

**McMASTER & HEAP**  
VETERINARY PRACTICE

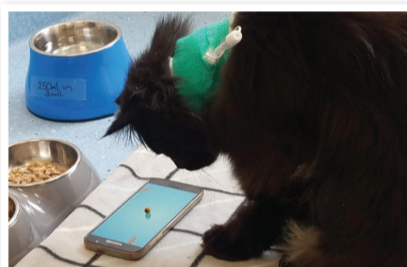
# A Kidney Toxicity Survivor



Over the next 2 months, I thought I'd write about two cases that required much input and care from our entire team of experts. We treat hundreds of sick patients weekly and many of them spend weeks in our hospital being nursed back to full health.

We have so many special long term patients that we all connect with on different levels but I can't write them all up here. We don't have favourites because we love and want to treat all the animals that walk through our doors. I chose these two patients as they highlight diseases we commonly see and treat here and they also show incredible owner commitment and positivity towards the whole process. It has to be a team approach and great communication is key. I know we have the right team of people, hospital setup and equipment to do our best job possible but clients need to be onboard for, at times, a long, complicated, emotional journey. You can absolutely guarantee though we will always do our BEST for your pet.

TORIN is a young Birman who presented suddenly unwell 3 months ago - lethargic, losing weight, vomiting and just not himself. After a series of testing we deemed Torin was suffering from Acute Kidney Failure due to a suspected toxicity (possibly Lilies). His creatinine kidney enzyme level was through the roof, he was dehydrated and we suspected a bacterial UTI. He was immediately admitted for intensive care treatment with intravenous fluids and supportive care medications. He spent 2 weeks as a hospital inpatient receiving Intravenous fluids, food and medications were fed to him through a feeding tube in his neck and every day his devoted owners visited and spent time cuddling, grooming him and nursing him back to good health. Once home he was continually checked many times a week to make sure he wasn't deteriorating. Torin was an incredibly tolerant and an easy to handle patient which was lucky as he was jabbed with needles constantly, had oral



medications daily and had every test possible including radiographs and ultrasounds.

In the end, Torin survived his kidney failure attack. When he was very unwell his creatinine reading was greater than

1202umol/L - now it is normal at 187umol/L. Many patients wouldn't recover from this. He had incredibly special owners who completely trusted and listened to our recommendations and supported us in his recovery by

visiting often, which was what Torin needed. Kim encouraged him to eat one bikkie at a time from her phone and he got to wander around a room not being caged all day. Our hospital nursing team was absolutely A1 fantastic at catering for all his needs, respecting him, treating him gently and spending lots of time giving him cuddles and grooms. We were honest with Torin's owners about his prognosis and the time required for him to start showing improvement. In this case I believe the feeding tube was the game changer as we could deliver all his medications and nutritional requirements

without going near his mouth and he could be successfully managed at home, with the people he loved and trusted.

We all get super excited when we get to catch up with Torin. He's like a member of the family and we all feel proud that we played a part in getting him home. Without fail he urinates in my room on

arrival - not sure what this means exactly, but then I get cuddles so I'm taking that as a win.

If anyone has more questions or needs advice regarding renal disease, please call McMaster & Heap and ask to speak to me. We have had an OPEN day for fabulous separate cat ICU space but if anyone wants to have a wee peek at how we care for your kitties, just ask

Dr Michele McMaster

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

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