

PET OF THE MONTH

Name : Spike

Diagnosis : Paracetamol Poisoning

Spike was brought into the practice out of hours to see the On Call Vet as his owner had returned home from work to find a chewed up packet of paracetamol! He had eaten 9 x 500mg Paracetamol tablets sometime in the last 4 hours.

Spike seemed to be acting like his normal self but his owner knew this was toxic to dogs so called the vet straight away. After a full examination Ellie the vet decided to induce vomiting in spike in the hope he would bring back up the ingested tablets. Unfortunately no tablets came up suggesting he had eaten them over 2 hours ago.

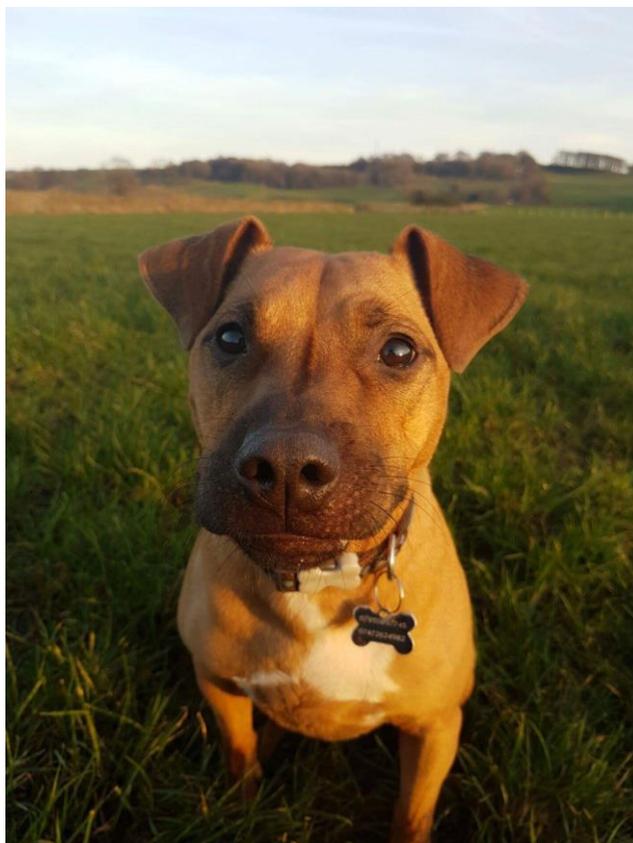
Spike was admitted for hospitalisation. He had to have regular blood tests taken and go on a drip. He also had to be fed Activated Charcoal to reduce the action of paracetamol in dog's bodies and he had to have medication infused straight into his vein.

The first blood test showed some change in spiked Liver enzymes which was worrying. The fluids he was having would hopefully flush the paracetamol through his liver and kidneys without causing too much damage. The medication

was to help break down the dangerous components. He would have to be monitored closely for the next 72 hours.

Spike was hospitalised for 3 days on a drip and medication he had a further blood test showing a reduction in the liver enzymes so was allowed to go home but was to be closely observed for any other symptoms like vomiting, diarrhoea, trembling etc. He had to return to the practice 2 days later for a final blood test and luckily the values had fallen even further and were almost back with in a normal range.

Any amount of Paracetamol can cause dogs toxicity but this amount could have been fatal. Paracetamol is metabolised in the liver and dogs are unable to tolerate as much a humans. This could have caused Spike liver failure if his owner had not acted so quickly.



Spike is now back to his normal self-enjoying running around the fields and lounging on the sofa at home.