



"Reg" - Labrador with glass shard



Reg

"Reg" a 6 year old Black Labrador was presented to see my colleague Ingrid because he was limping on his right front leg.

A small wound was apparent adjacent to his wrist (carpal) joint. It was assumed that he had grazed his leg or possibly been bitten by an insect. Consequently, the limb had become infected and was the cause of his problem.

Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs were prescribed and Reg was discharged.

Several days later Reg's limp had disappeared. He was bright, lively and appeared to show no ill effects. His owners however had become concerned about a lump that had gradually appeared around the area of the original wound.

My second colleague, Geraldine, became alerted to the fact that this was rather unusual and booked "Reg" in to see me!

"Reg" was sedated and radiography confirmed that there was a large abnormal shadow adjacent to the carpal joint. At this point we all made several suggestions as to what this shadow might be.....all subsequently proved wrong!



Reg's X-Ray

Exploratory surgery of the area revealed a large shard of glass. How more severe damage had not occurred or how "Reg" was able to run around without any problems or severing some vital structures is hard to understand.

The point is made that, despite our collective experience and expertise, we can still be astonished by a final diagnosis.

This variety of daily challenges is what makes our profession so fascinating, sometimes terribly frustrating but ultimately very rewarding. The fact remains:

You can teach an old dog new tricks.....as long as you use the right treats!

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO, MRCVS



Glass shard

This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk