



McMASTER & HEAP
VETERINARY PRACTICE

CHARITY WORK

For a while now, Steve and I have helped out charity organizations in Christchurch. We are involved with CPL, redzonecats and more recently the SPCA. We all really enjoy the involvement and working relationship we have with these organizations, ensuring that these animals get "Gold" Standard treatment and care in our hospital, just like any of our pets would receive.



Megan and a tabby kitten in for desexing.

What has amazed me is the total commitment, kindness and compassion the inspectors, fosterers, vets and carers we have dealt with have for these homeless, sick and often abused animals. Many of these people work voluntarily. It is not an easy job, physically or emotionally. They see a lot of things we shouldn't have to be exposed to. They often transform their homes to cater for the fast growing number of cats to care for. They do the very best in terms of nutrition and pet care. They genuinely care and want to improve the life and health for this animal.

Working with the CPL means we mainly desex, microchip and vaccinate kittens who are living with fosterers until they are ready to be put up for adoption. One of the best parts of our day is cuddling these kittens – all are so cute and huggable. Robyn who we liaise with, has worked tirelessly and voluntarily for over 25 years for the CPL and is just one of the kindest most generous people I know. She makes a huge difference in the lives of those kittens and has a dedicated team of fosterers to help.



CPL kittens awaiting their surgery.

Redzonecats also do a remarkable job, a job no one else was prepared to do, in that they carefully monitor and trap stray cats in earthquake redzoned areas and endeavor to find their previous owners or socialize and rehome these cats to loving families. Many of these cats have been alone and "just surviving" since 2011 and

so are difficult for us to handle without sedation. Initially we check these cats for FIV and FeLV (Feline Aids or Feline leukemia Virus) and if they test negative we will often desex and vaccinate these cats, perform dentistry on mouths that require it, and groom or xray where appropriate. These cats are given a fantastic chance and we all treat them with respect, kindness and humility. We love helping out Jane and her cats. Another outstanding woman who genuinely cares about animals.

Recently we have started working alongside the SPCA. This has been particularly rewarding diagnosing and treating these animals to the best of our ability and providing them with a level of kindness and care they often haven't experienced before. The SPCA inspectors we deal with are a wonderful bunch of passionate, gentle people who are solely dedicated to helping improve the lives of the animals in their care. We examine sick and uplifted animals, provide diagnostics such as xrays, blood testing and ultrasounds where necessary and we provide intensive care monitoring if needed. Due to being open 7 days, the weekends can often be busy checking out SPCA patients and providing a treatment plan.



We even see tortoises - here Kirsty is performing a hind leg amputation to save its life.

Steve and I are very proud to be associated with the above organizations and we have met some fabulous people along the way, who all share our views that a pet's life is just as important as our own, and these special furry friends of ours should be treated and cared for exactly the same. We are all headed in the same direction whereby we want to decrease animal abuse and abandonment by way of providing the correct education to people, care that is affordable and showing respect and kindness to everyone, regardless of where they come from. Everyone does deserve the love and companionship of owning a pet but it's not a decision to be taken lightly and the correct advice and education from us as health professionals is vitally important for a successful outcome.

Dr Michele McMaster

For more information on the work these organizations do and if you are looking at adopting a pet please visit their websites – redzonecats.org.nz, cats.org.nz and spcacanterbury.org.nz



OPEN 7 DAYS

**Cnr Hoon Hay & Coppell Place
Phone 338 2534, Fax 339 8624**

**E. mcmasterandheap@yahoo.co.nz
www.mcmasterheap.co.nz**



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