

# Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

## Even small wounds need to be checked out

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our JUNE MONTHLY MIRACLE is Flash, a five-year-old Border Collie who was badly bitten by another dog.

After Flash was attacked, his owners brought him straight to our surgery. We sedated him before shaving some of his fur so that we could evaluate his injuries.

It was then that we found four deep puncture wounds on his neck that had caused a large area of his skin to become detached from the muscle underneath.

Vet Natalie Ratcliffe flushed the area out and applied internal and external stitches to reattach the skin to the muscle, before inserting a drain.

Natalie said: "Whilst bite wounds may first appear to be small they can cause major problems as they often extend deeply through the skin and into the tissue and muscles. There is also a high risk of infection from



the numerous bacteria found in a dog's mouth.

"Left untreated, the smaller surface wound tends to heal fast, trapping bacteria in the deeper wound, which can lead to complications such as abscesses and necrosis. Fortunately early intervention prevented Flash from experiencing such problems. This case once again highlights the

importance of getting even small wounds checked."

Flash's owner, Sharon Holmes, said: "Even though it was out of hours when I took Flash to Abbey Vets I'm glad that I went when I did.

"Although there wasn't any blood and all I could see was a small nick, once the vet had removed some of his fur his injuries were much worse than I had previously thought."

"Thankfully once he had been treated I was able to bring him home the same evening. He was given a course of antibiotics and had to wear a T-shirt for a few days to protect the wounds. Fortunately he's healed really well and his fur is now growing back," she added.