



Cutting Edge

Channel 4's flagship documentary series



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Channel Four – “Cutting Edge” strand

**Customer testimonials identified
during case study research
on www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk products**

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Twenty Twenty Television.
Twenty Twenty Television.

Generated as part of the scoping phase for a new Channel Four Cutting Edge documentary titled “Special Needs Pets”, to identify suitable programme participants as well as to validate the www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk products claims and services.



Case study

My pet is a female Springer Spaniel named Bramble. She is 13 years old, the incontinence started about 18 months ago, our vet has given her Propalin syrup which helps the problem but she still had leakage.

I decided on the off chance to look on the internet and found dog nappies!! We thought we would try them and now would not be without them (and very smart she looks in her nappy). She has one on all night, and if we are out for a long time in the day.

If we had not found these she would not have been able to come to Cornwall with us last week. These nappies have given her life back.

Regards

MRS GILL COYNE, GREAT BOUGHTON, CHESTER

Case study

My dog Louis, an English Springer, first developed leakage problems about 15 months ago and was at first prescribed special drops which worked well to start with.

As the problem got worse I looked on the internet and found the www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk company website. I bought a nappy with some pads and used it every night for his last few months. It was very efficient, easy to wash and dry, and meant Louis's bed stayed dry overnight.

The company was very helpful when I phoned and service was instant when I had to change the nappy size at the outset.

My vet did not know about them and I gave her some of the publicity material as I think the nappy idea is excellent and better than leaking on carpets etc. If you need any more information please let me know.

PAT BRAY, COLCHESTER, ESSEX

Case study

We still have our dog with us and I can't tell you just how much the dog nappies have helped.

I don't think we could have coped without them.

He is a wonderful Westie and we will be lost without him but he is happy, though old, and we have managed to have some very precious extra weeks with him.

PAMELA MATHEWS, OXFORD, OXFORDSHIRE

Case study

Yes, I have a rabbit who lost partial use of her back legs about three months ago. For this reason, I have had to start using nappies in order to keep her clean and hygienic.

This has worked quite well, in tandem with regular baths (and blow-dries from the hair-dryer). The ones from www.dog-nappy.co.uk are great because they are light, easy to use and dry easily so I have two - one in use and one wash/drying.

It has meant that I can keep Ethel my rabbit, who is otherwise healthy, alive, with quality of life and I would recommend the products wholeheartedly.

ZOE HOLBOURNE, DEESIDE, FLINTSHIRE

Case study

Our dog (thankfully) is still going strong at the grand old age of 17! We are very pleased with the dog nappies - they have been of fantastic value for us.

NICKY BLACKMAN, PARAJE MANGAMASA, LA VINUELA, SPAIN.

Case study

I am happy to be contacted as very happy with product and service - sadly we lost our dog in April but the dog nappies certainly saved my sanity while he was so ill.

KAREN BENFIELD, NEWBRIDGE, WREXHAM

Case study

Sadly we had to have our dog put down at Xmas but we used the products for over a year and they meant we could manage his incontinence so that it never came into the decision to have him out down.

The products were a godsend.

LAILA UNDERWOOD, NEWTON ABBOT, DEVON

Case study

Sadly, Saffron our old dog is no longer with us. He was a Golden Retriever in his 18th year - birthday on Valentine's Day.

But during his last year he became incontinent of faeces and we were at our wits end how to manage him, as he was in perfect health otherwise, but flooring was taking its toll.

The vets could suggest nothing, apart from putting him down. This was not an option though, as he was good old friend and deserved the best we could give him.

An internet search found www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk company and so I rang them and was immediately reassured that they could help. They provided dog nappies and incontinence trousers, to fit different breeds of dogs. All we had to do was to measure him and send off for the pack and this I did promptly.

Annabel, I cannot tell you what a difference it made to us and Saffron. We could all relax, take him out anywhere, and have friends to the house without banning him to his quarters where he would have been most unhappy - Golden Retrievers being the friendliest of dogs.

And I cannot praise the Dog Nappy company too highly. You simply pick up the phone and talk to them; they just understand and know exactly what the problems are and can suggest ways of making life easier, and you feel you are not alone.

Although the packs seem pricey they are not. The trousers are very well made and wash in the machine; pads are tailor made to fit the size of the trousers. We probably used the pads about 3 months by the time I discovered them but if only I had known about them earlier And Saffie was perfectly happy wearing them. They bothered him not at all. I have photos should you wish to see them.

I wish you the very best of luck for the programme, and if anyone deserves a gold medal it is the Dog Nappy Company - and I know Saffie would agree with me ! Best Wishes.

JANET CROOME, TRURO, CORNWALL

Case study

Well Zac is a 13 year old Hungarian Vizsla whom we rescued when he was 6 (we we're his 3rd home!). As with most pedigree dogs he's had his fair share of health problems – one of which is he is allergic to cats! Skin has always and still is a problem for him. His hips started to give up probably about a year ago and it's been steadily downhill from there.

Although he still thinks he's a puppy his back legs usually remind him that he's not! He was on some medication but it didn't make a great deal of difference and they made him drink loads which in turn made the waterworks problem worse, so now we just need to let nature take its course.

As I mentioned in my email to Peter, I am looking at these little boots to put on his back legs as he drags them so much his nails are worn to the bottom.

I have been using the dog nappies with Zac for 8 weeks or so and they are a godsend!

My carpets are wrecked from the time before I found these nappies when Zac used to pee as and when he pleased (he just can't hold it for long and when he needs to go he has to go instantly) and every morning I would wake to a large puddle somewhere and often another little 'present' too!

With these I can sleep through the night knowing that my carpet isn't getting more wrecked than they already are. Zac is comfortable in them and he knows as soon as it's on in an evening a chocolate biscuit is coming his way!

He does still do it in the daytime even if I am there and he hasn't got a nappy on. It has been difficult as I am mother to a 5 year old whose natural instinct is to play with cars on the carpet and roll about playing – at what point do you have an animal put down, even though he seems happy and pain free this issue is compromising the health of my son (although to date he has been fine).

However Zac lives on and although his health is stable I often wonder when the day will be. Until that day my carpets remain in place and the carpet cleaning man retains a job here!

Zac isn't really disabled though so I am not sure how much use we can be to you.

CASSANDRA HOLMES, NORTH HYKEHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE

Case study

We have had Daisy since December. She is a 5 year old, Pomeranian who was rescued from a Puppy Farm in Wales. She had been kept in a cage and produced endless litters. I have attached a photograph.

When she was rescued she was neutered immediately and as her teeth were so bad they were all removed. Without the teeth to hold her tongue in place, it hangs to the side of her mouth. It has also been impossible to toilet train her as she has been so use to just going in the cage.

We persevered with her and now she will pooh in the garden and although she does wee outside she was continuously wetting in the house. It got to the point where the floor was buckling so I started asking pet shops and searching the internet for a suitable nappy. We were delighted to find the Dog-Nappy Company.

It has enabled us all to relax. She wears her nappy through the day. We take it off at night and when walking or when she goes in the garden. It has never distressed her and without it I don't know what we would have done.

Initially, she was also frightened of her reflection in a mirror or window. She could not walk in the evening with the glare from car lights. She became fixated by the light. Daisy also could not cross thresholds from one room to another or from the garden into the house. I am delighted to say she has conquered all of this.

She was undernourished and unable to walk any distance. Now she walks to the park, does a complete circuit and walks back. She couldn't climb steps or stairs but now she can. She couldn't get off and on the chair but does now!! She has come a long way and is very much part of the family.

CHRISTINE BUCHANAN, WHETSTONE, LONDON

Case study

I have been using the dog nappies for a couple of months now.

My Westie who is 13 has been put on steroids as he is suffering from lung disease and these are causing him to drink huge amounts of water.

When he goes sound asleep at night he sometimes is not aware that he needs to go outside and we had had some accidents. As he sleeps on my bed this was becoming a bit of a problem!!

These really are a marvellous find and he has always been so good about having them put on at night. If you need anymore info don't hesitate to contact me. Best regards.

SHEENA CRINGLE, KIRK MICHAEL, ISLE OF MAN



Case study

I am always happy to talk about dog nappies, they made such a difference for my family! Our boxer, Calvin, was put down a year and a half ago - he was almost 12 so a good, long life for a boxer! When he was about 9 - 10 years old, he started having accidents in the house.

Sometimes we were even home at the time. He was clearly upset since he knew not to go in the house, he just could not help it. We took him to the vet multiple times per week and we did every kind of test. We couldn't figure out what it was unless it was something neurological and we could not put the old boy through brain surgery.

Since we lived in a second floor flat, we couldn't really leave him access to the garden when we were gone unless we left him outside - and I was too worried about him possibly being stolen. My husband did some web searching and found dog nappies.

We were sceptical at first, he was a pretty big dog and we couldn't imagine nappies working on a male dog. Furthermore when he urinated, it was a lot and we didn't think it would hold let alone Calvin keep the nappies on when we were gone.

Well, what a great surprise when we received the nappies and nappy pads. Calvin was actually proud to wear his pants! He got excited to put them on! I don't know if it was because he knew they helped him not have accidents or if he liked wearing clothes. He left them on, even if we were gone for a few hours and they held all the urine every time.

We even moved to the US with Calvin. After a couple months, he started having more issues - walking with motor difficulties, confusion and crying a lot. On top of that, he could not hold urine whatsoever. He wore nappies all day and night.

This time in the nappies allowed us to go to the vet and find out that he most likely had a brain tumour. He started crying more and we thought he may have some pain at those time and the difficult decision was made to put him out of his misery. The nappies also gave us one last weekend with him where we could say goodbye in our own time, without him urinating constantly.

I know several people who had to put dogs down because they lost control of their bladder as they got older. These pets were not in pain, but of course it is tough to have urine all over the house. Dog nappies would help all those people and dogs extend their lives. I really think they are a great product. I just wish we had a good photo of Calvin in his nappies.

Please let me know if I can help in any other way.

JENNIFER ROSSI, WOODFORD GREEN, ESSEX

Case study

My pet is 13 years old but thinks he is still a puppy. I found him on the streets twelve years ago, all broken up and traumatised. He is small, a mix breed, looks amazingly like a fox, hence the name Foxy!

I think we have been using the nappies for about a year. I sometimes feel as though I have another baby at home, washing nappies etc. but it has saved my relationship with my partner, who although he loves Foxy is not as devoted as I am and he would not allow Foxy to roam the house without a nappy to catch the drips.

I am in New York at the moment, returning this afternoon, so can e-mail you some pictures of Foxy. I know you will fall in love.....

JUDY KAUFFMANN, BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE

Case study

Hi there, my dog is a chocolate Labrador called Brandy who will be 13 years old on 30 August this year. A few months ago Brandy developed diabetes and whilst it took a long time to stabilise and get the correct amount for her twice daily injections, she had an incredible thirst and thereby became incontinent.

We were so upset about this as she has always been such a clean girl and never ever goes to the toilet unless it is on grass. Anyway, I did a search on the internet and found the site with the dog nappy which I ordered straightaway and was delighted to find.

I bought two so we could have one spare in case the other one got wet - we used them just at night as my parents are at home all day with Brandy so they were able to let her out in the garden although very often!

We were of course all happy about this and Brandy too!

Thankfully Brandy has been stabilised on the insulin now so we don't really need to use the nappy's so often. When the insulin bottle is nearly empty she tends to maybe get more thirsty then and starts to leak a bit so we have the odd night where we put on the nappy.

We let our vets know about the dog nappy and got them to put up a poster in the clinic for others to know about - we were so glad to find this site and it is a wonderful idea.

If you need any further info, please do not hesitate to contact me.

ITA MCBRIDE, ROTHERHITHE, LONDON

Case study

Tia is a 6 year old sensitive and very obedient German Pointer. We had her spayed at about a year old with no warnings from the vet.

About 6 months later she started with increasing incontinence and we made repeated trips to the vet where she was prescribed Propalin syrup which had little or no effect. We tended to see different vets and on one occasion were promised a cure by surgery.

After X-rays and tests we were told that Tia's bladder was in her pelvis rather than abdomen and should be hitched up. We took her to Doncaster for the surgery and collected her from near Manchester. For a few days she had extreme difficulty but the incontinence gradually returned.

We coped by restricting her access to certain rooms and washing the bedding every day. At another visit to the vets when they saw her dripping all over the consulting room floor they said they had a new expert on the team.

After more tests they promised us a cure as they said she must have an 'ectopic ureter'.

So after 2 really expensive operations (not insured) let alone the upset to Tia - she is worse. On some days she literally pours, other days drips and once or twice has even been dry for a short while.

The vet suggested either keeping her outside or having her put down !

The dog nappies have been great because she can come in the car, sit on our knees, be inside etc.

She wears one at night and doesn't mind. Hope all that helps

SARAH LAWTON, LEEDS, WEST YORKSHIRE

Case study 11

It's no problem talking to you in fact it cheers me up to still talk about my dog as my family and I miss him so much.

Royster was our dogs name and he lived to a ripe old age of 17 years old, I think it was about 6 months ago when we first noticed that Royster was leaking urine, he had bad back legs due to arthritis but has had that for a couple of years now and was on permanent medication which unfortunately had side effects which didn't help Roysters kidney which is probably why he started to be incontinent.

I had never heard or read about dog nappies before and it was only by chance one day that I typed in the words on the internet and the www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk site came up. I was so thrilled I thought this is another lifeline for my dog, I quickly ordered some of which arrived promptly and we began the task of putting Royster in the nappies. At first he didn't take to it and he couldn't work out that he could walk with it on but we persevered and he adjusted very quickly.

The problem was solved and this helped Royster for the last 6 months of his life and they worked absolutely brilliantly. They collected the drips and he still asked to go outside to do his business and then we took the make shift nappy off. He still realised that he had to wee outside.

If this could help your documentary and anyone else that is going through a similar situation, it would really please me to know that Royster plight helped someone else's beloved pet.

If there are any other details that I can give you to help please don't hesitate in contacting me, anytime.

LINDA JAMES, BEDFONT, MIDDLESEX

Case study

I have 5 dogs – all rescue dogs. Penny is the only bitch and we have had her since she was 5 months old. She is a Lurcher, closely resembling a greyhound and is now 8 years old. Shortly after we had her we took her to the vet, because although she was house trained she often had the occasional accident.

She had an x-ray which showed that her bladder was not positioned correctly. The vet told us that the problem would improve as she grew to be an adult dog, but that it would get worse again when she was an older dog.

Last summer Penny's problem reappeared and gradually got worse. By November she was unable to control her bladder while relaxing in the house, but when on her feet had no problem.

We bought waterproof mats for Penny to lie on, but she often wandered around so we were constantly having to watch her. This caused us a lot of problems, as she continued to have accidents and we were constantly having to get out the disinfectant to clean up after her.

As I work full time, my husband was having to do this during the day and wasn't too happy about it.

I discovered the pet nappies website after searching the internet in early December. It was the answer to my prayers.

We eventually purchased 5 nappies and we wash 3 at a time. We purchase 2 packs of pads at a time and they last around 3 weeks. Penny is now free to lie wherever she wants to and we no longer need to keep watching her all the time, so life is pretty much back to normal now, thank goodness.

I hope that helps, but if you need any further information please let me know. All the best.

VIKKI FORD, PAIGNTON, DEVON

Case study 13

I have a 12 year old Doberman, she is brown and tan and had a very bad start to life, I bought her on Christmas Eve when she was 4 years old, she had been placed after the cruelty case with a nice family but they had emigrated, so I was lucky enough to get her.

She is very loving and faithful and unfortunately now has difficulties getting up and laying down on her own so I have to do this for her, other than that she is still in fine spirits.

She started to have slight urinary incontinence about 5 years ago but now due to her spondylitis, it is severe, I started to buy all sorts of things for her, special pet beds and so on, but nothing worked, the winning formula for me is a dog nappy....

I takes a lot of work and time to keep her clean and dry but I think that I would do it for my kids and family and she is a part of the family.

She won't be around for much longer, so whilst I can keep her happy and at home with us, I will, as long as it isn't cruel to her. Hope this helps

AMANDA FRANCE, HARTHILL, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Case study

We have sadly lost Peggie who the nappy was for, but 15/16 is not a bad age. We are unable to know her exact age as she was a stray.

The Nappy helped us and her cope with her condition, she had 'Cushings Disease'. The freedom it gave her in the home was great.

I would and do recommend it.

YVONNE DUNN, POLLINGTON, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

Case study

Hi there, I'm more than happy to take part.

I'm in France, and I took in a five month old golden retriever bitch who was facing being put to sleep because of her condition. She is incontinent and her previous owners didn't have the time to look after her.

I read about the nappies, and after seeing her photo, knew she had to have a second chance. She has to be changed about four or five times a day, but the nappies, plus pads, keep her dry. (She originally had blisters down the back of her legs.)

She has a 'back end shower' every morning. Takes about five minutes. It took her a little while to 'come out of her shell' but she is a beautiful dog and gets on very well with my others.

The nappies take seconds to put on and wash very well.

I've been told she is able to have an operation, but there's only a 65% success rate; I'll wait until she's a little older and then do some more investigations.

The nappies are a Godsend and have saved the life of a very special little girl!!!

WANDA REECE, LA GLEZOLLE, MONTCHEVRIER CENTRE, FRANCE

Case study

Thank you for your email and the unusual and unexpected content. Wonderful product which eased the last four months of the life of our Labrador/Collie, Sammie, who sadly passed away on Saturday 14th June this year.

Prior to discovering dog nappies, we had been tearing our hair out trying to get Sammie out in time, protecting our carpets with endless sheets of polythene and old sheets, forever wiping up spills with disinfectant and carpet shampoo and permanently doing washing.

As she also suffered from arthritis and was having difficulty walking, we had reluctantly taken the decision at the beginning of February that she would have to go. The hygiene problem was so acute that I didn't feel we could have visitors and my young grandchildren certainly couldn't visit.

However, Sammie had other ideas. One sight of the vet and she summoned the energy from somewhere to get up and go out of the open garage door, over the road and refused to come in while she could see the vet was still here. Deeply distressed, I knew I couldn't in all honesty encourage her to walk back in to her death and so we cancelled the vet and trawled the internet to try and find a solution to her incontinence.

This was not the first nappy we tried but it was definitely the best and Sammie quickly learnt to wait outside while her nappy was put on. They were so effective that the worry of cleaning the carpets and clearing up the mess disappeared completely. We were so much more relaxed about her care, she was more settled and it helped us really enjoy what was to be her last few months.

We learnt to love "our old lady" with a new affection - and not only us but the whole road. People would ask how she was and drivers would slow down as they drove past her doing her slow walk every morning. She proved to be a very dogged dog!

Sadly she developed an acute bladder infection in June, not for the first time, and stopped eating. As by this time she was needing a ramp to get in and out of the house, no longer could manage walks and every movement was a struggle, I took the very painful decision that her time had come. This time, Sammie clearly agreed with me.

To save stress, we gave her a tranquilliser wrapped in ham which she did eat, and carried her out to the van and into the vets. She didn't object and died in my arms looking at her favourite person, my youngest daughter, whose faithful friend and companion she had been for the last 15 years.

Thank you (to Dog-Nappy.co.uk) for developing and producing such an excellent product. Both the fabric (urine) nappy and the waterproof (faecal) nappy were both very effective, easy to wash and comfortable for Sammie to wear.

TAMSIN OUTRIDGE, LITTLEHAMPTON, WEST SUSSEX

Case study

I am - I am a previous Channel 4 presenter from A Place In The Sun! and am on their talent list.
www.simonebienne.com

Happy to talk - they've (the nappies) made our life so easy. Cardboard has been on TV before.
SIMONE BIENNE, LONDON

Case study

I am happy to answer any questions although I should tell you that my dog isn't incontinent due to illness or old age but because she was spayed at a young age and has a misplaced bladder.

I'm not sure if that is relevant or not to the documentary, she has tablets from the vets so only uses the nappy when it is really bad which thankfully isn't that often.

Good luck with the documentary feel free to contact me if I can help answer any questions.
KATY PIPER, CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Case study

I would be quite happy to speak to the television company. I think it is very important to spread the word as it were - I have found the products I have bought from www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk were very helpful, in fact that is an understatement.

We have three dogs, all Samoyeds, two of which are rescue. I help with Samoyed rescue and Jasmine came to us 3 years 6 months ago and had a very sad time ending up at Battersea dogs home.

We took her on through Samoyed rescue and she could not stand up and was in a very sorry state.

We thought we could give her last few months some happiness but she blossomed and leads a very happy life but is losing control of her bladder and the rest but with the help of nappies we are coping and it has taken away a lot off the stress for us and her.

Although she must be at least 16 life is worth living still for her!! As you can imagine she has a lot of coat but still the nappies work.

JENNIFER RAWLINGS, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

Case study

Stanley our Standard Poodle has Addisons Disease & sometimes loses his bladder control during the night, the nappy has allowed him to continue to sleep on our bed!

He is very fit & healthy and the disease is under control.

At only 2 years old he has many years of nappy wearing ahead.

He loves wearing it & waits for it to be put on as part of his evening routine.

JENNIFER CUSHING, BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE

Case study

My wife or I would be happy to talk to the programme makers, since finding your website was a complete revelation for us and has made our cat's condition completely manageable.

JAMES STIRLING, LONDON

Case study

I would be more than willing to help out in any way I can for the documentary. As an owner of a boarding kennel we come across a lot of people as their dogs get older and they come across the problem of incontinence with their dog and it can be a real problem knowing what to do.

It is only through searching the Internet that I became aware that there were products out there, like the nappies and has been a godsend.

HELEN GOUGH, NORWICH, NORFOLK

Case study

Sadly we finally had to have our German Shepherd, Dennis, put to sleep in April, but, in the final months of his life, our incontinence pads made life much more comfortable for him and easier for us.

Good luck with the documentary, we hope it will be helpful to pet owners who are having the same experience.

DAVID TRELOAR, PENRYN, CORNWALL

Case study

Amazingly Cleo, the recipient of the nappies is still with us – a medical mystery.

Without these nappies she would be long gone as we would not have been able to cope - she is completely paralysed in the bodily function area – however her back legs are fine and in all other areas a healthy 11 year old retriever.

GILL STEWARD, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK

Case study

Unfortunately our almost 15 year old toy poodle "Lotty" has passed away (Saturday 24th May this year). My decision to use the nappy was not a dilemma for me at all.

Having worked in a care home for the elderly of which many of the residents used "pads", I saw first hand how much confidence these pads give knowing they would not have an accident, even dementia sufferers would get very upset if they were in a mess, and pads helped them get over embarrassment and trauma.

It is the same for animals, they do get distressed when they are "not clean" and I believe these nappies are nothing short of a life saver.

Unfortunately Lotty suffered with dementia which was why she was incontinent bless her, we used to let her out and then she would come in and go to the toilet in the house! Being a toy poodle it was never a problem, but with 3 Bearded Collies running through the mess, it was a problem, with Nigel our 11 year old who passed away last September and Norman our 12 year old who passed away last month this year believe it or not, urinating over the top of it so we would end up with a very large puddle!

The nappies put a complete stop to that.

I cannot remember how long ago I ordered the nappy, but up until the day she died she wore it day and night, and because she would wander about and walk into things with the advice of the vet, we bought her a travel cot for night time only and put it in our bedroom.

It was important to me to go down this route because we loved her very much and wanted her quality of life to be good; having fostered a collie "Patch" for 10 months from a dog home who suffered so much with severe incontinence and bathing her first thing in the morning, washing her bedding and washing the floor (all before I was able to get ready in the morning), had these nappies been on the market at the time, then I would have jumped at the chance to buy them - I would also have to shower her down several times during the day.

She was also distressed at "making a mess" something that I know a lot of dogs suffer with, but she would have so benefited from these very simple inventions physically and mentally.

ADELE BOLKONSKY, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Case study

Socks was a wonderful Labrador cross-breed who had been with me since he was 6 weeks old. He was diagnosed with bladder cancer when he was 11½ and was put to sleep a year later when it was clear that his time had come.

The nappies made an enormous difference to him. He was a very special fellow, my cool-dude alpha male, extremely bright and aware. As the disease progressed, he needed to go more and more frequently and sometimes he wouldn't make it out. At other times he would have an urge to go but nothing would happen.

He slept in the bedroom with me, on the bed, so I was regularly up three or four times a night to go out with him. Then, leakage became a problem and I was worried about his skin getting sore. There was also the practical challenge of trying to keep the bed and the couch and the floors clean and dry. I knew that Socks hated having "accidents" and knowing that he was bothered by what was happening upset me far more than any cleaning I had to do.

I found the www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk web site when I was trawling the internet looking for practical advice on incontinence in dogs. Socks seemed to know immediately what the nappies were for. He just seemed to relax, and to realise they meant no more "accidents".

The first night he wore one was the first night in a long time that we both slept through until morning. The broken nights became a thing of the past. During the day, if he had been romping in the garden or playing with my other dogs and the nappy had slipped a little, he'd come to me, give me a poke with his paw and then stand there, his expression telling me clearly to "fix this please".

Socks and I had our ritual each morning and night and as often as necessary during the day.

Finding out that Socks had a terminal illness and coming to terms with the knowledge that I was going to lose him was extremely difficult, but it would have been unbearable for me to have to put him to sleep because of incontinence, before his time had come.

The nappies let him live out his time in comfort and confidence. I can still see him, in my mind's eye, trotting down the garden, decked out in his nappy, off about his doggy business. He gave me so much during his life and I am grateful to the www.Dog-Nappy.co.uk company that I was able to help him when he needed it.

TERESA CAREY, CO. MONAGHAN, IRELAND

Case study

Thanks for getting in touch re: the Channel 4 documentary. Unfortunately, on 31st March I lost Cleo after almost 16 years, a considerable age for a pedigree dog, especially a Labrador. This was especially hard as it was less than 4 months after losing both her daughters in a very short space of time. We do however have a 15 month chocolate who we rescued just before Christmas.

On receiving her pedigree from the Kennel Club it transpires that Cleo is her great great Grandma on the dam's side, and a great great great Grandma on the sire's side, so she is still a thread of Cleo's line! There was never a dull moment with Cleo, she truly was a dog in a million - superbly intelligent, a complete exhibitionist and incredibly funny. I have never known a dog be so expressive, she really did smile when happy, which was most of the time.

Cleo had the ability to make the best of every situation, nothing troubled her and her attitude was to live life to the full each and every day - a lesson for us all. How many dogs charge at the door to the vets, she couldn't wait to be in, her attitude was, "Hello everybody, I'm here!". There were people to mug, cats to harass and someone might even have a biscuit for her or have dropped a sandwich crust on the floor, it was always worth a look!

Certainly in her early years Cleo was healthy and very active. She competed in the show ring very successfully and also in the field where success mostly eluded her but she would always put on a display for a crowd and her enthusiasm knew no bounds. Later in life we went shooting which she adored.

Despite medication the onset of arthritis about 11 years old put an end to this - she would have still managed a day but have suffered so much in the following 3 or 4 days we had to curtail that particular activity.

Cleo had two litters of superb puppies, 9 the first time, 10 the second time and all were reared into happy healthy puppies. This was despite a road accident during which she was catapulted through the rear window of my car as I managed to roll it several times on a horrible winter's night only 2 weeks into the pregnancy of her first litter.

Although her only injury was a cut to her lip the vet was sure the shock to her system would result in the puppies being absorbed. No, not Cleo, 9 healthy pups all in excess of a pound in weight were delivered with minimum fuss and maximum attention from Cleo. She was a wonderful Mum.

At the age of 12 I thought I was going to lose Cleo. She fell ill, was very lethargic and off her food. Eventually pancreatitis was diagnosed for which there was no specific treatment. It was a very difficult time and for 10 days she was very poorly. Suddenly, one morning, she was wagging her tail & asking for breakfast! Within a week of that she was ill again and this time it was an enlarged heart.

This could be treated and she remained on this medication along with her arthritis tablets for the rest of her days. Increasing old age brought a loss of vision to one eye and deafness but I am sure that was selective!

As she aged she suffered from little else until she became incontinent. It is amazing how aware of this she was so the nappy was a God send.

There was never a time during Cleo's life that we felt she was on excessive medication and that we were keeping her alive for our own benefit. It was just part of the ageing process and we made allowances for her - help in and out of the car, a ramp for steps, non-slip mats for wooden floors.

Cleo knew all these things were for her benefit and she always adapted to every new situation, nothing ever phased her. She was an integral part of our lives so she continued to take part in all we did including walks on the beach. She had a fleecy jacket for winter walks at Filey and did as much or as little as she pleased. When she had had enough she would let us know but she would never be left out of anything. She was as curious and inquisitive as when she was a puppy, just a bit slower.

Usually nobody knows their dog's better than the owner's themselves and decisions on prolonging the life of an animal is a decision to be made by the owner and the vet together. With Cleo, it was her heart that gave up in the end. We knew that nothing could be done to improve her situation so there was only one course of action to take. We could not bare the thought of her being in pain or discomfort.

It should be said that we have the most fantastic vets and it is important for every owner to have a good relationship with their vet, to be able to feel they are free to talk to them and ask questions and to be talked to not at.

I am pleased that we were able to offer Cleo the fullest and happiest life that any dog could wish for and we were repaid a thousand times in so many ways by Cleo. We are fortunate to have so many memories of her but she is missed every day by so many people.

KATE HOGGARTH, BEVERLEY, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE