

ProVetSurg – your local visiting advanced surgical service

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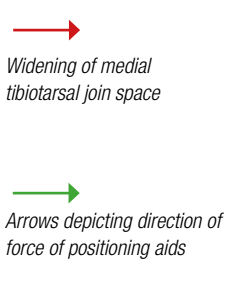
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# Focus on: Taking stressed radiograph views

In patients with a suspected ligamentous injury or joint instability, stressed radiographs can be very useful to demonstrate the level and location of the pathology involved. This information allows us to make more accurate recommendations for management at the time of referral, even before we have seen a patient.

Whenever a patient presents with soft tissue swelling associated with a joint, but no apparent bony pathology visible on radiographs, we would recommend examination under sedation or anaesthesia to see if you can elicit mediolateral or palmer/plantar instability. Examination can be followed up with stressed radiographs obtained with the use of positioning aids.

Poppy presented as acutely lame on her left pelvic limb, and remained moderately lame before presenting for examination and radiographs. A neutral mediolateral radiograph of the tarsus (pic1) revealed a moderate effusion to the tarsal joint, but the caudocranial radiograph (pic 2) revealed a marked soft tissue swelling to the medial aspect of the tibiotarsal joint, with a small mineralised fragment adjacent the medial malleolus. Examination under anaesthesia revealed a mild mediolateral instability to the tibiotarsal joint and a stressed caudo cranial radiograph (pic 3) was obtained with the use of ties and foam wedges. The stressed radiograph revealed widening of the medial aspect of the tibiotarsal joint, confirming disruption of the medial collateral ligament of the tibiotarsal joint with an avulsion fracture of the insertion of the collateral ligament at the medial malleolus of the tibia. A prosthetic ligament with suture anchors was used to stabilise the tibiotarsal joint (pics 4 and 5) and Poppy has made an uneventful recovery from surgery.



## Case Report

Tibetan terrier Milly presented to our surgeon Nicci as she had been exhibiting an unusual pelvic limb gait for a little while. Examination revealed marked soft tissue swelling to the insertion of the achilles tendon bilaterally. Nicci referred Milly to Duncan for an ultrasound scan of both achilles tendons which revealed bilateral chronic achilles tendonopathy. Milly had the first of stage bilateral pantarsal arthrodesis surgeries undertaken recently.



Milly

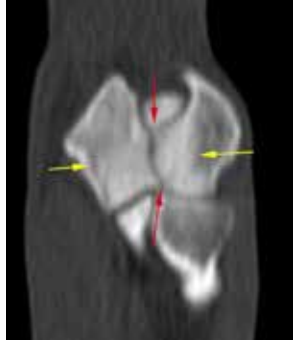
Achilles tendonopathy is a condition that we see most commonly in doberman pinschers, labradors and English setters, but it can affect any canine breed and occasionally our feline patients as well. Musculoskeletal ultrasound is a useful diagnostic tool that we use regularly following an examination that raises a suspicion of tendonitis or tendonopathy.

## Radiograph Guides

We are currently producing resource on positioning for radiographs which will be available on our website and as an in-practice guide very soon. We hope you find them helpful!

# Using 3D Printed Guides

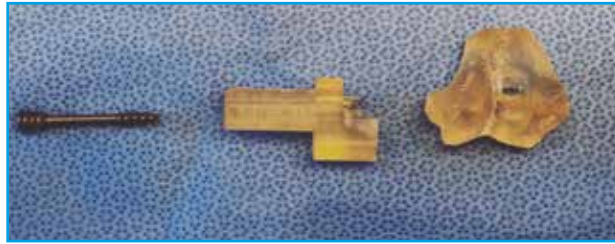
Alongside our routine procedures, we are very pleased to be able to offer the clients at our practices access to more advanced techniques and procedures, such as using 3D printed guides taken from CT scans of our patients to help optimise accuracy during our surgical procedures. The most common use of this technology is in using 3D printed models from CT to create drill guides to direct placement of transcondylar screws to treat patients with HIF (humeral intracondylar fissure) lesions. Use of a guide allows us to accurately and safely place a large diameter transcondylar screw with a reduced surgical time so that post operative surgical complications are reduced.



Left: CT image showing HIF lesion  
Above: Planning the position of the transcondylar screw from a CT image



Above: Radiograph of transcondylar screw



Right: Implant, drill guide and humerus model for placement of transcondylar screw

## Meet the team

### New team member



#### **Dr Ivan Filipovic – Surgeon**

DVM, PgC (SAS)

Ivan is an experienced surgeon who will be joining the ProVetSurg team from May, but has already become a regular fixture in helping us with our busy caseload on his day off from his day job over the last couple of months! After earning his Postgraduate Certificate in Small Animal Surgery in 2018, Ivan completed an internship at Willows Referrals in Solihull, and has since been providing referral surgical services to practices in Leicestershire. Ivan will continue to support our team in the South and Greater London, and will also be providing a service to practices closer to his home in the West Midlands.



#### **Dr Duncan Greeff – Surgeon**

BVetMed CertAVP GSAS PGCert (VPS) CertAVP VDI MRCVS  
RCVS Recognised Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal  
Surgery and Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging

Duncan has a vast level of experience in both orthopaedic and soft tissue surgery, and has additional skills in diagnostic musculoskeletal ultrasound which is very useful in cases of tendon disease. Duncan regularly performs elbow and shoulder arthroscopy.



#### **Dr Chris Nikolaou – Surgeon**

DVM CertAVP GSAS MRCVS

RCVS Recognised Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery  
Chris joined the team in October as another very experienced RCVS Recognised Advanced Practitioner. Chris has authored multiple papers that have been published in peer reviewed literature. His research interest is finding mathematical applications in orthopaedics while his clinical interests are traumatology and stifle surgery.



#### **Dr Nicci Meadows – Surgeon**

BVetMed CertAVP GSAS MRCVS

RCVS Recognised Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery  
Nicci is an experienced surgeon and has been providing a peripatetic surgical service since 2015 and is as happy performing elective cruciate surgery as she is repairing complex fractures.



#### **Bev Morgan – Surgical Nurse**

RVN

Bev graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2010. She is a vital part of the clinical team, providing anaesthetic and scrubbed assistant support to the surgeons. Bev is also involved in organising case bookings on a day to day basis.



#### **Dr Heidi Burkinshaw – Surgeon**

BSc(Hons) BVetMed PgC(SAS) MRCVS

Heidi is an excellent orthopaedic surgeon, but is also a very experienced soft tissue surgeon and is keen on ear surgery and complex mass resection.



#### **Hannah Stacey – Physiotherapy adviser**

PG Dip Veterinary Physiotherapy, BSc (Hons)

Physiotherapy, MCSP, ACPAT, Cat A Member

Hannah is on hand to help us with cases that are particularly tricky to rehabilitate or those patients that need extra support post operative. She works together with our surgeons to ensure that pets receive a holistic approach to their recovery.



#### **Emma Wells – Surgeon**

BVSc CertSAS MRCVS

RCVS Recognised Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery  
Emma graduated from Bristol University in 2004 and has been focussing on surgery ever since, most recently working as a peripatetic surgeon. Emma is confident performing a wide range of both soft tissue and orthopaedic surgeries.

We are on Instagram and Facebook - check out our pages for updates on our most recent cases and news.



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