



Pet of the Month: Daisy *Who has the courage of a lion!*



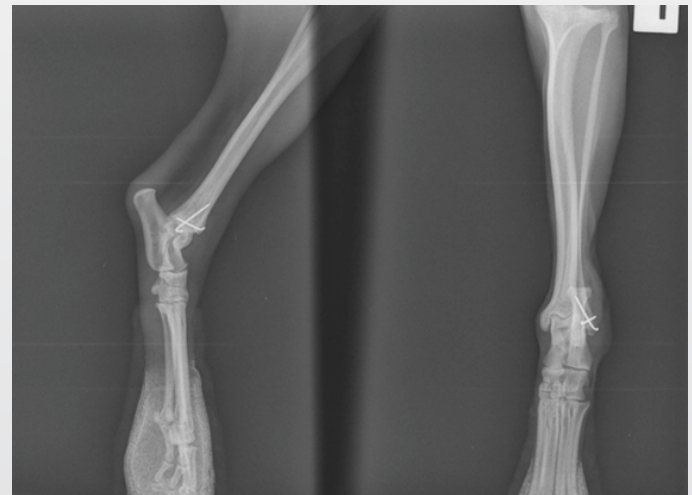
Daisy, a cute little Cavoodle, has bravely had her ankle repaired after damaging all of it's ligaments.

Little Daisy has almost become a part of the furniture here at McDowall Veterinary Practice in the last couple of months as she has gone through weeks of treatment to get her back to full bounciness! It all started in September when Daisy presented to us with a very sore hind leg. On examining her, it was clear that she had badly damaged her ankle, but it was quite hard to pinpoint exactly where, as she was being so brave!

Radiographs were taken of her little leg to get a better idea of the problem. It became clear that she had a very tiny oblique fracture of the fibula bone where it attaches into the ankle. How Daisy managed to do this we still don't know!

The McDowall team performed the complicated surgery to fix Daisy's leg by placing 2 small pins through the bone to stabilise the fracture. As you can imagine, this was a very difficult surgery as there was not much tissue or bone

involved in her dainty little ankle - the fibula was about half as thick as a chicken wing bone! Like a real trooper, Daisy recovered well from her anaesthetic and after a night in hospital was sent home to her mum with nursing instructions and a controlled exercise plan.



Over the next month, we saw Daisy regularly to examine her leg and change her splinted leg bandage. X-rays five weeks later revealed her leg was healing nicely, and by then she was also walking on the leg extremely well.

We are pleased to announce that Daisy is now bandage free, and with regular physio her leg should be back to normal in no time! Well done Daisy, and well done to her mum Kelly for her good work in keeping Daisy rested (which is no easy feat!)

HELP! My dog has a toad!

With the onset of warmer weather, cane toads will be on the move and making an appearance in our backyards in the evenings.

Dogs (and in particular puppies and terrier breeds) are prone to poisoning as they enjoy chasing toads and will snap or mouth at them as they hop. Cats can be equally affected by the toad's toxin but tend to be more discerning in their hunting methods.

Cane toads are an invasive feral species. They have no natural predators in Australia so their numbers are ever increasing. They have large, poisonous glands behind the eyes and down the back. These glands excrete a sticky, milky substance when the toad is threatened which is **capable of spraying over a metre into the air**.



The toad toxin is highly poisonous and is quickly absorbed through the membranes of the mouth.

Signs of toxicity in pets include:

Increased salivation/drooling

Vomiting

Pawing at mouth

Twitching/ shaking

Bright red gums

Convulsions

Excitability or disorientation

Heart beat irregularities and death

If you see your pet with the early symptoms, it is important to quickly try to remove the toxin from the gums using a soft cloth to remove the sticky substance and a lightly running hose/tap pointing out the front of the mouth (not down into the airways which can lead to inhalation of water and pneumonia). Some dogs will recover uneventfully and can be kept calm and monitored closely.

If your pet is showing more severe symptoms such as **twitching, convulsing or is not responsive**, they should be brought straight to the vet.

Many dogs find toad chasing highly addictive and will not learn to stop even after a nasty case of poisoning. The toxin is **hallucinogenic** so whether that is a contributing factor, or it is the thrill of the chase, we can't be sure.

To avoid exposure of your pet to toads, it is important to keep them indoors at night. They should be kept on a lead when taken outside to toilet before bed.

Reducing your local toad population is always beneficial and current RSPCA guidelines recommend a product called **"Hopstop"** which can be sprayed onto the toad for humane euthanasia and then the toad safely disposed of. Take care to avoid exposure to the toxin yourself and use rubber gloves when handling dead toads.

Here's hop(p)ing for a **safe summer** for our pets!



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