Feline physeal dysplasia is a condition of young, predominantly male cats, in which one or both femoral heads separate from the femoral neck along an abnormal physis. Unlike Zander, most affected cats are overweight. Affected cats rarely have any history of trauma. In rare cases other physes throughout the skeleton are also affected, such as in the humerus. There is an increased incidence in Siamese cats.

This condition has also been reported in two young, overweight, neutered male Shetland sheepdogs as well as adolescent boys. The cause of this condition is unknown.

For additional Information:

Zander, a 15-month-old, neutered male domestic shorthair cat presented for non-weight-bearing lameness on his left hind limb. There was crepitus and pain in the left hip. A femoral head osteotomy was performed. Histologically, the physeal (growth plate) cartilage was retained beyond the expected age of closure (7-9 months of age), thickened and disorganized. The chondrocytes were arranged in irregular clusters separated by an abundant matrix, instead of their normal linear arrangement.

Feline physeal dysplasia is a condition of young, predominantly male cats, in which one or both femoral heads separate from the femoral neck along an abnormal physis.

Unlike Zander, most affected cats are overweight. Affected cats rarely have any history of trauma. In rare cases other physes throughout the skeleton are also affected, such as in the humerus. There is an increased incidence in Siamese cats.

This condition has also been reported in two young, overweight, neutered male Shetland sheepdogs as well as adolescent boys. The cause of this condition is unknown.

For additional Information:

Fig. 1 Radiograph of separated left femoral head with dorsoproximal displacement of the femoral shaft

Fig. 2 Normal linear arrangement of chondrocytes in the femoral physis from a 15-week-old Great Dane puppy (20x, H&E)

Fig. 3 The physis from this case is thickened and disorganized with chondrocytes arranged in irregular clusters separated by an abundant pink matrix (20x, H&E)
UNH Veterinary Technology Program: A successful start to its first year

The new, two year Veterinary Technology program offered in the Thompson School of Applied Science has a full enrollment of 18 students eager to work in the veterinary profession. Applications are currently being accepted for the fall 2013 semester. Interest in the program has been strong and it is expected that the 20 seats available for the fall incoming class will be filled soon.

According to the program director, veterinarian Sarah Proctor, the primary goal of the program is to provide students with exceptional technical, clinical reasoning, and communication skills such that graduates will be immediate and valuable members of a veterinary medical team. Furthermore, the program is designed to prepare students for the Veterinary Technology National Examination (VTNE) and to become credentialed veterinary technicians.

The program has some extraordinary plans for students in their upcoming year – courses that will give them real-world experience in client communication, problem solving, and practical skills. Foremost among these plans is PAWS (Pet Access to Wellness Services). In this class, students will run a well-pet clinic for residents of low-income housing in Dover and Somersworth. Local veterinarians and certified technicians are invited to participate in this clinic – perhaps as a volunteer veterinarian or technician, or as a donor of supplies or equipment. This will be a wonderful way to promote local veterinary practices, to support future veterinary technicians, and to help pets that don’t normally get veterinary care. Students will also participate in a large animal practicum course helping them hone their skills working with farm animals, particularly horses and cattle.

Additional information is available at the program website:
www.thompsonschool.unh.edu/aas/vet

Postal Service Changes

The post office has announced it will suspend delivery of Saturday letter mail beginning this August. Package delivery will still continue on Saturday and the post offices will remain open.

Our lab staff will continue to receive and process specimens on Saturdays as they always have done. Additionally our new UPS and FedEx courier service continues to provide an excellent delivery option.

EIA Testing

The busy months of Coggins’ testing will be here soon. We want to make submissions of samples and reporting of results as seamless as possible for you and your client. Our lab offers the AGID test for $6.50 with a turnaround time of 24 hours. For those who need results the same day, the ELISA test is available at an additional charge. In the coming weeks, reminders and helpful information will be sent to our equine practitioners.

House Bill 547

The purpose of HB 547 is to establish a commission to study permanent options for funding the NH Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. This is in response to the challenges the lab faced when multiple budget cuts hit its very diverse funding streams over the last couple of years. The goal is to find more long term solutions that will not be so threatened by short term economic conditions.

The NHVMA had similarly created a subcommittee in September to look at long term funding possibilities for the lab. There will certainly be some sharing of ideas and membership between both groups. Having the legislative support is key in trying to institute new funding solutions.

Representatives Robert Haefner(R) and Tara Sad(D), both members of the NH House of Representatives Environment and Agriculture Committee cosponsored HB547. Testimony was presented to the committee February 5 and subsequently the vote was unanimous that it should proceed as “Ought to Pass.” The full house approved the bill on February 20 via their consent calendar with no objections. It’s now on its way to the Senate.

Transitions

We’re pleased to have Roger Wells, DVM, ACVP back on our staff (doesn’t seem like he ever really left). Many of our clients have known Roger for a while and are sure to appreciate and benefit from his expertise and familiarity.

Roger has been providing pathology support in the position vacated by Dr. Richard French. Rich resigned to take a position as Dean of the School of Animal Studies at Becker College and we wish him the best in his new role.

As we undertake the search process for a permanent replacement, our pathology staff continue to provide 24 hour turn-around for biopsies and same day service for cytologies.

www.facebook.com/NHVDL