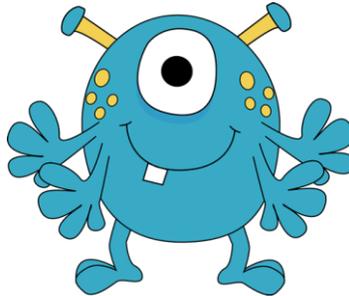


# SOME KIND OF MONSTER?

BY DR. MIKE CUMMINGS



No, this is not a reference to the Metallica documentary, or a fan of Lady Gaga! This refers to Mia, a very sweet, 4 year old, female Rottweiler (not a monster in any way!!) who presented for an examination because she had been vomiting for several days and had a decreased appetite. Her owner was positive that she had not eaten anything unusual, but told us that he thought she was about to come into “heat” and that he had been considering breeding her as she has such a wonderful temperament.



After examining Mia, radiographs were taken and a large round mass was seen in the abdomen, which had some calcified (bony) areas in it. This could possibly have been something lodged in her intestines or some sort of tumor. Ultrasound revealed that it was a tumor but we were unable to determine what internal organ it was attached to. It was decided that we needed to take Mia to surgery to explore her abdomen and see if we could remove the tumor.

**This is what we found....**



**Here is another picture to illustrate the size of the tumor.**



**This is a tumor that was originating from one of Mia's ovaries. In the first picture, the normal ovary is adjacent to the tumor for comparison.**

**This type of tumor is called a teratoma.**

**Ovarian teratomas are benign tumors usually, and so Mia will have no further problems now that this is removed, and will require no further treatment. When they develop in the ovary, the tumor can contain a diversity of tissues such as teeth, hair, bones, eyes and such. Hence the reference to a monster!!**

**Because the ovaries contain eggs that develop into puppies once fertilized, this ability to form every type of tissue is what leads to some of these tumors appearing like “monsters”.**



**When we dissected the tumor from Mia, we found some bones inside, but no teeth or eyeballs!**

**Mia is doing very well now and has made a full recovery. Teratomas are not very common, but they are one of a number of problems that can arise in a female dog when they are not spayed. Other problems include uterine infections (pyometra) and malignant cancers such as ovarian and uterine adenocarcinoma.**

