



***Dara waiting patiently for her stifle surgery***

First up was on the delightful Dara, a 10 year old Labrador cross with Hip Dysplasia and stifle disease. Dara is now living in Geraldine, so a big trip for mum and dog. Originally we organised Dr Helen Milner to surgically correct the subluxated and osteoarthritic hip but two weeks before the scheduled surgery, Dara had pulled up lame due to torn ACL ligaments in the stifle. So it was decided on the day of surgery, that the stifle was giving her more pain and discomfort, so Connor scrubbed in and saw Helen doing what she does best. Suffice to say the surgery was a huge success and Dara is back to normal activity levels, pain free and enjoying life in the country. If the hip ends up being problematic for her we will schedule another surgery, but for now she's doing great.



***Connor assisting Dr Andrew Worth in Altezza -Graces thoracic surgery to repair a PDA***

Dr Andrew Worth ( Specialist Small Animal



***veterinary graduates. What a memorable class it was***

Also not having her insured yet, meant referral to a specialist hospital was out of the question.

Altezza's congenital PDA meant that left sided oxygenated blood was flowing into the right sided lungs and not circulating around the body, potentially leading to congestive heart failure. No medications could fix this mechanical problem, she required thoracic surgery to ligate the vessel that should have closed off naturally once she was born. This surgery is most definitely for the specialists so we were so lucky to have Andrew in town and our superb anaesthetic team. PDAs can be difficult to detect therefore can go undetected until the patient goes into congestive heart failure. Dr Richard Lucy, performed Echocardiography at MMH and diagnosed her condition. Altezza recovered excellently and to date is just like a normal puppy, enjoying her life to the fullest with no more medications required.

Connor was very fortunate to assist these experienced surgeons. Connor is going down the path of specialisation in the small animal surgical field so any experience working alongside the best is always so valuable. Connor has now started his next internship, a straight surgical one for a year, at Greencross Veterinary Hospital in Melbourne. He'll be working alongside two surgeons and many other specialists in a very busy referral and first opinion practice where they teach the 4th year Melbourne Vet students.

So now we have two sons in Melbourne.