

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Exploratory surgery reveals parasite in Terrier

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our APRIL MONTHLY MIRACLE is Alfie, a four-year-old Bedlington Terrier.

Alfie was brought to Abbey Vets by his owners, Simon Bingley and Emma Roebuck, because he was continuously vomiting and had stopped eating.

To find out what was wrong with him we took x-rays and an ultrasound scan before performing an exploratory laparotomy – opening the abdomen, examining the abdominal organs for injury or disease and taking biopsies. The biopsies revealed that his illness was caused by the reaction to a bowel parasite (Giardia), stimulating Irritable Bowel Syndrome and developing into a food allergy.

Vet Natalie Ratcliffe said: "Alfie had become very weak so performing major exploratory surgery was risky, but it was our only option to get a diagnosis. The lab results revealed that a dormant cellular parasite was present that was causing stomach inflammation and reacting to the protein in his diet.

"We gave Alfie a super strength wormer in a much higher dose than normally prescribed, steroids and a course of vitamin injections. We also had to hand feed him at first to encourage him to eat."



Simon said: "Alfie was so ill that at one stage we thought that we were going to lose him. Whilst he was at Abbey Vets we visited him every night, bringing him toys from home and leaving items of our clothing to try to lift his spirits and to encourage him to keep fighting.

"When he came home we spent the next three weeks nursing him back to health. He was put on a special diet consisting of proteins he hadn't been given before and we then gradually introduced carbohydrates to increase his energy levels.

"We are delighted with the treatment Alfie received from Abbey Vets. He's totally unrecognisable from how he was when he was fighting for his life."