



Deborah

Deborah, an 8 month old female spayed orange domestic shorthaired kitten presented to the emergency service at Mount Laurel Animal Hospital with a 48 hour history of inappetence and vomiting. Deborah had gone to her regular veterinarian shortly before presentation. They had taken radiographs and suspected that she had eaten some hair ties. Normally these can be removed via endoscopy but in this case, there was concern that the hair ties had partially left the stomach and might be causing her small intestines to bunch up and become obstructed.

The recommendation was made to her family that we take her to surgery to remove these hair ties and examine the rest of her intestines. After much discussion it was decided that the surgery would be done. Deborah's family was able to pay for part of the procedure and treatment but needed some financial assistance with the rest. After going through the required steps, Empath was able to provide a grant to pay for the balance.

Deborah's surgery revealed that there were two hair ties in the stomach but that part of one had indeed gone into her small intestine and was creating a linear foreign body which is very dangerous if left untreated. An incision was made into stomach (gastrotomy) and into her small intestine (enterotomy). After 36 hours in the hospital on pain medicines and IV fluids, Deborah was released to her family and has at this point made a complete recovery.