

Testimonials - Real quotes and stories from real clients, read what they have to say about their dogs experience and the benefits they received from visiting the Canine Massage Therapy Centre

Name: Dax
Breed: Collie
Issue: Recurring lameness and injury accumulation
Discipline: Agility & Pet

Dax was injured at a show way back; he was only 3 when he slipped in the ring on damp and rather meagre grass. This resulted in the best part of 2 and half years off, in fact I thought I was going to have to retire him altogether. He was never badly lame just not right! Over the years he has seen chiropractors and osteopaths who have helped him to recover.

Recently I have been taking Dax to see Natalie Lenton, of the Canine Massage Therapy Centre, based in Kidderminster. **Natalie has worked on Dax several times throughout the year and has, helped him to continue playing agility. 2007 saw us able to compete more than we had for about 3 seasons. During the year we qualified for the Kennel Club Novice Agility Stakes at Olympia.**

We nearly didnt get there when 1 week before Olympia Dax went lame. I dont know what he had done, he just **wasnt using his legs as he should and was unable to weight bear properly.** I called up Natalie in a panic saying how I was going to have to withdraw him from the competition we had worked so hard to get to.

Nat calmed me down and reassured me and we booked an appointment to see her the next day. I couldnt believe it, just 1 day after his treatment and Dax Man was looking better than ever so off we went to Olympia and **with Natalie's help we successfully competed at this prestigious event and finished a very proud third!**



Dax sees Natalie 2 to 3 times a years just to make sure all is well. Thanks Natalie, you have done a great job on him!

Happy Jumping!
Gill Zuckowska & Dax
Rugby

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Name: Poppy

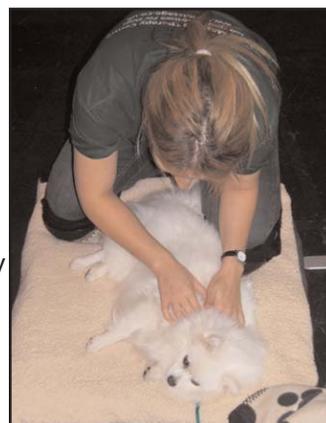
Breed: German Spitz Klein

Issue: Quiet, Subdued, Gait Irregularity (pinning)

Poppy is a German Spitz Klein that I bred, sold and some nine weeks later, bought back. In that nine weeks something had gone horribly wrong-Poppy's face was pink with tear stains, she was quiet and subdued and her movement was quite horrific-particularly the front where she was pinning.

I was not convinced that drugs would be helpful in this case and considered that some specialist advice was needed to establish if anything could be done to bring about improvements in Poppy's gait and personality. I spent some time on the internet and a search brought up details on K9 Massage Therapy.

After reading the information on the site I decided to give Nat a call. I was really impressed by the time that Nat spent on the phone, asking questions about Poppy and our lifestyles and I decided if Nat was willing to invest that time on the phone, I had to commit the time to let Poppy have a specialist consultation and, if anything could be done, take Nat's advice. We live in Glasgow so it is about a **600 miles round trip**, but I was convinced that the time and expense of the associated travel would be worthwhile if Poppy's conditions could be improved.



I expected Poppy to be fidgety, restless and un-cooperative in the tranquillity of Nat's therapy room but Nat transmitted her calm and control to Poppy who amazed me with her acceptance of the examination that Nat carried out. We visited Nat on three consecutive weeks as advised and in between visits I massaged Poppy in accordance with Nat's instructions.



When the specialist visits came to an end I kept in touch with Nat and continued with less intensive massage techniques that Nat taught me. I could see that, coupled with Nat's advice on lifestyle and exercise was bringing about an **obvious improvement in Poppy's gait and personality** to the extent that I had the confidence to enter her for the remaining championship shows of the season. **Poppy was 1st Minor Puppy and Best Puppy in Breed at British Utility Breeds Show** and a few weeks later repeated that win to be awarded Best Puppy in Breed at Ladies Kennel Association Show. The following month Poppy was 2nd in the breed Puppy class at Manchester Championship Show then in her final class as a puppy, **following a ringside massage from Nat, she won best Special Puppy class at Crufts 2008.**

Poppy will continue to visit Nat periodically when practical, to ensure that she remains in top condition which I think will be of great benefit to her and her ongoing show success.

Jan Tullis & Poppy
Glasgow

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Name: Ebony

Breed: Pointer

Issue: Lame after knocked over by another dog

Discipline: Show Dog & Pet

My name is Di Stilgoe and along with my husband Paul we breed and exhibit pointers under the Teisgol affix. Last year our darling puppy **Ebony was squashed and sent spread eagle by a huge gsd x akita.** Needless to say **she was badly injured the vets said she had torn muscles** etc and she needed rest and painkillers.

Unfortunately Ebony didn't improve greatly and a friend of ours told us about Natalie at canine massage. So we decided nothing ventured nothing gained, I phoned Nat and had a lengthy conversation with her then decided we would visit. I am the first to admit we were skeptical.

At the time Ebony was 4.5 months old. I have never seen Ebony so calm. Nat has such a way with the dogs. **From the first appointment she was more comfortable.** Unfortunately we did have a small set back as Ebony cut her pad and due to this transferred her weight through to her shoulder and went back to square 1. Nat did so much to reassure us this was only temporary.

Ebony had 4 sessions 1 more than usual as we requested it, and we followed Nats advice to the letter. **Slowly Ebony built up muscle and here we are now Ebony aged 10.5 months old winning Best puppy in breed Best of breed adult gun-dog group puppy gundog group and Best puppy in show** last weekend and being told by the breed judge she has not seen such a well put together sound puppy for such a long time, I was in tears as Nat had told me she would be sound and do well and me being me was so negative about ever being able to get her sound.



Not only has Nat helped Ebony but she has also made a great improvement to Ebonys mum Dominoe who had a collie bang into her and hurt her neck muscles so therefore she started throwing her front leg out Nat worked wonders on her and last week she won the post grad class. Nat has also worked on our 2 boys Henry and Otta.

We have recommended Natalie to several people (1 pointer person in particular was fearing her boy was in such pain he may have to be put to sleep. After visiting Nat he is jumping stiles again!) **I would willingly and wholeheartedly suggest having a chat with Nat** if you have a problem and if you feel skeptical at first as we did rest assured she is our angel who saved our dogs for us and gave us back our sanity.

Thanks Nat.

Di & Paul Stilgoe, Worcestershire



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Name: Bethra

Breed: Rhodesian Ridgeback

Issue: Gait Irregularities, Nervous, Anxious, Shy Of Being Handled

Discipline: Show Dog & Pet

A friend recommended Natalie to me as someone who might be able to help Bethra, my three year old Rhodesian Ridgeback.

Bethra did not have one specific problem but **had suffered several injuries as a result of going everywhere at top speed no matter how hard we tried to slow her down or wear her out.**

She had also **become nervous** of being handled by strangers, due in part to a thoughtless show judge.

I took Bethra to Natalie with an open mind but in truth was not sure how she could actually change Bethra's approach to life.

The first treatment resulted in her being generally calmer and more content. Natalie had found quite a lot of stiffness throughout the body and with the muscles worked loose Bethra seemed more settled.

After the second treatment she seemed almost serene and so much happier. Following her third and final treatment she has become a different dog - she wants to talk to people, her movement has improved, she no longer displays manic behaviour and she no longer charges everywhere. She is a joy to own and no longer hard work to live with, instead she is balanced and settled, which means in turn she is more responsive to us and our other dogs, who no longer dread her bounding towards them!

Since starting her treatment Bethra has been to two championship shows. At both she has behaved wonderfully, happy to sit by our feet, talk to people and other dogs, **stood like a statue to be gone over and moved out well.**

We were thrilled at just this but at both shows she was placed and at the second one she was awarded the **reserve challenge certificate**, as the saying goes it was the icing on the cake! Her show success aside I am so grateful to Natalie for being kind and patient with both Bethra and I. I can't fully describe the difference in **Bethra except to say that she no longer seems uncomfortable, and so is happier and more content**, which I think is all any of us ever want for our animals. Would I recommend Natalie? In a flash and I would happily take any of my other dogs in the future. Thank you Natalie.

Best wishes

Helen and of course Bethra, Malvern Hills



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Name: Humphrey

Breed: Pointer

Issue: Unable to walk properly, unable to get out of bed, in constant pain, screaming in pain (mainly due to spasms), not going for walks, unable to get in and out of car

Pet Dog

I got in touch with Natalie in a moment of sheer desperation. My beloved pointer, Humphrey, who was a wedding present from my husband, was **starting to show signs of age and seemed in particular pain when getting out of bed**. It broke my heart each time he **shrieked in agony** when he dozily clambered out of bed. There were other signs that I had grown accustomed to such as **not wanting to jump into the boot of my car, not galloping off on walks as he always used to and generally not holding himself as well**.



Now I had tried various therapies. I had taken Humphs to chiropractors, vets, and basically anyone that was recommended to me, all to no avail. Eventually, I was told that a chiropractor suspected his spine was riddled with arthritis. This really upset me because Humphs lives to exercise, he loves the thrill of the chase and galloping for miles and the thought of his life without these pleasures just seemed unbearable. I contacted the vet and we sedated Humphs to x-ray his spine and it came out completely clear, there was no sign of arthritis. At this I was given a new energy to resolve whatever was the problem and it was at this time that Natalie was recommended to me.

Even though it meant driving an hour to reach Natalie, she was so highly recommended that we booked an appointment straight away.

Poor old Humphs has seen so many back people that prod at his back that he has learnt to stand there with his tail clamped between his legs, shivering and looking thoroughly miserable. **Natalie had a totally different approach**. First Humphs was released from his lead and collar and given all sorts of delicious treats (he's a bit of a fussy eater and wouldn't normally take treats from anyone but family but Natalie was the exception). Natalie coaxed him onto her cosy big bed and within minutes **Humphs was totally relaxed and thoroughly enjoying this treatment, flat out in cosy heaven**. As Natalie worked on him she and I chatted on endlessly and the hour treatment seemed to fly by.

Natalie gave me instructions for how to feed and exercise over the next few days so as to allow the toxins to make their way out of Humph's body. I was fascinated because this sort of advice is common in the horse world but I've never come across it in the dog world.

Natalie has a brilliant work ethos and I really trust her to give the best advice possible. I was impressed that within 3 sessions Natalie had fixed Humphs.

He **now hasn't squeaked on getting out of bed since his first visit to Natalie, he gallops faster and more furiously than our 10 month old pointer puppy and yesterday, when my back was turned, he jumped into the boot of my parents-in-law's Land Rover, without even a hint of pain**. My only sadness is that our visits are over and Humphs and I both enjoyed our visits to Natalie - he for the scrumptious treats, training, ultimate relaxation and above all else healing and me for the good old natter and advice.

Natalie is the best thing to have happened in Humphrey's life and if he seemed in the slightest bit of pain, she would be my first port of call. I cannot recommend her highly enough to anyone that wants a pain-free and happy dog.

With Love

Kate Berkley
Berkley & Spetchley Estates
Gloucestershire

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Name: Molly

Breed: Golden Retriever

Issue: Arthritis, Off Back Legs

Twelve months or so ago, my twelve year old Golden Retriever, Molly began to limp and hobble quite considerably and caused me great concern. I even thought to myself 'I can't see her spend the rest of her life like this, am I going to have to make a decision fairly soon?'

I spent many an hour searching the internet for natural remedies. Glucosimine seemed to be the most popular one and looking into the very expensive named products it seemed to be the main constituent. I tried one but it didn't really make a great deal of difference but didn't cause her any more stomach problems so kept that going for a while.

Some months before I had seen an advertisement Natalie's Canine Massage service. I dismissed it at the time as I thought it was rather over indulgent and wouldn't be of any benefit.

However, this advert came back in my mind while searching the internet one night. I thought well I enjoy a massage and it makes me feel good so why shouldn't it make my dog feel good? I couldn't remember Natalie's full name or even the name of her service so I just entered 'Canine Massage' into Google and lo and behold there she was.

I made an appointment and Natalie arrived and asked me about Molly's lifestyle, eating habits, general health etc and I was very impressed with her professional manner.

Then she began massaging Molly. Molly was a little anxious at first as she but she soon settled into it. The massage lasted the best part of an hour and Natalie massaged her from the tip of her nose to the tip of her tail!

Natalie told me to let her take it easy for the rest of the day and take her for a short walk the following day. This I did and **the difference was remarkable. She walked just like a retriever should, not dragging her back legs at all. The day after we did our normal walk and the day after that I just kept walking and she could have gone all day.**

I booked one more appointment for her and Natalie saw how much she had improved and told me to get in touch again if there was any more stiffness.

We then had no more recurrence of her arthritis symptoms.

I was very impressed with the service and have told many people about Natalie since.

I was very sceptical and was almost embarrassed at first and didn't like to tell anyone about me booking a massage for my dog - I was worried that would just think I had more money than sense!

But, for the cost of an appointment at the vets, Molly was able to walk normally and was back to enjoying life.

Sadly, this August I lost my gorgeous Golden Retriever but this was nothing to do with her arthritis. She had liver cancer and not even Natalie could help me with that.

But Molly had a happy life till the day she died. to sleep. But when I have another dog and he or she should start showing signs of discomfort, I will be on to Natalie like a shot and will continue to recommend her to dog owners I meet.

Marian Winfield, Kidderminster, Worcs



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Name: Haggis

Breed: Lhasa Apso

Issue: Unable to get out of bed, unable to move his neck or back legs properly, screaming in pain

Pet Dog

At 14 years old, Lhasa Apso Haggis was having a tough time of it when his owner Helen Forbes called me. Haggis was refusing to come out of his bed, was unable to move without yelping and every time he attempted to turn his neck he would 'scream' in pain. Having just lost his two other Lhasa friends that he had grown up with since they were all 2 years old, Haggis was also depressed, not wanting anything to do with the rest of the family.

Upon palpation it transpired that Haggis was holding a massive spasm in his neck, which was not only painful down the whole of his back but was holding his neck in such a position he was unable to make the 'drop' necessary to move his back legs.

After on treatment, the results were dramatic to say the least, Helen said, "Haggis slept for a couple of hours after Natalie left and woke up a different dog! I never expected the results we got from just one treatment! Haggis is now running around the house like a puppy! He's back to investigating whats going on, playing with the kids and even keeps trying to get 'amorous' shall we say with the cat!!! I haven't seen him like this since he was a pup, it really is fantastic. Whenever Natalie comes round to see Haggis he runs down the drive to her and stretches himself out to be massaged before she even gets chance to get in the house! So many people have commented on the 'new and improved' Haggis, its great to have our little lad back again.



Thanks Natalie

Helen Luke, West Midlands

Name: Merlin

Breed: German Shepherd

Issue: Stiff, Off Back Legs, Fluid Retention

At eight years old, Merlin had been suffering increasingly bad health.. He had started to retain fluid and was becoming increasingly uncomfortable in his movements.

Having spent much time in the Vet's company, Merlin also suffered from 'White Coat Syndrome' and became quite distressed whenever he thought he was having treatment. Natalie's methods and calming approach helped to soothe him and he was soon able to undergo treatment. She was also able to give us very real advice about Merlin's general care which has proved most effective.



He was very tired immediately after the first treatment and slept quietly for the rest of the day. There was, however, a marked improvement the following morning. He found it easier to get up from a lying position and his walking was more fluid and less 'wooden'. This improvement continued throughout the next week until his next treatment after which there was further improvement.

Merlin had four treatments at weekly intervals and each session saw an improvement in his general well-being. He is a much happier dog who is less pre-occupied with his ailments and more able to enjoy life. Currently, he is receiving treatments once a month to support and maintain his improvement.

We met Natalie by chance but were impressed with what she had to say to us and to Merlin. We have been delighted with the relief that she brought Merlin and would thoroughly recommend her treatments to any dog owner who has any concerns over their dog's general or specific mobility issues.

Sincerely,

Simon Rodway, Worcestershire

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Name: Rosie
Breed: Golden Retriever
Issue: Cruciate Ligament

Our 7 year old retriever "Rosie" was introduced to Natalie during a periodic visit to my parents home in Kidderminster. At that time (mid 2007) she was showing signs of "bunny hopping" and general problems with her gait. (These were eventually traced to a detached cruciate ligament and corrected by veterinary surgery).

Both before and after the advised operation a course of 5 full body massages helped considerably with her wellbeing and recovery.

These were carried out with skill and dedication from Natalie and contributed to a full and very speedy recovery. The rapport between them was excellent with Rosie's welcome on seeing her quite something.

I have no doubt that Rosies recuperation has benefitted incredibly from Natalies treatment with even the vet remarking on how well she recovered from her operation, how quickly she started weight bearing again and a marked lack of any lameness or limping made us realise how beneficial Rosies massage treatments had been.

I would recommend consideration of Natalie's talents with every confidence that a benefit will ensue for the dog concerned. Rosie will continue to wait for Natalie at my parents door every time she visits Kidderminster!

Suzie & David Normanton
St Albans



After the first session, unbelievably, Olly stopped mounting visitors to the house, he stopped jumping up and by the following Friday I had taught him Sit, Stay, Come and Lie Down. He stopped limping and is now walking normally after getting over a road traffic accident he was involved in. I cant believe the difference a massage makes!

Nicky Davies with Olly, West Midlands

Weimerarner

9 months



The following day after each massage, he ran a lot more freely and could make very tight turns. After the second session I noticed a drastic improvement in his speed and a noticeable ease of movement when he trotted and ran. Now his gait has improved and he has got a real lick on in the agility ring!

Fudge - Agility Champion

1st Place at Crufts Mini Circular Knockout 2006 and 1st Place at Crufts Mini Pairs 2005 & 2006 and 3rd place overall at the Kennel Club International Agility Show Peterborough 2006

Dawn Wood & Fudge, Sheltie, Worcs

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The next day I came downstairs to a 9 month old pup rather than a 9 year old dog! Murdoch was feeling gooooood! He was bouncing around and play bowing and barking with his eyes bright and he was raring to go. It was a joy to see his old spark back and I could hardly believe the transformation. A week later my 9 year old took Best of Breed at Richmond Championship Show and was short listed by the group judge! This was his 39th Challenge Certificate and he looked almost a fresh as he did for his first.

Kath Griffin with Murdoch, 9 yrs
Irish Red & White Setter
Best Of Breed at Richmond 2007
Shropshire



In the show ring Max is much more focused, less easily distracted and isn't fidgeting on the stand - he has become like a statue when the judge examines him and is standing perfectly square effortlessly! His trot around the ring is a lot more fluid and flowing; really beautiful to watch and he has become a lot more relaxed which is just fantastic for a Show Dog

Sean Casey with Max
English Bull Terrier
Reserve Best of Breed Crufts 2006
Worcestershire

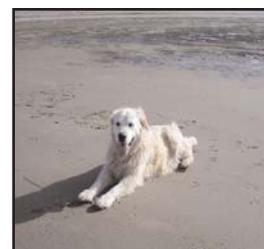


At 14 years old instead of being depressed and hardly able to walk outside to the toilet, Haggis is now running around the house like a puppy! He's back to investigating whats going on, playing with the kids and even keeps trying to get 'amorous' shall we say with the cat!!! I haven't seen him like this since he was a pup, it really is fantastic.

Helen Luke with Haggis
Lhasa Apso
14 yrs
Worcestershire

The difference was remarkable. She walked just like a retriever should, not dragging her back legs at all. The day after we did our normal walk and the day after that I just kept walking and she could have gone all day.

Marion Winfield with Molly
Golden Retriever
9 yrs
Worcestershire



I have been amazed at the difference in Tia following Natalie's treatment. Watching my ex agility dog who had been diagnosed with hip dysplasia struggling to get out of her bed and dragging her paws over the kitchen step was unbelievably devastating. From the first treatment, Tia's has shown amazing results; she has lost her stiffness, has a smoother gait and is now playing with the other dogs doing what dogs do. She has regained her enthusiasm on going

for walks and loves to run (yes run!) with the rest of her 'pack'. Thank You SO much Natalie!

Gill Hinton with Tia, Shropshire
German Shepherd
4 years