

Hamish is a 7-year-old Westie who has always had a sensitive stomach. He is on a special diet that helps prevent him having any upsets. Occasionally he will have a few days where he goes off his food and has some vomiting and diarrhoea so to when we first saw him it wasn't that unusual.

First Visit

Hamish presented with a sickness, which only seemed to affect him in the early hours of the morning. Sometimes this can be caused if a dogs tummy is empty, through the night is usually the longest period of time that they are without food which can cause them to vomit. He was prescribed something to help him with this and gave him some medication by injection to stop him feeling sick. After this visit Hamish picked up and seemed much better.

Second Visit

Hamish came back in 5days later; he had started to vomit again and now had diarrhoea too. When he was examined he didn't seem to have any pain though his abdomen but he was very lethargic. The vet repeated the medication that he was given on his first visit and also gave him an antibiotic injection. As he wasn't eating or drinking the vet administered some fluid. This was injected under his skin; his body can then absorb this, as it needs it. Hamish was so unwell when seen that the vet wanted to see him back first thing the following day to see how he was getting on.

Third Visit

The next morning Hamish was even worse, he had been sick again through the night and was so miserable. The vet had to now investigate further what was happening, as it hadn't been clearing as a general upset would and the clinical signs he was showing had worsened. He was admitted so the vets could run some blood samples and sedate him to have a better feel of his abdomen whilst he was relaxed. All that his blood results showed was what was expected due to him vomiting so they

continued on in investigations to sedate him. Whilst he was asleep an x-ray was taken to see if there was anything abnormal that might be causing problems. His stomach appeared swollen but there didn't seem to be anything causing an obstruction. However the vet had a good feel of his abdomen and could feel a hard rounded object. This is what is known as a FORGEIN BODY. The only thing to treat this is to operate.

Operation

Hamish was immediately prepared for his operation. He was in theatre for a total of 2 ½ hours. When he was opened up the vet could feel the object in his small intestine, it had been able to travel so far through his system before causing a complete blockage and not being able to move any further. Cutting open his small intestine came out what we thought was just a normal stone, this puzzled us as to why it didn't show up on the x-ray as a stone found on the pavements at that size should do. However, rinsing it off after the operation it turned out to be the stone in the middle of a peach, this is not as dense therefore wouldn't have shown on the x-ray taken. After removing the obvious object the rest of the abdomen needs to be carefully check for any other problems/objects or abnormalities. As the vet knew before she operated his stomach was swollen, when it was examined it was full of gastric fluid that had built up because he had been vomiting so much. A tube had to be passed through his stomach to clear this fluid. Nothing else was then found so he was stitched up and bought round from his anaesthetic.



← The Peach Stone removed from Hamish during the operation compared to a 50p coin!

Recovery

Hamish was still very sleepy when he went home that night, his owner was asked to keep him quiet and relaxed for the night and to try feeding him a small amount in the morning. The most important thing after this operation is that they start to eat the next day. The following day we received the call from his owner letting us know that he had taken a small amount of food and was slowly recovering. Hamish has been on three courses of antibiotics and two courses of painkillers whilst he has been recovering. On his last check up he was signed off. Hamish has been in recently to be weighed with his brother, he has lost a little bit of weight whilst he has been unwell but this will improve over the next few weeks. They are now both fit and well and off on their holidays for lots of walks!

