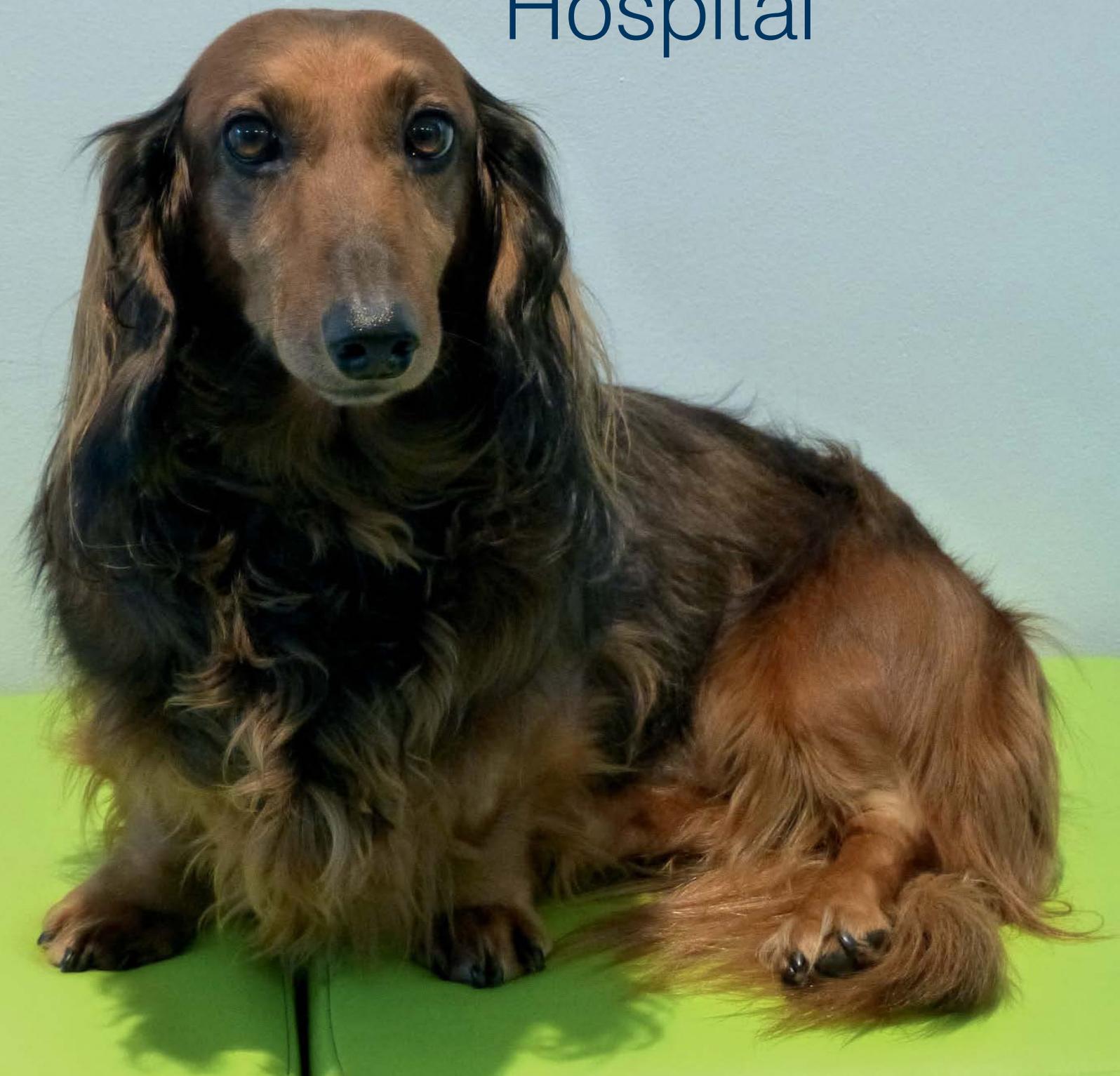




University
of Glasgow

School of
Veterinary
Medicine

Oncology at the Small Animal Hospital



The Oncology Service

- Oncology at the Small Animal Hospital is a dedicated, helpful and friendly service which offers specialist care for pets and their owners.
- Any patient with a tumour could benefit from our service.
- We offer a cutting-edge diagnostic and therapeutic service aligned to rapid developments in veterinary oncology



Treatment options and goals

All pets who visit the oncology service are treated as individuals. We support the decision-making process for owners and their pet, taking into account all aspects of personality and lifestyle. The primary goal of our highly experienced team is a good quality of life and treatment options are based on what is best for the pet and its owners. We provide full support to referring vets and owners throughout the treatment and are available to discuss any worries or concerns.

Depending on the tumour type and extent of disease, we can offer definitive or palliative treatment options using surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy (or a combination of these modalities). The aim of definitive treatment is to achieve a cure or long term control of disease. Palliative treatment is used to improve quality of life, slow down the progression of a tumour, and in certain instances provide pain control for the patient.

Surgery

We have a team of dedicated surgical specialists who can perform radical and reconstructive surgery when appropriate. Surgery is arranged following consultation with the oncology service. Surgery will be carefully planned, and may include use of on-site advanced imaging techniques such as CT and MRI to ensure that we achieve the best possible results. Revision surgery may also be performed when tumours have been incompletely resected. Recovery from surgery is closely monitored and we can support our patients on-site with specialists in pain and rehabilitation.

Tumour diagnosis and classification is performed at our on-site pathology laboratory which provides a rapid turn-around of results.

“Thanks for making me feel lots better.”

Bracken the Border Terrier.

Pet owners testimonials

"I wanted to say thank you for all the advice and support I received at the time which enabled me to do the best for Ripple."

"A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in Oscar's care during his visits to the oncology clinic. He had 9 months that we wouldn't have had with him if it wasn't for his treatments and the care he was given."

"Not knowing what to expect was incredibly stressful but the time everyone took explaining everything and going through the options clearly and honestly, but with obvious empathy, was very much appreciated."



Radiotherapy

Radiotherapy involves the use of high energy x-ray beams that are specifically targeted to areas where tumour cells are present. Radiotherapy can be used as a sole treatment modality or alongside surgery and chemotherapy. It can be used to treat deep and bulky tumours or more superficial tumours and surgical sites with unclear margins.

Delivery of the radiation beams is carefully planned to maximise the success of treatment and avoid treating normal tissue and critical structures (e.g. the spinal cord and eyes). For each treatment of radiotherapy the patient has a short general anaesthetic to ensure no movement during the treatment. Most patients are able to go home as soon as they are fully conscious from the anaesthetic. We can also provide boarding within the Small Animal Hospital for patients that travel from long distances.

Side-effects from treatment are unavoidable but these are usually mild and associated with the local radiation field only. They may include reddening and mild inflammation of the skin or mucous membranes of the mouth, hair loss, skin thickening and loss of skin pigment.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is the use of cytotoxic drugs to treat disseminated or metastatic cancers. We have access to a wide selection of specialist drugs and can therefore offer a range of chemotherapeutic protocols which can be tailored to meet the needs of the pets and owners. The option of shared treatment with the referring vet is also available. We have extensive experience using newer novel treatments including the tyrosine kinase inhibitors and the melanoma vaccine.

Patients will attend our out-patient clinic where they are closely monitored throughout treatment. Side-effects may occur from the use of chemotherapy (e.g. vomiting, anorexia, diarrhoea, reduced white blood cell count) however these are minimised wherever possible.

Please visit our staff web page:

www.gla.ac.uk/schools/vet/sah/ourstaff

for a full list of staff members and clinical training scholars

 www.facebook.com/glasgowsmallanimalhospital

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