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"Jess" - Neglected CKC Spaniel



The job of an RSPCA inspector cannot be an easy one. The things that they must see and then have to conduct themselves in a professional manner in order to achieve a successful outcome must be difficult to say the least.

In my limited experience with patients brought to us by the RSPCA the majority of cases are due to ignorance and neglect.

"Jess" was such a patient. Barely recognisable as a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel her coat was the worst I have ever seen.

Heavy matts hung from her ears pulling her skin back from her face. Underweight, undernourished and badly neglected she still managed to wag her tail. It is hard not to be moved by a breed of dog that retains such an optimistic outlook despite its dire circumstances.....a lesson indeed!



The inspector in charge was in fact so taken by Jess's attitude that she decided to keep her for herself. I cautioned her that some of Jess's problems may not ever be fully resolved.

Despite these reservations Jess's new owner set about the task of improving Jess's lot. Coat and claw clipping, shampooing, medication for her skin and her eyes were all started.

Several weeks into her recuperation it was discovered that Jess was also suffering from a muscle disease, masticatory myositis. This painful condition affects the muscles for eating and can restrict the jaws from opening.

The pathologist who looked at Jess's muscle biopsy said that it was the worst case she had ever seen. Again I had to counsel Jess's new owner that her outlook could be poor.



Undaunted by this new hurdle Jess responded marvellously to treatment and has become transformed. Six months after her rescue Jess is leading the life she deserves largely down to the efforts of her new owner who in turn was inspired by Jess's wagging tail!

Terry Dunne BVMS, Cert SAO,
MRCVS



This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at www.fairfield-vets.co.uk

You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care