

Wound Clinic



Specialist Services

**For more information about the Wound Clinic, the clinical research projects using the k-laser, or if you would like some friendly advice or to discuss a potential case for referral, please contact:
Vicky Lipscomb or any member of the Soft Tissue Surgery Team at the RVC.**

Email: QMHSofTissueSurgeryTeam@rvc.ac.uk

Wound Clinic provides new approaches to wound management

RVC Small Animal Referrals has established a new Wound Clinic to support patients and referring veterinary practices.

Transdisciplinary Approach

Working together as a transdisciplinary team, the Wound Clinic draws on the breadth of specialist expertise at RVC Small Animal Referrals based at the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals (QMHA) to offer an optimum wound plan for the referred patient, as well as tailored advice to complement wound care or management at referring practices.

Referred patients receive a comprehensive wound consultation at the RVC with a member of the Soft Tissue Surgery team.

The clinic is led by Vicky Lipscomb, the head of the Soft Tissue Surgery Service.

Each patient has a full history taken and receives a physical examination. Wounds are then photographed with a 3-D Silhouette camera, which uses laser beams to measure the area and volume of the wound for accurate comparisons of wound progression. Software calculates 3-D measurements of the wound's area, depth, volume and perimeter. It also captures relevant wound assessment details, such as age and any co-morbidities.

The referring vet receives a wound report from the RVC team, which details the findings and includes recommendations for a wound management plan.

Recommendations may be actioned at the RVC or the referring veterinary practice, depending on the patient's needs. Outpatient wound management at the RVC is available for owners and referring veterinarians who would like the Soft Tissue Surgery service to provide regular advice on a wound and monitor its progression using the 3-D wound camera.

Therapeutic K-laser

Some wounds and selected surgical incisions/flaps/grafts may benefit from treatment with a class IV K-Laser therapeutic laser. It has been shown that laser therapy may speed healing by up to 30%. It can help to heal infected wounds, even those with multi-resistant infections, as the laser stimulates the immune system and increases tissue oxygenation and local blood supply.

Wound clinical research

The Wound Clinic has started two prospective clinical research projects using the class IV K-laser, which we hope will allow us to evolve and optimise our future practices involving the k-laser to help our patients and further the currently sparse veterinary evidence base in this area.

The first study is investigating the effects of a class IV laser on the

postoperative wound healing in dogs undergoing bilateral surgeries on the same day, where one surgical wound has been treated with the laser compared to a control “no-laser” application on the other normal surgical wound.

The second study is investigating the effects of a class IV laser on second intention healing in dogs, where one half of a wound has been treated with the laser compared to a control “no-laser” application on the other half of the wound.

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

The pictures show ‘Teddy’ undergoing post-operative negative pressure wound therapy on his large rotation flap. We were concerned about viability of the distal portion of Teddy’s flap the day after surgery but full flap viability was maintained with the help of the negative pressure therapy.

A full report of Teddy’s case can be found in JAVMA 243(6), 863-868.

