

# Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

## Surgery needed to remove stick from Tia's mouth

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our JUNE MONTHLY MIRACLE is Tia, a two-year-old Labrador.

Emma Radcliffe and Adam Maxwell are warning about the dangers of throwing sticks for their pets after their dog, Tia, needed emergency surgery to remove a stick that had become embedded in the side of her tongue.

Emma said: "We had thrown a stick for Tia but when she caught it in her mouth a piece broke off and she immediately began to yelp with pain.

"We rushed over to her and could see some of the stick at the back of her mouth. She began to shake uncontrollably and was gagging. Seeing Tia in such a state left me in a panic but I managed to get her straight to Abbey Vets.

Vet Fran Cummins said: "We operated on Tia immediately to remove a 10cm long



*Tia with Adam Maxwell.*

piece of wood that was embedded in the side of her tongue. Tia was very lucky, as the stick could have potentially damaged the muscles that are responsible for swallowing if it had gone much further into her throat.

"We stitched Tia's wounds and she was able to return

home the same day with a course of antibiotics, pain relief and anti-inflammatory medication.

"Every year we treat dogs that have been injured in this way, and the damage can be very severe. For these reasons we urge pet owners not to throw sticks or to encourage their dogs to play with one, but to choose a safe option such as a rubber stick, ball or Frisbee."

Emma said: "I hope by sharing Tia's story it will make people think twice about throwing a stick for their dog. Although she's absolutely fine now, Tia's experience was terrible and I don't want another dog to have to go through what she did. The only things we'll be throwing for her now are rubber sticks or balls."