

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Beware of dangers posed by wild mushrooms

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our OCTOBER MONTHLY MIRACLE is Max, a 15-week-old Border Terrier.

We had to give emergency treatment to Max when he became ill after eating a wild mushroom he found under a hedge in his owner's garden.

Max's owner, David Bradbury, said: "I saw Max had a chewed up mushroom stem dangling from his mouth. Shortly afterwards he began to vomit and because I knew that some varieties of wild mushrooms are highly toxic I got him straight to Abbey Vets."

Vet Brian O'Donovan said: "We gave Max an injection to make him vomit more, some activated charcoal to absorb any toxins, and fluids to help him recover. As a further precaution he was kept in overnight for observation. We sent a sample of the mushroom Max had eaten to a specialist toxicologist who thankfully said that it was not highly toxic.

"As a result of Max's experience we are warning dog owners to be extra vigilant whilst their pets are outdoors. The months of September and October are known as the mushroom season so owners should try to keep their pets away from wild fungi, particularly following the recent wet and humid weather which has resulted in an



Max with his owner. Below: the piece of mushroom sent for toxicology tests.

increase in fungi in gardens, forests and fields. Whilst the majority of fungi are non-toxic, there are some species that



are very dangerous and can cause death or permanent damage. That is why it is vitally important that dog owners seek immediate veterinary advice if they think that their pet has eaten fungi."