

Date: 2023/03/14

Animal name: Rocco
Sex: M
Breed: Springer Spaniel
Age: 15Y

To whom it may concern

Rocco Pienaar presented to Country Animal Clinic on the 13th of March 2023 for a routine check-up and a prescription renewal for Meloxicam which is an anti-inflammatory drug often used to treat pain and inflammation associated with stiff joints.

Upon my clinical exam, I observed three obvious growths:

- 1) A large growth on his left chest that has a soft feel to it. These are often diagnosed as Lipomas which is a non-malignant fatty mass. In my opinion this mass cannot be removed as it is too widespread.
- 2) A pendulous growth underneath his tail. It also has a soft feel to it, and no trauma was observed. It had a very clean appearance.
- 3) The third growth was observed on his tail. Hair loss is evident, and it seems localised within the skin. No trauma was evident here either.

It would be possible to remove these last two growths, but as explained to Mrs Pienaar, there is an increased risk associated with general anaesthetic as the patient gets older, and that we would advise to perform blood tests first before we would proceed. In these cases, we weigh the risk of anaesthetic against the need for removal should these growths significantly affect the patient's quality of life.

I found that Rocco has lost a bit of weight in his hind quarters since we have last seen him 8 months ago. This is sometimes due to painful joints (most often due to arthritic changes associated with age) and reduced movement. It could also mean that there is an underlying systemic illness, but it would be impossible to say with further testing.

Rocco is painful on spinal palpation and some of his back muscles show mild spasms. His hips also show reduced range of motion and pain upon manipulation. Given his age, my suspicion is that he is struggling with

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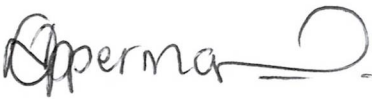
arthritis. It is therefore my recommendation that Rocco receives a daily anti-inflammatory which also has a pain relief component.

If it seems like he still struggles, I would like to add in additional pain relief, and has advised Mrs Pienaar to let me know if this is the case.

Apart from the afore mentioned points, I find that Rocco is doing well. We would need to see him again in 6 months for a check-up and renewal of prescription.

Kind regards

Dr N Opperman



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