

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Owner discovers that both her cats had been shot

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our DECEMBER MONTHLY MIRACLE features two cats – Cookie and Theo.

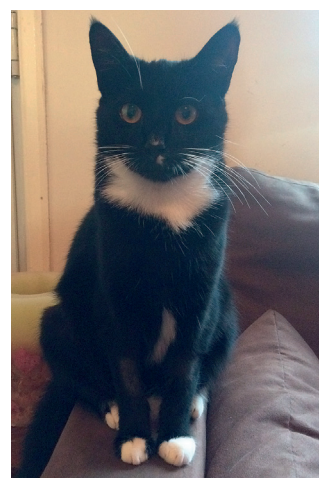
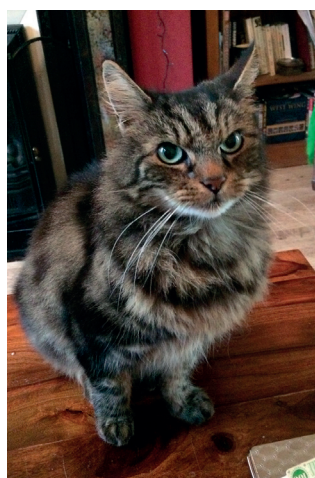
They were both left with life threatening injuries after being shot with a pellet gun within 48 hours of each other.

15-month-old Cookie was the first to be targeted. When she hid under a bed and was uncharacteristically reluctant to be stroked or handled her owner, Angela Galvin, brought her into our surgery.

An x-ray showed that an air gun pellet had entered Cookie's body through her right flank and was lodged in her shoulder. The pellet had also perforated her large bowel and we performed surgery to repair the damage. Left untreated a perforated bowel can lead to fatal peritonitis.

Whilst Cookie was still recovering in our cat ward, Mrs Galvin then brought nine-year-old Theo into our surgery. He had returned home with a swollen cheek and blood under his eye. Fearing that he had also been shot, Mrs Galvin asked us to check him over.

Although there wasn't any visible sign of a pellet, an x-ray showed that one had lodged between the soft tissue in his mouth and his jawbone, shattering one of his teeth. We took Theo into surgery to remove the



Theo (left) and Cookie.

pellet and extract the tooth. Vet Tony Duffy said: "As with Cookie and Theo, it's not always obvious that a cat has been shot, so if you have any suspicions please get them checked out."

Mrs Galvin said: "To have both of my cats targeted in such a way is horrific. Thankfully Cookie and Theo are making good progress but neither of them have any inclination to venture outdoors."

"Anouska Simpson would be my vet of the year – compassionate and caring but also practical and realistic. I felt that Cookie was in the best possible hands. Victor Palao, who treated Theo, was great too," she added.