



FLORIDA EYE
Microsurgical Institute, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KATZ AND DOGS!

**LOCAL OPHTHALMOLOGIST WHO OPERATED ON DOG TO SAVE ITS VISION TO
PERFORM ANOTHER RETINAL PROCEDURE ON SECOND DOG TOMORROW**

April 28th, 2009, Boynton Beach, FL.... Most doctors like to play golf on their days off, hit the beach or even veg in front of the television, but not Dr. Randy Katz, a retinal and macular degeneration specialist with Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute. On this past Sunday, Dr. Katz was at the Animal Eye Specialty Clinic in Deerfield Beach with veterinarian ophthalmologist Dr. Susan Carastro, operating on a dog – Fozzie - in an effort to save his sight.

Fozzie, a Bichon/Poodle mix who resides in Boca Raton is already blind in one eye, and without surgical intervention, Dr. Carastro knew he'd lose the sight in his one good eye, because of a retinal detachment. Dr. Carastro enlisted the aid of Dr. Katz, who operates mainly out of the Eye Institute's outpatient surgery center in Boynton Beach, to come to her clinic in Deerfield Beach and work on Fozzie.

Sunday's surgery took much longer than anticipated, and wasn't fully completed. While Fozzie is fine, Dr. Katz says there was some excess bleeding during the procedure, so he opted to stop and let Fozzie recuperate. "The surgery is about 60% done, and we need to go back after Fozzie has time to heal." Dr. Carastro says that healing process should take anywhere from ten days to two weeks.

In the meantime, Dr. Katz will be performing another retinal procedure on Troy – a two-and-a-half-year-old Shih Tzu - tomorrow, Wednesday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Surgery Clinic in Deerfield. Troy, says Dr. Carastro, “has a spontaneous retinal detachment springing from a genetic condition, and will become permanently blind without corrective surgery.” Dr. Katz has never worked on any animal let alone two, but Dr. Carastro wouldn’t take no for an answer.

Why would a retinal specialist who is busy every waking hour of the week use his free time to operate on a dog, pro bono? Dr. Katz says Dr. Carastro had approached him before over the past few years to share his knowledge with her, and the timing was never right. But when she called this time, he happened to be sitting at his desk, and staring up at him from a photo was his own dog, Louie, a Morkie (Maltese/Yorkshire Terrier mix).

Dr. Katz wouldn’t make any promises that he could help Fozzie, but he said he would try. And that’s just what he did. The doctor studied veterinary films of the procedure and took the plunge with the blessing of Fozzie’s family. And while the doctor says there are obvious differences between a human eye and a canine eye, there are similarities as well, and the surgery didn’t hold any big surprises. “The idea is to make adjustments in the size of the instruments used and the way we approach the eye,” says Dr. Katz. The results are yet to be determined, but without Dr. Katz, Fozzie and Troy would have no chance of keeping their remaining vision.

As far as a new career in medicine, Dr. Katz says he’s happy with his own practice, and he doesn’t think he’d ever be able to make it through vet school. However, he adds, “it will be very gratifying if we end up with positive results for Fozzie and Troy.”

Dr. Katz is an experienced ophthalmologist and surgeon, having diagnosed and treated thousands of patients suffering from macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other retinal conditions over the years. Well respected by his peers, he spends much of his time taking on cases other surgeons shy away from, specifically those involving trauma situations, newborns and young children. Dr. Katz is one of the only retinal specialists in Palm Beach County treating retinopathy of prematurity, a condition that when left untreated, leads to irreversible blindness in children.

The Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute offers a full range of comprehensive ophthalmologic care, including routine eye care and examinations, pediatric eye care, dry eyes, advanced corneal, retinal and cataract procedures, laser treatments, glaucoma and diabetic procedures, and various other sophisticated treatments. With its own pediatric wing and fully accredited outpatient surgical center in Boynton Beach, the Institute has additional offices in Boca Raton, Wellington and Juno Beach.

Dr. Lee Friedman is the Institute's pediatric and adult strabismus specialist, Dr. Barry Schechter is the cornea and external disease specialist, and Dr. Jonathan Chua covers general ophthalmology. Dr. Jason Gorscak joined the practice this past year as an associate in general ophthalmology. For more information on the Institute, its physicians and current clinical trials, please contact Gwen Cohan at (561) 736-5050 and visit www.fleyedocs.com.

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