

Fluffy is our first pet of the month that isn't a dog or a cat – she is a lovely pet rat. Her owners noticed that she started to grow a lump and because it was growing quickly, we decided to remove it. Although the anaesthetic risk in small pets such as rats, guinea pigs and hamsters is higher than that in dogs or cats, if this lump continued to grow it would start to affect her movement and quality of life.

Fluffy came in for the day to have her operation, which went very smoothly and the lumps that she had was successfully removed. Usually after an operation like this, whilst the body heals, we advise owners to keep their dogs on the lead, or to confine their cat to one room where they can't jump up. This is because too much moving around can delay healing. There isn't much that you can do to keep a rat quiet though! So we just had to keep our fingers crossed.

A few days after she was back in, as she had been scratching at the wound and it had opened up slightly. We managed to apply some tissue glue to the wound and wrap her up in a wee body bandage to stop her getting to it while it healed, all without anaesthetising her. She was so good.

A week later we had her in for the day to sedate her and remove the bandage to check how the wound was doing (although she is very good, the sticky bits can be sore!). It looked to be healing well so we decided not to cover it again. However, as soon as Fluffy woke up she was straight at the wound, nibbling away. Unfortunately, this meant another 10 days in the body bandage.

When she came in again we removed the bandage to check the wound. It was coming along nicely but not totally healed yet. To be on the safe side she had a lighter bandage applied. A hard scratch, or if she groomed it too much, could have caused problems to it.

Another week passed and Fluffy came back to see us. The bandage was removed and just to protect it for a little bit longer we made her a wee t-shirt out of a sock!

Through all of these trips to the vet, anaesthetics, bandage changes and examinations Fluffy has been such a good patient. It must be uncomfortable when one person is holding her and another is wrapping her up but she tolerated it all and would even give us a wee lick after.

We have all grown very fond of little Fluffy and hope that on her next visit her t-shirt can come off and she will be back to herself.

