

Dog wins bravery award

Cassie – a four year-old retired Greyhound from Neston Cheshire – has won ChesterGates Veterinary Specialist’s highly acclaimed Pet of the Month title in recognition of her incredible bravery in recovering from a fall whilst chasing a squirrel which left her with a severely broken hock.

Owner, Pete Gelens, had only had Cassie for a few months when the accident happened. He adopted her from the Retired Greyhound Trust in Ormskirk and bonded with her immediately.

He was taking Cassie on her usual walk over the fields and let her off the lead when she suddenly took off after a squirrel. He commented:

“Cassie wasn’t a very successful racing dog, but she certainly had a turn of speed when she chased the squirrel. She turned while she was running and I actually heard the bone crack, it turned out that her hock had literally snapped in two.”

Pete put his belt under Cassie to support her and she hopped along back to the car. From there he went to his local veterinary surgery who immediately referred him to ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists.

ChesterGates orthopaedic veterinary surgeon, Ciaran Jones, assessed Cassie and took x-rays which revealed a complex fracture to her hock joint. The severity of the injury meant that surgery was required to partially fuse the hock joint using a plate and screws. Cassie required regular dressing changes to help the soft tissue wounds heal. Once the fractures had healed and the joint had fused, the plate and screws were removed to prevent them causing irritation under the skin. ChesterGates spokesperson said: “Cassie was a fantastic patient. She tolerated her regular dressing changes well, and the dedication of her owner has really helped with her recovery”

Cassie returned home after her surgery and was then on crate rest for



Pete Gelens with Cassie



Cassie

several weeks, only venturing outside for toilet breaks with Pete supporting her with a sling on her rear end.

Pete commented: “Cassie is a wonderful, affectionate companion and has made a remarkable recovery. The team at ChesterGates were all very reassuring and Ciaran was so supportive. I was very impressed with

the treatment she received.”

ChesterGates awarded their Pet of the Month title to Cassie in recognition of her bravery and in keeping a happy, positive disposition in the face of such adversity.

More information can be found on the website at www.chestergates.org.uk

