

## Life in the Old Dog Yet!

About two years ago our Labrador Willow, who has suffered for a very long time with arthritis, had got to the stage when he could only just walk out into the garden. We took him to the vet who really did not know what else he could give him; we thought it was just a matter of time before the pain got too bad for him.



movement in his legs at this stage and he started off at about three one minute sessions which seemed a very short time. But after four sessions Willow was certainly up and about more and

walking much further than before. After eight sessions he was back to walking around a field.

Hydrotherapy is a treatment in a heated, sanitized pool that uses the properties of water to rehabilitate and improve an animal's function. Dogs that are suffering from a medical condition or have had surgery benefit greatly from hydrotherapy, as it allows the animal to exercise in a non weight-bearing environment. This relieves pressure on joints, reducing pain and encouraging movement. The vet has been very impressed with Willow's progress. When we took him for his annual check-up last November the vet said he had not expected to see Willow again - so we wonder what he will say when we take Willow this year!

**Julie Hemming**

### Woozlebears

But while waiting to go into the consultation we picked up a leaflet for Woozlebears Hydrotherapy in Witney. We asked the vet about this and he said he had heard good reports about it and said it might be worth a try, but did not hold out much hope that it would help Willow. So the following day we booked our first appointment and took Willow 'swimming'. He has always enjoyed the water but going into a swimming pool was a bit of a strange experience and he shook from head to toe. Wearing a lovely pink and black lifejacket he entered the pool and started to swim up and down in figures of eight. There was little

## Your Bin Collection Date

The latest waste collection calendars, providing details of bin collection dates for West Oxfordshire over the next year are available to view on the District Council's website, [www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) Residents can see the relevant waste collection dates for their property by simply entering their postcode in the 'My West Oxfordshire' search on the website.

You can also sign up for weekly email alerts of collection dates, including which bins to put out that week. Paper copies are also available and can be picked up from the District Council's Elmfield offices in Witney, the Town Centre Shop in Witney, the Guildhall Chipping Norton and from Carterton Town Hall, or alternatively by calling: 01993 861000.