clinical use for both mast cell as well as other neoplasms. We have found the drug to have efficacy for many types of canine cancers including renal and nasal carcinomas, anal sac carcinomas and multiple myeloma. GI side effects are reasonably common, and can usually be managed with symptomatic therapies at home. Serial CBC's are advised to monitor for myelosuppression. The cost of the drug is comparable to parenteral chemotherapy, and clients (and dogs) enjoy the convenience of at-home administration. After about 8 months of clinical use, we have been very pleased with having Palladia as an option for both perioperative and as the sole mode of treating canine cancers.

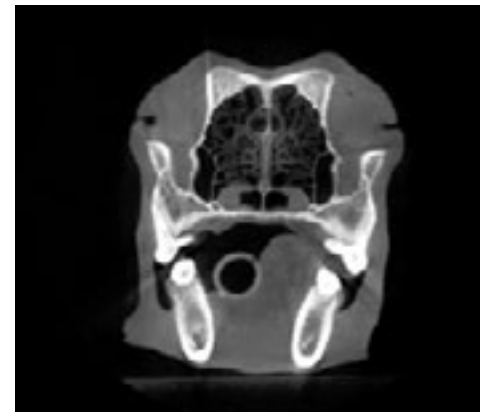


## VetCare's New CT Unit Aids Diagnosis

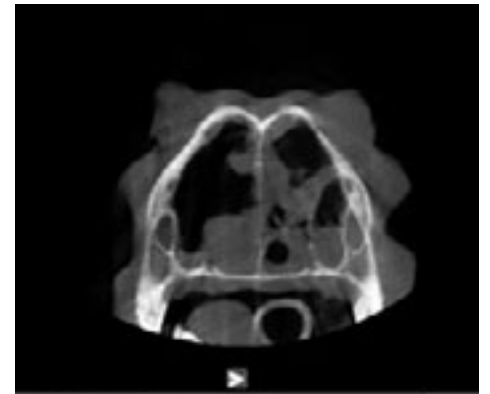
We are pleased to have access to a new, veterinary CT scanner called Fidex. The unit uses cone-beam technology similar to that used for human dental CT.

Compared to standard human helical units, the images are of higher resolution and quality. The unit also allows 3-dimensional soft tissue reconstructions which are an added benefit. We have been performing CT in clinical patients for a few months, and have been very pleased with the results. The most common indications have included patients with nasal disease, pre-surgical screening of thoracic masses and soft-tissue sarcomas, and in lieu of dye studies for disc disease in Dachshunds. Reports from our radiology group are provided within 24 hours after the study. Presently, studies are costing \$500. Appointments can be made through our medicine and surgery services.

*Normal Nasal CT — Canine*



*Abnormal Nasal CT — Canine*



# Alternative Life Styles for Pets!

## *Thriving with a permanent cystostomy tube*

*By Shannon Denza  
VetCare Nurse*

Sable is an 11 year old female Australian Shepherd. Sable's health problems started in September of 2008. Initially she was seen at her family veterinarian for a possible abscess on her left flank and perineal area. Her work up included a senior screening profile and urinalysis. The results showed an elevation of her WBC.

Sable was seen a few days later by her family vet for inability to urinate. After placing a urinary catheter, her family veterinarian referred Sable to VetCare. She was sedated and biopsies were collected from an intrapelvis mass. The biopsy results indicated a chronic inflammatory process. After discussing Sable's results, Dr. Heather Towle advised an MRI of the pelvic area and surgery which consisted of an abdominal explore.

After considering his options overnight Mr. Gore met with Dr. Towle to discuss financial limitations that prohibited his moving ahead with the MRI and surgery. He felt that the only decision he could make for Sable was euthanasia.

At this point Dr. Towle let Mr. Gore know that there was a palliative option that might provide him with some additional time with Sable. This plan would include placing a permanent cystostomy tube that Mr. Gore would have to care for and maintain at home. Sable's Dad was happy to have an option he could afford that would provide him with extra time with Sable.

Sable's cystostomy tube was placed successfully and with Mr. Gore's great home care she has

continued to thrive. Home care includes draining the bladder 2-3 times daily and she wears a head band around her abdomen to hold the tube in place (no longer requiring an e-collar). Now more than a year out from the initial placement Sable has continued to do well. Follow up care over the past 17 months has included having her tube replaced on three occasions through her healed stoma (hole in her side). She comes in approximately once

a month to have the balloon that keeps the tube in place checked (deflated & re-inflated). Sable's Dad is excited that she continues to be a happy dog and share her life with him.

The only major stumbling block Sable has had since her surgery occurred in January of this year when she was referred back to VetCare for a pyometra. Sable has made an equally impressive recovery from her recent surgery and is a happy dog.



*Sable and Dad*



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## Staff Updates

**VetCare congratulates Faith Hoffman for receiving her RVT certification in February 2010!** Faith is the head of internal medicine nursing and has been a VetCare employee for the past 7½ years. She completed her alternative path to RVT licensure in early February of 2010 before sitting for the boards. We are very proud of her success!

**VetCare is happy to welcome our newest Emergency Clinician, Jodie McKenna.** After graduating from UC Davis Veterinary School in 2005, Dr. McKenna went on to complete a rotating internship in medicine and surgery with a strong focus in cardiology. She then worked

for a large specialty center in Los Angeles — City of Angel's Veterinary Specialty Center. As a staff emergency clinician with the City of Angel's Advanced Critical Care Unit she was able to utilize the skills she gained during her internship as well as be exposed to the newest and most advanced diagnostic and treatment techniques available to veterinary medicine. Having recently relocated to Northern California Dr. McKenna joined the VetCare team in August of 2009.



## Vetcare Acquires New Ultrasound Machine

Given the importance of ultrasonography as a diagnostic tool, we have significantly upgraded our ultrasound capabilities in acquiring the Aloka Prosound alpha 7. This enhances our ability to scan patients of all sizes via a 3-probe system, and provides harmonic imaging, which is being studied as a tool to distinguish benign from malignant masses using contrast studies. As before, ultrasound studies are available 24 hours a day as needed for your patients.

