

Rosie's Diary

Owner : Mrs. J E Ireland, 46, Northlands Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 9LY, Phone 01689 857190

DD/MM/YY	Event	Period from 28/10/93 to 10/12/1996
28/10/93	Rosie Born	A beautiful Blenheim CKCS
13/03/94	Took Rosie home	We noticed a weakness in back legs from the start and mentioned it to Mr. who agreed. She said they would probably tighten up as Rosie got older.
13/05/94	First Season	
01/12/94	Second season	
06/01/95	Booster Vaccination	Very bad reaction, shivering and crying in pain for 3 hrs later and I called the vet who said "She was a baby, and to keep her warm and ignore her".
09/03/95	Spayed	
14/03/95	Returned to vet	I noticed her back left leg was twitching and I thought they had caught a nerve when spaying her. Rosie was given an antibiotic injection & an anti-inflammatory injection.
04/04/95	Persistent vomiting	Antibiotic and anti-vomiting injection.
20/04/95	Her Left hind leg stiff	
21/04/95	X-ray hips	Was told Rosie had Hip dysplasia and arthritis
24/04/94	Recommended pectinectomy	I requested a 2nd opinion and referral to Royal Vet College.
02/05/95	Mr. Carmichael, at the RVC	Advised that the operation was not necessary as it was only a temporary measure and in his opinion the muscle had been damaged and would get better.. I noticed however that Rosie had a dislocated patella on left leg and I should keep an eye on it. It won't necessarily need treatment. An easy operation if required.
05/05/95	Mrs.	See her again in one month's time about Rosie's hips.
17/07/95		Pain when picked up or lead being put on
07/08/95		Patella permanently out - contacted RVC.
15/08/95	Mr. Carmichael, RVC	Patella luxation Grade II. Treated with recession sulcoplasty of the trochlear groove and lateral capsular overlap.
12/09/95	Mr. Terry Emmerson	Check up at RVC. I mentioned that Rosie's front left leg front looked twisted and Mr. Emmerson agreed. On further examination everything appeared normal..
09/10/95	Mrs. Talbot-Smith	Stiff and painful neck, prescribed Zenecarp 20mg / a day for 5 days Re twitchy leg - it's an itch and if it continues we will do a skin scraping!
24/10/95	Dr Wessel	Re twitchy leg, he reported "the patella is fine and they have done what you wanted. So what are you worried about?"
11/12/95	Pain	In pain
19/12/95	Pain	In pain again
17/01/96	Booster Vaccination	No trouble, unlike previous one. Leg checked, review in 2 months,
03/04/96		Twitchy leg
04/04/96	Mr. Skerritt	He was visiting Neurologist at Pennards, and diagnosed imbalance of fluid in ears. 14 SERC 8mg tablets x 1 daily & two Betnesol Drops in each ear twice daily.
26/04/96	Contacted Mr. Skerritt	Rosie's twitch no better. He suggested we made a video of Rosie and send it to him so he could study her movements.
21/05/96	---do---	Having seen the video, Mr. Skerritt said it could be (1) Calcium deficiency or (2) Mitochondrial disease, caused through the autostructure for which there is no treatment. I said if he could not help- Rosie I would take her to the RVC. He said that they could not do any more for her than he could and arranged to take a needle biopsy.
23/05/96	Blood test	
30/05/96	Bloodtest Results	Blood levels were OK.
06/06/96	Dr Jackson	Histology for Mr. Skerritt. 6 stitches hind left leg and 4 stitches in front leg.
17/06/96	Mr. Dickson	Removed stitches. I rang Emma Chandler Thursday.
16/08/96	Phoned Mr Skerriett	After numerous phone calls to Mr. Skerritt he finally returned my call to say that the muscle biopsy was positive. I mentioned Rosie was having breathing difficulties and Mr. Skerritt said this was to be expected as it was to compensate.
19/08/96		I requested a blood test for Neospora and Toxoplasma.
28/08/96	Chris Lees @ Foxgrove	Kept Rosie in for one day for assessment regarding acupuncture. Mr. Lees contacted Mr. Skerritt for details of Rosie's disease and was advised not to treat Rosie with

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		<p>acupuncture.</p> <p>Mr Lees observed that Rosie's back legs were giving her some pain and prescribed 28 Zenecarp - 1 twice daily UP to 1 week and then 1 daily for another week. Rosie's twitch seemed to improve but was as bad again once the tablets were stopped.</p>
03/10/96	Mr Skerritt at Pennards	<p>In sheer frustration at not receiving any detailed information and also lack of any correspondence to Mrs Andersen, Mr Skerritt examined Rosie's reflexes and checked eyes, Reflexes quite good in both rear legs and retina in eyes were attached. He has no answers to my questions as "Mitochondrial Disease" is so rare that there have not been enough cases to study. Mr Skerritt does not know how much it will progress and imagines it will shorten Rosie's life. MD is a form of auto-immune problem where the body destroys itself. Generally shows itself by the time the dog is a year old. Could be something dormant, triggered by the shock of vaccination or whatever. Commonly known as "The Collapsing Cavalier Syndrome", cases of which have not been recognised or diagnosed. In order to get more data Mr. Skerritt needs to see more cases, He would like to see Rosie in one year's time unless I am worried about her. There is no treatment. It can only be identified by muscle biopsy examined by a scanning electron -microscope that actually looks into the cells. The cells are enlarged inside.</p>
04/10/96	Mrs. Andersen rang	To say Rose's Neospora blood test was positive. Raised hopes again, can be treated with an antibiotic.
11/10/96	Prescription	14 Clindamycin 75mg one table twice daily.
11/10/96	Dr Jackson	Discussed Rosie's condition appeared to make it clearer.
17/10/96		No improvement, 14 Clindamycin and 50 Millophyline to help breathing, Don't go back unless there is a marked improvement.
11/11/96	Rang Mr Andersen	Rosie appeared to have panic attacks through Saturday and Sunday night, Mrs. Andersen thought they could be mini fits and prescribed 28 Diazepam - 5mg 2 twice dally,. Legs went all floppy and she slept all afternoon . Rang Mr. Andersen and he recommended to halve the dose.
11/11/96	Made an appointment to see Mrs. C, Rusbridge.	Because Rosie was dragging her feet and scuffing against the wall when out walking. On return home the toenails on her front left foot were bleeding. Decided to ring RVC to see if anyone there could help Rosie,
26/11/96	Mrs. C Rusbridge at the RVC	Examined Rosie thoroughly and assured us that Rosie does not have the "Collapsing Cavalier Syndrome". Rosie presented as having two problems:, namely- 1) Persistent scratching of the shoulder / neck area (I had been led to believe that the scratching was due to an involuntary movement of the back leg (re twitchy leg) . This was thought to be a condition seen previously in CKCS where they have abnormal sensation and increased scratching. Unfortunately despite Mrs. Rusbridge 's trying many treatment combinations she has not yet found an effective treatment. 2) Rosie's more serious problem was a weakness of the back legs and it was recommended that Rosie had a Myelogram..
29/11/96	Collected Rosie.	The weakness in the back legs was found to be due to a large space in her spinal cord (Syringo Myelia). This occurs secondary to a blockage. It is recommended that Rosie has an MRI scan to determine where the blockage is to see whether it is possible to operate. The fluid has built up around the upper part of Rosie's spine and is not getting round the bottom part which is causing Rosie's weakness in her back legs. Mrs Rusbridge does not know whether this could be causing the irritation in her neck/shoulder area or whether she has two separate problems.
06/12/96	MRI scan. Took Rosie to	Julia M Boness & Dr J V Davies in Bedfordshire for an MRI scan.
07/12/96	Collected Rosie.	I was told to ring Mrs Rusbridge next week for the results.
10/12/96	Rang Clare Rusbridge	Rosie has a cavity in her brain and part of the brain (the Cerebellum, the area of brain which coordinates body movements) has dropped down and is pressing on the spinal cord. This disease is known as Arnold Chiari syndrome in humans and causes an intense pain in the neck / shoulder area. Hence the intense irritation in that area and consequent scratching, plus the weakness in the back legs are both part and parcel of the same disease.

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Rosie (Lynordan Gypsy Rose) passed away in February 2000, just six and a half years old. She was the first Cavalier to be diagnosed in 1996 by Clare Rusbridge as having the syndrome. Unfortunately, it was too late to operate by then. While making Rosie's life as much fun and as comfortable as possible, Janet Ireland, her owner worked, and is still working strenuously to draw attention to this distressing problem in our Cavaliers. Sadly, Rosie's quality of life deteriorated, and Janet lost her "foxy lady". If you would like to tap into her expertise her email address is

janet@irelandj.freemove.co.uk