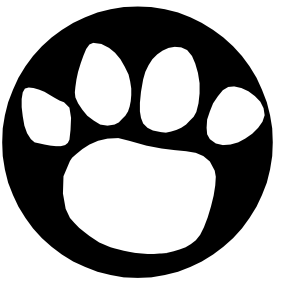




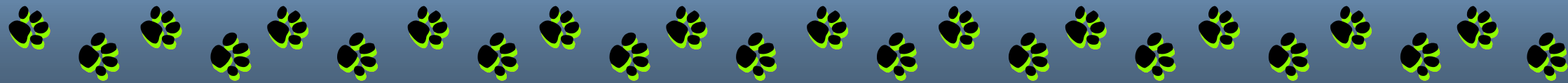
# February



Sweep is a seven month old British Shorthair. Her owners brought her to the vets for a check up at the end of December.

Carole the vet examined Sweep and noticed that she had an umbilical hernia and recommended that this should be repaired when Sweep was neutered. However, Carole could also feel a fluid filled mass in the abdomen. Sweep was booked in for an ultrasound scan to investigate the mass.

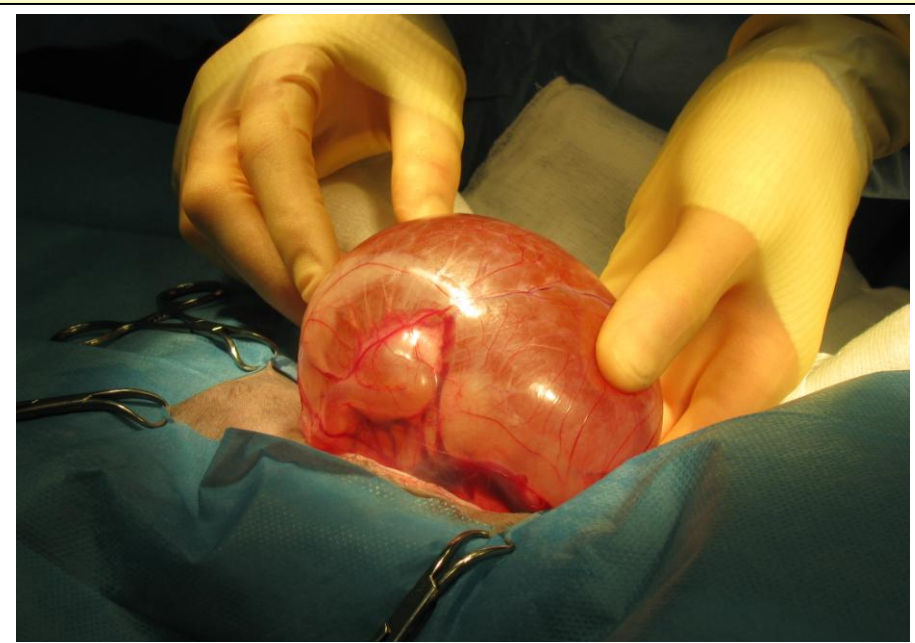
Sweep was admitted to the hospital at the start of January. The ultrasound scan revealed a large fluid filled structure within the abdomen. It was cranial to (in front of) the bladder, but it was not possible to distinguish it further.



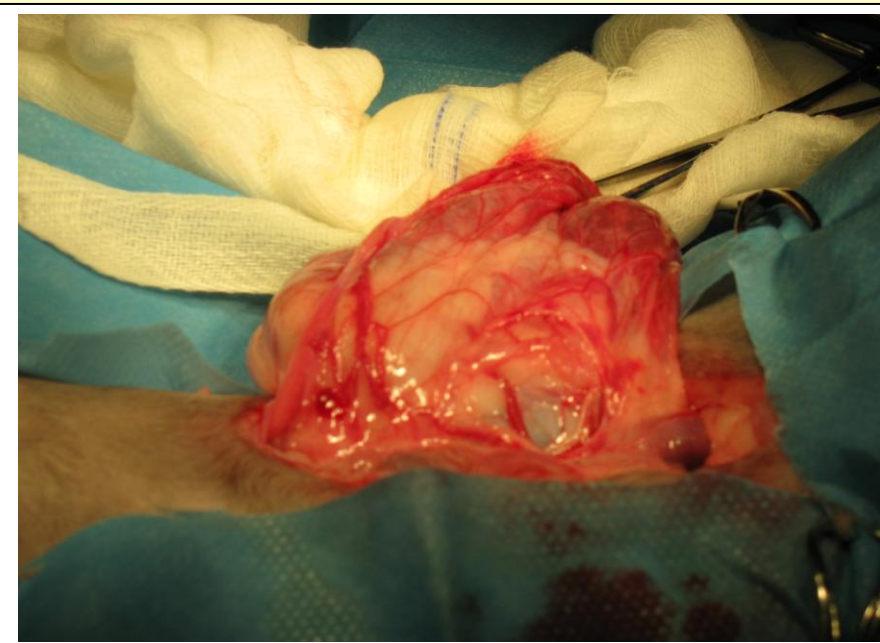
To further diagnose and treat Sweep it would be necessary to operate. Sweep was placed on intravenous fluid therapy to keep her hydrated during the operation.

The surgery revealed that the large structure seen on scan was actually one of the kidneys. The kidney was fluid filled causing it to become dilated and distended. Matt performed a nephrectomy, which means the kidney was removed. This involves tying off the ureters (urine tubes) and the blood vessels of the kidney.

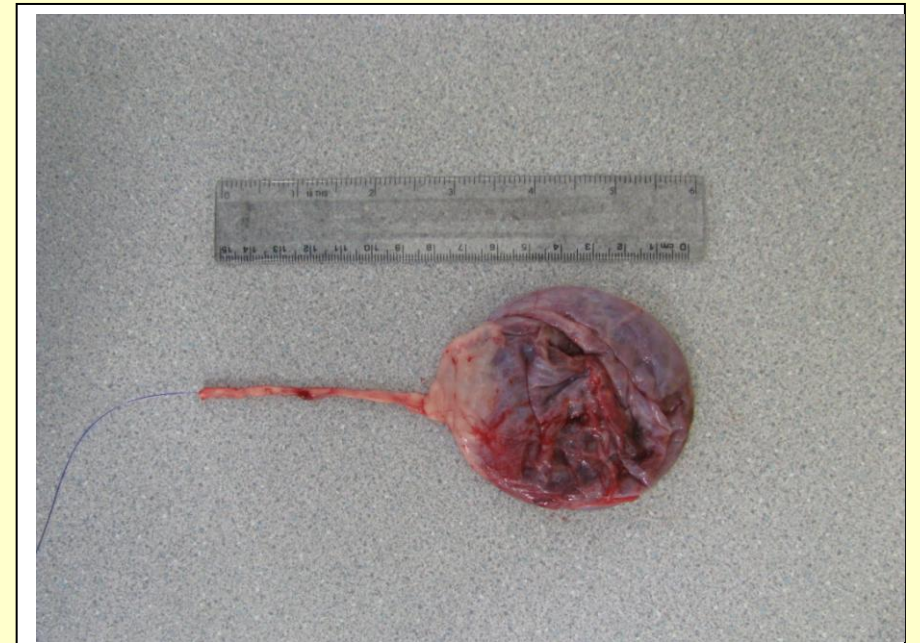
# The story in pictures...



The large fluid filled kidney



The vessels & ureters were tied off

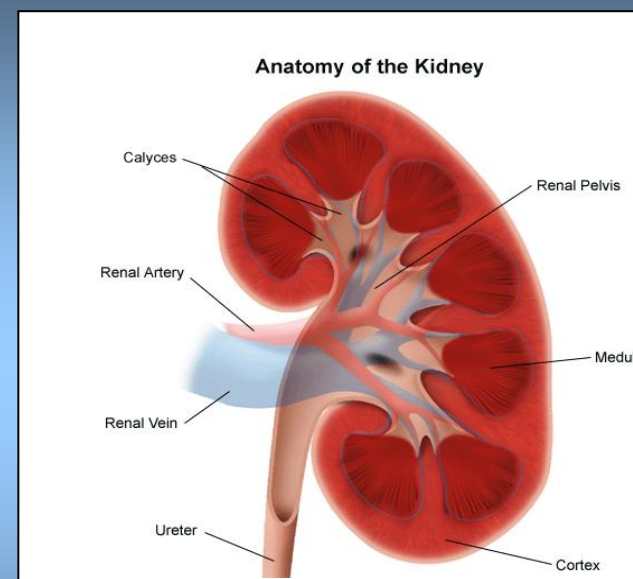


The kidney post surgery

Sweep has made an excellent recovery from the surgery and she is getting on brilliantly at home.

## What is an Umbilical Hernia?

- The abdominal contents protrude through the abdominal wall.
- Usually occurs at the umbilicus (belly button).
- It is an inherited condition, which usually requires surgical repair.



## What do the kidneys do?

- Ensure that the body has balanced levels, of water, salt and acid.
- Get rid of waste, such as water, salt, urea and toxins.
- Hormone production.
- Although the body has two kidneys it is possible to live with one.

