

Pet of the Month: Lovely Lucy



Lucy is a one and a half year old English Bull Terrier who stole our hearts when she spent a lot of time with us in hospital after breaking her leg as a puppy!

Now as a bright and extremely happy dog, Lucy has become a lovely lady who never spares a cuddle and a tail wag when she comes to visit us. Lucy's owner became very concerned recently when Lucy suddenly became very miserable and started vomiting and rushed her in to see us. As we all know Lucy very well, we could tell instantly when we were not greeted with her happy smiling face, that something was very wrong indeed. A full examination made us very concerned about the possibility of an **intestinal obstruction** and an abdominal x-ray confirmed our suspicions.

An intestinal obstruction can occur when a dog or cat eats something far too big to be digested, like a corn cob or rock, and it lodges in the intestine or stomach. Other types of intestinal obstructions can occur when a dog or cat eats a long piece of material (string, plastic packaging, thread) that bunches up around the intestines on its way through the intestinal tract. Both types are life threatening as they stop blood flow to the area causing the tissue to die and sometimes can even perforate the intestinal tract causing ingesta to flow into the abdomen. Time is of the essence in these cases and Lucy was in for the fight of a life time.

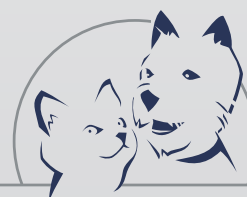
Being trained to handle all types of emergency situations our nurses had very soon prepped the operating room for a major abdominal operation and started preparing Lucy for surgery by connecting her to IV fluids to support her blood pressure, attaching monitoring devices such as blood pressure and heart

rate monitoring and clipping and scrubbing her abdomen ready for a large incision. We were ready to begin!

What we found was enough to make our vets squirm. Lucy had eaten a long length of material and a large amount of plastic, causing a 40cm length of intestine to not only bunch up around the material but also press down on some very sharp pieces of plastic. She was at real risk of gut perforation if we didn't act quickly and gently to remove all of this material.

In total she required four different incisions into her intestines to remove the foreign material in her abdomen, which means opening the intestine, removing the section of foreign material that lies within and carefully suturing the intestine closed. Just when we thought we were done we also discovered another large amount of material and plastic in her stomach, so she had a 5th incision to cut into the stomach and remove the foreign material. Though she had endured a 4 hour surgery, Lucy's fight was far from over! Now it was up to her to regain her strength and start eating again.

We are happy to report that after 5 days, with the help of a team full of nurses who gave her cuddles, made sure she was comfortable all day and tempted her with her favourite foods, and our vets who meticulously checked her blood work and vital signs to ensure she was on the road to recovery Lucy did go on to make a full recovery! She is now back to being the cheeky happy girl we all know and love, and still greets us with nothing but enthusiastic energy and a happy tail every time we see her. Well done Lucy!



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Our pets have teeth too!

Many of us never get to see our pet's teeth as they don't smile like we do! Cats and dogs are different to us in that their natural state is one of keeping their mouths closed and their teeth hidden, unless they are snarling or panting! Often the only sign we get that they are having dental problems is when we pick up the smell of **halitosis**. By the time they stop eating, things have got really bad!

This is why it is very important that we get into the habit of "**Lifting their Lips**" regularly to have a look inside their mouths to check their teeth. You may have noticed that we do this every time we get to examine your pets and you have probably heard us grading dental disease from grade 1 to 4 (one being early disease and four being severe.)

Below is a comparison of **grade 1- 4 dental disease** in dogs and humans.

As you can see, anything past a grade 1 is quite painful and by the time we get to grade 3, several teeth may need to be extracted. Why not try lifting your pets lip now and seeing what grade you think their teeth are! You would be surprised at how many grade 3 and 4's we see!

The good news is that there is a lot that we can do easily and cost effectively to ensure that our pet's teeth remain healthy! Give us a ring on **3353 6999** if you would like to book your pet in for a **free dental check**. As usual, during **August** we are also offering **10% any dental procedures**. Now that's something to smile about!



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GRADE I



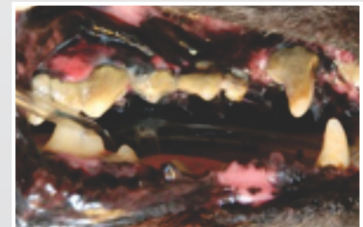
GRADE II



GRADE III



GRADE IV



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Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 7:00pm

Saturday: 8:00am - 1:00pm

