

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Border Collie survives septic tank fall

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our FEBRUARY MONTHLY MIRACLE is Kia, a 15-year-old Border Collie.

Kia is lucky to be alive after nearly drowning in a deep septic tank late at night in her owner's garden in Deepcar.

Hazel Higgins and her partner, David Bew, discovered Kia's plight after their other dog became agitated, indicating that something was wrong.

Hazel went to investigate, heard faint whimpering and found Kia in the septic tank. Her head kept going under the surface and she was scrambling around wildly to try and get a foot-hold on a row of bars inside the eight foot deep tank.

Hazel said "When David heard the commotion he came to the rescue, laying flat on the ground and reaching down into the tank to pull Kia to safety. She was covered from head to foot in excrement. We quickly showered her off and took



Hazel Higgins and Kia at the entrance to the septic tank.

her to Abbey Vets Barnsley surgery."

Vet Tony Duffy said: "Kia had collapsed and was in a state of severe shock with marked hypothermia. She had inhaled a significant amount of excrement which had filled her lungs and caused septicaemia. We treated her for shock by giving her intravenous fluid therapy and took care to

bring her body temperature back up to normal. We also gave her antibiotics both intravenously and by subcutaneous injection. It was definitely touch and go but thankfully following 24 hours of intensive care and nursing she was breathing more easily and x-rays showed that her chest was nearly clear. After two days she was able to return home."

Hazel said: "After several more showers and lots of shampoo, Kia smells nice and sweet again and she's back to her normal self. We feed her on a healthy diet of raw meat and kibble and I think that's one of the reasons why she was robust enough to bounce back. We discovered that the septic tank lid had lifted due to extreme wet weather but we've now modified it to stop it happening again."