

A dog who survived against the odds wins bravery award

A horrific illness resulted in a close call for one Staffordshire pet, but thankfully, he has now made a full recovery

Nanook – a 10 year-old Akita from Biddulph Moor, Stoke-on-Trent - has won ChesterGates Veterinary Specialist's highly acclaimed Pet of the Month title in recognition of his incredible bravery in recovering from life-saving surgery following a collapsed lung.

Nanook's owners, Yvonne and David Pellington, had grown increasingly concerned about Nanook's breathing which was erratic and laboured. They took him to their local veterinary practice who drained off some air which improved his breathing and also prescribed pain killers. He was also referred to ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists in Chester.

Here, a CT scan and thorough tests revealed that Nanook had a ruptured bulla of the lung causing a pneumothorax which needed urgent chest surgery and the lung lobe removing.

David Pellington commented: "We were very worried when we heard the news and because Nanook is no longer a young dog, we were also concerned, not only about his diagnosis, but also how he would cope with the anaesthetic. However, without surgery he would not have survived so there was no other option but to go down the surgery avenue."

ChesterGates' Soft Tissue Specialist Surgeon, Daniella McCready, carried out the surgery and explains more about the condition and procedure:

"Nanook presented with a condition called pneumothorax. This is when the chest fills with air restricting the lungs from working. An emergency CT scan confirmed the source of the



Britney Pellington with her mother, Yvonne and Nanook with their other dog Mika.

air was a ruptured bulla/cyst on the right lung lobe. This bulla/cyst was communicating with his airways and therefore every time Nanook took a breath, air was entering his chest cavity.

"Nanook had emergency chest surgery. This involved incising between his ribs to remove the lung lobe that was leaking air. We used a special stapling device to remove the damaged lung lobe. Nanook was discharged a few days later after making an undeniably remarkable recovery from such major surgery. This was truly lifesaving surgery and I am extremely pleased with Nanook's progress."

Nanook was in hospital for four days before returning home to a hero's welcome.

Yvonne Pellington said: "ChesterGates did a brilliant job and kept us updated every step of the way. Nanook is mending really well and is back to his old self. However, we are very careful with him and are taking it one step at a time. We are very grateful



Nanook fully recovered

to ChesterGates for the superb care they took of him. It is wonderful to have our dear dog back home again."

ChesterGates awarded their Pet of the Month title to Nanook in recognition of his bravery and in keeping a happy, positive disposition in the face of such adversity.

