

- [News](#)

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# Carlisle physio helps Border Terrier make a miracle recovery

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Reporter



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The owners of a beloved Border Terrier were left devastated when their pet was left almost paralysed, after being diagnosed with a shock condition – but a hero physiotherapist saved him from a heartbreaking future.

Seven-year-old Alfie's difficulties began a few months ago, when he displayed symptoms of hind limb paralysis – known as paraplegia – due to a sudden slipped disc.

After undergoing two surgeries to treat his condition, which included spinal cord compression, the adored terrier was left with weakness in his back legs, as well as severely uncoordinated.

He was unable to walk effectively, or even get around his home without falling over, when his owners, Dawn and Allan Tait, were given the upsetting news that he may never recover.

Dawn, from Dumfries, said: "We were both devastated and heartbroken for him – we felt really helpless."

But with the help of Mel Brown, of Browns Veterinary Physiotherapy, the adored pooch is finally on the mend, and living life to the full once again.

"He is doing so well," Dawn said. "When Mel first met Alfie, he was still being walked outside with a harness holding up his back legs, and now he's walking himself on and off the lead."

"It is absolutely amazing. He was such an active wee dog before the slipped disc, so it's great to see him walking on his own – he has even been chasing the odd crow which is just brilliant!"

She added: "Mel has done a fantastic job, she's so good with Alfie."

"He doesn't like being away from us, but is quite happy to go into her studio."

"I don't think Alfie would have been able to walk the way he does without physio from Mel, and we are both so pleased with the way things are progressing."

And Carlisle woman Mel is also thrilled with Alfie's progress, saying: "I'm pleased to say that Alfie has recovered extremely well with the use of physiotherapy treatment, and a home exercise programme."

"He's now able to walk off the lead and maintain his position when walking, and can negotiate obstacles without falling over."

"He has gained more strength and co-ordination, and his owners are delighted with his progress!"

To find out more about Mel's life-changing work, visit Browns Veterinary Physiotherapy Facebook page, or head to her website at [www.brownsvetphysio.co.uk](http://www.brownsvetphysio.co.uk).