

Potentially Fatal Heart Condition Spotted In Attacked Puppy

An attack on a puppy by a Japanese Akita fighting dog may have turned out to be a life-saver – because vets treating the injured dog discovered that it had a potentially fatal heart condition.

Lola, a King Charles Cavalier puppy, was being treated for bite injuries and a broken leg when vet David Robinson of the Kingston Veterinary Group discovered that she had a congenital heart condition which would have killed her if left untreated.

Lola had to wait several months to recover from the attack injuries but last week Kingston Veterinary Group were able to carry out heart surgery at their veterinary hospital at Park Street, Hull, to save her life.

David Robinson said: “Before birth, a special blood vessel is used to bypass the lungs of a developing pup. Normally this vessel seals soon after birth but in Lola’s case the vessel remained open, compromising the pumping ability of the heart.”

“This is only the second case of it’s type that we have had during all our years as a veterinary practice. The first case was at the end of last year and that dog has made a full recovery,” he added.

Lola’s owner, Mrs Susan Hornsby, of 16th Avenue, Hull, said: “The attack on Lola took place on the Bank Holiday Monday at the end of May. It was very distressing and has caused Lola a great deal of pain. We were due to go on holiday a few days later but had to cancel that because we couldn’t leave Lola in that state. I’m annoyed that no-one has been prosecuted for it but at least one good thing to come out of all of this is that Lola’s heart condition has been discovered and treated.”

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