

This is the story of a cat named Jaffa - a gentle, loving, brave wee cat.



Jaffa is an eight-year-old neutered female, with a thick ginger and white coat. She is an active, healthy cat that loves to go out and have adventures. Unfortunately in November last year, one of her adventures left her badly injured. She came home late on this particular evening and she was limping. On further inspection, her owners discovered that she had a 5cm laceration on her belly.

She was brought into the surgery the following day to have an anaesthetic and to have the wound examined and stitched up. It seemed as though Jaffa had caught herself on something sharp and then had tried to wriggle free. In doing this, she had damaged two of the three muscle layers of her abdomen. It was a deep laceration that had lots of grit and dirt in it – the vet had to flush it out thoroughly and cut away lots of dead skin. After the surgery was complete, we took an x-ray of Jaffa's abdomen to make sure that she hadn't ruptured her bladder. Luckily her bladder was intact,

however we would have to monitor her urination in the immediate post-op period. Jaffa was sent home on antibiotics and pain relief.

Jaffa 's owners were very fastidious and they brought her in for daily check-ups. Her wound initially healed very well, however 5 days after her surgery, it started to break down. The area became swollen and the skin had started to die away. Jaffa was admitted for another anaesthetic to have the wound cleaned up. She had to have more skin and tissue removed and the area appeared to be infected. The vet was concerned about the possibility of nerve damage and also antibiotic resistance. A swab of the tissue was taken and sent off to the lab for a bacterial culture.

After this second surgical procedure, Jaffa improved steadily and continued to do so for the 6 weeks it took for her to get back to normal. It is very important to mention her owners' influence on her progress, as it was their dedication and patience that led to the happy outcome of this case. Jaffa required daily oral medication, which her owners made sure she received – and we all know that giving a cat a pill isn't the easiest task in the world! Jaffa's owners bathed her wound and made regular visits to the practice, sometimes every day. They were excellent care givers – Jaffa is a lucky cat!

And finally, we must mention little Jaffa herself. An absolute star throughout what could only have been a very traumatic experience. Not that you would have noticed – she almost seemed to enjoy being held like a baby, while the vet examined her belly! Each time she visited the practice, her owners would tell us how she was getting back to her normal behaviour – eating, playing, rolling around and looking for a belly rub! She didn't think much of the buster collar she had to wear, but can you

really blame her? Jaffa's ability to use her back leg has been affected by her injury, but she is continuing to improve every day. Everyone at the practice is delighted with her progress and we look forward to having her visit us for cuddles in the future.

For never once scratching, hissing, wriggling or biting, Jaffa the cat is our  
Pet of the Month.