

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Billy bounces back after road traffic accident

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MIRACLE is Billy, a four-year-old Lurcher.

Two good Samaritans found Billy lying injured after a road traffic accident. After being alerted to his plight, Billy's owner, Charlie Banner, wasted no time in bringing him to our surgery to be checked over.

We carried out an examination, tests and an x-ray but they didn't provide any conclusive results so we sent him for a CT scan at a specialist facility. The scan showed that he had four broken ribs, a diaphragmatic hernia and a punctured lung.

Two of the vets at our Barnsley surgery, Louise Mallinson and Rachel McMaster, then operated to repair the rupture in his diaphragm.

The diaphragm is a muscular separation between the chest and the abdominal cavities. It acts as a barrier to prevent abdominal organs migrating into the chest cavity and aids respiration.

A vet nurse ventilated Billy during the one hour operation, squeezing air into his lungs, because once the abdomen is opened air can rush into the chest making it impossible for the lungs to expand. Fortunately none of Billy's abdominal organs had moved into his



chest cavity and we repaired his diaphragm with very strong sutures.

Debra Banner, Charlie's mother, said: "We trust Abbey Vets so we had no hesitation in allowing them to carry out the operation. Billy had a chest drain fitted after his operation and although a lot of dogs have to be sedated when it needs to be changed such was his love and trust for the staff at Abbey Vets he just let them get on with it without any sedation."

"He spent a week at Abbey Vets recovering and although he was initially bruised, sore and tired when he returned home he's now doing really well," she added.