

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Taz bounces back to health after swallowing a ball

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our JULY MONTHLY MIRACLE is Taz, a 14-year-old Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

Taz is back to his normal bouncy self after having surgery to remove a rubber ball that he had swallowed.

After he swallowed the ball – together with a large helping of roast beef – his worried owner, Sarah Austin, brought him into our surgery so that we could check him over.

Although Taz wasn't showing any signs of ill health and nothing was visible on x-ray, we kept him in overnight as a precaution. The following day, because he was bright and perky and still not showing any problematic symptoms we decided to see if nature would take its course, so Sarah took him home.

However, when the ball still failed to make an appearance the next day and Taz went off his food, Sarah brought him back to us. We gave him some medicine to make him

sick but that didn't bring about the desired result, so we operated and removed the ball from his stomach.



Sarah said: "It was very fortunate that the ball had not moved to his intestines, where it could have caused a fatal blockage. Considering his age he made a really quick recovery. We are now very careful about the size of balls we let him play with to prevent this happening again."



This was Taz's second swallowing incident. When he was a puppy he helped himself to Sarah's contraceptive pills, so we gave him some medication to induce vomiting before they could cause any problems.

■ Taz and the ball that he swallowed are pictured above.