

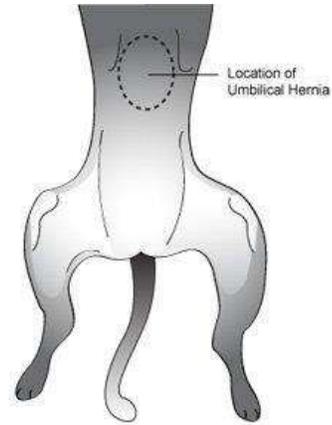
## UMBILICAL HERNIAS

By Marni Cohen-Horowitz, DVM

Roo is a 5 year old spayed Bengal cat who presented to Route 516 Animal Hospital in March 2017 for a wellness exam with vaccines. On her physical exam, it was determined that she had a very large umbilical hernia. Radiographs were taken and the intestines were visualized in the hernia. It was strongly recommended that she have surgery. The owner declined the surgery and took her home.



In July 2017, Roo presented on emergency with what appeared to be loops of her intestines protruding out of the hernia. It was recommended that Roo be admitted to the hospital for exploratory surgery and to repair the hernia. Due to financial restraints, the owner wasn't able to treat her. She agreed to surrender Roo to our animal hospital. It was decided that we would keep her here and find her a great home. Dr. Flanagan and I did the surgery, and the hernia was successfully repaired! Roo stayed at the hospital until the end of August to recuperate. We all fell in love with Roo but it was our receptionist Raelynn who took her home to give her a wonderful second chance at life!



Umbilical hernias are very common and easy to treat. They are full-thickness abdominal wall defects at the umbilicus area. They can be seen in any dog or cat. Most umbilical hernias are small and feel like soft swellings. Surgical correction is recommended when the pet is spayed or neutered. If the hernia gets large, there can be complications such as intestines or other organs protruding through the hernia. That is why surgical correction is recommended with they are small. Roo was lucky she came here that day and will have a long and happy life! She is doing great in her new home.