

C-Pet Case Study

Elbow Osteoarthritis

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Practice: West Midland Referrals, Lichfield, Staffordshire

Patient: Max Dascalescu, 7 year old, 30kg Lab X-bred

History:

Max had had marked left forelimb lameness with onset pre-dating the date in 2011 when the current owners acquired him from a rescue centre. He had been receiving long term NSAIDs, but the use of the left forelimb had already been very limited for the months leading up to his referral to WMRs in October 2013.

Examination:

The range of flexion of the left elbow was reduced to about 90° and left elbow manipulation was painful.

Investigation:

Radiography had been performed at the referring general practice and showed well established degenerative joint disease in the left elbow (Figure 2). The right elbow was unaffected (Figure 3). A joint tap at WMRs yielded 3ml of grossly normal and reasonably viscous joint fluid.

Treatment:

The owner was offered the options of elbow replacement, arthrodesis or C-PET intra-articular injection. Based on financial constraints and a desire to avoid invasive surgical procedures the owners opted for C-PET.

Under GA, with careful aseptic precautions, 6ml of platelet concentrate was injected into the left elbow. The client was advised that, based on the current literature, any clinical response was expected to take a few weeks to develop and the any improvement in clinical signs was expected to last for some months.



Figure 4

Follow up

In January 2014, two months after C-PET treatment, the owner sent an update on Max' progress to WMRs by email:

“[in the first few days after treatment] ... Max ... showed greater willingness to weight bear ... and this continued to improve gradually over the first two-three weeks. His elbow was [initially] quite pink and swollen. Once this diminished he had a much more harmonious gait – even sitting, and his elbow was clearly less ... swollen than before the treatment. He was much more comfortable and willing to be active. Two/three months ago Max would hardly weight bear at all on his bad leg when moving. Since you treated him he has regained the use of that leg, and seems much more content. He behaves a bit like a puppy now and again – darting and diving around, and will continue to jump on and off beds/sofas and madly chase cats if not being watched! When he overdoes it he pays for it with a day of soreness, and is clearly more lame, but it is not at all as bad as when we came to you in October. A rest day then improves the situation again. I hope you will ... perform a few more of these ‘pet’ therapies. I believe the treatment has done its best now, and I will be watching hopefully to see how long it will continue to help him. I wish I could explain to him NOT to jump off things, but it is good to see him rejuvenated enough to want to! Many thanks to you and the team.”