



Interesting Case from our web site www.fairfield-vets.co.uk



"Bella" - Intersex Lurcher/Whippet Puppy



Bella

Even after 26 years in the job I still occasionally come across a patient or a condition that I have never seen before and leaves me shaking my head in disbelief.

My colleague Geraldine examined "Bella" when she came to Fairfield for her puppy vaccinations. "Bella" seemed completely healthy in every respect except one! Geraldine, in her typically thorough manner had spotted a certain peculiarity. "Bella" appeared to have a rather large and prominent clitoris. Somewhat startled by this observation "Bella" was brought over to the remainder of the Fairfield team for a consensus.

As my eyes widened, I was happy to concede that her clinical observation was entirely accurate. We came to the conclusion that "Bella" was one of a rather rare gender type known as an intersex. These individuals have the biological characteristics of both male and female.

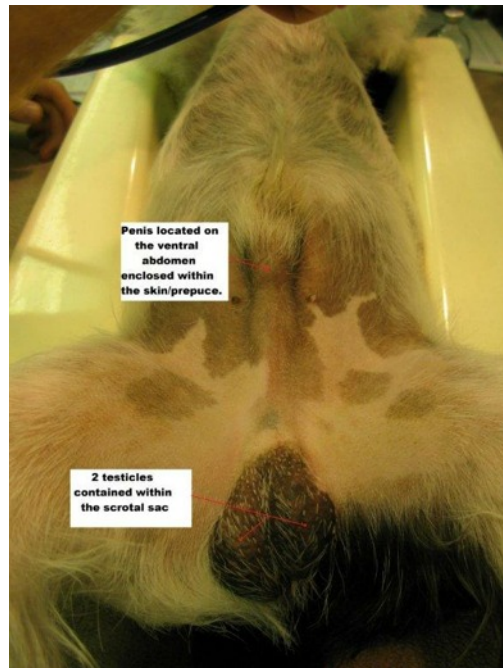
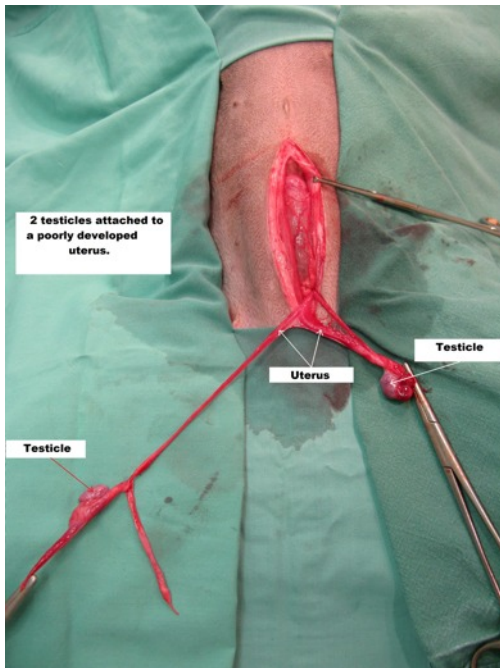
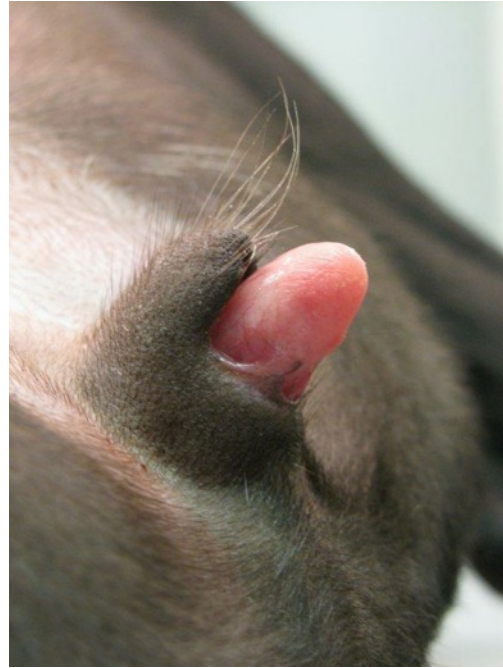
True to form, several months later, when "Bella" was surgically neutered I removed 2 testicles attached to a uterus from inside her abdomen. "Bella" by virtue of the testicles and what we now understood to be a vestigial penis was more "Bert" than "Bella!" In any case, no matter what sex "Bella" is, she is a fabulous pet with a terrific temperament but a rather deep bark for a Lady!

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO, MRCVS

This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk

You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care

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