

Mr Snax Story

In early 2006, Clare Wilmarsh noticed a small lump on her Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Mr Snax. The lump had appeared on the pelvic region of the six-year-old dog, and, despite being only about half a centimetre across, worried Clare. She took him to her local vet, who carried out a biopsy.

The results of the biopsy showed that Mr Snax had an Intermediate Grade Mast Cell tumour, one of the most common forms of cancer in dogs. "I was in such shock and so upset. I had heard about the Animal Health Trust and requested a referral to their experts," said Clare.



Mr Snax was referred to the AHT on 10th April 2006. "The journey took us about four hours" said Clare. "When we walked into the Small Animal Clinic, all the dogs and cats were waiting for their appointments. There were people from all over the United Kingdom – everyone knew that this is the best place to bring ill companion animals. Sue Murphy (Head of Clinical Oncology) greeted us with a big smile and answered all my questions. First of all they had to see if the tumour had spread so they needed to run some tests. Sue told us that radiotherapy couldn't be used because of where the tumour was situated and so surgery was the best option"..

Sue explained to Clare how the soft tissue surgeon was hoping to conduct the procedure but a lot would depend on what they found during the operation. She explained that he would like to bring part of the skin from the flank across the area to reconstruct it and ensure that all the contaminated tissue was removed. The operation was a success. No lymph node involvement was found (which would have been more serious) and no further traces of the Mast Cell Tumour.

Clare said, "Mr Snax had his own oncologist, his own soft tissue surgeon, his own anaesthetic team and 24 hour nursing and on duty vet care. The expertise of everyone at the Animal Health Trust saved my dog's life."