



NALA AND THE SOCK



A Seasons Veterinary Clinic Success Story

Welcoming a new dog or puppy to your home is always an exciting time, marking the start of a new friendship between you and your furry companion that will hopefully last for many wonderful years to come! Some puppies can have a hard time with separation anxiety when their owners leave them alone, even for a few hours. Many owners give their puppies an object or article of clothing with their scent on it to comfort their puppy while they are away... This is where our story about Nala and the sock begins!

Meet Nala, an adorable and bouncy golden retriever puppy! Her loving owners excitedly welcomed her to their home and wanted her to feel as comfortable as possible. Before leaving the house one day, they put Nala in her kennel with two of their socks, so she would have something with their scent on it and feel secure. Unbeknownst to them, Nala had an appetite for socks! Upon returning home, her owners were shocked to discover that both socks were missing from the kennel.

Nala appeared to be in good spirits, and did not seem phased by the two socks sitting in her stomach. At this point, the socks had 3 possible paths they could take: They could be vomited up, pass through the rest of the digestive track with her food, or get stuck.

The risk with any swallowed foreign object is the possibility of becoming stuck in the intestine, causing a blockage. In these cases, immediate intervention is needed to prevent the obstruc-



Nala as a young puppy



Nala with one of the socks she swallowed

tion from damaging and potentially killing a portion of the intestine. The dead portion of the intestine would then allow gut contents to leak into the abdominal cavity, leading to peritonitis (inflammation and infection of the abdominal cavity) and probably death if left untreated.

Her concerned owners did what any vet would instruct them to do in this situation: carefully monitor Nala for any sign that the socks had successfully passed through her digestive system. Time passed and still no sign of the socks! All the while, Nala remained a healthy and happy-go-lucky puppy. After about a month, Nala finally threw up one of the missing socks. Her condition, however, began to deteriorate rapidly. The vomiting did not stop, and she became very weak and lethargic. With one sock remaining, Nala's attentive owners immediately brought her into Seasons Veterinary Clinic to see Dr. Chisholm.

At the clinic, Dr. Chisholm felt Nala's stomach, noting a firm section of her abdomen, where the sock was potentially stuck. Dr. Chisholm then took an x-ray of Nala and saw what appeared to be a fibrous object in her intestine. With Nala's condition worsening, it was determined that the best course of action was to operate and try to find the missing sock, before any more damage could be done.

Dr. Chisholm opened up Nala's abdominal cavity and swiftly found the section of the intestine where the sock had become wedged. He carefully cut open and removed the missing sock from her intestine. Luckily, Nala's owners acted quickly and brought her in as soon as they noticed her becoming unwell, likely saving Nala's intestinal tissues and life!



Nala's X-ray showing the area where the sock was stuck



The section of intestine where the sock was removed

The sock that was removed



Showing off her stitches



Pouting in her pink cone



One week after surgery looking healthy and happy!

The surgery was a success, and Nala was sent on her way the next morning with some pain medication and antibiotics. Since her surgery, Nala has made a full recovery and we couldn't be happier with how this story turned out!

