



## CASE STUDY: TRAUMATIC PNEUMOTHORAX AND PYOTHORAX IN A FELINE PATIENT



### PATIENT OVERVIEW

- **Name:** Curby (formerly "Gomez")
- **Species/Breed:** Feline, Domestic Shorthair
- **Sex:** Male
- **Age:** 2-month-old kitten
- **Presenting Complaint:** Respiratory distress following dog attack (picked up and shaken)

### PATIENT HISTORY

**Curby**, a young neutered male domestic shorthair (originally "Gomez"), was presented to our Emergency Service via Pet Helpers rescue following an incident in which he was picked up and shaken by a dog. According to the rescue, he was immediately dyspneic following the event. No prior medical history was available.

### INITIAL PRESENTATION

On arrival, Curby exhibited dyspnea, tachypnea, and muffled thoracic auscultation bilaterally. He was laterally recumbent but responsive.

### DIAGNOSTICS

On examination and through diagnostic imaging, he was found to have:

- Traumatic pneumothorax
- Pulmonary contusions
- Pleural effusion
- Pyothorax

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Under the care of **Dr. Shannon O'Keefe** (Emergency Service), a thoracocentesis was performed, removing free air from the pleural space. This resulted in immediate improvement in respiratory effort. Additional supportive measures included:

- Oxygen supplementation via oxygen cage
- Opioid analgesia for pain control
- Broad-spectrum IV antibiotic therapy (empiric coverage pending culture)

### HOSPITALIZATION

The patient was transferred the following morning to Critical Care Service (**Dr. Alyx Tracy**) for continued management. Ongoing care included:

- Repeated thoracic imaging to monitor lung re-expansion and resolution of effusion
- IV fluids and nutritional support
- Monitoring for re-accumulation of pleural air/fluid
- Adjustment of antibiotic therapy as indicated by culture/sensitivity results

### OUTCOME

Curby demonstrated marked clinical improvement over 48–72 hours, with resolution of dyspnea and normalization of thoracic auscultation. He was discharged to foster care with Veterinary Assistant **Lauren Mack**, who later adopted him.



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## DISCUSSION

This case illustrates the importance of rapid stabilization and intervention in feline thoracic trauma, particularly when complicated by concurrent pneumothorax, pulmonary contusions, and septic pleuritis. Early thoracocentesis, aggressive supportive care, and timely transfer to Critical Care contributed to the favorable outcome.

## VETERINARY TEAM ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Dr. Shannon O'Keefe – CVRC Emergency Department
- Dr. Alyx Tracy - CVRC Critical Care Department
- Lauren Mack, Veterinary Assistant- Curby's new mom!



**CURBY WAS WELL-LOVED BY OUR TEAM AT CVRC!**



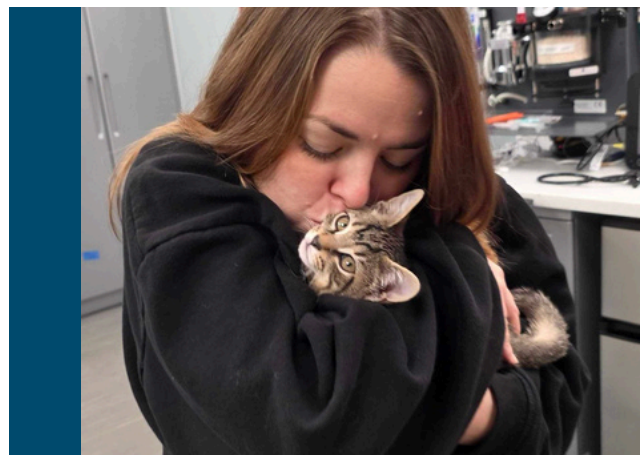
**CURBY BEING A SILLY BOY AFTER HIS PROCEDURE.**



**TAKING A NICE LONG 'CAT NAP' IN RECOVERY.**



**CURBY GETTING IN ON OUR EXPANSION FUN!**



**KISSES FOR A BRAVE KITTY!**