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OPEN 7 DAYS



Welcome and hello to old and new clients and new readers. Another busy, satisfying, interesting year is almost at an end and the festive holiday season is nearly upon us. This year was a very good year for the Practice and the exceptional people we have working in it filled with engagements, pregnancies x3, house buying, teenagers leaving home, old staff possibly coming back and new pet additions to the family. The only real down side was diagnosing my precious girl Lola with kidney cancer and all of our staff going down with illness repeatedly over the Winter months.

For those of you that don't know, Lola is in remission from a malignant cancer found in her kidney back in June, which has subsequently been removed. She has had 4 rounds of chemotherapy at the Practice and so far is absolutely back to normal, although recently we located a needle in her abdomen – unrelated to the cancer surgery and more likely related to getting into the rubbish bins!! Oh yes, she also has "pulpitis", a pulp cavity bleed in her upper canine. I'm really hoping it settles down so she doesn't need a root canal done.

Our sons Connor and Dylan enjoyed a tennis filled holidays once again. Both boys entered the ITF U18 tennis tournament in Auckland, in which Connor won. Both teamed up for doubles and it was a very proud moment seeing them play well and communicate together on court. Both play for the Waimairi Premier Tennis team on Saturdays. Connor is also playing premier tennis in Wellington and Carobowl in Auckland every weekend, so will be wracking up some airpoints this year. Next July Connor starts a 4 year tennis scholarship at University of California - Berkeley, in San Francisco. Can't wait to see and share a new part of the world with our sons and experience Connor playing top level US College tennis.



Our staff as always are fabulous people and really enjoy helping care for and treat your very special, loved pets. We all realize how privileged we are to be working with animals on a daily basis and we take our job very seriously. All of us upskill and continually improve and widen our knowledge and technical skills. We couldn't do the job we do as vets without the exceptional team of nurses we have. Recently we had a couple of specialized surgical nurses talk to our team about surgical patient preparation and anaesthesia. Continually keeping up is a must for our profession.

I hope you all like the improved road signage, now able to be viewed at night. Our website is also having an overhaul and we are going to more proactive with Facebook – keeping you all up to date digitally with our patient success stories, promotions, pet tips and cute patient photos. I'm told by my sons constantly, digital media is the way to reach young people with pets! I still like to put pen to paper and type up a story....showing my age now.

We are now able to offer restorative dental care at the Practice. We have employed a skilled vet who is doing post graduate study in dentistry and she is able to provide at McMaster & Heap this specialized dental service including root canals, pulp capping and carnassial fractures. Please ring the clinic to make an appointment with Janine to discuss all the dental options available for your pet.

One of my nurses painted this very special portrait of my beautiful girl Lola. It is such an accurate painting and it will be hung in the clinic for all to admire. Something I'll cherish forever. Thank you Carol.

Steve and I wish you, your families and your pets a healthy, enjoyable and restful holiday period and remember we are here if you need us 7 days a week for anything. Advice is free and we never mind day or night giving it to our clients.

Christmas Wishes

Michele, Steve, Lola and the team

The flyer features a large image of a ginger cat on the right side. On the left, there is a logo for 'McMASTER & HEAP VETERINARY PRACTICE' with a red cross symbol. Below the logo, it says 'RESTRACTIVE'. The main text on the flyer reads: 'OPEN 7 DAYS FULL VETERINARY CARE EYE REFERRALS & SURGERY'. Below this, there is a list of services: 'Luxury CATTERY', 'ULTRASOUND Referrals', 'CAT MEDICINE Referrals', 'Puppy PRESCHOOL', and 'All Surgery Incl. DENTISTRY, X-RAYS & CANCER CARE'. At the bottom, there are two circular logos for 'McMaster & Heap' and 'RESTRACTIVE'. The phone number 'PHONE 338-2534' and website 'www.mcmasterheap.co.nz' are listed at the very bottom.

SPLIT PAD DISEASE



In 25 years of being a veterinarian, I had never come across Split Pad Disease before. A wicked cruel disease that I came to learn more about, thanks to my gorgeous Lola. If it wasn't bad enough that she ended up with kidney cancer, she also has a non curable immune mediated pad disease affecting at different times all her feet.

As a young pup she often presented intermittently lame. On inspection of her pads I would find craterous, erosive lesions affecting large chunks of her pads, often infected. They'd start as a split that opens up and swells and Lola just wanted to lick it as it was sore. I needed to place an elizabethan collar on her to stop her doing this. Lola would be severely lame, in pain and miserable. If more than one foot was affected she couldn't weight bear at all. She learnt to walk using only 2 legs!! I agonised for her as I couldn't help her. Pain relief never really seemed to help and it was just a matter of time for her pad epithelium to regrow.

I struggled on for months hoping this disease would just disappear. I would cleanse her pads, dress them to keep them protected and clean and often place special leather boots on her when we went walking. I tried all sorts of antibiotics, anti inflammatories, probiotics, booties, creams, prescription diets and emollients and nothing hastened the repair process. I decided to biopsy her pads under a general anaesthetic to get a definite diagnosis. Unfortunately it confirmed Split pad disease.

Split pad disease is a highly characteristic syndrome of unknown etiology that is very rare in the dog.

Clinical and histologic features are suggestive of an anatomic defect in cornification of the pawpads, suggesting hereditary disease. The lesions often are characterized by splitting and peeling of the pawpad keratin layer as a major histologic and clinical feature. This condition has been reported predominantly in young adult dogs and the initial clinical feature is splitting of the paw pads. Adjacent haired skin is not affected and



the lesions are greatly aggravated by self trauma. Pain or itchiness may result in self trauma due to the dog chewing at the affected feet. Dogs can have variable lameness during episodes of splitting and peeling and some animals may have repeated episodes. Affected animals are otherwise healthy. Initially only one pawpad may be affected, followed by development of additional similar lesions in other pads. Usually all pawpads are eventually involved.

Spending considerable time on concrete doesn't help and unfortunately our entire section has a lot of concrete and tarseal! The heat from the concrete on the pads is a contributing factor. Keeping Lola off this is impossible. Interestingly since starting her chemotherapy 3 months ago, her pads have been great. Although I do attribute some of that to the special prescription diet Lola eats packed with the Omegas, glucosamine and a hydrolysed protein. We have swapped one evil for another but hopefully my girl has beaten cancer. I will keep you updated on her progress.

Recently she was radiographed and a needle was found in her abdomen!! Probably ingested from the garbage. So the next chapter in Lolas health diary will be an abdominal ultrasound to see WHERE the needle is and IF it needs to be surgically removed. She's lucky to be owned and loved by not 1 but 2 vets!!.



NEW DENTAL SERVICES OFFERED AT MCMASTER & HEAP

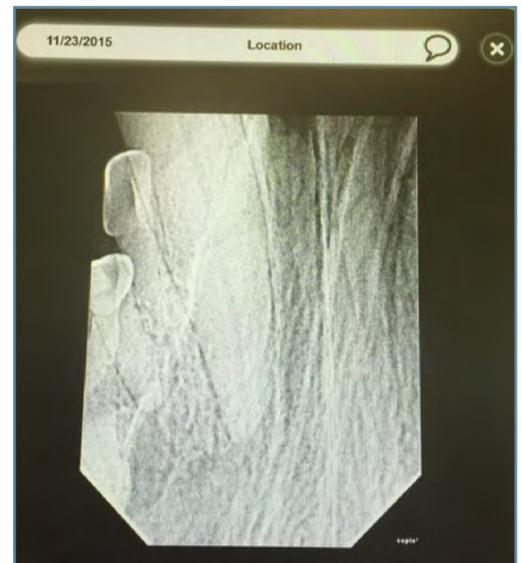


We are now pleased to offer advanced dentistry services at McMaster & Heap Vet Practice. We have always offered very good dental services and have recognized how important healthy and pain free mouths are for our patients. What we aren't offering at the moment is "dental restoration procedures" which basically means "saving" damaged teeth by way of root canals, repairing fractured teeth, crown extensions and reductions and much more. There is a lot to be said for attempting to save the major teeth players – the Canines and Carnassials. The carnassials are the main back teeth used in mastication and chewing food. The canines are involved in the structure of the jaw and are used by the pet in play and eating. Sometimes when these teeth are removed it can cause the tongue to hang out that side of the mouth and lip fold dermatitis.

We have recently employed an experienced vet, Janine, who will work part time offering her services in dental surgery, radiography, teeth assessments and referral consultations. In June, Janine will sit her Australian College exams in Small Animal Dental and Oral surgery.

The services Janine can now offer include

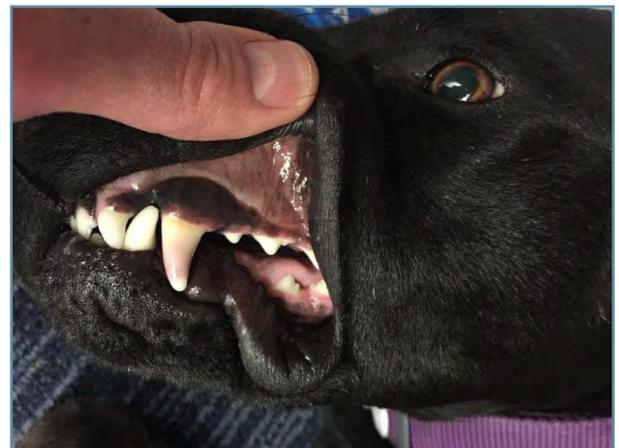
- Assessments of malaligned teeth in puppies and kittens
- Treating fractured teeth with a vital pulpotomy
- Tooth restoration for chipped teeth
- Crown extensions or reductions
- Repair of upper and lower jaw fractures with up to date techniques
- Removal of excess gum
- Removal of oral masses including tumours
- Advice on the best dental homecare products
- In time, root canal surgery



We have recently purchased all the necessary dental surgical equipment and have digital dental radiography which is a necessity in determining which teeth can be saved.

Recently our very attentive nurse Michelle noticed a discoloured upper canine in Lol's mouth. Two days previously she had enjoyed a large raw canon bone for about 1 hour. Vigorously chewing this bone must have caused her pulp cavity to bleed (see attached photo). She was very miserable and sore. On consultation with Janine it was found she had "pulpitis", which would either resolve in 2-3 weeks or worse case scenario the tooth would "die" and she'd either require the tooth to be removed or a root canal performed. Luckily for us and Lola the canine looks to be recovering. My girl doesn't need any more problems.

So if you are concerned about your pet's teeth please call the clinic and make an appointment. We will accurately assess your pet's mouth and give you options on the best treatments available. Many insurance companies offer dentistry cover. You just have to ask for it.



OUR JERRY LEE - A true survivor



This is a great story of one very gutsy, tough, utterly loveable German Shepherd pup called “ Jerry Lee”. At just 17 months of age we have seen Jerry Lee over 30 times since his first visit for pup vaccinations. Luckily for us he’s a big softy and has never put up a fight to all our palpating and needle pricking. Occasionally to get us back he rips out the IV catheter in his leg and looks quite pleased with himself.

Jerry Lee first presented with weight loss and inappetance over a year ago as a pup. He just was never fussed on eating – no food really tickled his fancy and he was offered the best premium foods on the market and lots of variety. He wasn’t growing as he should have for his age and he often seemed really lethargic and lacking in energy. He had diarrhea and vomiting intermittently, salivating often, but what really concerned his owners was that as a pup he just didn’t have the energy he should of had. He has been blood tested many

times, xrays have been taken of his gut and Catherine has performed ultrasounds. There isn’t many tests Jerry Lee hasn’t had. No abnormalities were really detected but we all knew he wasn’t right. Many times we treated Jerry Lee with lower fat intestinal moist food, occasional antibiotics, drugs to help with nausea and vomiting, pain medications and we kept his worming up to date. He’d come right initially but before long we’d see him back just flat and listless and basically anorexic. He was a real worry to his owners and to us.

In his wee short life he’s had three anaesthetics and come through them brilliantly. Jerry Lee never complains and honestly is the perfect patient to treat. He’s been under the knife to be neutered, he then had an emergency dash to the afterhours clinic as he suddenly developed a twisted stomach and spleen. Then most recently I performed exploratory surgery to inspect his stomach, small and large intestines all his abdominal organs, biopsying in particular many sections of stomach, bowel, pancreas and liver. This is where finally we got a diagnosis of Inflammatory Bowel Disease – aptly called Eosinophilic, Lymphoplasmacytic, diffuse IBD!!!

He’s a true battler and at least we have a diagnosis now. Treatment is complicated, lengthy, costly and it really places an emotional strain on everyone in the family as its very hard seeing your loved pet (and a baby at that), go through at times pain and discomfort. To be hit with IBD as a young pup is very unlucky but Jerry Lee is so totally loved and adored by his family who would do anything for him. It would be fair to say his vet bills have been large and thanks to PetPlan Insurance, a massive financial burden has been lifted from Jerry Lee’s family. PetPlan are covering the vast majority of all his care and we are all praying we can get this nasty disease under control so Jerry Lee can finally enjoy life to the fullest!!

Pet Insurance for your new pup or kitten is something worthy of a discussion. Most pet insurance companies will offer 4-6 weeks free cover initially for your new pup or kitten, which gives you time to look at all the insurance options. We don’t sell pet insurance but we give you information on all the pet insurance companies out there for you to investigate the best option for you. Some cover pre-existing conditions which is a bonus. It makes life simpler for us as your pets veterinarian as we are able to do the very best in care, diagnostics and treatment for your pet with the financial worry removed.

For more information on Pet Insurance or Inflammatory Bowel disease be sure to give the clinic a call.

Update on Jerry Lee

To date Jerry Lee is stable. He’s eating up a storm although his treatment plan for inflammatory bowel disease involves steroids - which always improves the appetite. His weight is stable and he has more energy and appears happier. Well done to our vet Catherine who has spent hours on his case.



Dr Michele McMaster