

Name - Mac

Presentation - Difficulty using hind legs

Diagnosis - Multiple Spinal lesions / Slipped discs

Presentation

Mac was brought into the surgery as his owner had noticed he was losing balance and weak on his hind legs. This was gradually getting worse but otherwise at home he had no issues. Mac had been rescued from a local charity so his owners had no previous history of any gait issues.

Treatment

Mac had a consultation with our orthopaedic specialist Colin Houston BVMA&S CertSAS MRCVS. Colin noted that Mac was falling over when walking, he had reduced knowledge of where his hind paws were and how he was supposed to use them and he had reduced ability to feel touch from half way down his spine. He had no injuries or pain on examination. It was decided Mac would have to undergo a full general anaesthetic and have X-Rays taken and an MRI scan of his spine.

The images showed multiple intervertebral discs protruding from his spine and pressing on his spinal cord therefore not allowing Mac to use his legs properly. Colin discussed the findings with Mac's Owners and discussed the high risk surgery. His owners wanted to go ahead with the surgery and do everything they could to save him.

Mac's surgery was successful, the protruding disc material was removed from pressing on the spinal cord but it would be unknown how he would recover for some time as the cord had been compressed for a prolonged period.

Mac had to stay in the hospital at Bay Vets Lancaster for three weeks. He received intensive nursing care as he was unable to use his back legs at all and could not urinate on his own. With the nurses following a strict regime of intense ,three times daily, physiotherapy and carrying Mac to the garden on a sling, some small progress was noted. Eventually Mac was able to go home and although he was still unable to walk his owners took on all of his care and physiotherapy. It was still unsure at this stage if he would ever recover.

Outcome

Mac received physiotherapy and hydrotherapy with his owners regularly over the next few months with very gradual progress. He came in to see Colin the vet for checkups and a small improvement was starting to be seen. Mac received his surgery on New Years Eve and only now is he able to walk and play as a young dog should. Mac is very lucky his owners put in the time and work needed to re-habilitate him in the way he needed



(Mac receiving some physio)

