

NEWS



WINTER



Luckily in this cold weather we can wrap up warm, but it's not so easy for our pets. With these simple steps you can make sure your pet is happy and comfortable this winter.

- Keep your pet inside as much as you can in cold weather. If your pet needs to go outside then stay with them and watch for signs of discomfort: if they whine, shiver, seem anxious, slow down or stop moving they could be too cold.
- Some breeds can stay in the cold longer than others. During snowy weather, cats and small dogs walk deeper in the snow, becoming cold sooner than larger animals.
- Ensure that unwell, very young or very old pets aren't exposed to the cold. Regardless of their age and health no pet should be out for long periods of time in the bad weather.
- Avoid letting your pet loose near open water in icy weather. Frozen water is particularly dangerous, animals can easily fall through and find it difficult to get out again.
- Pets can pick up salt, ice and chemicals on their paws. Wiping their feet when they come in can prevent irritation on their paws and also stomach upsets if they lick themselves clean.

- Heat sources in your home are as attractive to pets as they are to you. Make sure your pets can't get too close to anything hot that could burn them.
- Cats will curl up against anything to stay warm-including car engines. Before you start the engine check underneath the car or make a loud noise such as knocking on the bonnet.
- Check that your pet's water bowl hasn't frozen.
- Be particularly gentle with your cat or dog during the winter. The cold can leave their joints extremely stiff and they may become more awkward than usual. If your pet is affected use caution when they are outside in the winter as a bad slip could be painful and risk causing serious injury.

JAFFA



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

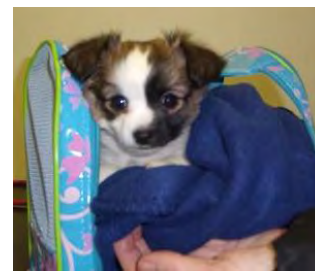
the happy outcome of this case. Jaffa required daily oral medication, which her owners made sure she received – and we all know that giving a cat a pill isn't the easiest task in the world! Jaffa's owners bathed her wound and made regular visits to the practice, sometimes every day. They were excellent 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.

NEW ARRIVALS

SPARKY-
Chihuahua





ZIPPY-
Golden Retriever.



SADIE.

DEXTER-
Dachsund.



TWIGGY -
Labrador.



MURPHY - German
Shepherd.



LILY.

RILEY -
Labrador.



ALFIE – Pug.



MOLLY - Border collie.



LILY – Staffordshire Bull
Terrier.

