

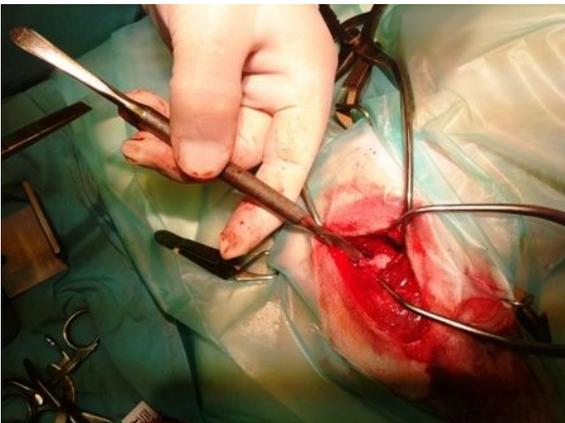


## Tim's Surgical Column September 2012

This month's Surgical Column candidate is Maisie, a plucky 10 month old Australian Terrier belonging to our very own practice manager, Brian! Maisie was born with three functioning legs and a stunted left foreleg, which she has always coped admirably with. Unfortunately, when Maisie reached 9 months old, she developed a condition known as Legg Perthe's disease which affected her right hind leg, and which ultimately required surgery on her right hip joint.



Legg Perthe's disease is recognised in small terrier breeds in the later stage of their growth and development, from around 6 months old. It causes disruption of the blood supply to the head and neck of the femur (the ball and socket joint of the hip) which leads to damage and eventually collapse of the bony tissue, which causes pain and a 'hopping' lameness of the affected leg. You can see the differences in Maisie's hip joints if you look closely at the x-ray picture 1. There is a similar disease recognised in humans.



Medical treatment for Maisie's leg was of limited benefit, and we decided to take her to theatre to remove the affected tissue. The operation is called a Femoral Head Excision Arthroplasty, and involves removal of the damaged head and neck of the femur. This will create a false hip joint of fibrous scar tissue, and removes the source of the pain for the patient. Convalescence will take a few weeks, as Maisie will need to learn to use her right hind

leg again, but her prognosis following the surgery is good, and she should be firing on all cylinders (or all three legs!) again before long!



The surgery picture shows Maisie's damaged hip joint exposed, and the femoral head and part of the neck that was removed. Can you see the differences between the 'before' and 'after' xray pictures?



Before surgery.



After surgery.