



Living with dogs

by Jane Lilley



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Noninvasive treatment does the trick

WHAT DO you do when, first thing in the morning and for no apparent reason, an elderly dog looks utterly miserable and when trying to rise from his bed is unable to stand, let alone walk, on a front leg? Panic!

This is what happened to our nearly 15-year-old Freddy last week but, having examined his feet and legs as thoroughly as I could, there was nothing that seemed to be wrong as there were no thorns, cuts, scratches, lumps or bumps to be seen. Although the lameness seemed to ease a little, it was very much worse by midday and Freddy, who is normally a fairly stoical character, could not have looked sadder or more depressed.

I rang our miracle working chiropractor who was, fortunately, at home and he asked when I would like to bring Freddy to see him. My reply was to ask when would it be best for him to see us – two hours later I was able to drive Freddy over the Surrey Hills. He normally paces around his cage in the car but he never moved a muscle for the whole 40-minute drive, which was ominous in itself.

Ian, our chiropractor, seems to have an extraordinary rapport with all dogs. Freddy, who is never normally demonstrative, actually licked his face as he was going over him! Having treated him with extreme gentleness with seemingly hardly moving fingers to sort out what he described as tight muscles in Freddy's neck and shoulder as well as using a laser to reduce pain, Ian said that he had done all he could to help but, if there was no obvious improvement, I would have to take him to the vet.

Freddy looked a little happier in himself as we left despite still being unable to bear any weight on his right front leg. Again, he was absolutely still all the way home where, having been carried indoors to his bed, promptly went fast asleep.

Later that evening he tentatively put the lame foot down but no more than that while, best of all, he wagged his tail gently and actually smiled. What a relief! The following morning I could hardly believe that he was almost sound. He spent virtually the whole weekend asleep but three days

later is as sound as the proverbial bell, springing around the garden and back to his normal happy self once more. It is like the best kind of miracle and wonderful to realise that a dog who was obviously feeling so very miserable and,

to seek help, emphasising that they rely on owner's observations and subsequent referrals from veterinary surgeons. Indications include:

- Lameness after a fall or other accident where alternative causes

column about killing flies, Jan Moody of the Janetstown Shetland Sheepdogs phoned to say that she has had great success with Rentokil's Fly Pen, which describes itself as a multi-surface insect killer and looks like a big felt tip pen. Jan says that she just goes round the edges of windows and corners with it then sweeps up heaps of bodies, not only the big black large size but the little ones as well! Best of all, it seems to be effective for some six to eight weeks.

More help and advice comes for the Rottweiler with sore itchy feet in the column of April 13 from Adele Summers who has Welsh Springers in Sturmer, Suffolk. First of all she suggests that his troubles might be caused by nettle rash as her Harry went off into a wood earlier in the year where he stayed for too long and eventually reappeared looking very grubby and rushed around biting frantically at his feet, the cause being traced to that of young nettles just beginning to grow.

Adele phoned her vet, who prescribed Piriton antihistamine,

which calmed the situation within an hour. Now she always takes Apisamel homeopathic tablets with her out on walks to be on the safe side adding that a friend of hers with a Beagle, who suffered similarly from being pricked by something on the ground, possibly a thistle, took this remedy and it worked like a charm within 15 minutes.

Adele recommends some other remedies including cooling with ice cubes and bathing with bicarbonate of soda, diluted in equal parts with water adding that she always strokes Vaseline in between pads and around eyes before going out on a rough shoot.

An interesting call came from Nicola Marsay of the Raymas Whippets about diabetes in puppies and young dogs. She says that a high percentage of hyperglycaemia, an excess of glucose in the bloodstream often associated with diabetes mellitus, can occur in tiny teacup puppies, who are born prematurely before their insides are properly formed, and this results in a portal shunt, which can be treated by diet. ■

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presumably, uncomfortable if not in pain could have recovered so very quickly as a result of such gentle noninvasive expert manipulation.

I have details on file of McTimoney Chiropractors, who are qualified to treat animals, so do give me a call if you would like contract numbers.

Their literature advises when

have been ruled out.

- Uncharacteristic changes in performance, behaviour or temperament. Limb-dragging or odd, irregular action. Recurrence of symptoms previously successfully treated by chiropractic manipulation. Absence of any resolution of the problem, using conventional methods.

Referring back to last week's