



NEVA NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

North of England Veterinary Association

2016-2017

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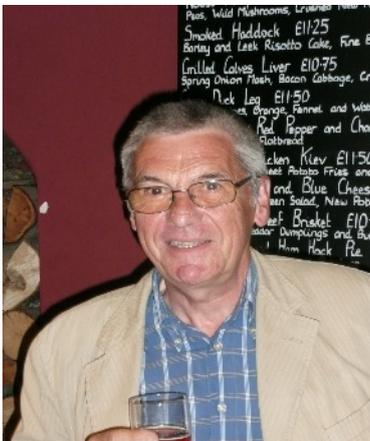
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YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

**NEVA'S president for the
2016-17 year is none other
than David Tyson MRCVS.**



I was brought up on a sheep and dairy farm, graduated from Liverpool in 1968, spent 3 years in farm then mixed practice before moving to Newcastle helping to establish the Strachan & Tyson practice based in the East-end of Newcastle, staying there until retiring in 2011. The work was mainly small animals and greyhound racing but initially (looking back) a surprising amount of farm and horse work.

I was on NEVA Council from 1986 (inc President in 1995) as well as being BVA Council rep. from 1989. Being proposed as BVA JVP in 1998 resulted in me serving as President for the year 2000-2001. This meant the big FMD outbreak was on my watch - "interesting times".

So second time for me this year as NEVA President and having been away for a while, I'm very pleased to see the Association in good heart and especially with the YVN led by Beccy Marr. I hope the YVN members will find a natural progression to NEVA for it's CPD and socialising.

CPD is of course the main thing that we do but we shouldn't forget the "politics" angle. If we as vets do not look after our own interests, nobody else will.

One thing that has changed is that Council meetings are now held in a pub, which is much more sociable and there is a very good mix of colleagues, with varying experiences, all keen to pass on your views of what NEVA can do for you.

CPD PROGRAM

Retiring President Colin Skinner has now taken over the task of organising our CPD sessions following the excellent work of Jane Weeks over the last few years. While there are no fixed dates in the near future, Colin is working with several contacts- such as The Pet Blood Bank, Project Rabies and Overseas volunteering, Responsible use of Antibiotics, Where next for Genetics - testing and therapy?

He may even be able to fix something up at short notice - I will send details and poster as soon as I know more! Feel free to contact Colin directly by e.mail : neva.cpd.coordinator@gmail.com with any suggestions that you would like him to include or suggestions regarding a proposed joint social event with Becky's YVN group.

Sunday September 18 is however a day you can write in your diary as we support BSAVA's 'CATS BEHAVING BADLY' day at Blackwell Grange, Darlington, - full details on their website under CPD meetings - North East. The speaker is Daniel Mills and the talks billed as;

'A fascinating insight into why cats behave the way they do and what we can do to modify unwanted behaviour.'



TALKING SHEEP - FEB 22 - THE BADGER

The organising team were so successful at promoting this annual event that we had a record 6 speakers entertaining the keen audience of 26 sheep enthusiasts. This included Vets from 7 of the regions farming practices - and other 'small animal' vets who just come along for the 'crack'.

Speakers and topics were varied, including 4 recent graduates and a farmer - turner barrister - turned author who sold out his supply of 'Counting Sheep' texts! Pic 1

Suzanne Clark (Intake) pic 2 presented on Laryngeal Chondritis in Texels - an enigmatic condition, is it an infection or an ischaemic necrosis?

Thomas Crawshaw (AnVG) pic 3 discussed Sheep Scab and how the best chance of local eradication depends on full co-operation with ALL the neighbouring farmers - and vets!

Philip Walling read extracts from his perfectly themed book, accompanied by slides of a myriad of breeds in their natural surroundings - and explanations sheep breeding (highs and lows) through the ages.

Ben Strugnell made a regular appearance with a talk detailing 'farmer inflicted diseases' - dosing gun injuries, injection technique faults and feeding errors.

Dawn Bowness (Clevedale) has been studying deaths in Beltex lambs, with ruptured diaphragms being a characteristic post-mortem finding.

Stuart Morris (AnVG) reported a study, in Gloucs 2009, into thin ewes in a small remote flock that were (eventually) diagnosed as classical TB!

Kathryn Pratschke - North-East Veterinary Referrals

Tues Dec 8th - Blaydon Rugby Club

RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES

After spending most of her professional career at Glasgow and Edinburgh SA depts, Kathryn is now Clinical Director at North East Veterinary Referrals, Cramlington, where her responsibilities are all areas of soft tissue surgery, particularly Oncology related.

Her talk for NEVA covered Patients presenting as respiratory emergencies, challenging, both in terms of the initial approach but also subsequent decision. Some patients will have suffered multi-system trauma following road traffic accidents or attacks from other animals, requiring a practical approach to deal with these animals safely and efficiently, including essential emergency techniques and early assessment/triage for trauma patients.

- Use of sedation (low dose acep or metomidine) may be necessary to reduce risk of stress spiral causing hyperthermia.
- Pain relief needs to be considered v assessing vascular aspects.
- IV fluids need to be used with caution as pulmonary contusions (only x-ray obvious after 48hrs) may 'leak' resulting in fatal oedema.

It also covered key points relating to some of the more commonly encountered acute medical and surgical respiratory diseases.

- Brachycephalic dogs can suffer resp emergencies due to gastro-intestinal reflux - tx with omeprazol may be best
- Laryngeal paralysis is usually a geriatric condition eg Labs as part of a widespread polyneuropathy. Tie-back surgery is useful but some risks.
- Laryngel collapse - eg Yorkies is an end-stage loss of cartilage rigidity.

Full notes are available on request from nevasecretary2@gmail.com.

David Young



CPD REPORT

FELINE HYPERTHYROIDISM

Andrew Bodey MRCVS
- Hyperthyroid Cat Centre, Wetherby



Andrew Bodey is a 1989 Bristol graduate, during his early career in Staffordshire and North Yorkshire he developed his interest in ionizing radiation, and solved his frustration at having to refer hyperthyroid cats either to Glasgow or Newmarket by establishing the first radio-iodine unit in the North of England in 2008. In the process he reduced the minimum hospitalisation period to 2 weeks. In September 2013 he left to establish the Hyperthyroid Cat Centre near Wetherby, providing radio-iodine treatment on a much larger scale, and further reducing the minimum hospitalisation period to 5 days.

Andrew started with some 'historical' notes on the first cases of feline hyperthyroidism which were identified as recently as 1979 (while some of the audience hadn't been born by then to others that meant it hadn't been in their finals exams!). Retrospective testing from stored blood samples showed that indeed the condition had not existed before this date.

Various risk factors (such as canned feed) have been identified and there are also many theories of the cause, such as; Isofluoranes from can linings acting as a competitive antagonist resulting in an Iodine deficiency; Toxicity from flame retardants in furniture and carpets (which were first used on a large scale in 1979): Cat litter; Genetics: Spot-on flea products???

98% of cases result from 'functional adenomas' with only 2% malignant adenocarcinomas.

Oral administration of methimazole was the initial treatment - later replaced by other derivatives such as felimazole which are all metabolised to the original chemical. However giving cats tablets requires excellent compliance from patient and client and research shows a 25 % failure rate. There is also the issue of a reported 18% suffering drug side effects such as anorexia, azotaemia, facial excoriation, neutropaenia (which can be fatal) and anaemia. All these factors mean that regular monitoring of T4 and various biochemical and haematological parameters is essential. Note that methimazole gel (applied to the medial ear pinna) is licenced in the U.S.A. and Australia and can be imported as an off-licence import may be more 'compliant ready' but still has the animal toxicity (and increased owner toxicity) risks.

Iodine restricted diet (eg Hills YD) is another possible treatment route with a claimed 25% success rate BUT it does need 100% 'compliance' (ie can't eat anything else) has poor palatability and runs the risk of Iodine deficiency.

Surgery ie bilateral thyroidectomy is carried out by many vets and has a good success rate of over 90% but carries several risks, including having to anaesthetise a cat with hypertension, unless temporary oral therapy has been successful, and possible azoturia. There is also the problem of maintaining the vasculature to the parathyroid gland and subsequent risk of calcium deficiency must be monitored. The incidence of future hyperthyroidism from pieces of ectopic thyroid gland (which may be seen in the thorax) runs at about 5%.

All this brings us to the 'Gold Standard' treatment and Andrew's area of specialism - the 'magic bullet' of Radio-active Iodine I 131. A single treatment, followed by a period of isolation (see above re. new minimum 5 days!). Results show a 94% cure rate within a week with further cases improving up to 6mths post Tx. Pre-admission laboratory diagnosis / screening is essential with Total T4 better than free T4 and in-house tests may not be accurate enough.

Protocols are improving rapidly - note that trial treatment may now not be recommended and azotaemia carries only the standard risk of this condition - so please discuss each case with Andrew.

More information is available from The Endocrine Blog or various websites:
www. - hyperthyroidcatcentre.co.uk : icatacare.org : Catprofessional.com



NEVA AGM

Thursday 03 March 2016 at The Badger, Ponteland



Retiring President Colin Skinner opened the meeting by reporting that NEVA had, he considered, had a very positive year with a stable membership, several new faces on council and a very active CPD year, generally with improved attendances. He particularly thought that the development of the North East Young Vet Network, promoted by Becky Marr was a great step forward. He thanked: Dick Thompson for stepping into the secretarial role and organising things when Colin was absent on work commitments and organising the full day PME CPD course: Jane Weeks had arranged a very full CPD program with 8 meetings aimed at various professional interests: Paul Freeman for revitalising and updating the Website www.neva.org.uk: Jane Barwick-Nesbit for keeping our finances in good order. Whilst reviewing NEVA's constitution had taken some time and discussions he felt that it is essential to keep the Association on firm footings and felt that other aspects of NEVA, such as banking processes and the membership database should be next to be looked at. Although the job of Junior Vice President was still vacant at the AGM, NEVA Council are delighted that since that date Rebecca Gristy has been appointed to this position making her chief candidate for the top job for 2017-18. Rebecca will be well known to regular NEVA members as our previous CPD organiser and has spent the last 5 years in Australia, only recently returning to the UK and a new position in the reformed APHA.

During the year NEVA received a surprise bequest of £1000 from the deceased estate of a former member, Joseph Mitcheson from Consett. The Council decided that this money should be utilised for the local YVN. Sadly, our Association has also bid farewell to long-standing member Graham Armstrong who recently died from Cancer – only 2 years since his last contribution to our CPD program.

Finally Colin handed over the ceremonial badge of office to David Tyson (see page 1) who had been absent from NEVA top table for too many years, bringing us the huge benefit of his experiences.

Our newly elected President introduced the current BVA President, Sean Wemsley, as a welcome addition to the rich tapestry that is the BVA hierarchy. Sean in turn thanked NEVA for the invitation to visit Newcastle and apologised that this was indeed his first visit to the North East, although he already felt at home with familiar faces, Douglas, Paul, Becky and Christine from various Mansfield Street committees. He was born and brought up in Formby where the abundant wildlife first stimulated his interest in animals, with his career progressing via the local Pet Shop, nearby Liverpool Veterinary course and a Masters in Conservation Medicine. Although he admits that BVA Presidency was not part of a long term 'game plan' he is very proud to be in this position and wants his year in charge to be remembered as one where BVA looked outside domestic issues into human / animal interactions of various kinds as well as matters of global concerns such as 'One Health', Climate Change, Antibiotic Resistance and food waste. He wants the world 'To be a better place for vets - and because of vets! The development of BVA's Animal Welfare Strategy has also been a personal crusade, believing strongly that the veterinary profession should be the leading voice in this field, and is also dedicated to the 'Vet Futures' project - where do we want to be by 2030??