



"Magic" - Miniature Poodle with Gastroenteritis



Magic

Gastroenteritis is a very common presentation to our veterinary practice. In most occasions these symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea are usually brief - lasting only 24 hours. Occasionally, however some patients develop more serious effects which requires hospitalisation.

The main concern with severely affected patients is that of dehydration. In human terms, almost 13 million young children die, worldwide, each year as a consequence of dehydration caused by gastroenteritis. This statistic illustrates the potentially fatal consequences and the importance of rehydration in the course of treatment.

Often, in our canine patients, viruses are the initiating cause. Some like parvovirus can be vaccinated against but there are a number of others which require aggressive supportive therapy of intravenous fluids and antibiotics.

The mainstay of treatment is to keep the patient functioning as well as possible so that the individual can eventually combat the infection herself.

"Magic" Sylvester was one such patient who required several days of hospitalisation and intravenous fluids. Providing "Magic" with this support throughout her illness enables the nursing staff to monitor her progress on a daily basis.

Key signs that the patient is through the worst can be as simple as stretching their legs or shaking themselves after a snooze. Any indication that treatment is successful after several days of little change is always a welcome relief to both staff and owners alike.

Unfortunately, for Magic a lack of improvement indicated a direct look at her bowels to see whether there was any need for more dramatic surgical intervention. In this instance, Magic simply required a more prolonged period of supportive therapy before we eventually began to recognise that our patient was back to her old self not through any mystic powers but simple patience and perseverance!

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