

# Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

## Buzz the cat is treated for cowpox and MRSA

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our DECEMBER MONTHLY MIRACLE is Buzz, a two-year-old cat.

Buzz's fondness for hunting small rodents nearly cost him his life after he contracted cowpox – a virus that enters the skin through a bite wound from a rodent.

Buzz came into our surgery because he was uncharacteristically lethargic, sleeping a lot and didn't want to venture outdoors.

We gave him antibiotics and steroids and asked his owner to bring him back in a few days so that we could check on him.

Unfortunately, Buzz stopped eating and his owner noticed lumps on his head, lesions under his fur and his hair was coming away in clumps. We gave Buzz further steroids and antibiotics and also fitted him with a cone collar to prevent him from biting and licking the lesions. Unfortunately Buzz



*Buzz pictured before and after his recovery.*

managed to remove the cone and was found covered with blood where he'd been scratching and biting the lesions. He still wasn't eating and was in such a bad way that he was brought straight back to us.

We took skin swabs, gave Buzz opioids for pain relief, more antibiotics and fluids intravenously and admitted him to our isolation ward. The skin swab results showed that he had MRSA bacteria and cowpox. Although cowpox

usually clears up within a few weeks, the MRSA had seriously compromised Buzz's immunity and for cats with a suppressed immune system, cowpox can be fatal.

Vet Natalie Radcliffe said: "Cowpox is a rare virus which, coupled with the MRSA, left Buzz very poorly and in a great deal of pain. Fortunately, with care and intensive treatment, his lesions began to heal after a few weeks, and he went on to make a good recovery."