

news

# Some soft tissue injuries just don't heal quickly

With air bags and seat belts holding our bodies from striking steering wheels and dashboards during car crashes, fractured bones are rare except in the most dramatic of crashes.

The vast majority of injuries are to the ligaments, muscles and other connective tissues, otherwise known as "soft tissue injuries."

The good news is that most people enjoy a complete recovery from soft tissue injuries.

According to numerous published medical studies, that percentage is in the range of 85 to 97 per cent. No wonder your doctor and therapists in the early stages after a crash are so optimistic that you will achieve a full recovery.

Most of my clients had been told during those earlier stages that they should recover within some reasonably short period of time.

You should join in on the optimism. Not only is it based on solid medical science, but your level of optimism can be a factor in your recovery.

The bad news is that any time there is a high percentage with excellent outcomes, there is necessarily a lower percentage with poor ones—in this case, the three to 15 per cent of people who continue to have pain after a soft tissue injury.

Your medical team (your doctor and therapists) will be bound and determined to achieve, with you, the wonderful outcome of a complete recovery.

With the high statistics on their side, it's "their race to lose." Nobody likes to admit failure, particularly when there is such a high probability of success. The life work of your medical team is to heal. Their failure to bring about the statistically likely positive outcome is a let down to themselves.

It is also a let down to you. To those whose business model relies heavily on insurance company funding, it is a let down to the insurance adjuster and a corresponding compromise of the likelihood of further referrals.

The insurance adjuster who has been funding the care wants answers, a response to the "you

## Achieving Justice

PAUL HERGOTT



victimized by the stigma the leeches of the world have caused. Instead of being supported and consoled, you are being looked at with suspicion.

should have been better by now" question.

If your therapists have any hope of an extension of insurance funding, they have to convince the adjuster that more care will bring about more recovery. Once again, though, there's a failure.

It seems inevitable that the finger starts to point in your direction.

Maybe you haven't done enough to participate in your own recovery. Perhaps you're pretending that you still have pain, or exaggerating your symptoms.

We all know or have heard of the leeches among us who laugh about a claim settlement achieved through dishonest means.

(And by the way, please aggressively report those people not only to the insurance company they have cheated, but also to the police.)

You haven't been told the medical science that some people simply never recover from soft tissue injuries.

You have been unlucky once when someone's inattentiveness at the wheel caused you injury and further horribly unlucky to fall within the small percentage of people whose soft tissue injury has resulted in chronic pain.

You are now being

company, if it's ICBC, is likely to send you to a medical specialist, the likes of whose evidence was referred to in a recent case of Hendry v. Ellis, a decision released early June 2015.

It took cross-examination to get that specialist to admit to the medical statistics that he left out of his medical report and, essentially, admit the obvious reality that Ms. Hendry fell into that small percentage.

Quoting from that decision: "He admitted that numerous medical studies have been published... that 3-15 per cent of people continue to have pain after a soft tissue injury and that by definition, Ms. Hendry is in that percentage of people."

If you continue to have pain after a soft tissue injury that, statistically, "should have resolved," you too are by definition within that percentage of very unfortunate people. If you would like validation that you might not be getting from your insurance adjuster, let me know and I'll send you a copy of the case.

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## FELINE FURY

# Cat poses fiery mother instincts

Scaredy Cat 3—Charlie and Tez O.

Hopefully at the end of this strange and truly 'wild' adventure, everyone will be winners.

But so far, Scaredy has held the upper hand... err, make that upper paw.

One of life's ironies is that feisty behaviour and determination in a creature has little to do with size, shape or strength.

Meet Scaredy Cat, an attractive tabby cat with an apparent bi-polar disorder and prize fighter attitude.

She hosts a right hook, left slice combination of heavyweight damage proportions and a no-quarter aggressive style.

If indeed 'Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned,' then try messing with a mother cat weaning and protecting her baby kittens. When the mother cat is feral the fear/fight factor becomes epic.

Scaredy Cat may look loving and cute but that's a con job. She is one

Hodge Podge

CHARLIE HODGE



mean mother.

Scaredy Cat follows the personality traits of serial killers such as Ted Bundy—fooling victims with a sweet, kind

feigned disposition only to brutally attack when backs are turned.

I must admit to a certain amount of decision making that created our current dilemma.

I was the one with the bright idea of befriending the four-footed spawn of hiss, spit and slice that resides in our shed.

As responsible pet owners we do not believe in allowing our animals outside.

Domesticated cats venturing outside on regular bases not only live shorter lives but cause significant problems for neighbours and themselves.

The Scaredy Cat factor began two months ago when Tez and I first noticed Scaredy hanging out in our yard.

She kept hanging around the yard more and more and seemed interested in our junk filled shed.

I jokingly suggested to Tez we should leave the door open and let her wander around inside, hoping the smell of a cat would discourage the mice I had seen signs of.

Tez agreed. Silly Tez.

Over the next couple of days, Scaredy continued to visit and on occasion actually ventured into the shed to snoop.

Then Tez and I adventured off to Nelson for two nights while I did research on the novel I am writing.

When we returned and opened the shed to put back the cooler, Scaredy Cat came flying out the door. Later that day I heard the faint sounds of kittens.

Further investigation revealed four tiny little balls of fur.

After considering all the options Tez and I agreed to keeping the menagerie of unexpected borders alive until they are old enough to wean from mom.

SEE HODGE A20

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