

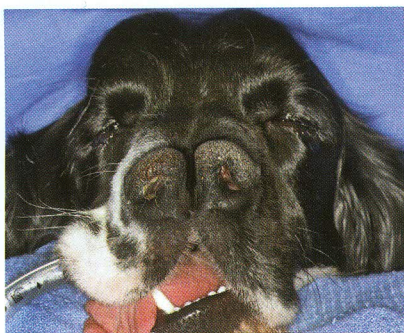
Dental Surgeons Repair Rare Facial Deformity

In January 2010, a young English springer spaniel found wandering a rural road in Southern California was brought to a shelter in San Ysidro. The dog had a rare birth defect that combined a primary cleft palate with a nose that appeared to be divided into two pieces (a bifid nose). Shelter personnel struggled to give the dog oral medications to combat a kennel cough outbreak then underway and then worked to clear up a sinus infection in the dog. The only solution for the spaniel's fundamental problem, however, was surgery.

Fortunately for "Tug," who picked up the name because of his ability to tug at one's heartstrings, volunteers from English Springer Rescue America took an interest. The group arranged for Mary Turner, a volunteer based in Vacaville, to bring Tug to the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, where several of her own spaniels have been treated.

A unique defect

Frank Verstraete, professor of veterinary dentistry and oral surgery, and then-resident Boaz Arzi performed what may be a unique series of procedures to correct the cleft in Tug's palate and simultaneously repair his nose. "The nose problem is quite rare," Dr. Verstraete explains. "We have not seen it reported in the literature except in some South



Before surgery, the gap between the two sides of Tug's nose is visible.



Tug gets a checkup October 25, 2010 with (from left) student Nayeli Rojas, Chief of Service Frank Verstraete, staff veterinarian Boaz Arzi, and caregivers Mary Turner and Harry Griffin.

American breeds. However, the cleft palate made it a medical problem. So we decided to perform surgery." The veterinarians adapted techniques of human facial surgery to repair the defects. The procedure took more than four hours to complete.

An extraordinary effort

Born with this singular and life-threatening condition, the homeless Tug could have been lost at many points in his early life. Instead, shepherded from street to shelter to foster home to veterinary hospital by caring individuals and proficient clinicians, Tug can now breathe, chew and swallow normally for the first time.

"The procedure went well, and he has healed nicely with no complications," Verstraete says.

At his last checkup, Turner said that she would adopt the lively spaniel. "He needs socialization. After today, Tug wants to meet some dogs."

\$1 Billion UC Davis Campaign

Citing the "unprecedented opportunity to further a bold vision for this university," Chancellor Linda Katehi announced October 22 that UC Davis will raise \$1 billion by 2014.

The Chancellor presided over a series of high-profile events that formally kicked off the public phase of the campus's first comprehensive fundraising effort, The Campaign for UC Davis.

THE
CAMPAIGN FOR
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Partnering with Rescue Organizations

The William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital works closely with rescue organizations such as English Springer Rescue America to arrange payment of what can be costly procedures. Some of Tug's care was supported by the hospital's George and Louis Root Endowment, which provides a small amount of supplemental funding specifically for animals in the care of rescue organizations. Donations to this fund are always welcome.

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