

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Barney's case highlights painkiller dangers

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our FEBRUARY MONTHLY MIRACLE is Barney, a three-year-old Boston Terrier.

Barney's life hung in the balance after he ate a Naproxen painkiller tablet that had fallen unnoticed onto the floor.

Naproxen toxicity in pets can inhibit blood flow to the kidneys and interfere with the production of compounds that help protect the inner lining of the stomach.

Barney's owner, Siobhan McNicholas, became aware of his plight when he began to bring up brown vomit that resembled coffee grounds. When the vomiting continued to the point that Barney was sick every time he moved, she brought him into our surgery.

The Naproxen had caused ulcers to form in Barney's stomach and small intestine and he began to bring

up blood. We gave him anti-sickness treatment, medication to reduce acid and to line his stomach, together with intravenous fluids to support his system. We also took blood samples to monitor his kidney function.

Siobhan said: "Barney was losing blood from both ends and was in such a bad way that I really thought he wouldn't pull through. He wasn't eating, his weight was dropping rapidly, and he was on the verge of having a blood transfusion to combat anaemia.

"Abbey Vets did absolutely everything they could, even going out and buying him cooked chicken to encourage him to eat. The breakthrough came when one of the vet nurses took



him out of his cage for a cuddle and he took some chicken from her. After that he didn't look back and slowly but surely he began to recover.

"He returned home after spending over a week at Abbey Vets and is back to his normal weight again. I can't commend Abbey Vets enough, the staff were fantastic and did everything they possibly could to get Barney well again."