

Imperishable Seed

Uganda

January 2018

Arndt's Anatomy: Animal Style

This is how my compound mate just told me I should rename my ministry. She has apparently been enjoying watching me care for the animals around me. An example of this is the other day when she came to my door to announce that my dog, Siri, was bleeding all over the place. I discovered it was just a skinned toenail and was worse than it seemed. A little blood goes a long way for someone who isn't used to blood. Apparently, my matter of fact and calm response amazed her.

For the past six weeks I have also had a dog, Jetta, living on my porch. She is recovering from a broken leg that James, Josephine, and I repaired. Jetta is from Arua and belongs to a missionary family up there. Sadly, she had a run in with a vehicle and lost, as is generally the case. She had a nasty spiral fracture with three different bone pieces that we had to fit together like a jig saw puzzle. But fortunately, there is an orthopedic supplier I found last year, down the hill and past the mango tree. So this means we had the tools we needed. The owner of this eighteen month old black Labrador retriever is a pilot who flies supplies to missionaries in South Sudan. We were happy the family found us, veterinary professionals, to help their dog, an important companion to the family while the pilot-husband is away.

Though with orthopedics, the surgery is the least amount of the care. The dog has required several bandage changes, strict rest, and medicine. This procedure was relatively routine until recently when her body decided enough was enough. Sunday night I was settling in to relax for the evening when I was informed by the guard who had taken her out for the bathroom that "a wire was showing." Sure enough, the 6mm in diameter intramedullary pin had decided it had fulfilled its duties. So I had to call the human clinic, beg the after-hours radiology tech to come in, have James sedate her, load her up in my truck, and make the forty minute drive. The radiograph showed a good callous forming, but it was not solid enough yet. So I followed James' instructions and drove the pin back in to her leg as she lay sedated on the x-ray table. Unfortunately, two days later it reversed once again, so this time we accepted defeat, and removed it. We then placed a large bandage/splint on her leg, confined her to a small dog care, and we are hoping and praying that this allows the bone a couple more weeks of time to heal without fracturing again. Then we can send her on the ten hour drive back to her family members who are missing her dearly.

Apparently, again, my matter-of-fact methods in dealing with the 'pin protruding out of the skin' caused my neighbor to think she was living in the midst of some medical drama. She is right, I just haven't considered it before. We do deal with some pretty interesting/ bizarre things over here yet barely flinch because it's somehow normal now. However, there are still people in wonder over how needed a veterinary missionary really is.

Like Dr. Watson, the cat with all four feet burned. We aren't quite sure how it happened but suspect it was battery acid someone dumped in the road when their vehicle was broken down. Cats certainly are smart enough NOT to walk with all four feet through a fire, so it's the only plausible explanation we have. His feet were only mildly damaged the first time I saw them. But a week later the infection had set in and toes were beginning to die. Cats have eighteen toes total, and sadly, Dr. Watson lost seven of his toes during the nearly three hour



surgery to debride and repair his feet. Though because of the extensive nature of his injuries, we were unable to suture closed all of the skin. So this has meant twice weekly bandage changes for almost two months. Again, a missionary family, but this time the husband/father was traveling to Australia and the Netherlands for some trainings during some of this time. So it was nice to be able to give a temporarily single mother peace of mind knowing her cat was being well cared for. Plus, we were gifted Stroopwafels from the Netherlands and Tim Tams from Australia. Enjoying delectable treats from around the world is definitely an added bonus to our job! (Especially since we don't take monetary compensation for what we do.)

We just completed this term at the university so are looking for a bit of a break before starting up again in a couple of weeks. It is amazing how the relentless stresses of daily life start to wear. I feel super blessed to be in a position that has natural rest periods already built in to the schedule. However, recently I was thinking of some of the daily stresses that I would like to ask prayer for.

The witch doctor who lives at the top of the hill. Sometimes when he is having his activities in the middle of the night I will wake up with a start and feel an evil presence around me. Many times I say a simple prayer out loud in the name of Jesus and I fall right back to sleep. Though on the nights when the wind is wrong and my room is engulfed in the putrid smell of burning sacrifices, it's less easy to fall asleep.

Another thing is my physical health. Over the past decade I've noted that it seems the enemy loves to attack me physically. I remember a snapped tendon in my finger, a vicious attack from a cat on my hand and forearm, and all of the skin peeled off of my heel all before I was ready to leave on a short term missions trip to Guatemala. Or even my abscess when I was in Karamoja. As I mentioned in my last letter, I had a pinched S1 nerve. This healed slowly with some help from an Irish chiropractor. But I have discovered that I was born with a sacralization of my L5 transverse process down to my S1. This means my one lower vertebra has an overgrowth of bone and is fused to my sacrum (pelvis), limiting the range of motion. So I will be seeking some additional professional opinions on how to proceed with this. Specific prayer against the enemy's attacks on me physically would be greatly appreciated, too.

God Bless,



Emily Arndt
PO Box 40160
Nakawa Division
Kampala
UGANDA
jesusdied4you2@gmail.com
www.cvmusa.org/imperishableseed