

Amy - Bladder stones

Amy was out for her normal walk one morning when her owner noticed a trace of blood in the urine. Amy's walk turned into a stop at the Kelburn Vet Centre, where vet Liorah Atkinson examined her.



Amy

1mm and 2cm in diameter. Amy's bladder was flushed clean and sutured. She went home the following day, happy to continue her interrupted walk!

Bladder stones are made up of mineral deposits, which start as tiny crystals and can grow to large sizes over weeks to months. There are several different types of stones, and analysis of Amy's stones showed they were one of the most common type, called 'struvite'. Struvite stones form as a result of an infection altering the pH of the urine. With antibiotics, Amy will hopefully be stone free for a long time.

Amy was an unusual case, as most dogs will show signs such as frequent urination, sometimes accompanied by pain or blood, and even lethargy and reduced appetite. In early cases, small struvite stones can be dissolved with antibiotics and a special diet.

Amy seemed perfectly relaxed and comfortable, and there was no history of any previous urinary problems. But Liorah could palpate a gritty sensation in the region of the bladder, so Amy's sister Zoë and their owner continued their walk, and Amy was admitted into hospital.

Urine tests showed there was a lot of blood present, and x-rays showed that Amy's bladder was full of stones. The stones were far too big for Amy to pass, and so the decision was made to take her to surgery.

The surgery (called a cystotomy, where the bladder is opened and examined) was performed the next day, and allowed us to remove the bladder stones - about one hundred between



The arrow points to the mass of stones in the bladder. The white above is faeces in the bowel.



The impressive number of stones removed from Amy's bladder.

Staff update - welcome to Nicole and Diana

We bid a very sad farewell to Rachel last week, who went off for her OE.

In her place as a head veterinary nurse, we are very lucky to have Nicole Saul.

'I grew up in San Clemente in Southern California. I have been a veterinary technician for seven years, for the past two of which I have been working at emergency and referral hospitals. I moved to NZ in September of 2006, and spent my first few months working on a sheep farm near Loburn, learning how to break horses and herd sheep. That was interesting, but I prefer working with small animals. I love working here at Kelburn and Pet Doctors, and I think Wellington is an amazing city.'



Nicole

We are also very lucky to have Diana Brown join our veterinary team. Diana is a Massey Graduate, who has worked in NZ, Japan and the UK. After time off from her career to bring up two lovely daughters, Diana is enjoying being back in veterinary work. She has a special interest in dermatology with a Certificate in Veterinary Dermatology from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons - so we are excited in bringing this area of expertise to our clinics. (We hear she was also a single figure golfer in the UK, ran the London Marathon, and is presently training for the Round Lake Taupo Bike Ride!)



Diana

'I am enjoying the opportunity to work with a fantastic group of vets and vet nurses at the Kelburn Vet Centre and Pet Doctors!'

Prescription drug and food reminders

Some of our older and long-term care patients are on medications that require repeat prescriptions, or are on prescription foods. It is always best to ring and order these in advance.

Filling a prescription can take some time, and our nursing staff may need to confer with a vet (who may be hiding in a

consultation room!) Prescription foods are sometimes on backorder, so ordering food by phone a few days before you run out ensures that we have a bag ready for you when you drop by. We know you are all busy people - and ringing ahead means we can give you the quickest service when you collect drugs and prescription foods.