

FREDDIE

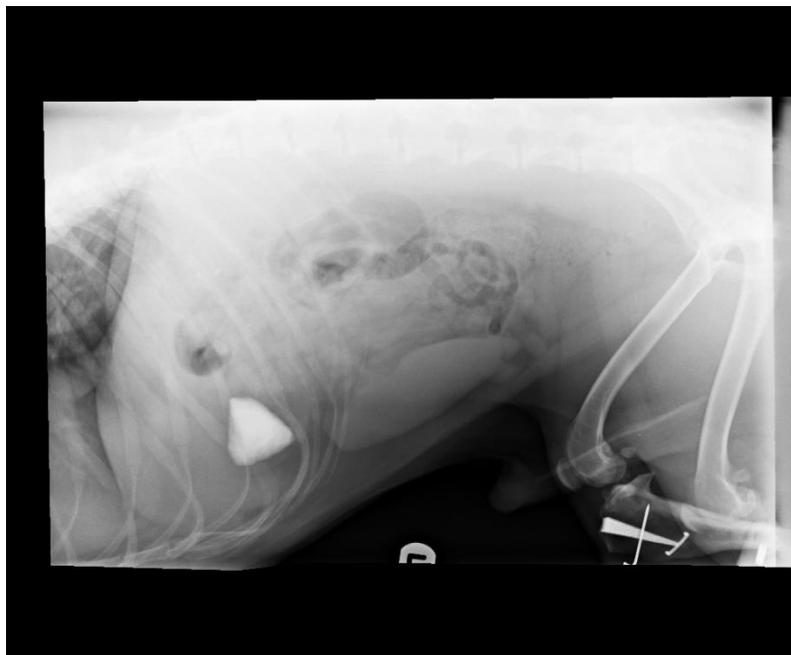
Freddie is a 6 year old Springer Spaniel who likes coming to see us so much that he is working his way through the veterinary encyclopaedia!

When he was very young, it became obvious that Freddie was having trouble with his ears. During his regular puppy health checks the vet noticed a good deal of malassezia. Malassezia is a yeast organism similar to Candida (which causes thrush in people) and is often present in low numbers on normal skin and in ears, but it can multiply and cause or exacerbate some skin conditions. Spaniels have very hairy ears which provide a perfect warm, moist environment for infections to develop.

Despite a variety of topical treatments and antibiotics, it was evident that further investigation was required. We conducted some allergy tests and Freddie underwent a food elimination trial to try and ascertain what was causing his various skin complaints as, by now, Freddie was also suffering from pruritis (itchy skin) and pyoderma (skin infections).

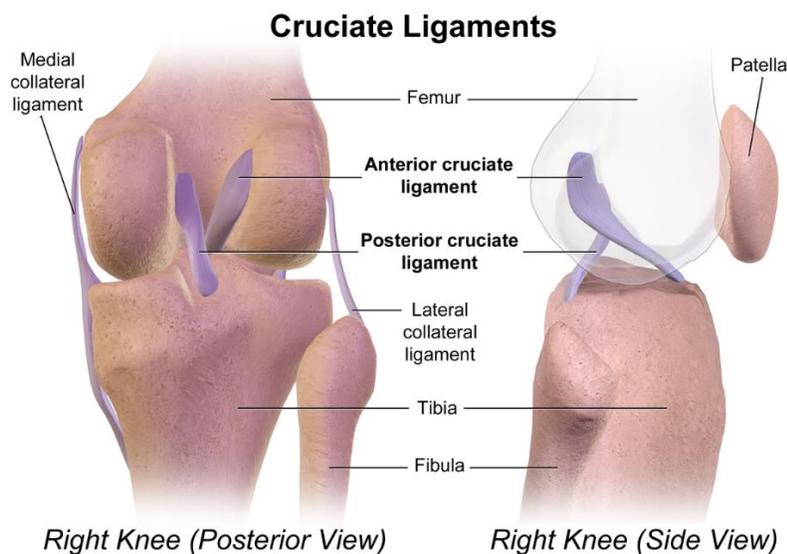
Freddie switched to a hypoallergenic food and his condition is now effectively controlled using a combination of diet management, topical treatments and oral medication.

Unfortunately, Freddie is also a little partial to the odd stone! And since 2012, he has had to have two exploratory laparotomy surgeries to remove a stone each time. One stone had become wedged in his ileum (part of the small intestine) and had to be surgically removed and the second stone was removed endoscopically from Freddie's stomach. Below is the x-ray of his second stone!



Now you would think Freddie would have had enough of us by now but in addition to his skin complaints and somewhat unorthodox dietary preferences, Freddie has also undergone orthopaedic surgeries for cruciate ligament repairs. Cruciate ligaments are rather like strong elastic bands that hold the knee together and keep it one piece. They can rupture and cause lameness so need repairing. This is not a hugely rare procedure although, in typical Freddie fashion, he subsequently suffered a tibial fracture that also required surgery. You can see the repair in his knee on the previous x-ray. This knee was treated by a referral orthopaedic specialist, but when he ruptured the same ligament in the opposite knee the following year, it was repaired by an older technique here at BVVS instead of referral and thankfully there were no complications this time!

This picture shows a canine knee joint and you can see the ligaments and the tibia.



Recently, he has had a huge abscess, which we think is secondary to a migrating grass seed. He was referred for a CT scan and the grass seed itself was not visible so we hope it came out when the abscess burst! The current theory is that Freddie inhaled a grass seed which lodged in his lung and then migrated backwards to form an abscess which burst out along his back.

Now luckily Freddie enjoys our company and he is very much at home here, which is just as well really! In fact, we think Freddie's after a job as practice mascot!

Freddie takes it all in his stride and is always calm and laid back and an absolute joy to look after. We wanted to acknowledge his courage and ability to recover from these various ailments whilst maintaining his lovely, friendly disposition and lively good spirits.

Well done, Freddie !