

## **Update from the University of Tennessee On Collapsing Trachea October 30, 2006**

Surgeons at the University of Tennessee Veterinary Teaching Hospital continue to make advances in the treatment of collapsed trachea in dogs. Over the past 5 years, Drs. Krahwinkel and Bohling have treated several dogs using either or both intraluminal stents or extraluminal rings (Pictures will follow shortly.) Outcomes have been very good in most cases with only mild respiratory problems and occasional coughing.

Some of the post-operative problems seen in some cases have been laryngeal paralysis following ring placement and breakage of some intraluminal stents. Stents from various manufacturers have been used to try and determine if one type performs better than others. Collaboration continues with other surgeons treating collapsed tracheas and with biomedical engineers at various companies to try and develop better implants and more successful surgical procedures.

Since collapsed trachea is not a curable disease (but can be controlled for a better quality of life), we continue to strive to find better procedures and technology to combat the devastating effects collapsed trachea has on our toy breed dogs.

Future efforts will be directed at determining how early we should intervene surgically in this disease, selecting the best individual treatment for each case, and evaluating newer stents that may be break-resistant.