



# PAWS, CLAWS & ALL FOURS



Summer 2017

## Welcome

2016 was a momentous year at the Clutha Clinic in particular, as we saw the end of the renovations. The builders did a great job and now we are really well set up with a fantastic facility. We will be having an open day sometime in the New Year, but at the time of writing the date is not set. Please do come and have a look on the open day. As a Vet Club this practice is owned by our clients rather than a few shareholders. Our aim is to put profits back into the business so we can provide the best service possible to our clients.

The Milton clinic has just taken delivery of a new ultrasound scanner for small animal use. Ultrasound scanners have become an important diagnostic tool in small animal medicine. They give a real-time moving picture of the internal organs, and are especially useful for pregnancy diagnosis. They are also good for investigating abdominal lumps and bumps; they see through fluid in the abdomen and the chest; and they can show a moving picture of the heart.

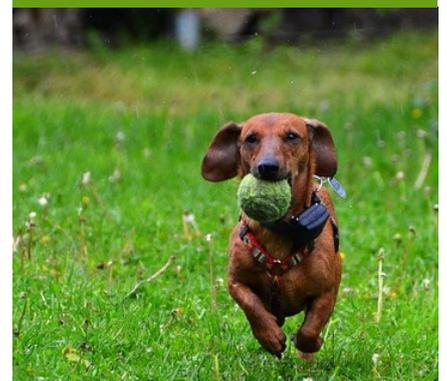
The Clutha small animal team has remained unchanged over the last year. A small change in Milton has seen our senior nurse, Gaynor, taking some time away from work. She has been temporarily replaced by Erin Pellett. Erin grew up in South Otago, attending South Otago High and was working in Queenstown before coming back home to work with us.

### *In this edition:*

- The earthquake in Kaikoura and the preceding ones in Canterbury are a timely reminder that we should be prepared for natural disasters, and Barbara has written an article about managing pets in a natural disaster.
- Microchipping is a simple and cheap means of permanent identification of animals. Sometimes owners are concerned that placing a microchip will be a painful experience for their pets, and Catherine's article dispels this concern.
- We see fractured jaws in cats and dogs from time to time. Murf is our featured patient. He is a heading dog who broke his jaw and two teeth, jumping onto a vehicle.
- Izzy gives horse owners some tips on good, and not so good, fencing for horses. If you are thinking of getting a horse, or your current fencing is causing some injuries, have a look at what is recommended.

## In this issue

- Welcome
- Disaster Planning for Pets
- Microchipping
- Dog Training Tips with Tracy
- Fun Animal Riddles
- Murf's Misadventure
- (Don't) Fence Me In - Safe horse fencing





## Dog Training Tips with Tracy

Tracy Cullen – Vet Nurse



This summer when you are out and about try to use this time to train your dogs. A walk is a great time to work on making behavior fun! Your dog is more likely to behave when good behaviour is fun and exciting! Your dog will also want to repeat the behaviour if it was fun to do!

### Fun Animal Riddles

What is a cat's favourite colour?

- *Purrrrrple*

What did the cat have for breakfast?

- *Mice Crispies*

What do you get if you cross a cocker spaniel, a poodle & a rooster?

- *A cockerpoodledoo*

What did one frog say to the other?

- *Times sure fun when you're having flies*

What do you call a snake with a great personality?

- *A snake charmer*

What do you call fifty penguins at the North Pole?

- *Really lost! (They only live in the Southern Hemisphere)*

What do you get when you cross a tarantula and a rose?

- *No idea, but I wouldn't try smelling it*

## Murf's Misadventure

Peter Heslip - Veterinarian

Murf is an 8 year old heading dog. Five years ago Murf was seen with a partial paralysis of his hind-legs caused by a blockage in the arteries of his spinal cord. He recovered well and although still in work is slightly weak and a little clumsy in the back end. That is probably the reason he fell badly when he jumped onto a vehicle and broke his jaw in mid-December.

As you can see on his X-ray the break went cleanly through the left side of his mandible in the middle of his second premolar tooth. One tooth root wound up on either side of the fracture. The fracture was very painful, there was bleeding in the mouth and swelling of his face, but the gum was intact and the fracture was not easily visible.

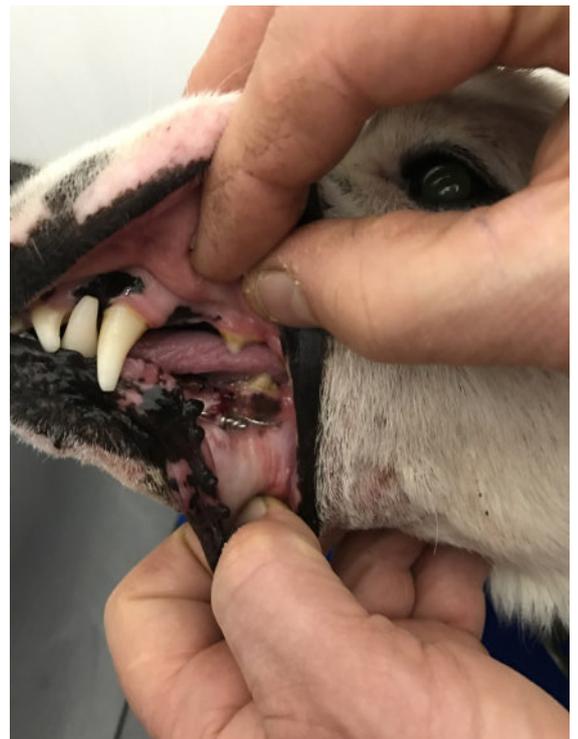


Murf had pain relief and then surgery. The broken tooth roots were extracted and a stainless steel wire placed in holes drilled through the jaw on either side of the fracture. When the wire was tightened the bones fitted perfectly back together and the gum was sutured over the wound in his mouth. The photo below shows the wire twist against the gum. In the next few weeks gum will grow over the wire so that it is largely covered.

Murf stayed on his morphine drip after surgery and went home the next day. He will be on soft foods for eight weeks and after that the wires will be removed under anaesthetic. We expect Murf to do well as the jaw bone heals rapidly and is quite resistant to infection.

The majority of jaw fractures can be repaired with stainless steel wire placed through drill holes, or wrapped around the entire mandible. Fractures near the back of the jaw and especially adjacent to the joint can be more difficult and may require the use of bone plates and screws.

*Murf now has a wire through the jaw either side of the fracture, twisted tight and holding the fracture aligned and stable.*



# “(Don’t) Fence Me In” - Safe Horse Fencing

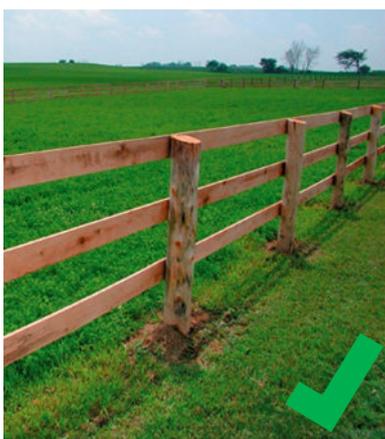
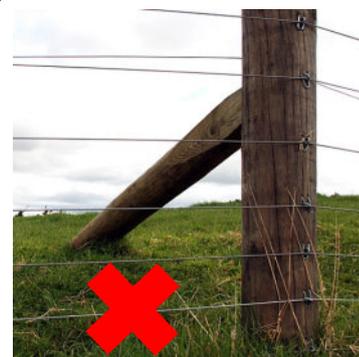
Isobel Topham - Veterinarian

This year, we have dealt with numerous severe leg wounds in horses from high-tensile wire, netting, barbed wire, and electric fencing. It's legs getting trapped when they kick out, paw, or roll too close that's the problem. Closely spaced high-tensile wire is the worst culprits, and is a ticking time bomb where horses are concerned. This is one of those cases where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! If you go to the expense of purchasing a horse and keeping it tacked, shod, fed, vaccinated, and 'dentaed', it is heartbreaking to have to then spend four or five figures on vet care and 2 - 6 months out of action for a bad wound, not to mention headaches for you and the horse. It is better to spend a fraction of the money on horse-appropriate fencing, such as the synthetic tape fencing from [www.magnum.co.nz](http://www.magnum.co.nz), or a good electric system with wide (40mm) tape. You can quickly & inexpensively erect horse-safe electric fencing inside a dodgy fence line, without the hassle of replacement, and take it with you wherever you go.

If you choose to use electric fencing, make sure that it is on, high enough off the ground, and zappy enough that they can't use their cover to push on it! Horses who learn to fully respect electric fencing are much less likely to injure themselves on it, so make sure it's worth respecting at all times. We all know how smart some of them can be about it.

Principles of fencing for horses:

- Wide enough spacing between horizontals that legs can't get stuck
- The more visible the better
- Meatier horizontals cause less damage (rails better than wide [40mm] tape; tape better than No. 8 wire; No 8 wire better than high tensile or netting)
- **NO BARBED WIRE!!!** Just don't use it!



## Contact Us

### Clutha Vets

Phone  
Balclutha - 03 418 1280  
Milton - 03 417 8032

Email:  
[admin@cluthavets.co.nz](mailto:admin@cluthavets.co.nz)

Web:  
[www.cluthavets.co.nz](http://www.cluthavets.co.nz)

Visit our Facebook page  
at Clutha Vets

*Wide electric tape is inexpensive, portable, and quick to put up. It's ideal for a quick solution*

**CLUTHA VETS CARE**