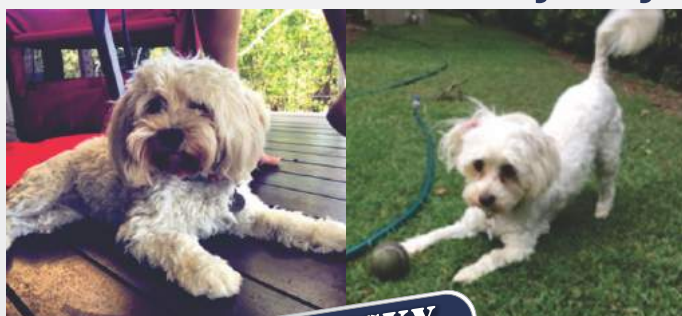


Pet of the Month "Plucky Tilly"



**PLUCKY
TILLY**

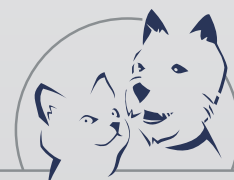


The last few months have been a challenging time for Tilly, who has come through two major orthopaedic surgeries within a 6 week period! Don't be misled by the appearance of this beautiful bundle of fluff - she has been as stoic, courageous, plucky and determined as a professional athlete!

The surgeries were to correct a **luxating patella** (dislocating kneecap) in each of her back legs. Her diligent owners kept her rested for 12 weeks while she healed and now she has made a complete recovery.

Dislocating knee caps are an extremely common problem in small breed dogs. Typically an owner notices a little skip in the dog's step. The dog may even run on three legs, holding one hind leg up, and then miraculously be back on four legs as if nothing has happened. In fact what has happened is the knee cap has popped out of the normal groove within which it sits (dislocated), making it impossible for the dog to bend the knee, and then popped back into place. The pain associated with this varies from dog to dog and with the severity of the dislocation. While surgery is not always required it is recommended as the treatment of choice for dogs with a very unstable kneecap and those in pain.

As can be seen from the photos, Tilly is back to full exercise now, chasing balls and enjoying the exuberance of youth. Well done to her family, whose dedication and care have helped her recover so successfully!



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Welcome Dr Katherine

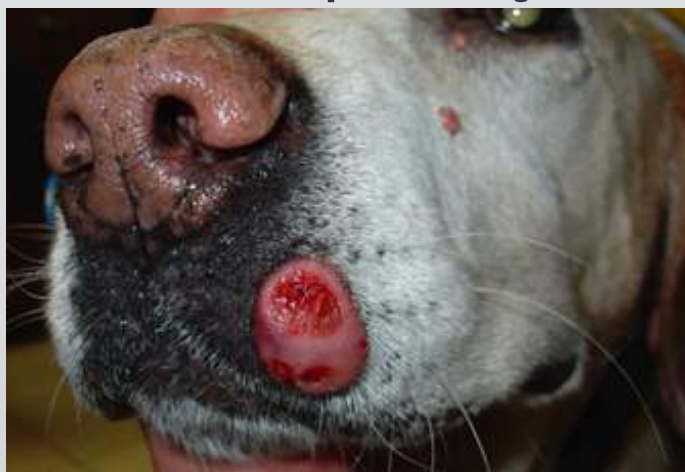


Many of you may have already met Dr Katherine, who has been with us since the beginning of the year. Her warm, friendly personality, kind nature and willingness to go that extra mile for her patients, makes her a wonderful addition to our team.

She has a wealth of experience, having worked in country practice, treating animals of all sizes (including hand rearing joeys and other native wildlife), as well as working overseas where she was exposed to a lot of complex emergency and medical cases.

It is wonderful to have her join our family.

When is a skin lump something serious?



It is easy to be uncertain about what to do with skin lumps and bumps that appear on our pets. The good news is that this is one area of our pet's health that we can keep a close

tab on, as changes are visible and easy to monitor (unlike internal organ disorders like liver or kidney disease).

About 50% of skin masses in cats and dogs are malignant (cancer that will spread elsewhere in the body). With these types of lumps, it really is a case of "a stitch in time saves nine!" Just as with us and skin cancer, by finding out what the mass is and taking early action, we often stop the cancer there and then, before it has had a chance to spread more widely.

Our vets are all skilled in cytology - which means that we can take a sample in the consult room and look at it under a microscope straight away, giving you an immediate idea as to what the mass is, without having to send the sample out to an external laboratory, saving expense and time. During the month of **June** we shall **be discounting this process even further** by not charging for in house cytology for any lumps and bumps. So, now is the best time ever to get those suspect lumps looked at.

Generally, a good rule of thumb is:

If a **lump** on your **dog** is **one centimeter** or larger...or has been there for **one month**...get it checked **ASAP**



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Saturday: 8:00am - 1:00pm

