

Epilepsy

Seizures are a common problem in our canine and feline patients. They can be distressing for both the patient and their owners. At Dick White Referrals, our neurological expertise enables us to identify the cause of the seizures as quickly as possible. When we have an accurate diagnosis, we are able to concentrate on controlling the seizures with minimal side effects. For many epileptic patients, optimal management of the condition can facilitate a good quality of life. We have novel treatment options available for refractory cases and we are undertaking scientific studies to evaluate the possible link between food allergy and epilepsy.

Inflammatory CNS diseases

Meningoencephalitis of unknown aetiology (MUA), eg granulomatous meningoencephalomyelitis (GME) or steroid responsive meningitis-arteritis (SRMA), are most likely to be manifestations of an autoimmune process with primary CNS involvement.



They are increasingly found to be the cause of neurological signs which can be extremely severe. Our on-site laboratory enables us to analyse cerebrospinal fluid samples immediately to ensure that a rapid diagnosis is made and early treatment is instituted. There are some very promising new treatment options available and many patients can be managed successfully. At Dick White Referrals, we are pioneering studies into this condition, in collaboration with European and American institutions.

Neurophysiology

Electrodiagnostic testing such as electromyography (EMG) and nerve conduction velocity (NCV) play a vital part in the diagnostic investigation of neuromuscular disease. Our sophisticated laptop-based technology ensures that there is no delay in reaching a diagnosis. Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) is a non-invasive procedure used to evaluate the patients' hearing. It can be used to screen puppies from breeds in which deafness can be a congenital problem, for

example Dalmatians and Border Collies. It can also be used to perform a physiological evaluation of dogs and cats with vestibular syndrome and patients with severe neurological deficits such as coma. We are also able to undertake electrophysiological evaluation of the pudendal nerve function in dogs with urinary and faecal incontinence or retention.

Muscle and nerve biopsies

Muscle and nerve biopsies are often required after the electrodiagnostic tests have been performed to diagnose the cause of the neuromuscular signs. They are minimally invasive procedures which can provide a large amount of information relating to the cause of neuromuscular disease. Our biopsies are always sent to the most experienced laboratories available in the world. This ensures that, in all cases, we can obtain rapid and accurate diagnoses of veterinary neuromuscular diseases.

Intervertebral disc diseases

Intervertebral disc disease is an extremely painful and debilitating problem which affects many of our canine patients. It is also becoming increasingly recognised in feline patients. The on-site MRI at Dick White Referrals is available 24 hours per day to provide accurate information as to the location of the disc. This enables our patients to receive surgery as quickly as possible, thus enhancing the chances of a successful outcome and an expedient recovery.

Wobbler Syndrome

Many large breeds of dog, for example Rottweilers or Great Danes, frequently suffer from Wobbler Syndrome (cervical spondylomyelopathy). This is a condition which involves compression of the spinal cord. A range of surgical procedures involving ventral slot, dorsal laminectomy and stabilisation are performed regularly and successfully at Dick White Referrals, with the majority of patients returning to a healthy and active life.