

To Whom It May Concern:

**RE: KAYE HANNAN - EQUINE MASSAGE THERAPIST**

On 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2003 my 12 yr old 15.3 hand thoroughbred 'Willy' did the splits in the mud, rupturing the superficial and deep pectoral muscles in the offside of his chest right through, from the centre of the chest to the point of the elbow. The gaping hole left from the injury was deep enough to take a tennis ball.

The vet, who did the initial consultation, told us that this was the worst case he had seen in his career, that chances of any kind of recovery were very slim. With the severity of the ruptured muscles and the major nerve damaged that had occurred down his chest, he doubted if the horse would make any kind of a recovery that would see him rideable. But Willy was fit, healthy and I couldn't give up on him.

The Vet prescribed stable confinement for a week. Then 'restricted movement orders' for 6 months - This consisted of 4 weeks of being allowed to wander the extent of his yard then 8 weeks being turned out into a flat paddock for a few hours a day. At 12 weeks he began being lead around the arena for 5 minutes - gradually building up the time to 15 minutes before he could be turned out into a soft hilly paddock to try and work some of the muscles that were obviously deteriorating. At this point he was extremely lame.

In September, 2003 I had a myoneural therapist do some work on him. He loosened some muscles and started a rehab program that involved leading Willy around the arena and up and down some soft hills with a couple of mild stretching exercises, but by December I needed him back again because although Willy's initial injury was slowly healing - his movement wasn't right.

In January 2004, the regular vet visit was not very encouraging. Willy's movement in the injured shoulder was very short and the stride in the near side hind had shortened as well. The vet had me lead him out in a straight line and trot him back toward him. He could barely raise a trot. When he did it was contorted like a crab. The vet advised that after this length of time, the ruptured muscles had almost regenerated, but the major nerve damaged across his chest never would. His pelvis is sore - this was a compensation issue caused by the initial injury. The hoof on the injured leg was severely contracted due to a lack of weight bearing - it was at least a full size (if not more) smaller than that good leg's hoof which was spreading from the extra weight it was carrying. His advice to me - "He's about as good as he's going to get".

Then Kaye came and changed everything.

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> Kaye had her initial consultation with Willy - and it blew me away.

She spent some time getting to know him. Informing me the whole time what she was doing, how she was working. She established Willy was suffering from a pelvic tilt, which was creating a twist when he walked and causing him chronic pain. Explained how he had compensated for the injury for so long that what is now crooked - to him feels straight. She showed me down his spine was straight to his hips then it twisted. I knew after that initial consultation that Kaye was the one who could help Willy's recovery.

Regarding the contracted hoof, she suggested a magnetic boot, and gave me some exercises for it. (Kaye had submitted a document on contracture as part of her university course, which we were able to use). We saw an improvement in the size of the hoof within 3-4 weeks. She also noticed the inside of the near side hind was growing more vertical because Willy is standing crooked, she gave me some suggestions to put to his farrier to affect the weight bearing of the hoof, which has also seen improvement.

The work Kaye has done with Willy has made a huge improvement to him. She is gradually straightening his pelvis and the twist in his near side hind is now minimal. I can feel the improvements in him with each set of exercises she leaves me with. He is happier in his whole way of going, his attitude and his demeanour. He is looking the best he has looked since the accident.

I see improvement in him every day, regardless of what the Vet said, there is no doubt in my mind that with Kaye's help and guidance I will be able to ride him again.

She has given me a way to spend time with him, to rub the sore bits and relax the tired muscles so that when I can ride him again I will still be able to continue to do. To be able to give back to him something more than just a 'good boy' and a pat or a carrot can do. She has opened up a world of alternate therapies and natural healing. Willy loves his aromatherapy oils when Kaye comes!

I write this referral with the greatest of admiration and appreciation for Kaye.

I cannot recommend her highly enough or thank her enough for everything she has done for us.

Sue Campbell  
April, 2004