

Vet practice warns dog owners about hazardous rubbish

VETS at Kingsteignton Veterinary Group are warning dog owners to be vigilant when out walking their pets in the Jetty Marsh area of Newton Abbot after a pup nearly lost its life.

Bobby, a nine-month old Rottweiler, was close to death after being suspected of eating unidentified rubbish on his daily walk in the area with owners James and Michelle Turner. The normally robust animal was struck down with sickness and diarrhoea which steadily got worse over a few days until his owners alerted their vet.



Vet Howard Liebermann at Kingsteignton Veterinary Group, explained: “I examined Bobby and he appeared to have the normal sort of upset stomach that many puppies get from eating rubbish when out on a walk. He had had all his vaccinations so I wasn’t particularly worried.”

Mr Liebermann treated Bobby for gastroenteritis and sent him home with instructions for the Turners to phone if their beloved dog didn’t respond. But Bobby’s worried owners did call later that day to report that he had passed bloody stools. The dog’s gum colour indicated that he was suffering from an infection and dehydration so he was quickly put on a drip and given two courses of antibiotics.

As his white blood count was extremely low, vets at the practice thought that it could be a case of Parvo virus, a potentially fatal disease but one which Bobby had been vaccinated against, so he was rushed to the practice’s new isolation unit. There Bobby fought for his life, helped by huge amounts of fluid by drip, as he continued to vomit continuously.

A week after Bobby had last eaten, Mr Liebermann repeated the blood tests to find his blood count was rising much to everyone's relief.

Vet Nick Lloyd explained: "We fed Bobby a liquid diet over the weekend, and he managed to keep most of it down. By Monday he had come off the drip and was a different dog. His owner's were delighted by the recovery when they'd feared the very worst for a week."

James Turner added: "Bobby was back to his normal self – jumping all over me like he used to. We are so pleased to have him home again with us, but if it was something nasty Bobby ate while out while walking – which the vet suspects it was – then we'll certainly be watching more closely what he picks up on his walks from now on."

Mr Liebermann is now appealing for all dog owners to be particularly aware of the dangers: "We would urge people to be on their guard; keep an eye out for anything unusual; and try to stop their pets from eating anything that they pick up on a walk, particularly in the Jetty Marsh area of Newton Abbot where Bobby seems to have eaten something very nasty."