



Name: Sid

Breed: Beagle

Problem: Immune Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia



Presentation

Sid was brought into the surgery after he collapsed whilst out on a walk. He had been a little lethargic and not as bright as usual.

Sid was taken in and checked by the vet straight away.

It was noticed his heart rate was extremely fast, his gums and other mucous membranes were much paler in colour than normal and he was breathing faster than usual. From these findings the vet decided to admit Sid into hospital straight away.

Diagnosis

Diagnosing Sid was complicated. It was clear from his pale gums and elevated heart and respiratory rate that blood was not circulating around his body as it should be. Initially Sid had to have blood taken which he behaved very well for. His blood was tested using the in-house laboratory equipment here at Bay Vets and a sample was sent off to the external laboratory for more detailed interpretation. The internal results showed that he was severely and dangerously anaemic. His PVC (the volume of red blood cells in his body) was a mere 8% in comparison to that in a healthy dog which is around 40%. The results from the external lab showed that he was suffering from Immune Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia. This means that his body was destroying his own red blood cells Treatment had to start immediately.

In-house laboratory equipment

Treatment

Sid was put onto steroids but this alone was not enough. His PCV had dropped to a critical 6%. The vet contacted 'The Pet Blood Bank'.

The following day a package of 423ml of blood arrived. Sid was tested to find out his blood type (DEA 1.1 negative) to ensure it was safe to give him the donor blood. An infusion line was set up and Sid received all of the blood over 4 hours. He had to be rigorously nursed and monitored throughout in case he had a reaction to the transfusion. It was clear after two hours that the blood was helping. Sid's gums had become pinker and his heart rate was gradually dropping to a normal speed.

The next day blood was taken and in-house testing showed that his PCV had risen to 26%! A massive improvement. It was also clear from Sid's demeanour that he was almost back to his normal playful self.

After 8 days of hospitalisation Sid finally returned home to his family He has to return regularly for blood tests and will be on medication for a long time but thanks to the Pet Blood Bank he will do just fine.

Sid feeling much better

The pet Blood Bank is a charity that provides a national canine blood bank open to all UK veterinary practitioners.

Blood is collected from donor dogs put forward by their owners. Each dog has to undergo some tests and be of a certain weight and age before they are allowed to donate. If successful, candidates can give 450ml of blood once every six weeks.

On each occasion the vet checks the donor dog. He has a small patch of fur clipped from his neck and his skin cleaned in preparation. A fully qualified phlebotomist will draw the blood ensuring the patient is calm comfortable throughout. Once the blood has been drawn the dog is taken to the refreshment area for a well-earned drink and snack and time to recover.

The blood is processed into plasma and fresh red blood cells and delivered to veterinary practices when they need it most.

The Pet Blood Bank is the sole charity of its kind and saves thousands of dogs' lives each year.

Find out more and if your dog could be a donor at www.petbloodbank.uk.org