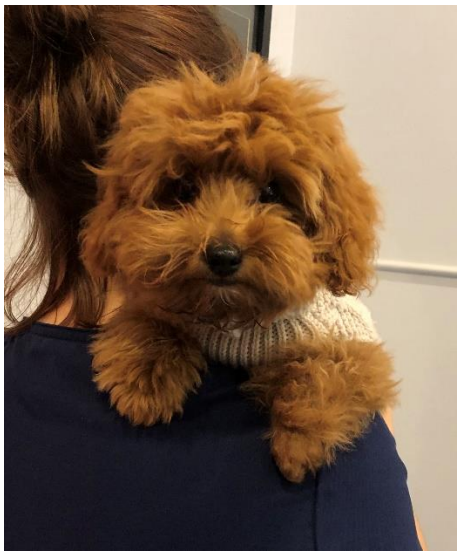
Do not take dogs onto Escalators

Poor little Spike is a puppy who had an unfortunate incident which is becoming far too common. He was on the Woolworths escalator/travellator 2 weeks ago and got his toe stuck. We are seeing one of these cases every few months at Vet HQ and it has resulted in a lot of dogs having to have their toes amputated.

When it happens, it is incredibly painful and scary for the dog as well as the owner and causes a huge amount of damage to their toes, right down to the bone. In a couple of cases, the fire department has had to attend to help release the dog's feet. Sometimes it's their hair that gets stuck at the end which drags the foot into the metal while other times it's their small toes that get caught in the grates.

Spike came in immediately after injury and the bone of his tiny toe was exposed. There was too much damage to be able to save the toe and he was taken straight to surgery to remove the damaged digit and repair the surrounding region.

Luckily Spike is an incredibly brave and happy puppy and recovered very well from the injury. 10 days later he had his sutures removed and is running around happily as if nothing happened.



Despite our continuous pleas for people to use the lifts and stairs with their dogs, we continue to see people use the escalators every day. Next time you are shopping with your furry friend, please do them a favour and take the stairs!

Dr Nicky Goldberg BVSc MANZCVS (Medicine)