

BVRSMA

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

BSAVA 2015

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who helped make BVRSMA's inaugural rehabilitation stream at congress such a success. The team's worries that there would be more committee members than delegates soon proved unfounded as seats continued to fill and the queue to get in got progressively longer. Both Anna Biorkman and Izabelle Iff gave excellent presentations on the subject of chronic pain with plenty of food for thought as well as practical advice that could easily be incorporated into day to day practice. Such was the success of the day that Rehabilitation is likely to become a permanent fixture at congress in future. It was also great to hear such eminent speakers such as Natasha Olby and Noel Fitzpatrick referring repeatedly to rehabilitation as a viable option in the management of Intervertebral Disk Disease and Lumbosacral Disk Disease.

Fat to Fit – London here we come

Following on from our success at BSAVA we are now looking forward to tackling the London Vet Show this Autumn. BVRSMA have been asked to present an hour lecture on the subject of Exercise and Obesity. The subject should be of interest to general practitioners as well as vets already engaged with rehabilitation due to the epidemic of overweight dogs that come through our doors on a daily basis. The aim of the presentation will be to provide a practical and simple approach on how to get the overweight patient moving in a safe and effective manner without the need for specialist equipment. Again we hope that it will be the start of a long and successful association with the show.

Abstract Library

Thanks to the effort of Abi and her fantastic librarian, BVRSMA members now have access to all recently published studies relevant to rehabilitation. These can be downloaded through the abstract link on the website. This resource should provide members with all up to date research in the field of rehabilitation .

OBEDIENCE INJURIES

If any of our members have come across injuries in dogs regularly competing in obedience which might have arisen as a direct result of training or competition could they please forward the information to Lowri Davies . There is a worry that the abnormal high head carriage that many competitors train for could lead to injury and may need addressing in the future.

RVC STUDY



Thanks to financial support from the Kennel Club, Thilo Pfau and Lowri Davies recently carried out a study into the biomechanics of Canine Jumping using Kinematic and Force Plate analysis. The study will hopefully give us some answers into why jumping 65cm leads to so many chronic injuries in our agility dogs and why it seems to be the main stumbling block in getting injured dogs back to work.

A number of competitors have been lobbying the Kennel Club for several years to introduce a fourth height of 60cm in order to reduce the pressure on the smaller dogs within the "large" height category that seem to be most at risk from injury.

The results of the study will hopefully be available some time in the autumn once the laborious process of analysing the data from 12 kinematic cameras has been done.

The Provision of Physiotherapy

Meanwhile discussions continue as to improving the provision of physiotherapy. A number of individual course providers have come together to draw up a framework for setting a minimum standard of education for animal physiotherapists.

It is envisaged that in the future animal physiotherapy will be taught at degree level only, with a significant increase in clinical contact time over and above the current situation.

This in turn should increase confidence within the profession and eliminate the ambiguity that currently exists over the level of qualification and expertise of animal physiotherapy providers.

Clinical Club

BVRSMA's clinical club got off to a flying start with a lively discussion based around a paper on an internet based survey of the nature and perceived causes of injury to dogs participating in agility training and competition events. Our next topic will be *Hydrotherapy - where's the science* on the 26th of May which appears to have generated a lot of interest already both from the UK and abroad.

Autumn Meeting - October

A big thanks to Tamsin O'Brien for organising our Autumn meeting once again. This year the focus will be on forelimb lameness. We have two excellent speakers lined up - Dr Eithne Commeford, Professor of Surgery at Liverpool Veterinary School and Dianne Messum, ACPAT Physiotherapist. I hope to see you all there.