

All about Bella...



Bella, is a 9yr old domestic shorthair rescue cat.

Bella was brought to Oakhill at Kirkham for an examination after concerns regarding her sudden ill health. Her appetite was reduced and she had vomited several times. Bella was also lethargic and sleeping in odd places, as well as drinking more and often choosing to sit by her water bowl.

On examination by our vet Kate, she was found to be tender in her abdomen, and in particular she was reacting to pain in the region of her kidneys. A blood sample was taken to gain further information regarding the cause of Bella's illness. Whilst awaiting the results of the blood test, Bella was prescribed anti-sickness medication to help relieve any nausea.

The following day the blood results revealed that Bella had significantly elevated kidney values, and her demeanor was quickly deteriorating. These blood results indicated that Bella had Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) defined by an abrupt decline in the filtration rate of the kidneys, causing a build up of toxins in the bloodstream. There are numerous causes of AKI; including ingestion of toxins, infection and viral causes, the root cause is not always known or determined. AKI is very serious and requires prompt, aggressive treatment. In some cases the damage to the kidneys can have detrimental lasting effects resulting in chronic kidney failure, or can even be fatal.



Bella was admitted for lengthy, aggressive treatment, consisting of an intravenous fluid drip, alongside regular pain relief,

antibiotics, anti-sickness medication, appetite stimulants and monitoring of urine output. During hospitalisation, Bella stopped vomiting and her appetite started to improve, but she was still extremely poorly with a very guarded prognosis. The intravenous fluids would help relieve some strain from her kidneys and act to 'flush' toxins from her body, as well as ensure she remains hydrated. Her outcome would depend on the result of repeat blood tests to determine any improvement in her kidney values after 48 hours of continuous treatment.

After 48 hours, a repeat blood sample was taken. Bella had improved slightly in herself; she was brighter and more comfortable. The blood results showed a marked improvement in the kidney values, a good sign that the prompt treatment was working, but too early to say whether she would have lasting kidney damage. Treatment was continued, and further tests could now be performed. Specific urine testing was carried out to check she was not losing protein into her urine as a result of poor kidney function. Bella also had her blood pressure taken to ensure this was normal, and, being such a good patient, she tolerated this very well! Thankfully all of these further tests we performed yielded normal results.



Bella continued to improve clinically, and after a full week of supportive therapy and hospitalisation, Bella's blood results showed her kidney values had now returned to normal. Bella no longer required medication and could instead be maintained on a veterinary prescription diet specially formulated to support the kidneys. Now, nine months later, Bella remains well and is back to her cheeky happy self. She continues to be monitored closely for any signs of illness, and her kidney values regularly checked, for any sign of decreased kidney function.