

# WOODCROFT REFERRALS

## NEWSLETTER



## ‘A DAY IN THE LIFE’ OF AN INTERNAL MEDICINE NURSE

By Fiona Mahon RVN NCert (Med)

I'm Fiona, and I've been on the Woodcroft team since 2018. In 2022, I was promoted to one of the head nurse positions at our hospital.

When I'm not supporting our fantastic team of nurses as a line manager, you'll find me in the scanning room, working alongside our three internal medicine vets. I completed my certificate in medical nursing in 2021 and feel incredibly fortunate to work in a field that offers such variety and allows me to utilise my nursing skills every day.

A typical day for the internal medicine team begins with new referrals or recheck appointments for our outpatients and I am busy with admitting cases for ultrasound or CT scans and running nurse clinics where we perform blood pressure measurements and various blood tests, including bile acid or ACTH stimulation tests. Diagnostics are a crucial part of our job, so having expertise in sampling techniques and handling is essential.

Once all the patients are admitted, we prepare them for further investigations, which might include ultrasound scans, x-rays, bone marrow biopsies, endoscopy, chemotherapy, or bronchoalveolar lavage.

We start to discharge our outpatients in the afternoon and I will support the vets with these. Often we get last-minute requests for urgent ultrasound scans from referring practices or for A&E patients that have started to arrive. We always do our best to see these.

One of my favourite recent cases involved a Border Terrier who came to us through our A&E service. He was dyspnoeic, and it was rewarding to be part of the team that worked to diagnose and treat his condition.

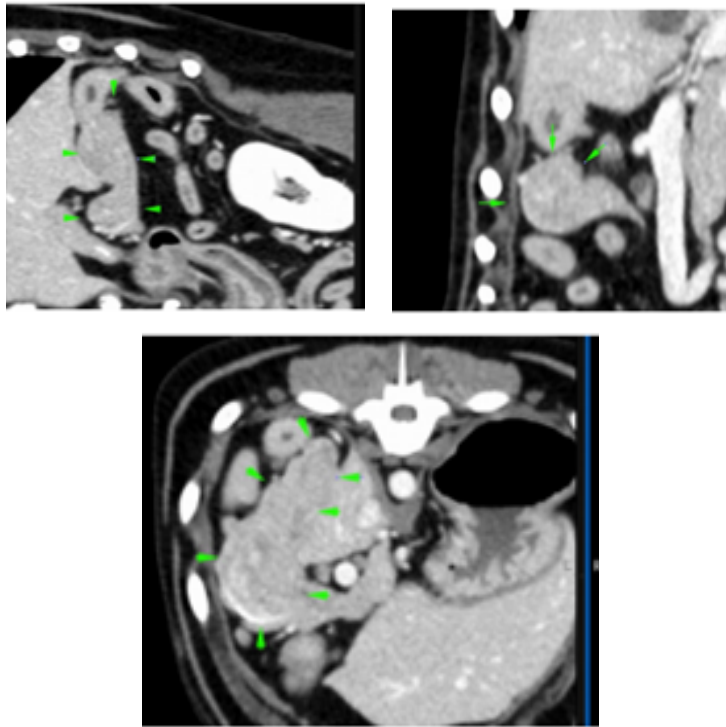
Every day at Woodcroft is different, and there's always something new to learn. I'm lucky to work with a team that really cares about our patients.



# Case Study - Dexi

## OUTPATIENT CT SCAN

Case Vet - Georgiana Vasile



Dexi is an 11 year and 4 month old female, flat-coated Retriever. She presented to our diagnostic imaging department at Woodcroft Veterinary Hospital for an outpatient CT scan, following diagnosis of histiocytic sarcoma on her left fore limb.

Unfortunately she developed acute hemorrhagic diarrhea syndrome (AHDS) on the day of her scan and required hospitalisation for three days.

Once she had recovered, she was assessed in house and then scanned in the CT machine. As the scan was underway Georgiana, our diagnostic imaging vet, was able to identify changes within the pancreatic body and right limb of the organ, which prompted our vets to run additional blood tests and allow us to confirm Pancreatitis even before the specialist report.

The image above shows the CT image of Dexi's abdomen post contrast. The green arrowheads highlight the right limb of the pancreas.

To refer a case for an outpatient scan please visit [www.woodcroftreferrals.com/refer-a-case](http://www.woodcroftreferrals.com/refer-a-case)

## BOAS Surgery

Soft Tissue Surgery at Woodcroft Referrals

Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) is prevalent in breeds like Bulldogs, Pugs, and French Bulldogs, leading to significant respiratory distress and impacting their quality of life.

Early surgical intervention is crucial for improving long-term outcomes. By addressing BOAS-related issues early, such as stenotic nares and elongated soft palates, dogs experience enhanced airflow and reduced respiratory effort. This leads to noticeable improvements in their ability to breathe, exercise, and sleep, significantly boosting their overall well-being.

Referring dogs for BOAS surgery also helps in mitigating secondary health issues. Chronic respiratory obstruction can lead to gastrointestinal problems, heat intolerance, and increased cardiac stress.

Furthermore, BOAS surgery provides an excellent opportunity to educate pet owners about managing and reducing health risks in brachycephalic breeds.

Additionally, BOAS surgery not only improves the health and comfort of the affected dogs but also enhances client satisfaction. Pet owners are often deeply concerned about their pets' breathing difficulties and overall quality of life.

Referring dogs for BOAS surgery is a proactive approach that addresses immediate respiratory issues while promoting long-term health and quality of life.

At Woodcroft Referrals we offer package pricing for BOAS surgery to avoid unexpected costs for pet owners.

**Dogs < 10kg - £3250**

**Dogs > 10kg - £3500**

These prices are Inclusive of routine diagnostics, general anaesthesia, consumables, discharge drugs and overnight hospitalisation, including the medications for a week post-op.



# Electro & Laser Therapy at Woodcroft Vets

Have you considered integrating Laser and Electrotherapy treatments into your patient's rehabilitation to enhance their care?

These non-invasive modalities are effective both as standalone treatments and in conjunction with physiotherapy. They are proven to alleviate pain and swelling, promote tissue healing, and support wound management, optimizing musculoskeletal health and function.

## Laser

Laser therapy applies thermal energy to a targeted area of the body, stimulating local and surrounding cells to enhance circulation. This boost in circulation promotes vascular and lymphatic function, resulting in several therapeutic benefits:

- Reduction of swelling
- Increased influx of cells responsible for tissue healing
- Pain reduction and endorphin release
- Improved joint mobility and muscle tone
- Enhanced wound healing

Additionally, the application of blue light laser has been shown to aid in infection control, making it particularly effective for wound management and bacterial infections such as gingivitis.

## Pulsed Magnetic Field Therapy (PMFT)

Unlike static magnets, PMFT magnets are charged with an electrical current, creating an electromagnetic field. This therapy is administered by placing a soft pad containing the magnets against the patient. The current remains within the magnets, ensuring the treatment is not felt by the animal.

Using various frequencies, we can target different cellular activities within the body, positively influencing their behavior and responses:

- Improved circulation
- Enhanced fracture repair due to PMFT's piezoelectric effect
- Stimulation of nerve tissue to promote repair and function.
- Reduction of inflammation

- Soft tissue health and repair, including reduction of tight muscles and muscle strain
- Pain management for both acute and chronic conditions
- Effective treatment for degenerative conditions such as arthritis and joint disease



## TENS (Transcutaneous nerve stimulation)

TENS is a method of pain management that stimulates local nerves using a mild electrical current. Despite its technical nature, the electrical currents used are low frequency, resulting in a gentle tingling sensation.

While TENS is a short-term pain management option, it can be effectively incorporated into physiotherapy sessions to promote comfort and relaxation. This allows patients to maximize the benefits of their therapy sessions.

## NMES (Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation)

NMES is utilized when muscle has become chronically weakened due to reduced use or when nerve damage has led to muscle mass loss through paresis or paralysis. This treatment stimulates the nerves responsible for movement using an electrical current, causing the targeted muscle to contract similarly to how the brain sends signals through the nervous system.

The benefits of NMES include:

- Increased muscle strength and mass
- Improved motor function
- Prevention of further muscle loss

**By referring your patients for PMFT, laser therapy, TENS, and NMES, you can provide them with versatile and effective treatments that support comprehensive therapeutic goals, enhance pain management, optimize recovery, and improve overall well-being.**

## Referrals we offer :

Soft Tissue Surgery  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Ophthalmology  
Internal Medicine  
Cardiology  
Dermatology (currently on hold)  
Diagnostic Imaging - CT & Ultrasound  
Dentistry  
Veterinary Behavioural Medicine  
Physiotherapy/Hydrotherapy  
Laparoscopic Spays

## Outpatient CT Pricing

At Woodcroft Referrals, we are dedicated to supporting you in providing the highest standard of care for your patients. We are pleased to be able to offer outpatient CT scans to local practices looking to obtain highly detailed images, essential for diagnosing a variety of conditions including neurological disorders, orthopaedic issues, and internal organ evaluations. The accuracy of our imaging can significantly enhance your diagnostic capabilities, allowing for better-informed treatment decisions.

We offer competitive pricing for our outpatient CT scans: **for two areas/sites or less, the cost is £1300, and for three areas/sites or more, the fee is £1600.**

These prices are inclusive of both the scan and the interpretation by a specialist veterinary radiologist, which we will send to you for reporting back to the client. We aim to provide transparent and all-inclusive pricing, ensuring you and your clients know exactly what to expect.

When you refer a patient for a CT scan, you can be confident they are in safe hands. Our team of referral vets and nurses is highly trained and dedicated to delivering accurate diagnostics and compassionate care.

We are committed to making the referral experience smooth and efficient for both you and your clients. Our goal is to complement your practice by providing advanced diagnostic services that you can trust.

To refer a patient for an outpatient CT scan, please visit <https://www.woodcroftreferrals.com/refer-a-case>.

# Complex Anaesthetics

## OPHTHALMOLOGY

Here at Woodcroft Referrals our ophthalmology team can offer multiple surgical procedures, including cataract surgery (phacoemulsification). In humans this procedure is a short one, taking approximately 45 minutes and performed under local anaesthetic with patients able to go home the same day. In our veterinary patients however, it requires general anaesthetic and use of a neuromuscular blocker.

The neuromuscular blocker paralyses the patient's muscles which has the benefit of causing the eye to remain centrally positioned to allow for surgical access. However, its actions are not isolated to the ocular muscles and so it has the drawback of preventing the patient from breathing spontaneously and on their own. For this reason, specialised equipment, and training for the team involved, is paramount for the monitoring of these patients.

At Woodcroft we use a mechanical ventilator to take over breathing and a train of four monitor, to assess the level of the neuromuscular blockade.

Our RVNs are trained in the use of these pieces of equipment to ensure we provide a top level of care in monitoring tricky cases.

Many of our RVNs have a special interest in anaesthesia and hold multiple certificates in the field, including advanced nursing diplomas.

The team are also supported by vets with further experience and qualifications in anaesthesia and analgesia.



Train of four monitor



Buster - a recent cataract patient

# Case Study - Rolo

## DISTAL TIBIAL CORRECTIVE OSTEOTOMY

Case Surgeon - Kerry Billington

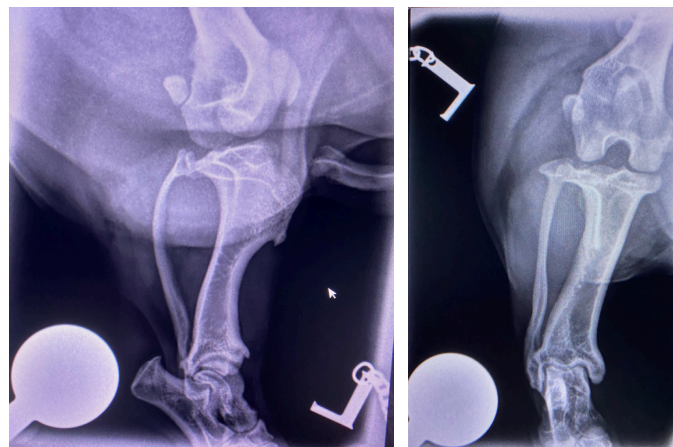
Rolo, a 1-year-old dachshund was referred to our orthopaedic service by his registered vets due to having an angular limb deformity. His hind limbs were curving inwards, which had begun to affect his gait. His owner had explained that from the age of 7 months, he would often sit down on walks, skip on his left hind leg and 'bunny hop'. He was now looking uncomfortable and his left leg was markedly worse.

On clinical exam, there was also some hip and lumbo-sacral discomfort.

He had some initial imaging including radiographs and a CT. Radiographs demonstrated no significant changes to his hips and ortolani; cranial drawer and tibial compression tests were all negative. The CT scan highlighted the deformity of his left tibia, his right was not completely normal but significantly better than the left.

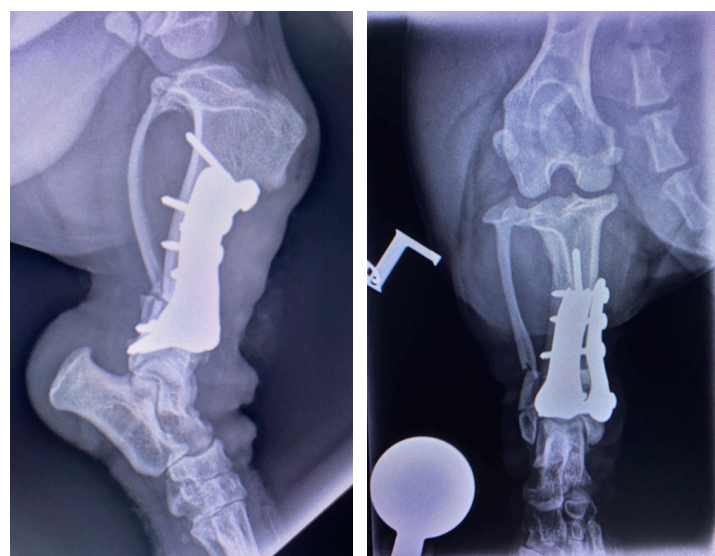
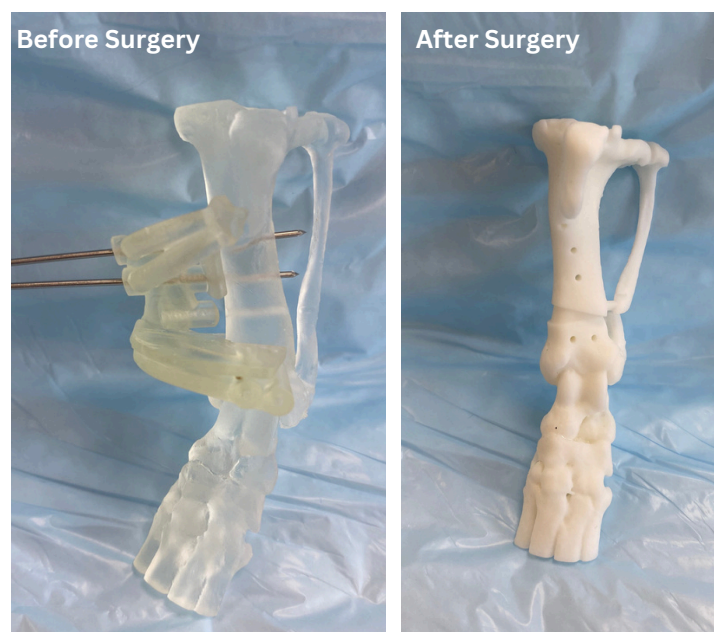
The CT scans were sent to VET3D where measurements were taken and a 3D printed guide system and two custom plates were created which are contoured to Rolo's exact bone shape.

His tibia was both bent and twisted.



In order to correct the bend an opening wedge was required which would allow us to maintain the leg length and would involve making a cut at the level of the deformity and holding the wedge open would be achieved using a plate.

The twist was corrected by realigning the two cut areas of the bone using a second plate (orthogonal plating). The plates often utilise the pre-drilled guide holes which minimises the number of holes in the bone.



The above images show Rolo's tibia following corrective surgery, both in 3D printed form and on X-ray.

Rolo's procedure was successful, he now has a much straighter leg and is doing really well!

