

Abbey Vets MONTHLY MIRACLES

Lord Louis loses it – and he's never been happier!

Each month Abbey Vets highlight a pet that's made a good recovery after going through a difficult time. Our JULY MONTHLY MIRACLE is Lord Louis, a nine-year-old Miniature Dachshund.

Lord Louis's fondness to eat like a king caused him to pile on the pounds and develop serious spinal and muscular problems.

At his heaviest he weighed in at just over 8.2kg – a Miniature Dachshund should tip the scales at around the 6kg mark.

When he developed stiff hips and joints Lord Louis joined our weight clinic and was given a prescription diet for dogs with weight and joint issues. To his great disdain his treats and tit bits were withdrawn and his exercise increased.

Unfortunately Lord Louis's excess weight had taken its toll and his back legs failed, resulting in him having to undergo emergency spinal surgery to remove two discs from his back. Abbey Vets nurse Ruth Browne said:



Lord Louis before his weight loss and with his new slimline look.

"When Lord Louis attended his first weight clinic his belly was practically trailing on the ground. However, with diet and lifestyle changes he soon started to lose weight.

"He's made steady progress and is now down to a respectable 6.4kg – a 25 per cent body weight reduction.

"Overweight pets are now becoming the norm rather than the exception. About 75 per cent of the pets we see need to lose weight in some form or another.

"This varies from being seriously obese to just a little flabby, and affects cats,

dogs and rabbits alike. We do assess a pet's weight when they come in for their annual vaccinations, but if a pet owner has any concerns they can telephone us for advice or make an appointment for one of our weight clinics."

Lord Louis's owner, Angela Baker, said: "I'm delighted with the transformation – he's like a different dog. His stiff joints have improved dramatically, he's enjoying long walks every day and he's so much happier – and so am I."