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## Surgery saves fork-eating dog from North Carolina

BY RICH SCHAPIRO  
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And you're complaining about Rover eating all the leftovers?

A North Carolina dog swallowed a fork that sat in his stomach for days before it ended up nearly killing him.

Fortunately for the 10-year-old Husky, named Apachee, doctors at a local animal hospital performed a miracle procedure on the canine that got the cutlery out.

"All of us who worked on the dog were high-fiving each other the next morning because he was alive," said Dr. Gary Spodnick, chief of surgery at the Veterinary Specialty Hospital of the Carolinas.

Apachee's near-fatal ordeal began three weeks ago when he somehow consumed the stainless steel utensil.

The fork sat in his stomach for several days without ill effects.

But Apachee's condition took a dramatic turn for the worse after the handle punched a hole through his stomach. The fork then traveled into his chest, penetrated his lung and lacerated his pulmonary artery.

The dog collapsed from internal bleeding. His worried and mystified owners took him to a local vet, where an X-ray left no doubt about what had caused the pooch to fall ill.

By the time he arrived at the specialty hospital, the pooch was near death and Spodnick was stunned by what he saw.

"We were all kind of puzzled as to how this thing got there and why it was causing him to bleed," Spodnick said. "A knife you could understand."

The dog went into cardiac arrest moments before a half-dozen doctors went to work on him.

Apachee was revived, given multiple blood transfusions and then operated on. The delicate surgery went perfectly, amazing even the doctors.

Apachee's quick recovery also brought his owners to tears.

"In the morning, he was offered food and he was eating some," Spodnick said. "That was pretty awesome."



Apachee swallowed a fork and doctors must have been stunned at the sights of the x-ray below.



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