



Interesting Case from our web site www.fairfield-vets.co.uk



"Martha" - GSD with Gastric Volvulus



Martha



I was just settling down to watch Arsenal on the television one Saturday lunchtime when my relaxing weekend off was interrupted by my mobile phone. My colleague Aga was in the middle of surgically resolving a twisted stomach in a German Shepherd patient called "Martha" when it became all too apparent that the spleen had become irretrievably involved in the tangled organs and would need to be removed. Another pair of hands was required and my viewing time would have to wait.

Within a very short time I was scrubbed up and in a position to appreciate how critical "Martha's" situation was. A twisted stomach (gastric volvulus) is regarded as one of the most difficult and potentially demanding surgical emergencies in veterinary surgery. Large amounts of effort, time and money can be spent in an effort to succeed often resulting in the demise of the patient. All clients are counselled about whether they wish to opt for surgery, when spending £1500 provides no guarantee of success.

Fortunately, for "Martha" her owners commitment and the early intervention proved very worthwhile. She made a slow but steady recovery and has now been restored to good health. Martha's owners week-end was considerably more disrupted than mine when you consider that they missed their holiday flight to Tenerife that day to be with "Martha". The pet health insurance picked up our bill but sadly the travel insurers did not consider "Martha's" plight a family emergency! May be worth reading the small print in that travel insurance policy.....just in case!

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO, MRCVS

Martha's owners write

A bit of info about Martha –

Martha is 10 ½ years old – a beautiful gentle German Shepherd. She started off the first 7 years of her life as a breed bitch, living outside in kennels. She was retired at 7, when we adopted her. She had never lived indoors before. She certainly loves it now!

We were due to go on holiday to the Canary Islands. Friends were coming to doggie sit Martha at our house. The day of our holiday, we woke up to discover Martha was in distress and had a bloated stomach. We got her to Fairfield around 11am and after an examination and an xray she went into surgery at 12:30 for bloat, a twisted stomach and spleen. After some very stressful hours, we got the phone call at 4pm that Martha had made it through the op - the same time that our plane was taking off - so of course we missed our holiday, but Martha came first.

Luckily we had pet insurance to cover the vet bills, but our travel insurance didn't class an emergency operation for a pet as a "family emergency"!

Now that Martha is well on the road to recovery we have reorganized our holiday plans, but this time she is coming with us - to a cottage in Herefordshire with woodland and plenty of places for her to explore.

Thank you to all at Fairfield, especially Aga and Will, for all the wonderful love and care that you provided. You saved Martha's life and we are extremely grateful.

Regards, Ross and Sharon

This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk

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