



McMASTER & HEAP VETERINARY PRACTICE

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN....

Misty is a 14 year old Rough Coated Collie (lassie dog) lovingly owned by my parents. She's never been a hugely energetic dog but has the gentlest, sweetest nature. She has had the odd health issue and is currently taking ongoing medication for arthritis of multiple joints. She's not a complainer though and will still slowly walk around my parents farm, her favourite pastime being flushing out rabbits and doing cattle work with my dad. Shes always enjoyed a visit from Lola.

Very sadly late last year, Misty was accidentally run over. My devastated parents flew to the clinic where Steve and our nurses immediately took charge. Luckily they live very close. She was remarkably alive and seemed in minimal shock, not like my poor mum and dad. Our nurses were fabulous – it was like triage in a hospital ER room. Whilst she was checked over for shock,

free and comfortable. She certainly wasn't out of the woods but was better than any of us could have believed. She could walk, just, and was eating and had urinated. Misty continued to improve slowly over the coming days becoming stronger and more mobile but my dad had noticed what looked like crusty scabs under her dense coat. We discovered many of these blackened areas and after shaving her back end it became obvious that a large area of her skin was "dying", due to vascular (blood vessel) damage suffered at the time of the accident.

Over the next 4 months a massive effort was undertaken by my mum and dad and Misty herself, to help heal these very extensive skin wounds, comparable to what you would see in burns victims. The area of skin that sloughed off initially was about 30cm by 20cm. The wound has had to be cleaned, kept moist and protected by bandaging for the past 4 months. She was monitored 24/7 and kept inside a lot to protect the bandages from slipping. Keeping flies away was also a difficult task. She has been so brave allowing us all to clean and dress it for her but finally the healing is nearly complete.

There were times when my mum wasn't sure we were getting anywhere and whether we were doing the right thing by her. She is an elderly dog and her ongoing care required by my parents was huge. But that aside, I could see Misty wanted to push through and keep going – she wasn't ready to depart this world. Plus she was so dearly loved by my parents. It also helped that my mum was a registered nurse so could easily cope with large wounds and their care.

Give an animal time, have patience and faith and show lots of love and miracles can happen. Every day I thank the higher powers that I am the one chosen to care for all the animals.

-Dr Michele McMaster



bleeding and fractures, the nurses were placing an IV line in her, were pulling bloods to check her internal organs and organizing shock and pain medications. I had to consult as it was a usual busy Saturday clinic. I can tell you its very hard to carry on as normal, when a dog you know and love is at risk of dying and I couldn't be there to support my mum and dad. I'm very thankful to my husband Steve for arriving when he did and taking full control of the situation.

Within 30 minutes of arriving Misty actually looked improved. She wasn't wanting to stand, but her vital organs were all confirmed fine from her blood tests and her heart and lungs sounded fine. She was on IV fluids and we wanted to give her a little time on fluids before we had to sedate and xray her abdomen, chest and bones. She was an incredible little patient, never whimpering nor complaining once. Miraculously Misty had broken no bones – I was worried her pelvis or worse her lower lumbar spine could have fractured.

Misty was discharged later that night into my parents care on a variety of medications to ensure she was pain



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