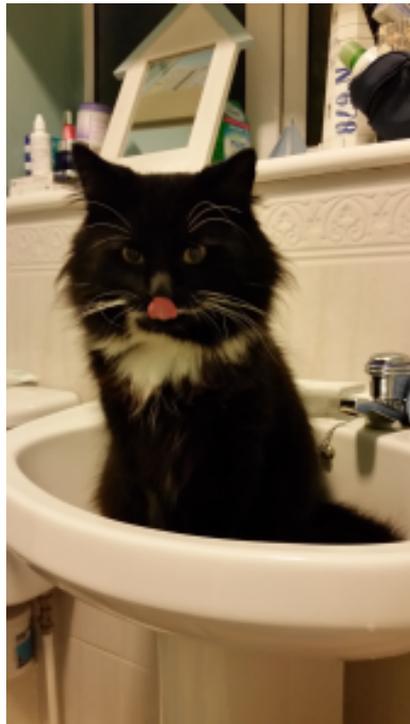




Name – Thomas

Presentation – Vomiting and lethargy

Diagnosis – Diaphragmatic Hernia



Presentation

Thomas was presented to the vet with symptoms of vomiting and lethargy. His owners had noticed this shortly after re-homing him from a rescue centre. On examination the vet noticed Thomas had an abnormal sounding heart – he had a heart murmur and a fast heart rate. On palpation the vet also noticed his abdomen was abnormal and decided that further investigating would need to be carried out.

Diagnosis

Thomas was referred to our Cardiologist Chris Fellows BVMS CertVC MRCVS who performed an ECG scan, ultrasound of his chest and X-rays. It was found that not only did he have heart issues but his intestines had come through his diaphragm into his chest cavity. This is called a Diaphragmatic Hernia – a hole in his diaphragm – the muscle separating his chest from abdomen. Due to the added pressure inside Thomas's chest of his abdominal contents pressing on his lungs he was also suffering from a collapsed lung. This can be caused by trauma of some kind.

Treatment

Thomas has to undergo major surgery to remove the intestines from his chest and repair the hernia to prevent re-occurrence. This kind of procedure comes with very high risks but his owners had no choice but to put him through the surgery.

During Thomas's anaesthetic two nurses monitored him continuously. We had to be sure he sustained a constant regular heart beat and that he continued breathing. As the vet removed the intestines from the chest the nurse had to use IPPV to breath for Thomas until his body re-stabilised.



The surgery was successful but Thomas was still suffering from a collapsed lung. The nurses had to monitor him continually recording his heart and respiratory rate.

Within a few hours Thomas was wakened and looking for affection. He recovered well and with some rest and TLC he has returned to his normal loving self.

