



McMASTER & HEAP
VETERINARY PRACTICE

GIZMO'S ADVENTURE

Gizmo, an 11 year old Ginger tabby from Sydney, presented to Catherine one morning with an acute left hindleg lameness. He wasn't placing any weight on the leg and seemed in a lot of pain. Catherine suspected a femoral fracture due to his leg swinging and the obvious angulation mid femur. No other injuries were seen. He had normal neurological function. All his nails were scuffed and worn. Most often we see these injuries with road traffic accidents. Blood work the previous week was great.

Catherine performed a digital xray to confirm her suspicions and Gizmo was immediately placed on intravenous fluids with pain relief (a fentanyl CRI) and started on penicillin. A transverse femoral fracture located proximal third femur was diagnosed. His diaphragm was intact, as was his bladder and all his other abdominal organs looked fine. Surgery to repair the fracture or amputation were the only options



oxygen saturation every 5 minutes during his anaesthetic. All his vital signs were excellent. I placed a large intramedullary pin through the medullary cavity of his femur to reduce the fracture and align the ends of the femur.

A single cerclage wire was also placed to create as much stability as possible. Post operative xrays confirmed perfect placement. Now the rest is up to Gizmo.

Gizmo was discharged



available. This fracture couldn't be left to just heal on its own. The clients were informed of the options – a referral to a specialist orthopaedic surgeon to plate the femur or IM pinning and cerclage wire performed at McMaster & Heap Vet practice.

We repeated blood work to make sure Gizmo was still in good health to sustain an anaesthetic. The IM pinning option was adopted. His ongoing arthritic issues would have made losing a hindleg difficult for him to cope with, especially at 11 years old.

Dr Michele McMaster performed the surgery within 24 hours of Gizmo being admitted. It is important with this type of injury to get those bone ends realigned as soon as possible. The anaesthetic and surgery went without a hitch. Gizmo was connected to our Cardell monitoring machine. The nurses can record his heart rate, blood pressure, breathing rate, body core temperature and



3 days later able to stand and get into his dirt tray, eating up a storm and with the surgical site looking great. He was starting to place the paw when he left here. He will be in a cage for 4-6 weeks to allow as much immobility as possible for fracture healing. I will remove the pin in about 6-8 weeks once the fracture site has calloused and healed. Gizmo will be back weekly for us to check on his progress. A great outcome all around.

-Dr Michele McMaster



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