

Bow legged,

overweight,

long in the tooth

and as ugly as sin...

...it would have broken her owners' hearts to lose Maisey.



"What's wrong with Maisey? Poor wee thing can hardly get up on her legs this morning."

Sue followed her husband's gaze and watched their little dog struggling toward her food bowl.

"Perhaps she's just getting old," Sue mused.

"She's eight and a half, after all."

"Nonsense! Prime of life for a tough little madam like Maisey," scoffed her husband, ruffling the greying fur around the panting dog's neck.



But Maisey didn't look well and seemed in a lot of pain. By the next morning, the family's concern had turned to alarm. Maisey couldn't move at all.

Sue lifted her tenderly from her basket to put Maisey in the car. Together they drove to the Leicester PDSA centre, the ache in Sue's heart no less great than the ache in her little pet's paralysed legs.

At the centre the vet greeted them. Maisey looked up at him appealingly with her gentle old-dog eyes. For our vet, it was love at first sight.

At first, he thought Maisey must have fallen down a step or twisted her back in some way. However, after making her comfortable and taking X-rays, he saw that a slipped disc was putting pressure on Maisey's spinal cord. Surgery to remove the disc was the only answer.

The operation was carried out straight away. It was an intricate one and took two hours. Happily, thanks to the skill, care and dedication of all the PDSA staff, it was a complete success.

Today, Maisey's walking still isn't quite so vigorous as the wagging of her tail, but she navigates the route to her food bowl and improves a little more every day.

As for her sweet and loving nature, well, no injury, however serious, could ever have crippled that. In the eyes of the owners who adore her, that makes Maisey the most beautiful dog in the world.

Total commitment, dedicated care.

Every working day (and that's 365 of them) over 4,800 animals benefit from free veterinary treatment at one of the PDSA's hospitals nationwide. Over 1.4 million Ninas, Tipsys, Mollys, Hoovers, Frankies, Peggys and Finns --all much loved and cherished family members, are healed or mended and returned to caring owners' homes every year. No pet in pain is turned away.

The rewards are priceless, but the cost of our work is high. As anyone who's sought private veterinary care knows, the cost of medicines, veterinary time and training, plus medical and surgical equipment, is already high and spiralling upwards. Our total spending added up to £22 million last year. That represents over £250 spent for every working hour!

Nevertheless, the only debt we owe is to our loyal supporters like you.

Thank you.

It's your concern, compassion and generosity that keeps PDSA going - the veterinary care we provide is funded entirely by your donations or legacies.

It's you who enable us to offer free veterinary care to anxious pet owners who, through no fault of their own, can't afford to give their pets the treatment they need.

It's you who help us ensure that animal tragedies don't become human tragedies too, with treasured pets suffering pain and death, leaving a legacy of sorrow and broken lives.

It's your kindness and fellow love for animals that we rely on in order to continue our work, to train more staff, to open new animal hospitals and repair or refurbish old ones.

We're grateful for your kind support in the past. We hope you'll help us once again with a gift from the heart this Christmas.



Tipsy



Acting on kindly meant advice, Tipsy's owner had no idea how ill she would make her much-loved cat when she gave her a tablet of paracetamol to soothe an upset tummy. Just one tablet could cause fatal liver damage and Tipsy was very seriously ill. Following intensive two-day drug therapy at the PDSA centre, to her owner's great relief, Tipsy was allowed home. A happy ending, but a salutary reminder for cat owners and cat lovers to always seek treatment from a vet.

PDSA Christmas Appeal
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