

# Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

## Sock-swallowing Lola switches to lolly sticks

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our **SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MIRACLE** is Lola, a 4-year-old Shar Pei cross Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

When sock-swallowing Lola the dog changed her eating habits it led to her being rushed into Abbey Vets for emergency surgery.

For if it wasn't bad enough that she had swallowed more than a dozen socks during recent years, this time she devoured a complete ice lolly stick – and unlike the socks, the rigid stick got firmly stuck in her stomach.

We had to operate to remove the stick – and when we opened her up we found yet another sock!

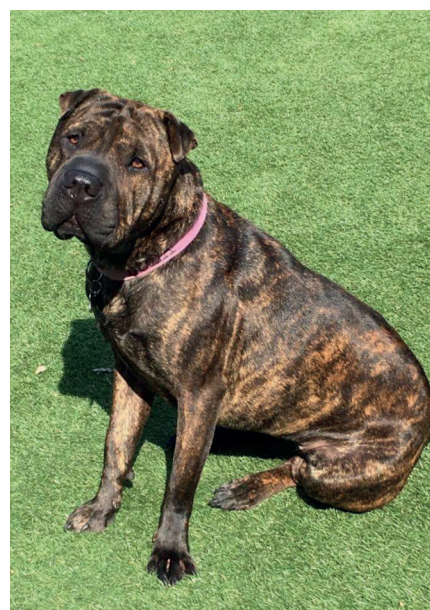
Vet Natalie Ratcliffe said: "The owners had seen Lola swallow the lolly stick but did not know that she had eaten another sock, so it was a surprise to find it there. Fortunately all the socks that Lola

has swallowed over the years have passed through naturally, but it was a different matter with the lolly stick. If sticks are not removed they can pierce a dog's intestines causing potentially fatal peritonitis, so we had to act quickly."

"Lola was very lucky that we were able to remove the stick from her stomach before it reached her intestines. She has also been lucky that all the socks she has eaten over the years did not block her intestines, because that often happens," she added.

"If an owner suspects their dog has eaten something it shouldn't have it's important to contact their vet immediately."

Lola's owner, Matthew Howe, said: "My wife,



Amanda, was letting Lola take licks from an ice lolly whilst she held the stick. Suddenly Lola snatched the whole lolly and swallowed the lot.

"She had licked lollies many times before without a problem but now that we have seen what can happen there won't be any more lollies in the house. We're also still trying to stop her stealing socks."