



# EMERGENCY EYE SURGERY FOR JESS

Meet "Jess" an 8 year old black and white moggy with real attitude, who recently flew down from Nelson to see Dr Steve Heap for emergency surgery on her left eye.

Her primary vet at Alabama Vets, had seen her a week earlier for a painful superficial ulcer ( probably from a cat scratch injury). Jess was otherwise well. She returned 2 days later as her owners couldn't medicate the eye either. By this stage her left eye was producing a bloody infected discharge, had swelled up and the ulcer had grown in size. Her vet added in antibiotic tablets and more medication for inflammation, swelling and pain but the next day the ulcer looked no better. Jess needed to be sedated as the vet couldn't examine this eye with her awake. Her eye was stained with fluorosein( as can be seen in the attached photo) and had become non healing and so given the difficulty in medicating Jess it was thought a better way to go was surgery in Christchurch with DrSteve Heap.

So Jess flew to Steve and was operated on immediately to prevent the eye collapsing and impaired vision. Steve performed a **lamellar keratectomy** to remove the dead, soft, spongy tissue on edges of the deep stromal corneal ulcer. A **conjunctival flap** was sutured over the large defect to allow the perfect environment for healing, meaning a good blood supply and protection from environmental allergens.

Due to the difficulty in checking the healing progress of Jess's eye it was thought a good idea to board her at McMaster & Heap vets until Steve was happy that the ulcer was healing. As we were still unable to get near

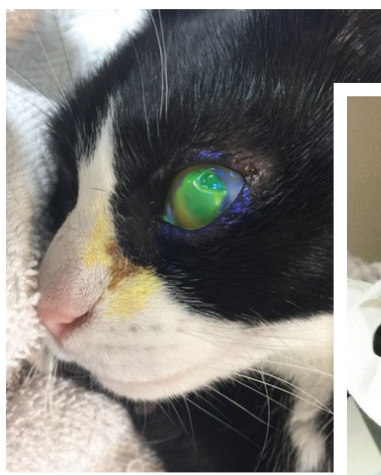


her eye to apply drops, long acting injections were given for ease and for her comfort. Needless to say she needs a head collar worn to stop her irritating her eye, undoing all Steve's good work.

So far so good 4 days out from her surgery. She is eating up a storm and feisty again which means she's back to her happy self. Steve has given the all clear and she flies home on Friday to her eagerly awaiting, doting parents.

Steve sees at least 10 eye referrals daily and many of these patients end up needing surgery. Eye injuries can't wait if the end result is to save the eye and Steve will often come into the clinic on his days off to see emergency cases. The take home message here is don't wait with eye problems – get them looked at early by your vet, as two eyes are always better than one!!

Dr Michele McMaster



OPEN 7 DAYS

Cnr Hoon Hay & Coppell Place  
Phone 338 2534, Fax 339 8624

E. mcmasterandheap@yahoo.co.nz  
www.mcmasterheap.co.nz



McMaster & Heap