

## TOBY

Toby is a Border Collie who is nearly 3 years old. Toby has always had a retained testicle, this means it is somewhere in his abdomen. It is a common problem but can be a worry later in life. When the testicle is retained there is a high chance that when the dog (or cat) is older it will become a tumour. We recommend that all pets with this problem should be castrated. The operation is more invasive than a straightforward castration as we have to locate the testicle in the abdomen. Healing from the operation also takes longer, the muscles have to be opened and stitched back together during the procedure. Toby came in to be castrated on 20<sup>th</sup> August, his operation went very smoothly and he went home that evening. After any procedure we recommend at least a few days of being quiet and no walks, this is especially important when they have had abdominal surgery as the slightest pull runs the risk of the stitches bursting. With the surgery that Toby had we say no exercise, jumping, stairs or excitement for a week until they are seen again for a check up. Although Toby was sore and quiet on the first couple of days he was shortly back to his old bouncy self. On his check up we could feel that the stitches inside had burst. Toby had to stay in with us again to be opened so we could stitch the muscle back together. He went home on strong painkillers that can cause dogs to feel drowsy to help keep him calm. A few days later was his check up and unfortunately it happened again!! He is such a lively active dog that the stitches had split open in the muscle, so in again for another anaesthetic to repair the wound. It has now been two weeks since his second re stitch (3 anaesthetics!) and he is doing well, we have checked him every two to three days. His owners have tried everything to stop him getting so excited and putting any strain on his abdomen, but it is so hard when he is so happy about everything. His wound is still healing and he is not completely clear of this happening again, but we all have our fingers crossed for him. He had only been allowed out to the garden on a short lead to go to the toilet and back in, no jumping and no stairs, but now he is now allowed to walk to the end of the street and back. His next check up is in a week and maybe then we can increase his exercise very slowly. Although he feels great and cannot wait to get back to the park with the other family dog his muscle layers are still healing and knitting together and that is why we have to still be so careful. Toby has been such a good patient, he must be so fed up and yet is still happy to come in. Hopefully he will be signed off soon!

