



Pet of the Month

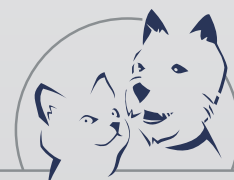


What a long tongue you have Sandy - all the better to lick us with! We love seeing Sandy every time she comes into the clinic as she reminds us of the joy of life, (as all retrievers are so good at doing!) and how delicate life's balance is. A few months ago I was called out to Sandy's house to find her collapsed in the yard, not able to raise her head or move. She had been vomiting the night before and her owners thought that she may have been bitten by a snake or possibly poisoned. She was in severe shock, dehydrated and very close to death. The outlook was looking very grim for Sandy at this stage and she was

at the point of multiple organ failure. Many people would have given up at this stage, but we knew what a fighter she was and her brave owners allowed us to rush her back to the hospital and start to reverse her state of shock and attempt to revive her and determine the initial cause of her collapse.

Three days of intensive care later, we were rewarded with a wag of the tail and a wonderful Sandy "smile". She was back! Sandy had been suffering from a severe case of acute pancreatitis that had caused generalised peritonitis and toxic shock. Her prompt diagnosis and treatment had saved her life.

Over the following months Sandy has returned to her normal bouncy energetic self, and by keeping her diet very strictly controlled we hope to prevent a reoccurrence. She visited us yesterday for her annual check-up and it was wonderful to receive her slobbery kisses!



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Interesting Facts about a Dogs Sense of Smell!

Did you Know?

.... While a dog's brain is only one-tenth the size of a human brain, the part that controls smell is 40 times larger than in humans. A dog's sense of smell is about 1,000 to 10,000,000 times more sensitive than a human's (depending on the breed).

.... When dogs smell something they are not just registering a smell, they get an entire story. They can detect pheromones. From this they can tell a lot about another dog or human including if they are male or female, what they ate, where they have been, what they have touched, if they have recently given birth, or had a false pregnancy, and what mood they are in. They can even smell some cancers on people, alerting them to it and saving their lives. This means when your dog smells another person, tree that another dog has peed on, pant leg that another dog has rubbed up against, or chair that someone has sat in, they are actually reading a story, not just smelling an interesting scent.



.... While a human will smell something like spaghetti sauce as one smell, a dog smells each individual ingredient. Unlike humans, dogs can move their nostrils independently, allowing them to know what direction a smell is coming from.

.... A dog can both sniff and breathe. These are two different functions. Breathing is for air, but when they sniff with short breaths they actually save some scent that does not get exhaled. When a dog is overheated and actively panting, its sense of smell is reduced by as much as 40 percent as it uses the air to cool itself rather than for smelling.

.... Puppies have heat sensors in their noses to help find their mother during the time when their eyes and ears are closed. These sensors disappear by the time they are adults.

Interesting hey - now you nose!



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