

SASH Newsflash

Vol. 2 April 2023

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See inside for more photos from our most recent "Meet the Team" event

We hope you enjoyed volume 1 of our SASH Newsflash. This edition features some exciting updates, new team member announcements and another Case Challenge.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and welcome any feedback on future topics for us to cover.

Did you know?

SASH is the largest vet-owned-and-operated specialist and emergency veterinary hospital network in Australia. The founding partners Dr Justin Wimpole (CEO), Dr Andrew Marchevsky, and Dr Mark Billson were joined by Dr Stephen Fearnside soon after opening. In addition to practicing, these four referral veterinarians are active on the SASH Board of Directors.

Over time, as SASH grew, so did its team of referral veterinarian partners, which now include: Dr Erin Bell, Dr Jody Braddock, Dr David Davies, Dr Andrew Dunn, Dr Louis Eramanis, Dr Martin Havlicek, Dr Veronika Langova, Dr Jack Neville-Towle, Dr Sandra Nguyen, Dr Ryan Taggart, Dr Chris Tan and Dr Sophia Tzannes. Together, this team of veterinarians hold 70% share of ownership of SASH.

Emergency & critical care advice service

SASH recognises that some advice calls are more time sensitive than others. That's why the entire team of seven NSW-based criticalists are available to take enquiries for emergency and critical patients in your care. No appointment or booking is necessary, simply call our Client Services team at your closest SASH hospital, ask to speak to an Emergency & Critical Care Specialist and you will be passed on to one of the criticalists on duty.



*Dr Iain Keir,
Boarded Criticalist*

Helping pets and their families live their best life



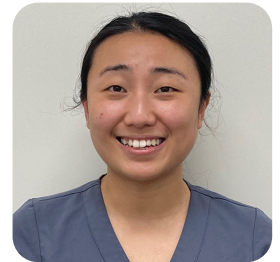
SASH clinical case challenge

Below is a medical case challenge. Scan the QR code to login or register for the SASH Academy to reveal the answer. Once you've selected the answer, you'll unlock some additional questions and invaluable case notes.



Collapsed dog with lethargy & inappetence

This Clinical Case Challenge was written by
Dr Lucy Barker (Internal Medicine Specialist)
and Dr Bernice Tsoi (Medicine Resident)



A 5-year-old male neutered Kelpie X presented for collapse, lethargy and inappetence for the past few days. He has pale mucous membranes, tachycardia HR 160 on physical exam. You performed the following diagnostics:

- PCV/TP: 13%/60g/L
- Blood smear: platelet 8 per HPF
- Chest radiographs: no significant findings
- PT/APTT: within normal limits
- Abdominal/thoracic POCUS: no free fluid found
- In-house CBC: Macrocytic, hyperchromic anaemia with significant reticulocytosis. Mild to moderate neutrophilia, lymphocytosis and monocytosis
- In-house biochemistry: within normal limits
- Positive in-slide agglutination



1. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- a) Acute haemorrhage/bleeding
- b) Immune mediated haemolytic anaemia
- c) Immune mediated thrombocytopaenia
- d) Bone marrow disease



2. What are some common features that you may find on the patient's blood smear?



a) Heinz bodies



b) Spherocytosis



c) Agglutination



d) Target Cells

Near infrared fluorescence (NIRF) at SASH



In our continued mission to improve patient outcomes and minimise morbidity, SASH North Ryde is now proud to announce the first near infrared fluorescence (NIRF) imaging facility for veterinary diagnostics and surgery in NSW.

NIRF imaging is a technique that uses light in the near infrared spectrum (700-900 nm) to induce fluorescence in specially designed dyes. This fluorescence can be detected by a camera and visualised on a screen, in real time. Near infrared light penetrates tissue up to 2-4cm in depth, allowing detection of

deeper structures prior to dissection compared to visible light.

NIRF imaging is particularly well suited for minimally invasive surgery. It allows for more accurate imaging of tissues during surgery, minimising morbidity, improving outcomes and potentially reducing hospitalisation times and complications.

NIRF imaging can be used to:

- image complex anatomy of animals with lymphatic abnormalities such as chylothorax
- map sentinel lymph nodes in real time
- detect endocrine tumours that are small or deep within tissue (such as insulinomas within the pancreas)
- assess tissue perfusion/viability (for example skin flaps and gastrointestinal organs)
- detect bile flow and leakage in biliary surgery.



Scan for case study

If you have a patient you think might benefit from this technology or want to learn more please feel free to contact Dr Tristram Bennett by emailing info@sashvets.com. Dr Bennett is also accessible through www.sashvets.com/referring-vet-advice/



Vet resource hub

Our new resource hub enables you to easily order SASH flyers, posters and client information sheets for your clinic.

We are also creating a suite of digital downloads that you can use on your social media.

www.sashvets.com/collateral-order-form/





SASH Perth, opening 2024

SASH and our local clinical team are excited to share plans for a new hospital opening in early 2024. This state of the art, purpose-built facility will provide multi-disciplinary specialist and 24-hour

emergency services to the City of Perth, Western Australia. SASH is proud to announce a new partnership with Dr Claire Sharp *BSc BVMS MS DACVECC* as a Founder and Hospital Director. Stay tuned for further information as this project comes to fruition.

SASH team update

SASH welcomes the latest additions to our specialist departments.



Dr Erin Mooney
BVSc(Hon) DACVECC
Specialist in Emergency &
Critical Care
SASH North Ryde



Dr Sarah Wetzel
BS DVM MS
Registrar in Oncology
SASH North Ryde



Dr Katy Townsend
BVSc(Hons) MS DACVS-SA
Boarded Surgeon
SASH Central Coast



Dr Chris Tan
BVSc, BSc(Vet) PhD
FANZCVS Diplomate ECVS
Specialist in Surgery
SASH North Ryde



Dr Andrew Adezio
DVM DACVR
Boarded Radiologist
SASH North Ryde



Dr William Park
BVSc MANZCVS
Registrar in Surgery
SASH Western Sydney
SASH North Ryde



Dr Tatiana Lima
DVM DipECVD
Boarded Dermatologist
SASH North Ryde



Dr Matt Kopke
BSc BVSc(Hons)
DACVIM MRCVS
Boarded Internal Medic
SASH Western Sydney



Dr Penny Tisdall
BSc(Vet) BVSc
MVetClinStuds FANZCVS
Specialist in Surgery
SASH Adelaide



Dr Dillon Devathanan
DVM MS DACVIM
Boarded Neurologist &
Neurosurgeon
SASH Adelaide



Dr Philip Inness
BSc BVMS MVS
MVetClinStud MANZCVS
Diplomate ECVS
Specialist in Surgery
SASH Western Sydney



Dr Iñaki Prado Checa
LdoVet MRCVS CertAVP(VC)
DipACVIM
Boarded Cardiologist
SASH North Ryde



In the Spotlight: Dr Natalie Adbly BVSc(Hons) BA(Psych)(Hons) Registrar in Oncology, SASH Central Coast

Natalie completed her Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree with first class honours in 2008 at the University of Sydney. After working for 8 years on the NSW Central Coast in both mixed and companion animal practice, Natalie moved to Sydney in 2017 to complete a Small Animal Internal Medicine Internship and study a Veterinary Oncology Residency through another Sydney based referral hospital. Natalie is thrilled to return to the NSW Central Coast as a member of the SASH Tuggerah's Oncology department.

Interesting fact: Before Natalie became a vet, she practiced as a clinical psychologist in the field of crisis mental health. This has influenced her approach to client communication and she is comfortable addressing owner concerns regarding potential implications of treatment and navigating expected feelings of grief and loss.

Natalie will be based at SASH Central Coast Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and at SASH North Ryde on Tuesdays.



In other team news, we could like to congratulate Dr Barry Chernio who has recently passed his board exams to become an American Diplomate in Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation.

Dr Barry pictured centre with Dr Julia and Dr Vaughan



Recruiting cases for clinical study



Intervertebral Disc Disease in Dogs

SASH is conducting a clinical study in dogs requiring decompressive surgery for thoracolumbar intervertebral disc extrusion (IVDE) and we need your help.

We are investigating the effect of fenestration on the prevention of future occurrence of IVDE.

It is common practice to fenestrate the offending disc space; however, it is currently unclear from the veterinary literature if there is a benefit to fenestrate nearby disc spaces at the time of decompressive surgery.

Dogs that satisfy the inclusion criteria will undergo decompressive hemilaminectomy (or similar) and either fenestration of the offending disc space only, or fenestration of immediately adjacent disc spaces as well as the offending disc space as per randomised group allocation.

Dogs will be followed for a minimum of one year following surgery to assess for future occurrence of IVDE as well as time taken to return to ambulation.

**If you have a suitable patient, please contact Dr James Crowley,
Surgical Resident jcrowley@sashvets.com**



SASH cardiology expansion

We are excited to announce that the SASH North Ryde Cardiology service has recently had a significant expansion to capacity and service offering. With the arrival of Dr Iñaki Prado Checa, an ACVIM-Boarded Cardiologist permanently based at North Ryde, SASH will be offering diagnostic and interventional cardiology services including, but not limited to:

- Echocardiography
- Electrocardiography
- Holter monitoring
- Thoracic radiography
- Blood pressure measurement
- Blood tests
- Electrical cardioversion
- PDA occlusion (ACDO)
- Balloon valvuloplasty
- Cardiac pacemakers



SASH Cardiology team: Dr Phil Brain & Dr Iñaki Prado Checa



Puppy & Kitten Heart Murmur Screening

In addition to the above, Dr Iñaki will also be offering a Puppy & Kitten Heart Murmur Screening service. This first-of-its-kind service is a cost effective way for pets to access a cardiologist while allowing you to keep ownership of the case.

If you auscultate a heart murmur in a patient under 12 months of age, you will be able to refer them to see Dr Iñaki. The service will include a physical examination plus echocardiogram without the need for a client consult. A report with findings and recommendations will be sent back to you for follow up with the client.

To be eligible for the Heart Murmur Screening service, the patient must meet the following criteria:

- Have an audible heart murmur auscultated by a veterinarian
- Be under 12 months of age
- Not require sedation or anaesthesia for an echo
- Be otherwise healthy
- Be able to attend SASH North Ryde on a Monday between 2 to 4 PM

If the patient does not meet the above criteria a regular consult will be required, outside of the Heart Murmur Screening service.

The service is offered at an introductory price of \$700 (flat rate including GST) and will be billed to the referring clinic.

To book an appointment, your clients can call SASH Client Services on **02 9889 0289** and ask for a Heart Murmur Screening appointment

For more information about Murmur Screening and whether it will be appropriate for your patients, please contact one of our nurses, Didi on **02 9889 0289** or via email clinicalservices@sashvets.com

SASH continuing education

We are thrilled to hear the positive feedback around the “An Evening With SASH” series. Thank you to those that attended our last event featuring the SASH Oncology, Dermatology, and Pathology teams at Curzon Hall.



Dates for your diary

- An evening with the SASH Emergency & Critical Care teams: Breathing easy with respiratory emergencies, on the 17th May 2023
- An evening with the SASH Ophthalmology, Avian & Exotics, and Anaesthesia teams, mid June (date TBC)

See www.sashvets.com/vetce for event information

Referring vet oncology advice service



SASH would like to thank all of our referring vet partners who have requested a more efficient system to access SASH specialists for case advice. You are now able to access a user-friendly self-service portal to lock in a 10 minute time slot, ahead of time, to speak to a medical, surgical, or radiation oncologist. The service is available 5 days a week for new or mutual patients. The oncologists will call you at a preselected time to provide advice for your specific case. This service is not intended to be a substitute for a full oncological consult.

To book an advice call, scan the QR code or visit sashvets.com/referring-vet-advice/



SASH North Ryde

1 Richardson Place, North Ryde 2113
(02) 9889 0289

- 24/7 Emergency
- Specialist Anaesthesia
- Avian & Exotics
- Cardiology
- Cancer Centre (Medical, Surgical & Radiation)
- Critical Care
- Dialysis
- Dermatology
- Dentistry
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Feline Radioiodine
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Ophthalmology
- Pituitary Centre
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Surgery



SASH Western Sydney

1 Rowood Road, Prospect 2148
(02) 8609 9444

- 24/7 Emergency
- Specialist Anaesthesia
- Critical Care
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Oncology
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Surgery



SASH Central Coast

2 Bounty Close, Tuggerah 2259
(02) 4311 1311

- 24/7 Emergency
- Specialist Anaesthesia
- Critical Care
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Internal Medicine
- Medical Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Surgery



SASH Adelaide

99 Rundle Street, Kent Town 5067
(08) 8133 5300

- 24/7 Emergency
- Medical Oncology
- Critical Care
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation
- Surgery

SASH Alexandria opening late 2023 SASH Perth opening 2024