Headlines News: Bulla for You

"I'll flush and I'll flush and I'll blow your house down in" - A. Wolf

Antibiotics . . . check
Two full weeks of something broad spectrum that would get Mycoplasma . . . check
Flush through the bulla daily . . . check    Flush the stuff right out the nose ? . . . check
Add topical antibiotics and steroids into the ear . . . everyday
Make the discharge worse then better . . . did that
oh, you you fixed the ear ? . . . nope!

A surgery to open the ventral bulla and remove the infected mucoperiostium, flush out the infected contents, and place a drain to allow all the material to flush out is scheduled for next week at a local veterinary specialty center. There are many perils to the surgery, if we open any one of a large number of arteries in the head, the hemorrhage could be sudden and fatal. Using power drills on the skulls is not without risk, and don’t even get me started with seals and general anesthesia. As crazy as is sounds, it is also not always possible to know just what the state of the bulla is during a bulla osteotomy. Once the muscles and periostium are retracted the surgical field, which is only a few centimeters, fills with blood. Almost constant suction is needed to keep the field clean, and the drill is cooled with a flush of sterile saline, things happen pretty quick, the bone opening is created, the thick mucoperiostium lining is incised, the contents flushed out some of the tissue is taken for histopathology and culture. With the suction is really not easy to know what’s in there and the biopsy and cultures take weeks. So, to satisfy everyone that surgery is really indicated, we repeated the CT under ultrashort acting anesthesia at WHOI CSI to day to answer that question, and while some minimal progress was made the left bulla is still filled with fluid, but osgtomeyelitis is not yet evident. So we’ll continue with the planned surgery, and attempt to cure this infection of the middle ear.
Clinical Update: Hotlips
Some healing, new wounds, and a very sick but tough little seal

Hotlips is making some progress but is still dreadfully underweight and suffering from serious wounds, we are going to have to address some dental work at some point as well, but the nostrils may be able to seal and close, so a water test is in her future. Some new wounds on the hind flippers and surfaced and are also being treated. We’ll follow her with additional blood work and radiographs.

Most concerning is that a right aural discharge was noted yesterday, oh my . . .

Sea Rogers Williams VMD
Attending veterinarian and director of science