



**the small animal surgeon**

veterinary surgical specialist for dogs & cats

## New Logo

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Almost 11 years has passed since The Small Animal Surgeon began practising as a separate business in December 2003. Though the old in-house design has served well, it was time for a logo that the public can relate to and understand.

We are proud to introduce our new logo - this aims to alleviate the problem we have had where the general public keeps asking us if we operate only on rats and mice! Thanks are due to Carolina Fieguth of DOT Design for listening so carefully to our needs - we can recommend her if any of you are also considering a 'refresh'. Let Derek know by e-mail if you would like some new business cards.

## Website, Facebook, LinkedIn

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Don't forget, The Small Animal Surgeon website for information on our referral services (and online referral, forms etc), Facebook for updates, and LinkedIn for more on Ruth.

## NZISVS (Case Co-operation)

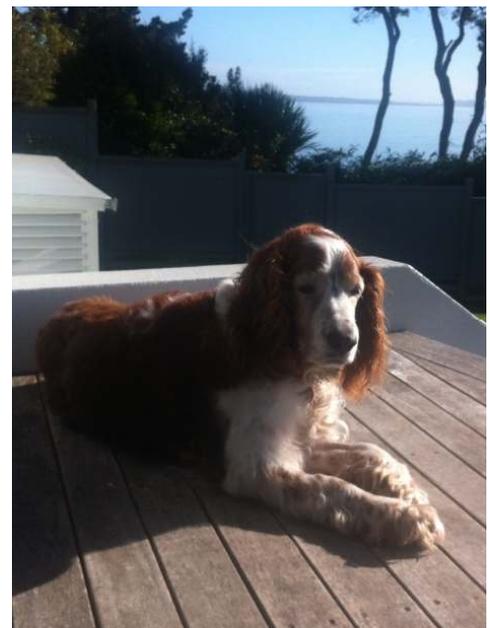
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As many of you may have seen, the specialist small animal surgeons in New Zealand had a meeting last year to strengthen communication and to recognize the expertise available at the referral centres in New Zealand. The New Zealand Institute of Specialist Veterinary Surgeons has been founded. One key benefit might be the pooling of resources to improve outcomes for our patients. A recent case is a good demonstration of how specialists can cooperate to benefit an individual patient .....

### .... an international, multi-specialist case

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Brody is a lovely 10 year old Welsh Springer Spaniel that was diagnosed with rapidly growing bilateral anal sac carcinomas. His referring veterinarian called on the expertise of the Veterinary Specialist Group, and an abdominal ultrasound exam confirmed gross enlargement of the sublumbar and hypogastric lymph nodes. An opinion was sought from Veterinary Oncology Consultants in Australia, and this led to a consultation with The Small Animal Surgeon regarding surgery - both to remove the anal sac carcinomas (now extending 270 degrees around the anus) and to extirpate the enlarged abdominal nodes. Special thanks to Dr. Rod Straw (Brisbane) for discussing this case with Ruth, and to Ashleigh and our locum Dr Julia West for helping with Brody's overnight care. After surgery with us to remove the gross tumour burden, we involved VetSpecs in Christchurch, who managed a follow up course of radiotherapy supervised by Dr Ruslander in Florida. (pto)



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## ... an international, multi-specialist case

(cont) Now that Brody is back in Auckland, his follow up chemotherapy protocol is being managed by his local clinic under the supervision of Dr Tony Moore in Australia.

Follow up imaging in May showed no nodal enlargement, but more recently the nodes have become more visible, necessitating a change in chemo-therapy protocol.

Brody has done well for over five months already, and now has good faecal control. His owners have managed him exceptionally well and his quality of life has been good. He is a good example of how specialists, general practice veterinarians, highly dedicated owners, veterinary nurses and even international consultants can work together to improve outcomes, and that is exactly what we are all about!

## Thumbs Up

To one of our best referring clinics that helpfully records ET Tube sizes used in their patients clinical records (a big help for those brachycephalics).

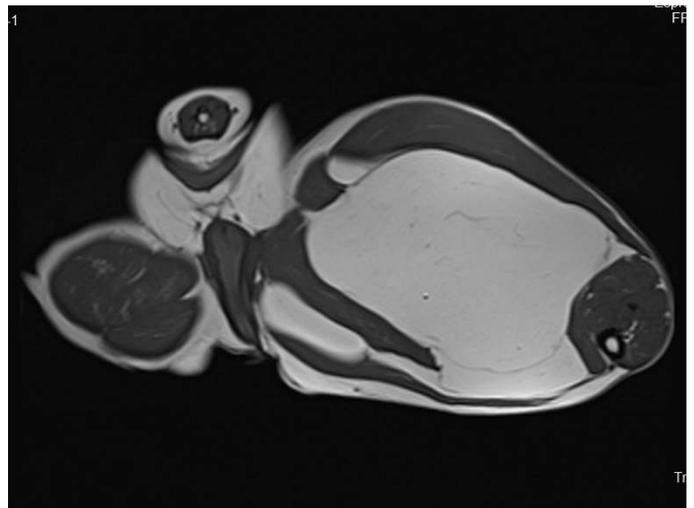
## Science Week

Ruth attended the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Surgery Chapter meeting at Science Week in July, and reports this to be one of the most interesting ever. A key attraction was the Pre-Science week 'Master Class' for specialists and residents in surgery with Drs Bryden Stanley and Geraldine Hunt - both internationally recognized soft tissue surgeons. In the master class, the emphasis was on reconstructive surgical procedures of the head and neck, coil embolization of intrahepatic shunts, and on Dr Stanley's research regarding vacuum assisted wound closure.

The rest of Science Week was open to all interested veterinarians and the surgery programme was very good indeed - covering such wide ranging subjects as an update on managing peritonitis, the use of pleural ports, hydraulic occluders for urinary incontinence, ureteral obstruction in cats, and an interesting debate about the pros and cons of teaching ovariohysterectomy versus ovariectomy in the modern age! Ruth cannot recommend Science Week highly enough to anyone with a strong interest in surgery - it really is a 'must go'.

## MRIs available again

We need to convey our sincerest thanks to the staff at Manukau Radiology Institute who have previously helped us with so many MRI and CT scans. Due to DHB contract changes, they are now not able to provide these services. Fortunately we have now organized a new (confidential) private provider for MRI, and thus far we have been very impressed with the quality imaging provided. We are still working on finding a provider for CT in Auckland, but Ruth recently attended the open night at the Waikato After Hours Clinic where they demonstrated their new Cone-beam CT machine. This might also provide a useful option for Auckland vets seeking CT and Dr Houston would welcome enquiries.



## Where's Derek ...?

... he has a new 'day job', but still helps out with administration during his 'spare' time at night. We are only just now realizing how often we got him to drive and pick up stuff, sort out insurance paperwork, get equipment fixed, answer phone calls, update facebook, etc. Although he is not longer on site, he would still welcome feedback on our Facebook and Linked in pages and customer service in general.