

Press Release: “Southpaws Specialty Surgery Announces “Complete Cancer Care” For Dogs and Cats”

Immediate Release.

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Key Notes:

- *advanced cancer care for dogs and cats – technology, animal health*
- *leading veterinary surgery announces additional capabilities for “Complete Cancer Care”*



Dr. Charles Kuntz (right) - Specialist Surgeon

Southpaws, one of Australia’s premier specialty veterinary facilities for dogs and cats are pleased to announce “Complete Cancer Care” - the launch of new services and expertise located at Southpaws’ dedicated referral hospital facility in Moorabbin, Victoria. The veterinary oncology services offered are at the cutting edge of capabilities in Australia.

Southpaws is one of Australia’s premier veterinary referral facilities. Its investment in technology, expertise and research delivers superior health outcomes for pets. Complete Cancer Care amalgamates new expertise in internal medicine, oncology and specialist imaging with Southpaws established credentials in specialty surgery under founder Dr. Charles Kuntz.

Complete Cancer Care

Complete Cancer Care by Southpaws combines advanced Chemotherapy, Radiation Therapy, Surgical Oncology and Specialty Imaging to deliver some of the most comprehensive cancer diagnosis and treatment methodologies available for dogs and cats in Australia today. Southpaws is one of the few Australian private veterinary hospitals to offer all these services in one location, greatly streamlining case management and ensuring continuity of care.

The Team

Southpaws is headed by Dr Charles Kuntz one of the world's most experienced and capable veterinary surgeons. Charles is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, a Specialist of Small Animal Surgery and an ACVS Founding Fellow of Surgical Oncology. Partnering with Charles is Dr. James Simcock who recently completed two, year-long internships and a three year residency to successfully sit and pass the ACVS board certification examination, making James one of the first fully-Australian-trained surgeons to achieve this goal.



Dr. James Simcock (right) - Surgeon



*Dr. Raelene Wouda,
Medical Oncologist and
Internist*

Joining the Southpaws team as a Professional Interest Practitioner in medical oncology and internal medicine is Dr Raelene Wouda. Raelene completed a three year Small Animal Internal Medicine Residency in Brisbane with an externship at University of California (Davis). In 2007, Raelene achieved membership of the ANZCVS Small Animal Internal Medicine and in 2010, was appointed Hematology and Transfusion Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. Since then Raelene has completed a second residency in Veterinary Oncology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, USA. The University of Wisconsin is recognised as one of the world's leading veterinary oncology centers.

Dr Natalie Webster rounds out the Complete Cancer Care team as the only diagnostic imaging specialist in Victoria in private practice. Natalie is a Diplomate of the European College of Diagnostic Imaging making her a registered specialist in diagnostic imaging in both Australia and Europe. Natalie completed a rotating internship and worked in general practice in New Zealand and completed her residency at the Animal Health Trust in the UK. She has been providing specialist veterinary diagnostic imaging services in Australia since 2009. Natalie is excited to be joining the Southpaws team and can be contacted by referring veterinarians to discuss all their specialist radiographic, CT and MRI needs by appointment



*Dr. Natalie Webster,
Imaging Specialist*

The Complete Cancer Care Approach

Today, many dogs and cats diagnosed with cancer live long lives, but obtaining an accurate diagnosis and receiving the most appropriate therapy is crucial to achieving this outcome. Southpaws provides the most advanced diagnostic technologies and the most effective cancer treatments. The Complete Cancer Care team formulates and implements a unique cancer treatment plan for the best overall outcome for each patient and their family.

The treatment of patients is a team effort, combining the knowledge, skills and expertise of several different animal healthcare professionals, including a medical oncologist, surgical oncologists, an imaging specialist and an internist. This team is supported by dedicated and experienced veterinary nurses – with some of the highest nurse-patient ratios in the industry. Owners and referring vets complete the team. Owners are encouraged to actively participate in their pet's care making the experience much less daunting and often providing superior outcomes. The Complete Cancer Care concept centers around the referring primary care veterinarian who is an active partner in the diagnosis and treatment of the patient especially in initial diagnosis, recovery, monitoring outcomes and most importantly communication with owners.

Diagnostics and Specialised Imaging

Complete Cancer Care at Southpaws is founded on the most up to date diagnostic and imaging technology including:

- Ultrasound
- Digital radiography
- Endoscopy/Bronchoscopy
- Cystoscopy
- Computed Tomography (CT)
- Imaging-guided diagnostic sample collection (ultrasound and fluoroscopy)
- Access to external Magnetic Resonance Imaging
- 3D printing
- In-house hematologic and biochemical screening



One of the fastest CT multi-slice scanners in Australia for veterinary applications.

Southpaws imaging capability is managed by specialist Dr Natalie Webster providing interpretation of ultrasound, radiographs, CT and MRI studies for referring veterinarians either remotely or on an out-patient basis. Southpaws high speed multi-slice Computed Tomography (CT) scanner is one of the newest of its type for veterinary use in Australia – its higher image quality gives faster and more accurate diagnosis of tumour location and type. When coupled with 3D printing, Southpaws surgeons can hold a model of the cancer site in their hands to more accurately guide surgery, reduce risks and aid communications.

Guaranteed Care

To complete the picture, Southpaws pride themselves on their compassionate and personalized patient care. Southpaws vets and supporting staff go to great lengths to offer detailed and compassionate discussion of treatment options and prognosis to pet owners. Southpaws in-hospital care is second to none with patients accommodated in an open plan treatment room with comfortable bedding and regular monitoring by dedicated nursing staff. Monitoring of patients is similar to an Intensive Care Unit in a human hospital with the collection of vital signs, recording of observations, medications and toileting, and intake of fluids and solids. All data is recorded meticulously to monitor progress and recovery. Nursing care is provided around the clock 6 days a week and phones are monitored 24/7. Most importantly patients are loved, cuddled and communicated with throughout their stay at Southpaws and every comfort need is taken care of. Southpaws are so confident of their expertise in Complete Cancer Care that financial guarantees are offered against the recurrence of certain types of primary tumour in the original location after surgery.

Media Contacts and Synopsis:

One of Australia's premier veterinary specialist referral hospitals, Southpaws prides itself on the highest level of patient care that is very comforting to pet owners and patients. Southpaws provides the very best in surgical, medical and cancer care for its patients. Southpaws introduced the first deep-therapy radiation unit for animals in Australia and today is the only radiation therapy unit for animals in Victoria. Southpaws houses one of the fastest CT scanners in Australia for animal use and employs 3D printing technology to aid diagnosis and guide more accurate surgery. Southpaws is centrally located in South East Melbourne.

Dr. Charles Kuntz, Southpaws founder, has published many scientific articles, proceedings and book chapters on topics of surgical oncology. He was the chairperson of the oncology section of the National Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Charles was asked to write a chapter for a human surgical oncology textbook on bone cancer because of his reputation and expertise in cancer surgery. Charles has personally performed and interpreted over 4,000 veterinary CT scans, has five United States patents for veterinary devices and has personally operated on over 5,000 patients with cancer with local control rates of over 95%. Dr. Kuntz has been seen on "Talk to the Animals", "Animal ER", "A Current Affair", "National Nine News", "The Today Show", "The Nine AM Show" as well as numerous appearances on ABC radio and articles in newspapers and magazines. He receives referrals from all over Australia as well as consultations by phone and email worldwide. Co-owner Dr James Simcock has published on gastrointestinal and urogenital surgery and oncology and has presented a number of times at the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists, Science Week. James provides continuing education lectures to veterinary professionals and is a Residency Advisor with the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. He is an instructor for veterinary post-graduate education courses in surgery and an editorial reviewer for peer-reviewed journals.

Media Enquiries and High Resolution Images

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