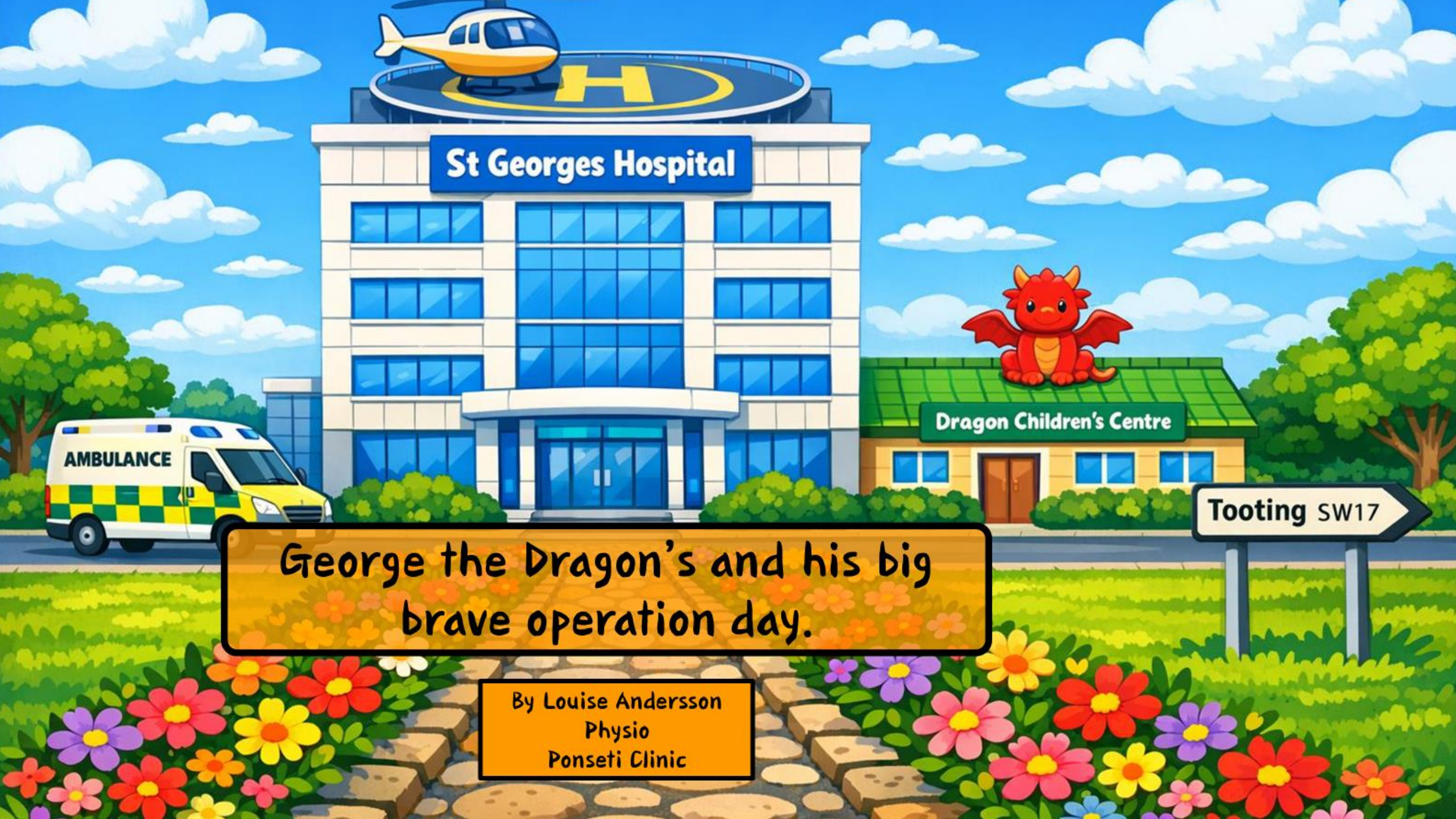




St Georges Hospital

Dragon Children's Centre

Tooting SW17

George the Dragon's and his big
brave operation day.

By Louise Andersson
Physio
Ponseti Clinic

George is off to Hospital for an operation on his leg.

George is going to have an operation on his foot – just like you!

The operation will help George walk better and keep his foot strong.

Let's follow George's story to find out what happens!



What is George's Operation?

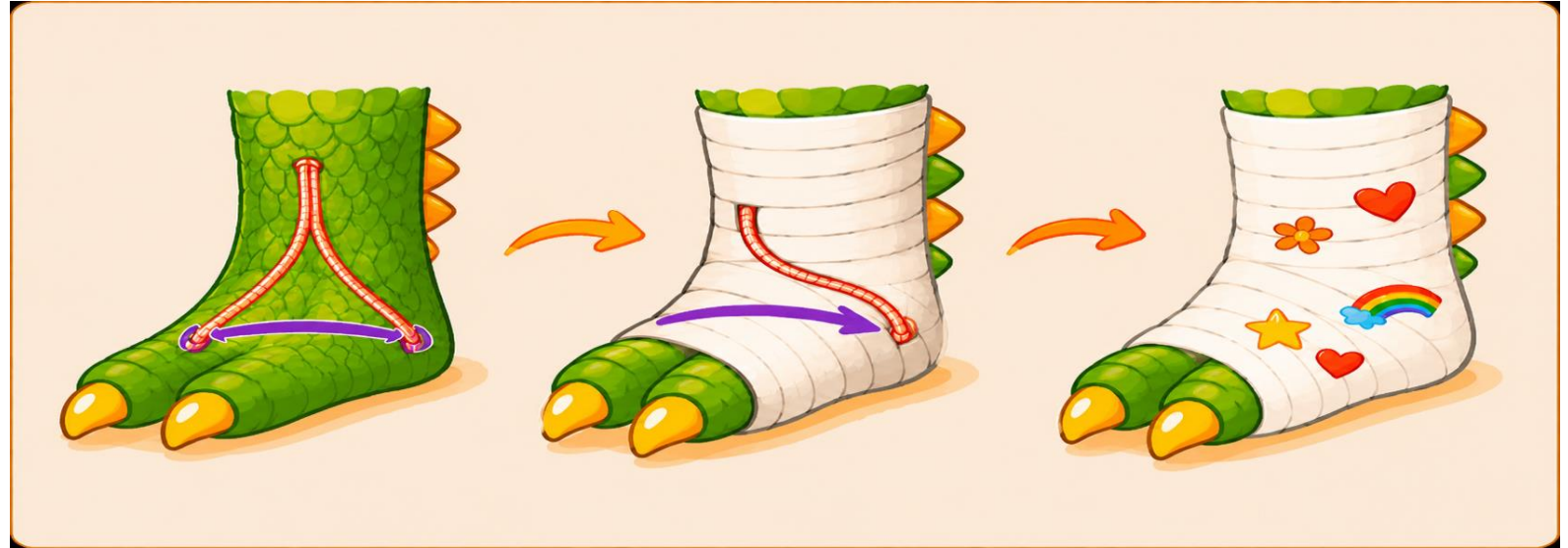
George's operation is called a Tibialis Anterior Tendon Transfer - Or TATT for short!



1. Before

2. During

3. After



The tendon is like a strong rope that helps George's foot move. Currently the tendon on the inside of the foot is stronger than the outside of the foot.

While George is fast asleep, the surgeon carefully moves the tendon to the outside of his foot so it can pull the right way

George's foot wears a special cast for a few weeks to keep everything safe while the tendon heals in its new home



Before George's operation

George can put full weight through his feet and legs before his operation.

He might need a cast on to help stretch and support his feet before his operation.

Don't worry – **he can still walk on it!**

You will have one too.



George's Operation day

He will then be taken to a separate room with his mum or dad where a doctor and nurse will prep him for surgery.

In this room George gets given some medication which will allow him to have a long nap, so he doesn't feel a thing during his surgery.

While George is fast asleep, the clever doctors do the operation.

After surgery George will wake up in a different room with his parents next to his bed.

He might feel a little sleepy and wobbly, but that's normal.



What happens after surgery?

After the operation, George will have his leg in a cast for up to 6-weeks and won't be able to walk on the operated leg.

This might mean George needs a wheelchair or a buggy to help him get around.

He might need some time to rest and recover, but there's still room for fun.



What happens
after surgery?

After George has completed 6-weeks of non-weight bearing, he will visit the Ponseti team again.

It's important that George takes good care of his cast, no getting wet or putting anything down it.



How will George go to school/nursery?

Red Cross charity can be helpful for wheelchair hire.

A buddy system, such as having a friend or teacher help George into the classroom or to carry bags recommended.



Keeping George
Strong in his cast.

We've given some exercises to your parent to try at home.

COME ON, let's do them together.



It's time for George to have his cast off.

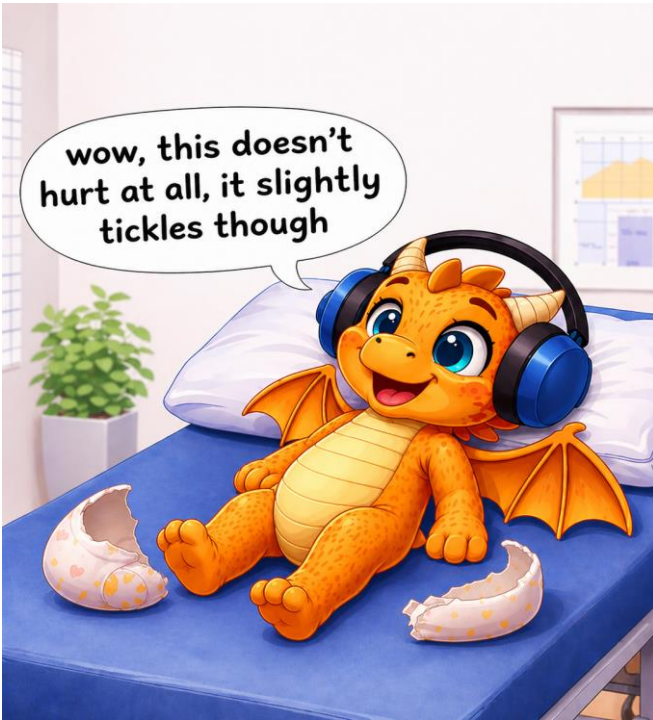
After 6 weeks, it's time for George to get his cast removed. The team use a special saw to cut it off.

The clever saw only cuts the hard cast – it does not hurt at all!

It's a little loud so George can wear ear defenders if he likes.

“Operation ouch – cast removal” is a video you can watch if you want.

Soon George will be walking again – and so will you!





What happens after the cast is removed?

Dragon gets his first cast removed and gets measured for a special splint.

This splint allows George to have a good stretch of his foot at night-time.

He might need another cast to be put on, but don't worry, George will be able to walk on this cast.

George Gets Stronger Every Day!

Once the cast off, George will do exercises with the physio to make his feet super strong.

It might take a little while, but everyday George's foot gets a bit stronger.

The Physiotherapy team help George every step of the way.



George needs to be careful – no big jumps or running for about 6 months.

But he'll get there, and so will you!





Thank you for
joining George on
his journey.

Good luck with
your operation, you
can be brave like
George.