



Tim's Surgical Column

Easing a Sneeze

Sophie is a 3 year old English Bull Terrier and she had recently come under our care. Her owner had reported that she had sneezed for a little time over a year ago and had some discharge come down her nostril, her previous vet had given some antibiotics and both the discharge and the sneezing went away. However the sneezing and the discharge had come back again. Otherwise she was fit and well and due to be spayed. We suggested that whilst she was under an anaesthetic for her spay, we would like to check her nasal passages with an X-ray to see if we could find anything amiss...



As you can see there is a clear white shadow seen in her nostril, about the size of a large paperclip, with some fuzzy white area midway along it. Therefore there was a metallic foreign body up Sophie's nose with the fuzzy white area likely being inflammation and infection. Over the next couple of weeks we reduced the inflammation and infection with medications then planned another anaesthetic to try and remove the offending article.

Removing something from up the nose, particularly one that had presumably been there for over a year had the potential to create a big nose bleed, so we had to take great care in trying to remove it. As you can see from the X-Ray, the tip of the metal was a good 5 cm (2") from the outside of the nostril - it really had gone a long way down.



Sophie was given a full anaesthetic. We were then just able to visualise a part of the offending article with a scope up her nostril. After several careful attempts, we were able to get a decent grip on it with special long, thin 'crocodile' forceps and with gentle pulling and a little twisting, were able to remove the entire thing in one go. Thankfully the bleeding was minimal and Sophie had a good recovery from the anaesthetic. She remained on some medications for a period after the procedure, but she has been without sneezing since the procedure and no doubt feels a lot more comfortable!



What we removed was an old (large) fish hook.

Sophie's owner said that he doesn't fish himself, but that she walks alongside where there are anglers, and that she sniffs her way along (as dogs do!) and must have snorted up the fish hook when investigating a patch of long grass. Luckily we've been able to remove the hook and she's doing well.

Just goes to show, if you don't look, you don't find!