

# Abbey Vets

## MONTHLY MIRACLES

### Double cruciate ligament operation for Douglas

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a really tough time. Our APRIL MONTHLY MIRACLE is Douglas, a seven-year-old Springer Spaniel.

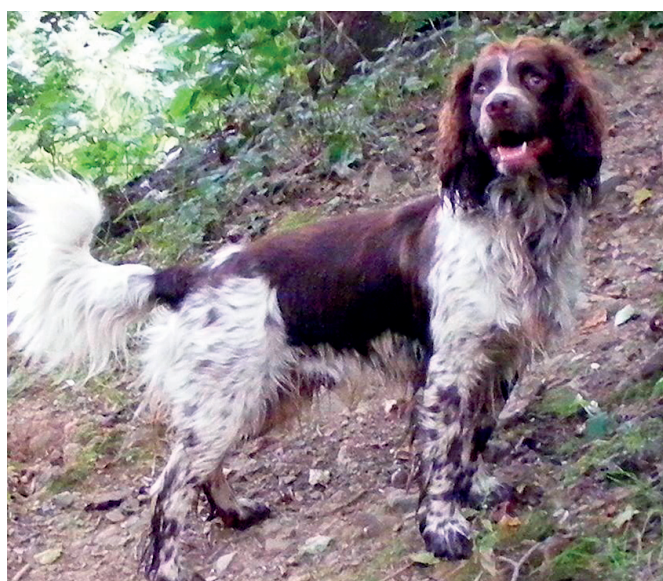
When Douglas ruptured the cruciate ligament in both of his back legs we were faced with a real dilemma.

We've never performed a double cruciate ligament operation before because it's generally best to repair one, give it time to heal and then do the other. However, in this case it was essential that Douglas had both legs operated on at the same time.

This would enable him to recover before his owner went into hospital for complex surgery on his back, putting him out of action for several weeks.

While his owner was incapacitated, we couldn't have left Douglas with one ligament still ruptured and no-one to carry him about while the other leg healed, so we decided to perform the double operation.

Vet Stephen Capon carried out a Retinacular Suture procedure, which involved using special nylon fishing line with a breaking strain of 100lbs to replace the ruptured ligaments and hold the thigh bone and shin bone in place. Eventually the suture



will fail but during the time that will take – approximately six months – the joint capsule will thicken to keep everything stable.

Meanwhile, Douglas is making a very good recovery. He was standing the day after the operation and is now very mobile. In fact we are hoping that he will slow down a bit to help prolong the temporary life of his fishing line suture!

His owner, who was the first-ever customer at our Darton branch, said: "I was astonished how quickly Douglas recovered from that level of surgery and I'm delighted that things have worked out so well."