



Nutmeg. Two and a half years old Shi-Tzu Maltese Cross with a bit of something else.

This photo was taken two weeks after Easter 2011.

On that Easter Saturday Nutmeg began to lose the control of his back legs. He was unable to lift his hind quarters off the ground so had to pull himself along by his front paws. Although he did not whimper he did not like to move so was obviously suffering a great deal of pain.

A quick trip to the local vet who was open over Easter showed that Nutmeg had calcification of the disks in his spine causing weakness and displaced disks pinching the spinal cord. Prognosis not very good.

Wanting a second opinion we took him to the vet we would normally go to – Paws & Claws.

Running pin pricks down Nutmeg's spine revealed that he had lost all sensation of feeling starting 50mm from his tail. Examining the Xray taken by the first vet did in fact show that there was some calcification of the disks but more importantly that the first bone in the tail had also been fractured and was miss aligned.

Nutmeg was kept in the surgery for one week under sedation and pain relief to see what improvement would take place. During the week possibilities were discussed with the vet as to what could be done to alleviate the problem.

1. Major surgery to scrape the calcium off the disks and maybe to reset the miss aligned tail bone. This was considered and was deferred as being very expensive and only short term as the calcium would build up again.
2. Take an unorthodox path and treat the dog with Acupuncture and some Chinese herbal medicine (for arthritis)

We chose the second path. Within the week Nutmeg improved and became his old self again as can be seen in the picture.

We went a long as per normal for the next six months when all of a sudden it happened again. Again he was hospitalized for a week and kept sedated and given the same treatment. He responded again. He now has two of these herbal tablets every day.

Now when ever his tail droops or he can't wag it freely, or his walk becomes more difficult he is given another session of acupuncture (which is stimulated with a low electrical current). To have this treatment Nutmeg is sedated to prevent him shaking the needles out. We can see a big difference in his movements before and after.

He is still able to jump up on the lounge chairs and run up the back stairs.

Does the treatment work. In our opinion YES it does.

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