

Dr. Steve Heap
BVSc. CertVOphthal
Dr. Michele McMaster
BVSc.
Dr. Catherine Morganti
BVSc. CertSAM. MRCVS
Dr. Kirsty Thompson
BVMs.
Dr. Sara Hodgson
BVSc. BSc.



Cnr Hoon Hay Rd & Coppell Place
Christchurch
Ph (03) 338 2534
Fax (03) 339 8624
Email mcmasterandheap@yahoo.co.nz
www.mcmasterheap.co.nz

OPEN 7 DAYS



Connor at Berkeley

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016

Merry Christmas to all of you. Another year passes us by and Steve and I hope you have had good experiences at McMaster & Heap. We have had a tough year staffing wise with 5 women leaving due to pregnancy, 2 vets, 2 nurses and a practice manager. Quite a disruption but with it brings new staff on board with new ideas and inspiration and passion...and some old regulars have returned as well. The new babies in the Practice are Rupert, Alexia, Blake, Morgan and Thomas.

Our eldest son Connor left home and his country in August to embark on an adventure he's been dreaming of since a little kid. Connor was awarded a 4 year tennis scholarship to play tennis and study at UC Berkeley in San Francisco. Communication has been scant but Connor wouldn't be anywhere else, despite the gruelling academic workload. He trains on and off the court for 5 hours a day and then has lectures and study fitted around that. Study past midnight has now become the norm. He's home briefly for Christmas (to see us and play in the Te Anau Tennis

Invitational) before heading to Chile where the team train for 3 weeks before the serious college tennis competition begins. His whole life seems like a very exciting adventure.

Dylan our 16 year old is hot on Connors heels. Dylan just won the NZL U16 Masters in Wellington over Labour weekend. He played 10 hours of gruelling tennis in 4 matches over 3 days, one match lasting nearly 4 hours. Dylan will go with Steve to India at the end of November to compete in 2 ITF's. He's now raring up for his first year of NCEA.

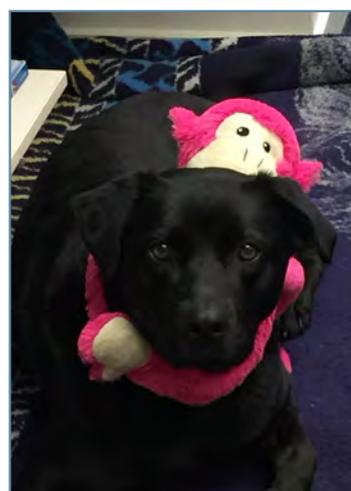


Dylan in action at the NZL Masters

Three fabulous nurses – Megan, Kim and Sam - have been sent to the Hills Nurses Conference in Auckland, where they will mingle with other vet nurses from all over NZL, learn new information and techniques and get a little spoilt away from home. Definitely a weekend well deserved.

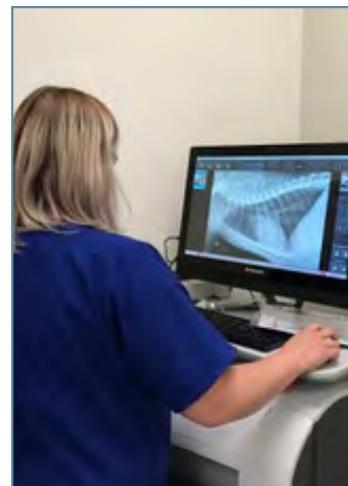
Lola is doing pretty well. She hasn't experienced any more spinal pain nor hindleg neurological deficits but we still have to be careful with her. Her days of running up Rapaki with Steve, jumping off rocks in Oakara to swim with the boys and vigorous play with other dogs is temporarily on hold.

Steve is on the lookout for another Abyssinian kitten can you believe. It has to look like Spartacus, be more courageous and a better fighter AND yet still affectionate. I think 3 cats and 1 dog is slightly out there.



Lola and Monkey

We are continually investing in new equipment and the latest scoop is a digital xray unit. Me, being old school still loves to hold up and examine a proper xray, but I'm totally out voted and digital I'm told is the way to go. Quicker images, safer and doesn't require storage space.



Kirsty taking a digital xray

I hope you all get a decent summer holiday break with your families and all your pets stay healthy over the BBQ season. We, as always, still love being your pets' healthcare provider. Many thanks for a great year.

SEASONS GREETINGS from Michele, Steve and Lola

GUNDOG CHAMPIONSHIPS

The New Zealand Gundog Championships took place in South Auckland during Labour Weekend. Our receptionist Sonya and her partner Graeme took 4 of their Labradors up to this event.

There are many different Gundog breeds at the event, including Pointer and Setters, Spaniels, Labradors, Golden Retrievers and Flat Coated Retrievers, all running in specific competitions to test their ability to flush, point or retrieve against each other.

Sonya and Graemes dog Steel has had a great year so far, winning 6 challenge points, giving him the title of Field Trial Champion. He was awarded the Coveybrook Trophy at the NZ Champs for the best overall Walk Up/Live Game dog in the country for 2015/2016.

Brave also had success. He was placed second in NZ Puppy event, and at only 9 months of age he also had the top land score in the novice event, competing against dogs much older than himself, so looks like he has a promising future.



Steel - Field Dog Champion



Brave



UNUSUAL VISITOR



Cute owl visitor

This cute owl was bought into Steve recently due to opacities noted on its corneas affecting its' ability to see clearly. Steve isn't sure of the cause but is trialling antibiotic drops as he suspects an infective cause.

PENNY'S PROSTHETIC EYE



Penny and her mum

Recently Dr Steve Heap examined 20 week old Beagle puppy called "Penny", who presented as a referral with a painful, partially closed right eye. Penny had unfortunately been scratched in the eye by a slightly grumpy older resident cat. Steve diagnosed a cataract in this eye, with phacouveitis and serous glaucoma all in a little puppy. Glaucoma is when there is increased intraocular pressure causing

pain and discomfort. Steve had discussed with the owners that this right eye had a hopeless prognosis for vision. Topical eye medications were instigated to control the pain and inflammation and rising pressure in the eye. Steve also discussed that if these medications didn't hold this condition, Penny's eye would need to be enucleated. Pretty quickly it was noticed that the right eye had deteriorated beyond medical therapy. Enucleation (removal of the eye) and placement of an intrascleral prosthesis (glass bead eye) was surgically undertaken to relieve Penny from a life of medication and pain. The surgery was a success and 4 weeks on, Penny is a happy, active, normal wee puppy with a prosthetic right eye and normal vision out of the left eye.

EYELID RECONSTRUCTION IN A KITTEN

Another interesting ophthalmology case for Dr Steve Heap came from the SPCA. A five month old stray sneezing kitten was examined by Steve and found to have no lateral upper eyelids in both the left and right eyes, a condition called Bilateral Upper Lateral Eyelid Agenesis. As a result the eyes were sore, dry and constantly irritated by hair rubbing on the cornea (the sensitive clear window of the eye). Steve trialled lubricants and antibiotic ointments in the eyes in the hope the eyes would be comfortable long term, but this wasn't the case. The kitten was taken to surgery and Steve carefully and intricately created upper eyelids by harvesting strips of skin taken from below the lower lids. All in all a successful outcome for this wee kitten who will be rehomed and avoid a lifetime of medication.

