



## McMASTER & HEAP VETERINARY PRACTICE

### What to do with a LUMP!

Recently I saw a very good friend's dog Riley, a 6 year old Boxer cross, who presented because his mum had recently spotted a mass in the front of his chest. On first glance, you would think it was not serious but experience has told me that all lumps have the potential to be malignant and its best to identify what we are dealing with before a planned surgical excision.

Riley is an awesome dog and a real "child substitute" to my friend. He has the BEST life, hiking up hills, mountain biking, running, swimming in lakes and holidaying around the South Island. He is spoiled and he knows he's number 1 and so handsome. I think if he could talk he would. Lola and Riley really enjoy a good play together. Would be fair to say Riley has the life of Riley!!!



**Lynda and Riley**

It was felt that wide surgical margins were the best option and to send the mass off for pathology once excised. Riley coped superbly under the anaesthetic and woke up wagging his tail and singing a song to us all on his padded trampoline bed. It's hard not to fall in love with him.

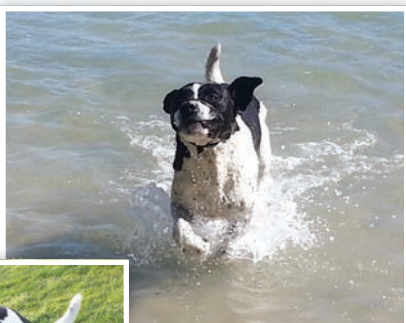
The pathology report revealed the mass to be a **Benign Follicular tumour (trichoblastoma)**. The tumour was benign and the margins were clear. Great news for Riley.

We would always recommend finding out what a mass is before we surgically remove. It aids in planning the surgery, formulating a treatment plan and aids in prognosis.



The lump wasn't large but Riley had started scratching at it. It was raised and red and the size of a marble. At McMaster & Heap we would always suggest a fine needle aspirate (FNA) to determine what cells the mass is comprised of. A FNA requires no sedative and can be done in a consult. It is a quick, simple, cheap test and can reveal a lot.

Riley was admitted and a FNA was looked at under the microscope by our vet Kate. Kate felt it was most probably a benign tumour, but couldn't be sure so



The nastiest masses are often the smallest and pop up suddenly. If malignant, they often spread rapidly to the major internal organs causing death. Dealing with a small mass is

always the best option. Often the "lets wait and see" approach isn't the best.

*For any questions on "lumps" in your pets please don't hesitate to give us a call.*

**Dr Michele McMaster**



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