



**Case 16: Spinal symptoms thoraco-lumbar vertebrae damage** publication date: Aug 8, 2008

[Previous](#) | [Next](#)  
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**Blue, Male (n) Whippet, 21/06/97.  
Hindhead Road, Haslemere, Surrey.**

**07/12/06 ; Seen by Mr Chris Serjeant, Vet; Spinal symptoms and pain over left shoulder, hunched up, and resting nose on ground, previous history of intervertebral disc disease, controlled with rimadyl (carprofen).**

**08/12/06 ; sedate to x-ray, thoraco- lumbar vertebrae dorsal wings damaged, no evidence of abnormality with shoulder. Onto pentazocine 25mg qid.**

**09/12/06 ; Very bad, arched over, nose on ground, hackles up over lumbar area.  
Given dexadreson steroid anti-inflammatory, and advise coat to wear and blanket when in bed to try and prevent spasms in muscles.**

**11/12/06 ; Improved, prescribed MSR (slow release morphine) 10mg 2 bid, further dexadreson.**

DATE	SESSION NUMBER	SPEED (k/h)	DURATION (MINUTES)	NOTES
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03/01/07	1	2.4 2.6 2.8 2.6	2 6 (spine levelled) 4 (spine levelled ) 2	Very arched spine, severe muscle atrophy over left scapula (spinous process visible) and also lame left fore. Advised add chicken or egg to diet to increase protein levels to try and repair muscle loss faster.
05/01/07	2	2.4 2.6 2.8	2 4 6	
08/01/07	3	2.6 2.8 2.6	3 6 3	Different dog today! Very lively and happy.
11/01/07	4	2.4 2.6 2.4	4 6 2	Down and depressed today again.
18/01/07	5	2.8 3.0 3.2	3 3 6	Much brighter again, slight increase in muscle mass over left scapula.
22/01/07	6	2.8 3.0 3.2	3 3 6	
24/01/07	7	3.0 3.2 3.4	3 5 2	Morphine reduced to 1 bid Complete attitude change! Very bright and friendly, wagging tail.
26/01/07	8	3.0 3.2 3.4	2 4 4	
29/01/07	9	3.6 3.4 3.2	3 5 3	
31/01/07	10	4.8 3.4	5 (controlled trot) 5	Much more muscle development, attempting controlled trotting to see if Blue can cope with joint and neck jarring, rather than just allowing off lead and him going mad at full speed!

02/02/07	11	4.8 5.0 3.4	2.5 3.5 5	Chris Serjeant, Vet, advised reducing Morphine to ½ 10mg bid.
05/02/07	12	5.0 5.4 5.8 3.6	2 3 4 3	Alternating between fast trot and fast walk to work different areas of muscles, fast trot works well for supra spinous muscle (anterior).
07/02/07	13	5.2 5.6 6.0 3.6	2 3 3 4	
09/02/07	14	5.4 5.6 5.8	3.5 5 3.5	Very, very keen today! Muscles filling out, owner to try off lead and free running.
12/02/07	15	5.4 5.6 5.8	4 6 3	Has been exercised off lead with other dog over weekend, and then lead walks also, NO problems detected.
15/02/07	16	5.4 5.6 5.8	3 7 3	
22/02/07	17	5.4 5.6 5.8	3 7 3	Vet check, doing very well, advised stop treadmill sessions, continue morphine at ½ dose ie ¼ 10mg tablet bid, and keep rimadyl in reserve, restart treadmill if spine hunches again.

**23/06/07; Check up, Blue is continuing to do well, and is exercising off lead, with no problems, He is maintaining on ½ a morphine 10mg daily, and the owner will continue to monitor for any changes.**

&nbsp; [Previous](#) | [Next](#)

&nbsp; [Back to top](#)