

SPOT - The Snare Dog

by Dr. Marthie Kleynhans

Meet our patient of the month, Spot. Spot is a brindle and white female Africanis cross that went missing on a farm outside Fouriesburg. She was found 9 days later caught in a snare. A snare is a cruel way of hunting, used by local people to catch rabbits and small deer.



The snare caught her around the middle of her waist line and cut through all her abdominal muscles up to her peritoneum in places (the lining that keeps all her abdominal organs inside her belly). Luckily her owner found her in time before the snare was able to cut through her peritoneum and they brought her to Cluny Animal Trust for treatment.

On examination we found that the snare luckily did not penetrate into her abdomen, but that it almost made a 360 degree cut around her body. We immediately gave her some antibiotics and painkillers for a few days just to clear up the infection.

After a couple of days the infection cleared up and we were able to stitch her up under general anaesthetic. The operation took quite a long time due to the extensive injuries. We were fortunate to have been donated suture material by Synthecon, as we needed quite a lot! The dead tissue was removed and the muscles and skin were re-stitched together. We also needed to place drains in order to remove excess fluid draining from the wounds.

Spot went home after 1 week of hospitalisation at Sandstone Hill Veterinary Clinic and she was also sterilised before she went home.

Two weeks after she went home she came back for her check up and to remove her stitches. She also received her follow up vaccinations sponsored by Zoetis. She was sent home with some dry food donated by Hills Science Diet, and wet food donated by Pick 'n Pay.

She is now a happy and healthy dog living a great life on the farm.

So, although this was a severe case, Spot is doing very well, and we are thrilled at her progress. This situation also allowed us to spend time and educate the owners as well as

local labourers on the farm about the importance of veterinary care and the severity of this case really has hit home and changed the opinion of local people with regards to snaring which does make for a very happy ending indeed!



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