

# AUGUST 2005

## 'Abbie' Vickers



In December 2004, Abbie was presented to the surgery when her owners noticed a lump on her left shoulder. The lump was actually one of Abbie's lymph nodes (an important part of the immune system), which was abnormally enlarged.

Abbie underwent an anaesthetic and biopsies were taken from the lymph node. These samples were then sent to an external laboratory for testing.

A few days later, the results arrived. Abbie was diagnosed with 'Lymphoma', a cancerous tumour which spreads quickly around the body once the lymph nodes are affected. The options were discussed with her owners and in January, Abbie began a Chemotherapy protocol. Her owners were advised that this treatment may only prolongue her life expectancy by a couple of months and they fully understood this.

Abbie was set 2 goals, to reach her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday in June and to go on her last holiday with her family. She is now 11 years and 3 months old and despite a few 'off days' and a change of protocol to include a stronger treatment, Abbie has, defied the odds and soared past both these milestones. She even has her own 'favourite' kennel at the practice.