

# Paws claws and piddle things

## That's just nuts!

AMY WEEDEN

### Clinical history

A 9-year-old male Kelpie presented with a urinary tract infection, generalised alopecia, and pendulous nipples (Figure 1). A cystic prostate and an intra-abdominal mass (possibly consistent with a testicle) were identified on ultrasound. The dog had been adopted as adult with no surgical history and had a small scrotum with no descended testicles and no obvious castration scar.

### Cytology findings

Cytology smears from the cystic prostate (Figures 2 and 3) and mass (Figure 4) were received in the laboratory.

The prostate sample was mildly blood contaminated, well preserved, and highly cellular. There was a predominance of non-degenerate and variably karyolytic neutrophils, and rare macrophages were

*Figure 1. A 9-year-old male Kelpie with a displaying generalised alopecia, and pendulous nipples.*



observed. There was also a population of well-differentiated to mildly atypical squamous epithelial cells, seen individually or in small aggregates. Bacteria with mixed morphology were present in moderate number, frequently found within neutrophils. Normal, cuboidal to columnar prostatic epithelial cells were not identified. Mixed growth with a predominance of *Haemophilus haemoglobinophilus* was isolated on culture.

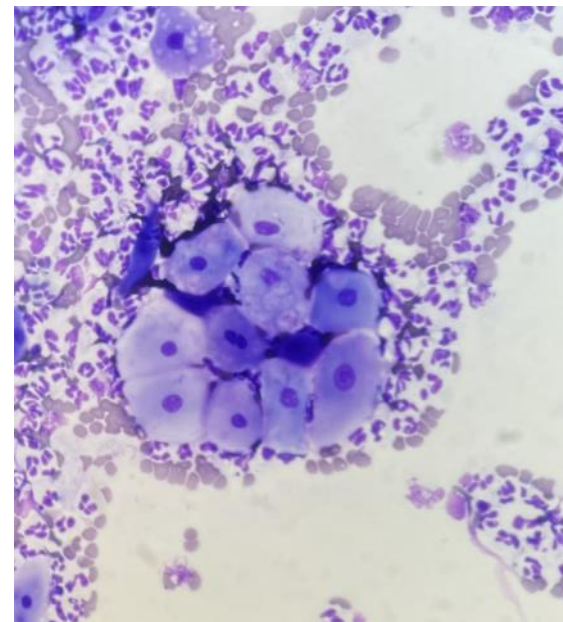
The mass sample was of low intact cellularity. This sample appeared to contain a mixture of cell types, including clustered spindle cells (probable Leydig cells), individualised discrete round cells (germ cells), and large round-to-spindle cells with vacuoles (probable Sertoli cells) shown in figure 4).

The prostatic cytology was consistent with squamous metaplasia and associated bacterial infection.

### Discussion

Metaplasia is the transformation of one mature/differentiated cell type to another. Squamous metaplasia of the prostate is a known sequela to hyper-oestrogenism in male dogs. This is most commonly associated with Sertoli cell tumours, though administration of exogenous oestrogens could also cause this change. Chronic inflammation is another general cause of metaplasia.

Since this dog had an intra-abdominal mass and an unknown surgical/neuter history, the aspirated mass with multiple cell populations was expected to represent a testicular tumour. Based on cytology alone, a definitive diagnosis of Sertoli cell tumour could not be made, but in context of the



*Figure 2. Cytology smear from cystic prostate with marked neutrophilic inflammation and squamous epithelial cells.*

clinical presentation, this was the working diagnosis.

*Continued on page 2*

*Figure 3. Cytology smear from cystic prostate.*

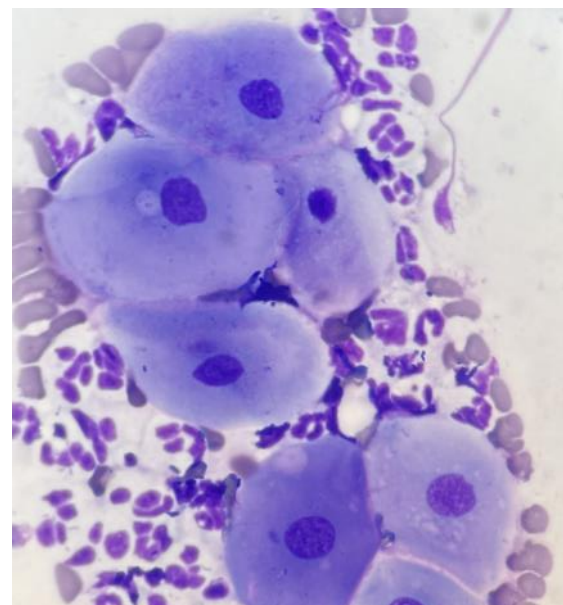


Figure 4. Cytology smears from the intra-abdominal mass, probable Sertoli cells.

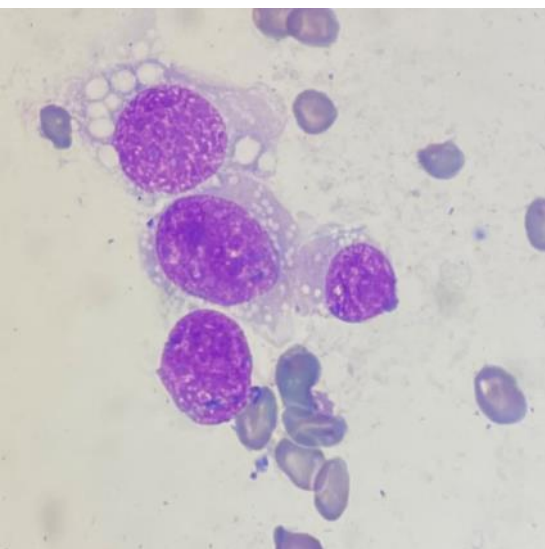


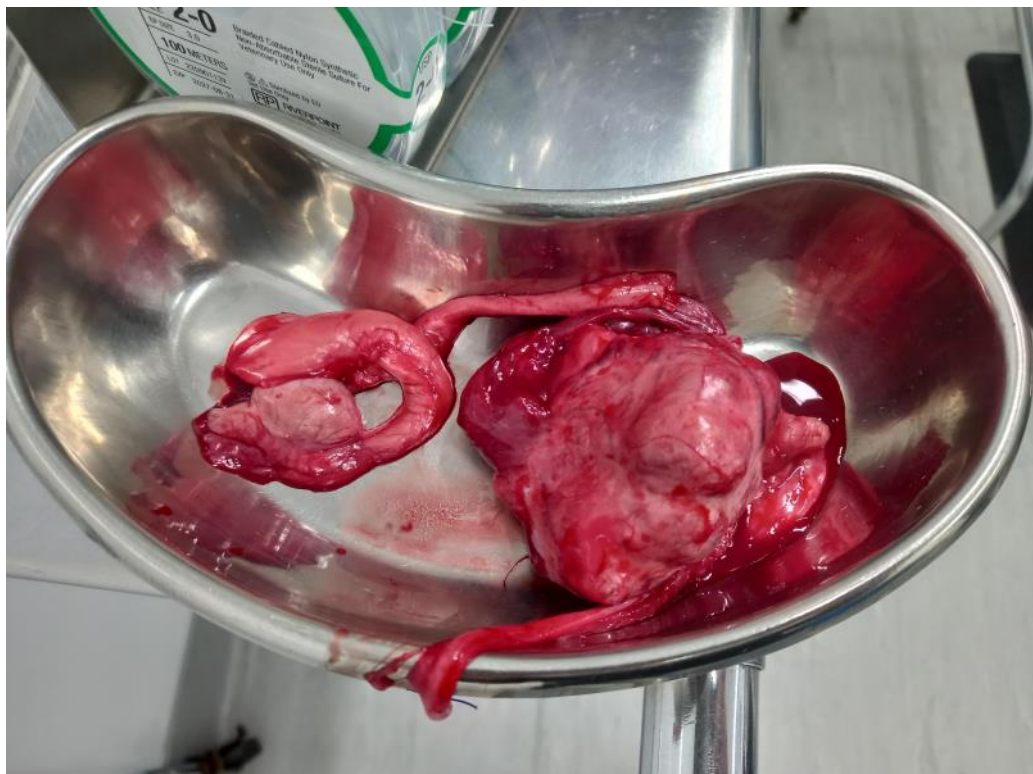
Figure 5. Enlarged and abnormally shaped testicle.



Exploratory laparotomy was performed, and two intra-abdominal testicles were identified. One of the testicles was significantly enlarged and abnormal in shape, consistent with neoplasia (Figures 5 and 6). A Sertoli cell tumour was confirmed with histopathology.

*Many thanks to Rebecca Pirie at Vetlife Alexandra for submission of this excellent case and for the great images and follow-up information.*

Figure 6. Both testicles, one enlarged and abnormally shaped (neoplastic).



## Very ballsy

HANIA KLOBUKOWSKA

Testicular tumours are common in older entire male dogs, and a frequent cause for presentation at the local veterinary clinic. They can affect one or both testes, and it is not unusual to find more than one tumour in a testis. Testicular tumours are more frequently found in the right testis compared to the left. Cryptorchidism is also a risk factor for their development.

Clinical symptoms may include the palpation of a mass in one or both testes, asymmetrical testes, scrotal changes and poor reproductive performance. Some testicular tumours (mostly Sertoli cell

tumours) may be associated with the production of hormones that produce distinct clinical syndromes (see case report). Rarely they may present as an acute abdomen due to torsion.

The most common testicular tumour is the interstitial cell tumour (a.k.a. Leydig cell tumour), followed by seminoma and lastly Sertoli cell tumour. Most of these are benign and can be cured by complete excision however rare malignant varieties do exist.

Diagnosis of most testicular tumours is relatively straight forward and generally involves cytology and/or histopathology. Castration is regarded as the treatment of choice and is generally curative for most

cases.

Non-neoplastic testicular lesions can sometimes be mistaken for testicular tumours and these include testicular necrosis due to a previous suspected torsion, and testicular atrophy/hypoplasia of unknown cause. Sometimes scrotal tumours may be mistaken for testicular tumours. Infectious epididymitis and orchitis are seemingly common and mostly thought to be due to the traumatic implantation of bacteria. An important differential for this is *Brucella canis* which should be considered in any dog with any international travel history, and if concerned, MPI should be notified of such cases.

## Export testing

### - *submission requirements*

All export testing requests (whether for pre-entry export or for sending an animal overseas) **must** have the **sample date** clearly written on the submission form. This date is a MPI / AsureQuality requirement for all export reports.

Not all labels printed in-clinic have the sample collection date in the details, so please **ensure it is added** to the submission form prior to sending to your local laboratory. If requests are missing this date, we are obliged to contact the submitting veterinarian to verify. As you can imagine, this does take some time, so we thank you in advance for ensuring all details are complete.

## Disruption to B12 testing

Due to the ongoing Russian conflict, we are currently unable to source Cobalt57 labelled vitamin B12 to carry out our radioimmunoassay for B12 (the Co57 is produced in Russia).

We are instead subcontracting this testing to another laboratory, so you may notice a slight delay with reporting.

We are trying to find an alternative source for the tracer and are also validating a new B12 assay. We aim to complete the method validation this week, and will resume in-house testing at that time.

We thank you for your patience and understanding while we resolve this unforeseen issue.

## Winter wellness checks

Does your clinic offer clients wellness checks over the winter months for older or overweight pets?

Health screening plays an essential role in disease prevention and general wellness assessments promote the overall wellbeing of our pets. Early detection of disease and other health conditions facilitates more effective management, leading to a happier and healthier life for our pets.

Gribbles Veterinary offers a range of specific wellness testing aimed at senior pets, overweight pets and pets requiring anaesthesia. We have information about wellness testing [on our website](#) which you can provide to your clients. It covers the why, when and what, so your clients understand the benefits of testing and what is involved.

To compliment this wellness information, we have discounted biochemistry panels for general wellness checking, senior animals, pre-anaesthetic testing and more. Check out the Companion Animal section of your price book for details. Or if you prefer, we can create custom panels for your clinic.



If you'd like more information or would like to organise custom panels for your clinic, simply visit our website or give us a call today.

## Final CPD session in this series of online events!

The final in our series of four free online CPD sessions will be happening at **1.00pm on Tuesday 22 August**.

Join expert Gribbles Pathologist Alice Fraser as she provides an update on bovine mastitis diagnosis. Alice will present an overview on mastitis in New Zealand, a review of diagnostic tests available, investigative approaches, monitoring tools and more.

PLUS, Lincoln Institute's Gary Turnbull will be sharing some insights on communication. In this webinar Gary will explore the reasons why listening is so difficult and how we are wired to ask the 'wrong' questions.

For more information and to register, [follow this link](#).

# Did we miss your call?

You may have experienced a delay getting in touch with us via phone during peak periods of the day. All efforts are made to answer calls promptly, but occasionally this isn't possible. If we missed your call, please leave us a detailed message or send us an email and we will get back to you as soon as we can. **All** messages are responded to or actioned promptly.



## In brief

### > Do you use Vision or RxWorks?

We'd like your feedback on how we can make our diagnostic integration work best for you. So when you have a few minutes, [please complete this brief questionnaire](#) and help us help you.

### > Missed a one of our online CPD sessions?

We've got you covered - find all the

recordings [on our website here](#) under webinars.

### > Interested in a leadership training event?

Gribbles Veterinary is proudly supporting The Lincoln Institute for a two-day live and face-to-face leadership training event - October 4-5 at Rydges Formosa Golf Resort. Numbers are strictly limited, so

check out all the details on the following pages and [register](#). Be sure and get in quick!



**Gribbles**  
VETERINARY



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Contacting Gribbles Veterinary couldn't be easier.

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After 12 years of business ownership, I've learnt so much that I didn't know what I didn't know. It's been really good for us. I don't feel like I have to micromanage everything anymore. Now I relax into it and it's a huge relief.

- Dr Megan Alderson, Practice Owner, The Strand Vet (Auckland)

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- ▶ Eliminate the stress and frustration of people management, including how to have difficult conversations with confidence and transform conflict.
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## LIVE 2-day event details

### Auckland, New Zealand

Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th  
October 2023

At Rydges Formosa Golf Resort,  
Beachlands



Investment **AUS\$697** (inclusive of GST)

Includes two full days of training, morning and afternoon tea, lunch, workbook and pen.

For further information and to secure your place, scan the QR code below!



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Got a question? Contact us at:

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