

## Milo's second shot at a long and healthy life.



Head Vet and practice owner Ian Clarke, wanted to share with you lucky Milo's story...

Read on to find out more...

"A client of ours took on a 3 year old male 'moggy' called 'Milo' brought him to see me because in the 18 weeks that she had been looking after 'Milo' he appeared to the Owner to be suffering from a hair ball every 6 weeks with wretching and vomiting.

When I examined 'Milo' I quickly found a mid abdominal mass below the kidneys that was firm and irregular, I feared the worst. 'Milo's Owner and I could have euthanased 'Milo' at this stage with a diagnosis of cancer high on the list. However, fortunately for 'Milo' we didn't.

With the backing of the Owner I ran a blood test to check for a cancer causing virus that cats can catch (and be vaccinated against) called FeLV. Fortunately, this was negative.

On an X-ray I could see the mass located next to 'Milo's stomach and liver.

On the X-rays I also spotted an air-gun pellet next to his back leg, someone had been using 'Milo' for live target practice.

Again, 'Milo' could have been euthanased at this point because the appearance was consistent with a tumour.

Fortunately we didn't and with the agreement of the Owner I was able to perform an exploratory laparotomy, an operation where I open the abdomen and have a look and feel of what is going wrong there. I quickly found the satsuma sized mass and took a sample of it to see if I could identify the cause by using the microscope. To my pleasant surprise I found by looking at the stained preparation under the microscope, that the necrotic centre of the mass was filled with pus and that some of the white blood cells contained bacteria which meant that this mass had to contain an infection and was in fact a large abscess.

It hadn't been feasible to remove the mass and it was not possible to establish drainage either so 'Milo' went on a serious course of antibiotics. Over the next few days and weeks the abscess reduced in size so that it all but completely disappeared.

'Milo' was cured, his vomiting stopped and apart from monitoring in case of recurrence this case was closed.

The cause was interesting, why had 'Milo' developed an abscess in this unusual location. Remember that pellet? When 'Milo' was shot that pellet entered the body and passed by his stomach puncturing stomach or small intestine before it came to rest near his back legs. The pellet itself is not going to cause a problem but the leakage of bacteria from the intestinal puncture wound caused the abscess to form! "

What a lucky boy 'Milo' is!