



### TOP STORIES

- Most air arrivals since 2001
- Jewellery stolen in crowded store, no one notices
- Censorship board reconvened
- Expat majority isn't in Gov't
- Two in court for alleged ATM scam
- Van fire erupts, woman and child escape
- PPM leader clarifies comment
- CINICO's profit: \$3.5 million
- Wedding industry 'recession proof'

### RELATED ARTICLES

- Puppy gets new lease on life
- Puppy email scam warning
- Hospice Care villa opens at the Pines
- Letters to the Editor: Education is needed about animal abuse
- Animal shaped cities
- Cayman Animal Hospital open day
- Iran sends animal menagerie into space
- Technology aims to replace animal testing
- Students learn more about how to care for pets
- dms to flag cars for Hospice Care

成立海外公司 - 信捷會計  
BVI公司享有高度的隱密性 公司股東名冊完全不對外公開  
www.sunchiap.com.hk



## Puppy gets new lease on life

By: Eugene Bonthuys | eugene@cfp.ky  
28 February 2011

> Comment on this story

A Cayman puppy has a new lease on life thanks to the efforts of Cayman Animal Rescue Enthusiasts and the staff of Cayman Animal Hospital.

Octavia, a 12-week-old puppy had been prevented from joining the rest of her litter on a trip to the US as part of a puppy transfer when a veterinary checkup before the trip revealed a heart murmur. The condition would also have made it difficult for the puppy to find a home in Cayman.

According to Dr. Colin Manson at the Cayman Animal Hospital, the volunteers at CARE asked the hospital to examine the puppy in the hope of finding the cause of the murmur.

"Following a detailed clinical exam, X-rays and an ultrasound exam, we identified the cause of the heart murmur to be a congenital heart condition called a 'Patent Ductus Arteriosus'," he said.

Although such heart conditions are relatively rare, Dr. Manson said that PDA is one of the more common forms. It results from a blood vessel that should close just after birth, but in this case it remained open, shunting blood from one side of the heart to the other.

"This resulted in Octavia developing signs for heart failure at such a young age. Sadly there is an 80 per cent chance that most puppies with a PDA will die before one year old. However, since the X-rays were already demonstrating signs of lung congestion, Octavia's life-span was likely to be only a few short months," he said.

The surgery is not without risk, however.

"It involves very careful dissection around this relatively fragile blood vessel, which is intimately connected to two of the largest blood vessels in the body, deep in the chest," said Dr. Manson.

Although the surgery is very risky, the volunteers at CARE put in a gargantuan effort to raise the money necessary to get the surgery performed and along with a generous donation by Dr. Lana Waller of Cayman Animal Hospital was able to raise the funds required.

"After learning that if her condition went untreated she would have a very short life-span, we knew we had to give her every opportunity possible so she could have a chance at living a very normal healthy life that she so deserves, and so the operation was performed," said Lesley Agostinelli of CARE.

The surgery took place on 17 February and Ms Agostinelli admits that the volunteers were rather nervous about the outcome, in spite of Dr. Manson's assurances.

"It was a nerve-wracking time since she is so small and we had been fully versed by Dr. Colin on the procedure and the potential risks involved with the surgery," said Ms Agostinelli.

According to Dr. Manson, things could not have gone better.

"Following a night of intensive care at home with me, Octavia was discharged from the hospital and is now enjoying a period of quiet rest, until her stitches come out. Octavia should now have every chance of a normal, healthy and happy life," he said.

Ms Agostinelli is thrilled by the progress Octavia has been making since her operation.

"It is now a week since her surgery and we are all over the moon with how well she is recovering. You would not believe she had just had open heart surgery, and she is bouncing back every day," she said.



Dr. Colin Manson and Octavia.

Photo: Submitted

### Share your Comment

We welcome your comments on our stories. Comments are submitted for possible publication on the condition that they may be edited.

**IMPORTANT IDENTITY INFORMATION:** You will be able to create a 'nickname' which will allow you to remain anonymous, however, whilst we collect login information from you, this information will be kept confidential and only used to contact you directly, if required. We require a working email address - not for