



Great recovery follows surgery – with a bit of help

Sometimes in our clinic we have cases which are a bit unusual, extraordinary or just a good story to tell. Cooper's story is one of those.

Cooper came to us before Christmas in not very good shape, however after a big surgery and help from a fellow canine he is back to his normal self. Cooper had a large mass inside his abdomen which was making life



ANIMAL ANECDOTES

With July Hebbel from Tauranga Vets

miserable for the Labrador cross.

When Dr Tony Austwick from our Tauranga clinic saw Cooper, he was pale, depressed and not eating. It was found Cooper was already anemic due to the mass taking much of his blood.

"The x-ray showed a 22.5cm diameter mass, the biggest I have seen in terms of mass size to body weight," says Tony. The mass was 20 per cent of his bodyweight.

Tony decided a laparotomy would be performed to remove the mass and spleen.

"Although this type of surgery isn't particularly a difficult one; the fact that the mass was so large made it more complicated," he says.

Due to Cooper already being anemic and taking into account blood loss during surgery – it was elected Cooper needed a blood transfusion. That's where Tony's dog Ally came to the rescue – a Leonberger more than happy to be a blood donor for Cooper.

The procedure went to plan and we are pleased to report Cooper is doing extremely well.

In even better news, results have come back showing the mass was a benign Splenic Hematoma and not cancerous.



Cooper and his guardian angel-dog Ally.

Animal, human and enviro health connected

Considering the needs of animals, humans and the environment is a theme that is up and coming in our society and also known as 'one health'.

This model recognises that the health of animals, humans and the environment are intertwined and inter-dependent.

This concept is age-old and obvious to indigenous native people who live off the land for example Bushmen, Native American Indians and Eskimos.

They know that if they over-use their resources with over-fishing or depleting animal or environmental supplies it will have a negative impact on them too. One health is also well-known amongst conservationists

where there is a greater understanding that if endangered species are to be saved they need to have their natural environment preserved and have the local community of people involved in helping.

Science has shown that there is a link between animal abuse and domestic violence and Mahatma Gandhi said: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated". There is also research showing the tremendous benefit that animals have to human health and well-being and some workplaces are now encouraging pets to come to work!

Our environment and animals in our community deserve our respect and care, without this commitment our human well-being will ultimately suffer.



Holistic Vets' Dr Liza Schneider.

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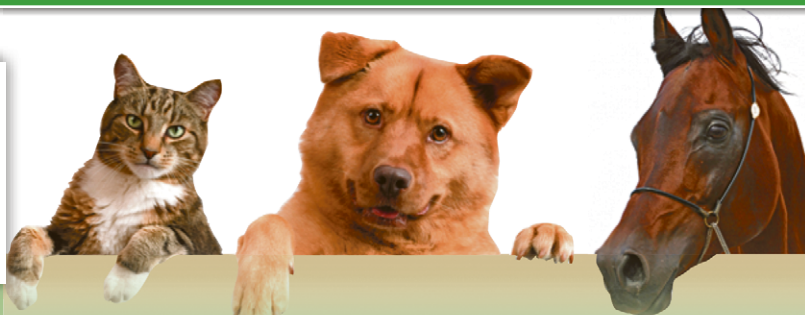


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