THE MANGA

Issue I of 2023

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VETERINARY ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

April 2023

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President's Desk

Welcome to a year full of running around. What has happened, we are a quarter through the year already. It feels like yesterday we celebrated the New Year, and if it continues like this tomorrow will be Christmas. We are already seeing Easter bunnies on the walls.

We are looking forward to this cycle of VAN EXCO. We have so many big ideas that are building to become a success, repeatable successes. The VAN EXCO Team is full of bodies that are ready to support the vets of Namibia. They are full of energy running full speed ahead, jumping off from the energy of a fun filled congress.

For those of you who may be new to our community, the Manga newsletter has served as a platform for us to share our knowledge, experiences, and stories with one another. We believe that by coming together and sharing our collective wisdom, we can work towards improving the lives of animals in Namibia.

We have put together some articles that we believe will be of great interest to you. Our Namibian vets share their experiences and interesting cases here. Please think about sharing your own cases. We all learn from them.

As you read through the pages of this newsletter, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the important role that animals play in our lives. Whether they are our loyal pets or from the wild, animals are an integral part of our world, and it is up to us to ensure that they are treated with the respect and care that they deserve.

On behalf of the Veterinary Association of Namibia, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our contributors and readers for their continued support of Manga. We could not do this without your unwavering dedication to the betterment of animal health and welfare.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition and look forward to hearing your feedback and suggestions for future issues. Thank you for being a part of our community, and I wish you all the best in your veterinary endeavors.
Warm regards,
-Dr Theuns Laubscher- VAN President

VAN NEWS

Workshop on Veterinary Pathology and Basic Mechanisms of Disease

By Dr Andrea Klingelhoeffer

28-30th of March 2023

Dr John Yabe

VAN had the absolute privilege of co-hosting this incredible three-day workshop with the University of Namibia, School of Veterinary Medicine.

Initiated by Dr John Yabe from the Neudamm campus, the three veterinary pathologists Dr Derron "Tony" Alves, Dr Javier Asin Ros and Dr Kelsey Fiddes travelled all the way from the United States.

The workshop consisted of interactive group work, stimulating discussions led by the pathologists and practicals in the post-mortem hall at Neudamm.

There were 34 participants in total, a mixture of private veterinarians, lecturers, state veterinarians and paraprofessionals, making for interesting discussions and sharing of ideas.

Dr Tony Alves was an engaging speaker, his easy manner and sense of humour creating a relaxed atmosphere conducive for open discussions.

Dr Javier Asin Ros, extremely knowledgeable in his field, gave interactive lectures and expert instructions in the post-mortem hall.

Dr Kelsey Fiddes, in charge of teaching pathology residents at the Joint Pathology Centre in the US, was able to gently guide the participants during group discussions.

Overall, it was a wonderful and unique learning experience.

Thank you to the Global Health Pathology Network and the Davis-Thompson Foundation for supporting this event. Thank you to the organizing team from UNAM: Dr John Yabe, Dr Douglas Mudimba, Dr Yvonne Hemberger and Jennifer Haihambo, for making this event a success and free for all the attendants!

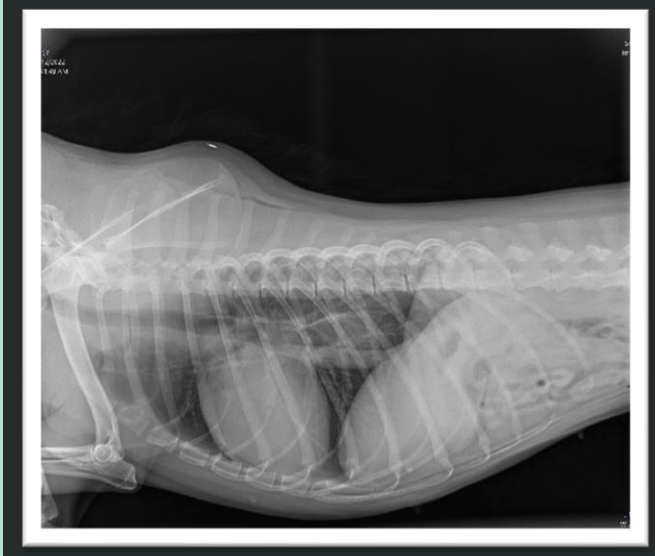
Dr Javier Asin Ros and Dr Kelsey Fiddes

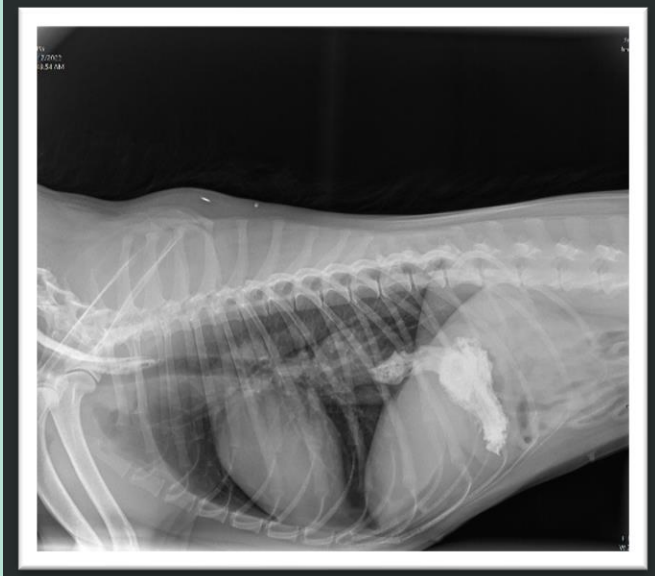
Dr Tony Alves


Pig Ailments

Top: Hanlie Winterbach, Elsje Boshoff, Jens Kahler, Andrea Klingelhoeffer, Israel Kaatura, Alexandra Duvel, John Yabe, Paaka Kapimbua, Victoria Voigts, Alaster Samkange, Jan Smith, Lizelle van der Waal, Vimanuka Mutjavikua, Mark Jago, Elvira Kleber, Stefan Beukes, Yvonne Hemberger, Muesee Kasaona, Abraham Shoolongela, Kelsey Fiddes, Percy Awasman
Bottom: Vaino Kuume, Joseph Simataa, Charles Ntahonshikira, Chuma Matomola, Pricilla Mbiri, Tony Alves, Douglas Mudimba, Baby Kaurivi, Javier Asin Ros, Urban Ujava
Not pictured: Julie Heusquin, Theuns Laubscher, Simon Nambinga, Johan Viljoen, Colin Musara, Israel Amuthitu, Beate Voigts (photographer)

CASE REPORT





Spirocerca lupi

By Dr Heiko Schmid

History

A 5-year-old female spayed mixed breed dog presented with vomiting. After a short discussion with the owner it was quickly established that the dog is actually regurgitating rather than vomiting. This usually happens within 15 minutes of eating. This has been going on for 2 months now.

Clinical examination

The dog is BAR with all vital signs within normal range, very active at home and not showing any obvious signs of discomfort or disease.

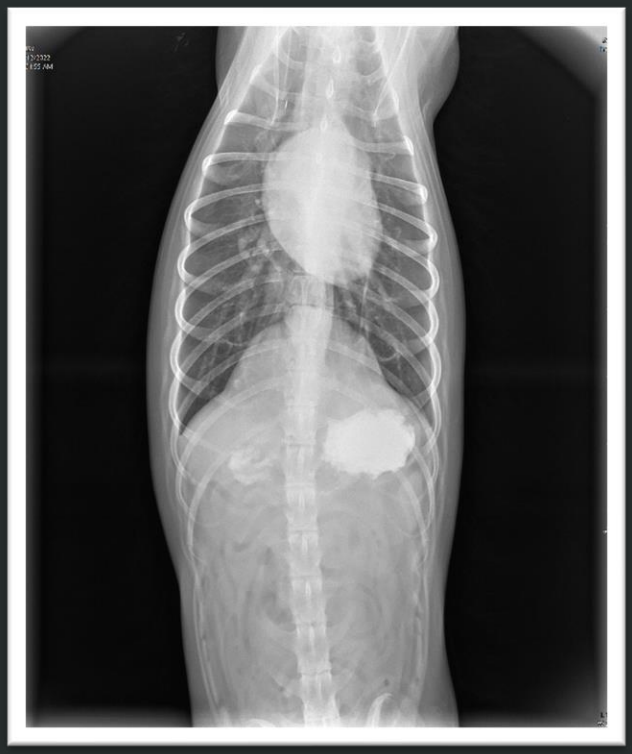
Radiographs:
Soft tissue opacity in caudo-dorsal lung field with spondylitis on T8 and T9. Suspected *Spirocerca lupi.* Did a Barium study to see movement of ingesta through oesophagus, which revealed an obstruction in that specific area, however the barium could still move through into the stomach.

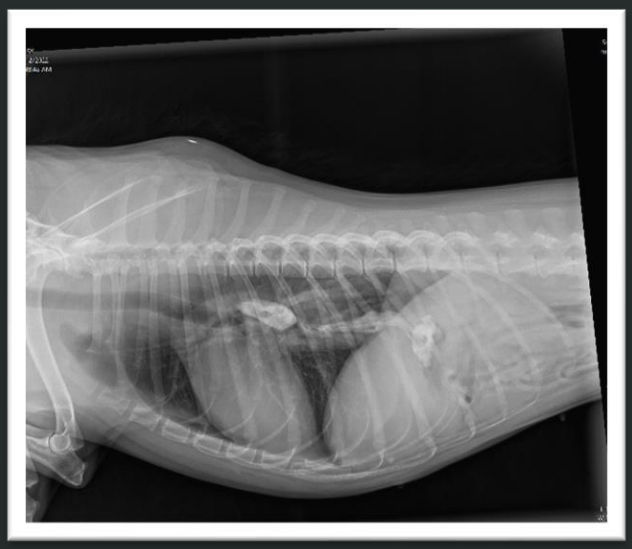
Diagnosis

The dog was sedated and intubated. A scope was passed into the oesophagus and *Spirocerca lupi* was diagnosed, unfortunately no pictures could be taken, however the worm could be visualized and two granulomatous growths could be seen which are the cause of the obstruction.

Treatment

Doramectin @ 0.4mg/kg, 6 doses in 2-week intervals. This will prevent further spread of the disease, however this will not cause regression of the growths already present. As an alternative for Collie and other Ivermectin sensitive breeds, milbemycin (0.5 mg/kg) PO on days 0, 7, 28, then monthly for at least 2 months, can be used, however with lower success rates. Dog needs to be fed from an elevated position to prevent regurgitation.



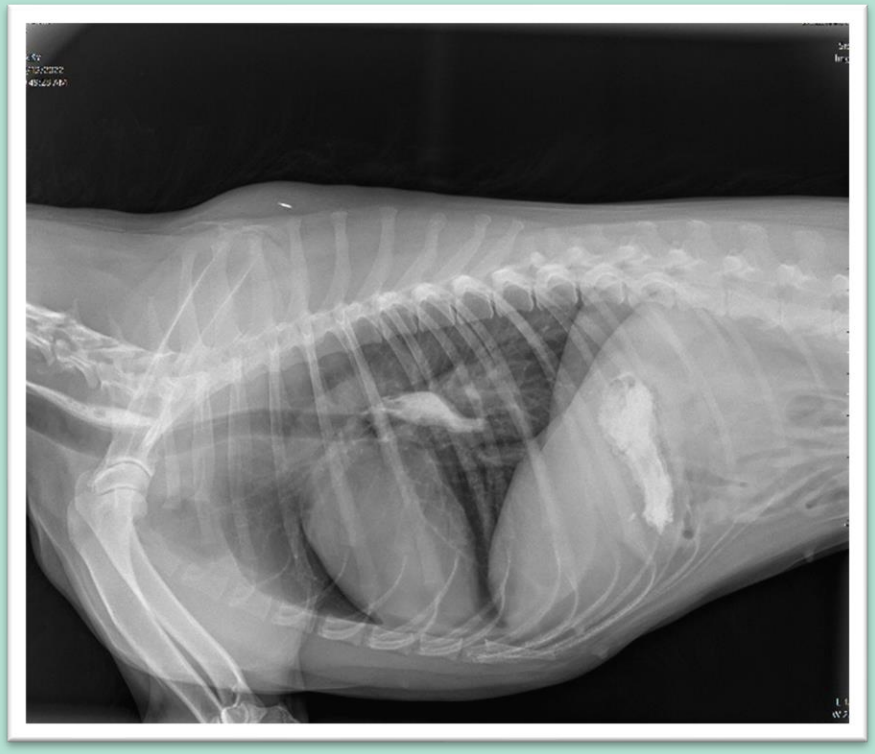


Follow-up

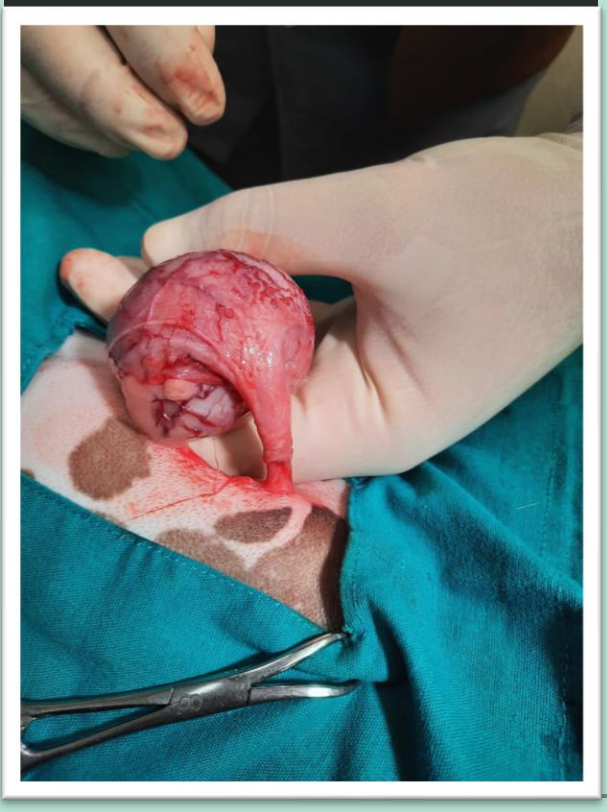
Dog is currently coping well and barely regurgitates anymore, now that he is being fed from an elevated position.

Possible Complications:

- Aortic aneurisms causing aortic rupture
- Spondylitis
- Salivary gland enlargement and sialorrhoea
- Oesophageal neoplasia e.g. spirocerca-related sarcoma in the oesophagous
- Hypertrophic osteopathy



CASE REPORT



The Case of the two English bulldog puppies

By Dr Theuns Laubscher

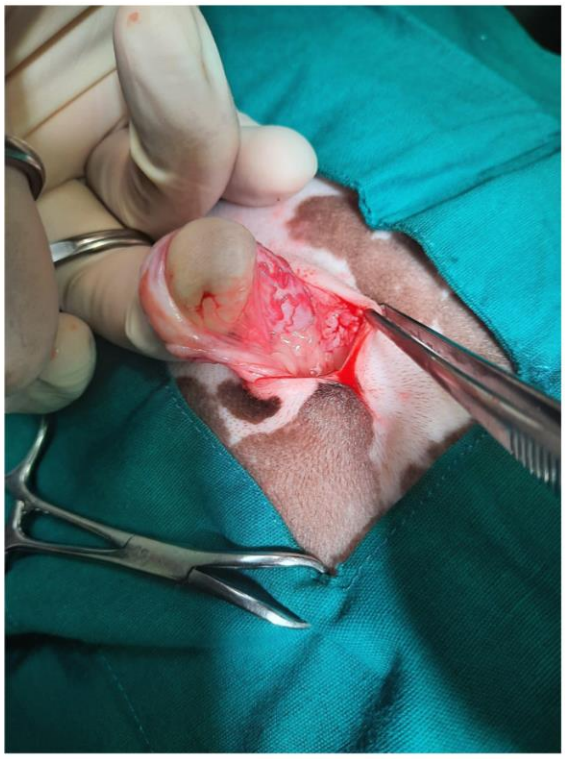
The owners of bulldogs are generally very passionate about bulldogs, and although they are made aware of the disadvantages of the breed, they are not easily dissuaded from owning them.

The history with these owners started years ago. They were instructed to keep their dogs lean and skinny to decrease their stress, especially respiratory stress. They did this very well. The nasal nares of both their dogs at that time were opened but the male progressed to pathological elongated soft palate and started having severe difficulty to breath over the weekend. He was placed in hospital to decrease movement, and anti-inflammatories were administered. He was stable and the surgery went well. The soft palate was resected successfully. However, when he got out of theatre and into the cage he stopped breathing and could not be resuscitated. The owner elected not to do a post-mortem. Heart failure due to respiratory stress was the suspected cause of death.

After this incident, the owners acquired two more bulldog puppies, both female. Let's call them pup1 and pup2. From the beginning, both puppies had problems. Each with at least one hemi vertebrae. Pup2 had an umbilical hernia. The hernia was fixed and both pups received nasal nare resection at about 3 months of age to facilitate breathing.

From there pup1 had a cystitis with no crystals identifiable on urinalysis and no other abnormalities. She responded well to amoxiclav treatment. Pup1 started showing signs of heat and that prompted the owners to sterilise afterwards. At presentation for the sterilisation pup1 now had an umbilical hernia, previously not present. Upon incision for the sterilisation and hernia repair, a structure was discovered intra-abdominally attached to the umbilical hernial area.

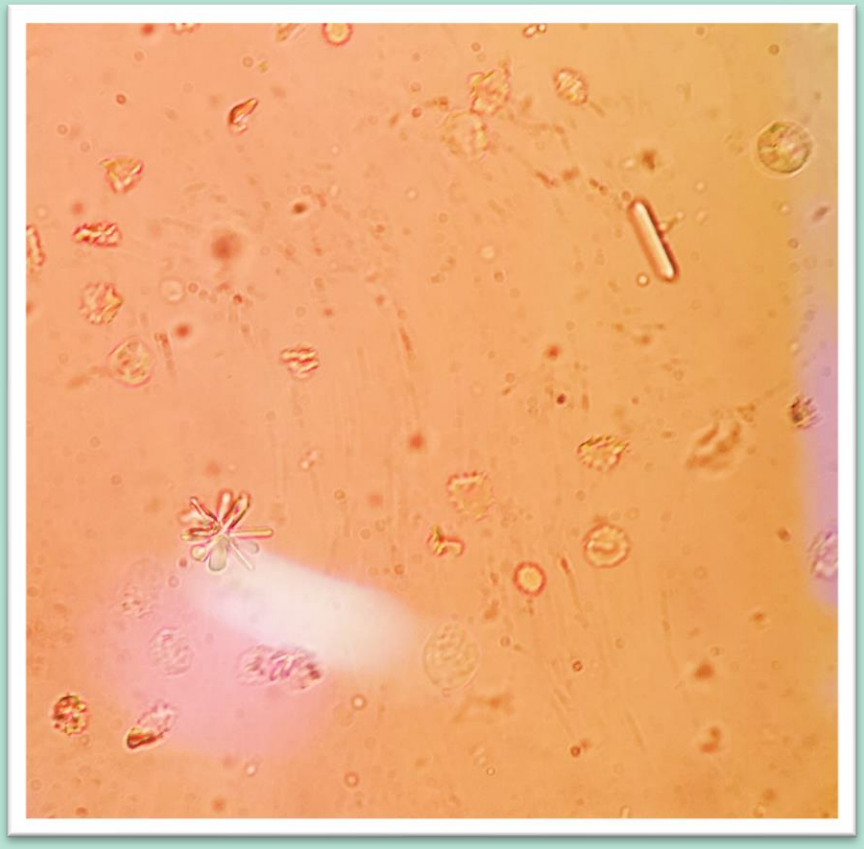
Traction was placed on the structure and the bladder was extracted through the abdominal excision, far more cranial than the bladder can normally be presented. The ligamentous structure was attached to the apex of the bladder. No clear tract could be identified. The ligamentous structure was ligated. The



ureters were checked to make sure they were not included in the ligation or damaged by the surgery.
Diagnosis was persistent urachus.

The bladder was palpated, and a rough surface was palpated inside. On further pressure multiple small stones were identified. The bladder was filled with saline with a needle and syringe and expressed. Most of the stones were expressed though the vagina. A urinalysis was performed and a pH of 9 was shown by the Combur urine dipstick. Struvite as well as calcium phosphate crystals were identified.

The ovariohysterectomy was performed on both pups successfully. And no complications have been noticed except for cystitis on pup1, which is being treated with meloxicam. Pup1 was placed on c/d Hills and will be monitored. They are recovering well.



Contact Us

We would love to hear from you!

Have an interesting case, story or pictures to share with us?

Please send them secretary@van.org.na

Veterinary Association of Namibia

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