



THE KENNEL CORNER



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LeisureLAND

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Henry the dog who lost the use of his legs a year ago, underwent an operation to successfully repair ruptured discs.

**Paralysed dog cured
 By stem cell treatment**

A miniature dachshund, Henry, is walking again after pioneering treatment that took stem cells from his nose and implanted them in his back to fix his damaged spine.

The smooth-haired six-year-old dog, who lost the use of his legs a year ago, underwent an operation to successfully repair ruptured discs.

The treatment, carried out by scientists at the veterinary school of Cambridge University, could be used to cure humans with spinal injuries.

Henry's owner, Sarah Beech, 34, from Birmingham, said: "It is incredible, I didn't think Henry would ever walk again, but over the last few months he has been wagging his tail and taking steps."

"The vet told me to put him to sleep because he wouldn't have a very good quality of life and he was very depressed. But this really helped."

Henry had always enjoyed going for walks but suddenly lost the use of his legs about a year ago.

"One day he yelped when I picked him

up and two days later he couldn't walk," she added. "The discs in his back were pushing into his spinal cord and eventually he lost the use of his back legs and continence."

"I think he may have fallen down the stairs at some point before I bought him as his spine was quite badly damaged."

Henry was given an operation to ease the pressure on his spine, but it did not work so he was enrolled in the Cambridge University trial. Cells were harvested from his nose in March and injected back into his spine after four weeks and Henry took his first steps one month later.

"He can take at least four steps now so he is making good progress," said Sarah. "His tail is also starting to get back to its original shape which shows he is getting some feeling back."

Scientists originally found the treatment worked very effectively on rats. Vets Professor Nick Jeffery and Professor Robin Franklin, who are running the trial, Cambridge University, decided to treat dogs with the procedure because

spinal injuries are common in many breeds.

"Most dogs with spinal injuries can be treated conventionally and make a good recovery, but this procedure is intended for particularly severe cases," said Dr Jeffery.

"Cells are collected from inside the back of the nose as these special cells are capable of supporting the growth of new nerve fibres."

"We then increase the cell numbers, purify them and place them back into the damaged region of the spinal cord, where they help new fibres to grow."

After the procedure dogs are given physiotherapy and monitored on a treadmill to see how much movement has returned to their legs.

"The potential of this procedure is enormous," he added.

"We hope if the results are positive in a few years time the treatment could perhaps be used to help people."

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Love is in the air...



This was sent by Dulanjan Wijetunga

**H1N1 Influenza Virus
 Confirmed in Iowa Cat**

A cat in Iowa has tested positive for the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus, state officials confirmed this morning, marking the first time a cat has been diagnosed with this strain of influenza.

The cat, which has recovered, is believed to have caught the virus from someone in the household who was sick with H1N1. There are no indications that the cat passed the virus on to any other animals or people.

Prior to this diagnosis, the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus had been found in humans, pigs, birds and ferrets.

To date, H1N1 influenza virus infection of pigs has been reported in Canada, Argentina, Singapore, the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), Ireland, Norway, the U.S. and Japan. It has also been reported in turkeys in Chile and Canada. Based on the evidence available at this time, the infections were spread from humans to the animals.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) are reminding pet owners that some viruses can pass between people and animals, so this was not an altogether unexpected event. Pet owners should monitor their pets' health very closely, no matter what type of animal, and visit a veterinarian if there are any signs of illness.



Tips to help keep you and your pet healthy

- If you are sick, see your doctor.
- If your pet is showing a problem, see your veterinarian.
- It is a good idea to wash your hands before and after handling your pets. This is just good common sense.
- Do not expose your pets to other sick pets.
- Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough, and toss your soiled tissues in a covered waste bin.
- Good preventative measures can help keep you and your pets healthy. That's good advice any time of year, but especially during flu season.

Five signs of dog aging



lenticular sclerosis, which typically does not cause significant vision loss. However, cataracts may develop, which do interfere with vision.

3. Decreased activity. As dogs age, their metabolic rate slows and as a result, they become less active.

4. Weight gain. Elderly dogs require 30 to 40 percent fewer calories. So simply eating a normal maintenance diet, often causes obesity.

5. Infections. As the body ages, the immune system weakens, making it harder for your dog to ward off infections.

1. Loss of hearing. As dogs age, the nerve cells and hearing apparatus degenerates, resulting in a slow loss of hearing.

2. Loss of vision. The lens of the eye becomes cloudy with age. Natural changes result in

Truth about dog toys

There are tons of dog toys on the market - all shapes, sizes, colors and textures. Some are for tossing, and others are for fetching, tugging, cuddling or chewing.

Every dog needs to have a good assortment of dog toys. But there is a dangerous truth about dog toys that I want to share with you today.

The truth is that ALL dog toys can be dangerous because there is NO TOY that is totally 100% indestructible, especially for aggressive chewers. That is the truth.



so if you have a dog that is super tough on toys, always supervise his play.

Here is another truth. If a dog is an aggressive chewer and he swallows the chewed pieces it can be very dangerous. Ingestion of toy pieces can cause life-threatening gastrointestinal foreign bodies that may

require life-saving surgery.

The most important thing you can do is to know your dog. Understand how destructive he is. Be aware of his behavior. Does he chew things up? Does he ingest the things that he chews up? Watch. Monitor. It's better to be safe than sorry.

The ideal is to give your dog toys while supervised so that you can observe your dog's behavior with his toys. This isn't to say that because your dog behaves well with a toy one time that he won't chew it up and eat it the next. You never know. I've seen dogs of all ages eat toys and require surgery to remove the toys.

What is the best floor for your dog?

The best flooring for your home when you have a dog can depend on so many things. What are you most concerned with? The scratching? The dirt build-up? Your comfort and the comfort of your dog?

Take a look at some of the pros and cons of different floor types for dog owners. Which type of flooring do you have in your home?

1. Laminated Floors
 Pros - Resist scratches well
 Cons - Hard, slippery and uncomfortable for doggy
2. Solid Wood or Bamboo
 Pros - Durable
 Cons - Isn't as scratch or stain resistant as stone or tile, hard and uncomfortable
3. Ceramic Tile & Stone
 Pros - Extremely resistant to scratching and damage from accidents, easy to clean
 Cons - Hard and uncomfortable
4. Carpet
 Pros - Most comfortable for pets
 Cons - Stain easily, may get caught in claws

