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"Chukkie" - Cat with Subtotal Colectomy



Chukkie

When "Chukkie" overcame a serious spinal injury over a year ago we had hoped that his luck might change. Instead, in recent weeks he began to develop increasingly difficult problems with constipation. As a result of his original injury to his spine and pelvis his large bowel or colon had become progressively "exhausted". This meant that it was unable to push or propel his bowel motions through his rectum.

Repeated enemas to remove the blockages brought tears to our eyes as well as his! His owners diligently ensured he received his medication to try and lubricate his large bowel and facilitate an easier passage! Despite their best efforts we were no further forward.

The only practical solution was to surgically remove the non functioning large bowel/colon and reattach his small bowel to his rectum (subtotal colectomy).

No easy task, this surgical procedure has potentially serious complications should the bowel fail to heal properly. Additionally, there is the possibility of very loose and frequent motions afterwards as the colon has the function of reabsorbing water from the "stool" and packaging it prior to "despatch".

Remarkably, as happened with "Chukkie", the small bowel appears to have taken on the new role of fluid absorption and seems perfectly capable of sending the bowel motions in the right direction! Within 24 hours of surgery "Chukkie" had provided a fine "specimen" to prove that success was within our grasp!

Several weeks later and his sense of relief is all too evident. Whilst "Chukkie's" powers of recovery are all self evident I think significant credit must go to his owners whose dedication throughout his periods of disability are the single most important reason for his success.

Finally, I would like to add that the cakes we received in gratitude from "Chukkie" were some of the finest we have ever experienced!

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You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care