



McMASTER & HEAP
VETERINARY PRACTICE

MEET INDY...



Meet Indy, an 11 year old spayed Lab cross, who presented for a hind leg mass. Indy has previously had tumors removed so the owners knew what to expect and wanted to get this mass checked out as it seemed to grow quite quickly. Indy was not bothered by it though and she wasn't lame on the leg. Indy is a very special patient of mine as she has had not one but two knee surgeries about 4 years ago (2 months apart), to repair ruptured cranial cruciate ligaments. Fortunately her stifles give her no problems and she enjoys a very fit and active social life.

Olivia performed a FNA (fine needle aspirate) on the large mass, that was very inflamed and was golf ball sized. Unfortunately she saw lots of "mast cells" under the microscope, giving a diagnosis of Mast Cell tumor (MCT). These tumors are malignant, grow fast and will set up in other sites quickly. Her only option was surgical removal to hopefully limit the spread and extend her life.

Indy was admitted, blood tests performed in house and chest xrays taken to make sure the mass hadn't spread. Catherine ultrasounded her liver as well to check tumor spread. All looked clear. There is no point subjecting Indy to a major surgery if we saw gross changes in other organs. We will never go in and operate on a malignant tumor without first making absolutely sure we cant detect disease elsewhere.

Indy was then anaesthetized, connected to our Cardell monitoring machine and placed on intravenous fluids, then taken to surgery to remove her MCT. Kirsty, her surgeon, also had to remove the associated draining popliteal lymph node as it was enlarged and very close to the tumor. A wide resection was undertaken to ensure no tumor tissue was left behind. The mass will be sent off for histopathology to make sure no tissue was left behind. In 10 days after surgical removal, Indy will be back to her old self, charging around as though nothing has happened.

Ultrasound is a widely used diagnostic tool at McMaster & Heap Vets. It would



be fair to say it is used daily and we see referrals from other clinics as well. Our ultrasound is mainly used for scanning hearts, pregnancy diagnosis and viewing all the organs in the abdomen plus has an inbuilt ECG for looking at the electrical rhythm of the heart. Occasionally Catherine has scanned eyes and thyroid glands and tendons. Its great at picking up abdominal foreign bodies and showing abdominal masses. Ultrasound is quick and painless to the pet and usually yields an answer that helps us in deciding if the patient is a surgical candidate or not. We have just invested in a brand new human ultrasound machine – GE Vivid T8 – to better enable our ultrasonographer Catherine accurate, fast diagnoses.

If you have any questions regarding ultrasound in your pet, please feel free to call the clinic.

Dr Michele McMaster



OPEN 7 DAYS

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