



McMASTER & HEAP
VETERINARY PRACTICE

SURGICAL CRISIS IN TWO WEE PUPPIES

Meet "Alice Victoria", a 6 month old black and white Cocker Spaniel and "Poppy" a 6 month old Pomeranian who recently had very long, detailed and difficult surgeries basically to save their wee lives.



Let's start with the adorable, lets run at a hundred miles an hour, Alice Victoria - obviously named after royalty (her mum is British!). Whilst out coffeing and chatting with her mum, Jean pointed out a very small 2mm x 2mm small white spot inside her left nostril. It wasn't bothering her and didn't seem painful to poke. She's a very adventurous

We also performed a CT on Alice's brain at St Georges to make sure no tumour metastases were detected as Alice started acting quite bizarrely suddenly. Thankfully all was clear.

Tiny 2.5kg "Poppy" was referred to Catherine Morganti one Friday for an endoscopic examination as something was stuck in her oesophagus and she couldn't eat and was trying to be sick. Usually these exams are fairly quick and successful in retrieving the culprit but not so in Poppy's case.

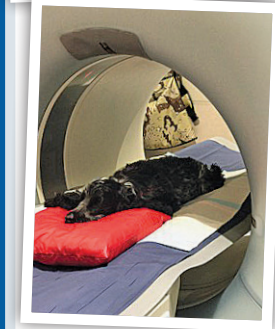
Unfortunately after over 2 hours of Catherine and Kirsty working the endoscope down Poppy's throat (with Poppy under anaesthetic) and trying hard to dislodge the stuck object, it was decided to perform exploratory surgery, opening up her stomach, trying to reach the object from the inside. Steve scrubbed in as well and eventually with a team of 3 vets and 2 nurses on the job, the object was finally removed (which was the rubber off a pencil and a large doggie treat) - a 4 hour anaesthetic in total on a Friday night (Lucky we love surgery and helping pets as we get many Friday night emergency operations to perform).

Poppy needed to spend a few nights at the After Hours Clinic in critical care and a few days with us on intravenous fluids to get her stable, eating again and back to her cheeky, gorgeous little self.

A successful great outcome for both Alice Victoria and Poppy. Let's hope the rest of their lives going forward are not as dramatic as the first 6 months have been!

Steve and I can't thank our fabulous, dedicated and expert team of Vets and Nurses enough, who willingly stay behind late to perform in many cases miracle surgeries. We are so PROUD of our people and the work they do on our patients.

Dr Michele McMaster



little girl so initially I thought trauma from diving in and out of bushes. A short course of antibiotics was prescribed in case of localised infection.

Two months later it was still present, so I decided to biopsy the spot. It hadn't grown and wasn't painful or infected but her mum wanted a diagnosis. I was shocked and surprised to get a diagnosis back of MCT (Mast Cell Tumor) which is a malignant tumour commonly seen in dogs and cats - although a MCT inside a nostril I hadn't seen before and in a puppy so young!

We urgently sought the advice of Oncology specialists in Australia to work out what our next move should be. They recommended radiotherapy (very expensive and difficult to do in pets with nasty side effects) or surgical removal (also difficult to ensure complete excision due to the location of the mass). Chemotherapy was the 3rd option. Alice had extensive blood testing, radiographs of her lungs and a thorough Ultrasound of her abdomen. No abnormalities or secondary tumors were observed.

So Dr Steve Heap was nominated to perform the delicate corrective surgery. It was an exhaustive, delicate 2 hour procedure to remove the mass and surrounding nasal tissue and her subsequent draining lymph node. Her wee nose looks slightly wonky now but is functional and comfortable and she's alive!!! We are awaiting histology and grading results from America to see whether Chemotherapy will be needed as well.



OPEN 7 DAYS

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