

## **SYMPTOMS**

Max came into us one Thursday morning with the following signs that his owner had noticed:

- He had been sick all through the night.
- He wanted to drink but anything he drank just came straight back up.
- He had been straining to defecate and anything he did pass was mucus.
- Walking into the surgery Max was dull, wobbly and really not himself.

## **SEEING THE VET**

When the vet examined Max he was very tense and sore across his abdomen. It was ruled out that he did not have any foreign bodies, but we needed to run some more tests to find out what was happening in his abdomen. Max was very dehydrated.

## **TESTS**

A blood sample was taken to be analysed at the practice and Max was set up on a drip to help rehydrate him. His blood results showed that Max was dehydrated, diabetic and had a digestive problem called Pancreatitis. The most important thing to check next was a urine sample, which showed Max had a high level of ketones. Ketones are produced when the body can't use glucose (sugar) properly and need to find another source of energy (such as fat). High levels of ketones can be very dangerous and will make an animal feel very ill.

## **DIAGNOSIS**

Max was diagnosed with having severe pancreatitis and unstable diabetes.

## **TREATMENT**

Max was given doses of a fast acting insulin through the day that only last a few hours to start bringing down his glucose levels as quickly as we could. His blood glucose level dropped from 39 mmol/l to 19 mmol/l through the course of the day. A healthy dog's level should be between 4.3 mmol/l and 7 mmol/l. Max was also given an injection of painkiller, as his pancreatitis was so

severe. That night we transferred him to Pets A&E for further treatment and observation. They continued the same treatment as us, aiming to control his glucose levels.

By the time Max came back to us the following morning his reading was at 15 mmol/l and although there were still ketones in his urine they were decreasing. As Max was doing so well we swapped his insulin to a slower acting and longer lasting one. He was very interested in food today and was much more energetic, sitting up in his kennel and running out as soon as it was opened! He was still on strong painkillers and insulin but he seemed to be well enough to go home for the night with all his medication.

Unfortunately that night his condition deteriorated again and he was back at Pets A&E. His abdomen was tense and sore and his ketone and glucose levels were creeping up again. When Max was back in our care the next day we referred him to Glasgow University Vet School to run further tests and give more specialised treatment to control his condition.

## **AT THE VET SCHOOL**

Max was given an ultrasound of his abdomen to see if he had anything else happening inside him that we were not yet aware of. Luckily no tumours or unusual masses were found. They kept him in at the hospital for a week before he was discharged. Over the week his condition gradually improved, he was taken off fluids, put on to a prescription food and he was on insulin injections twice daily.

Max is now back home with his owners and the other family dogs. He is doing really well on his medication and much brighter than when we first saw him. He still has regular check ups at the University Vet School. They are pleased with his progress so hopefully soon he will only need check ups periodically at Campbell and Galloway to keep his diabetes under control.



**MAX**