



## Interesting Case from our web site [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)



### "Muzzy - Partial Tail Amputation"



"Muzzy" was never likely to be an easy proposition for any owner. Belligerent barking, excessive exuberance and a demanding demeanour are to name but a few of his endearing qualities that no doubt led him to be abandoned at the East Midlands Dog Rescue Centre. Then along came Mr and Mrs Hall of Northleigh Way, Earl Shilton. Not only did they develop a very strong attachment for "Muzzy" but through their persistent efforts in behavioural training over the years have managed to turn a "teenage tearaway" into a "member of society".....well almost!

Unfortunately, it was whilst "Muzzy" was having one of his head-strong moments that the argument with the bus occurred. It goes without saying that this was one altercation that "Muzzy" was never likely to win!

Fortunately for "Muzzy" after I had the chance to examine him (the easiest examination I have ever conducted on "Muzzy") I was able to reassure his owners that "Muzzy" would live to fight another day. He didn't escape completely unscathed as he had a very nasty degloving injury to his tail. The flesh had been torn off exposing the coccygeal bones of his tail. A partial tail amputation would be necessary.

This particular surgical procedure doesn't rank as the most taxing for the surgeon with only the major bloodvessels on the underside of the tail to negotiate. The postoperative healing can however be extremely frustrating. As in most surgical procedures the aim is to create an environment that allows the patient to heal itself. If the surgical wound is then wagged around constantly for hours on end and occasionally whacked against the walls and doors it becomes obvious that this wound is not going to heal rapidly. That is unless the tail is cut short enough to limit the degree of wagging and banging!

Once I had convinced everyone that length is not important the postoperative phase went very smoothly excepting the occasional bandage "Muzzy" was kind enough to remove!  
"Muzzy" has now fully recovered from his ordeal and appears to carry his newly fashioned tail proudly like a battle trophy won in a hard fought skirmish! Buses beware!

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO, MRCVS

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This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)

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