

Lula Bell

Lula Bell, my precious toy poodle, has brought me great joy and also comfort during a terrible time of loss and grief. At times she seems more like my child than my pet dog.

Last February she fell from a counter where I had placed her in a moment of carelessness. She landed on a hard wooden floor, yelping in pain. I was horrified and immediately grabbed her and drove to the Emergency Animal Clinic in Boone. The vet checked her and said nothing was broken and she appeared none the worse for wear.

A few days later I noticed that Lula Bell's little head was tilted to the right side and she couldn't hold it straight. It was difficult for her to run around and jump up on the sofa. Her personality changed and she no longer danced with me on her hind legs. I was heart broken and wracked with guilt.

A trip to her regular vet offered little hope. I was told Lulu Bell needed chiropractic adjustments but that she could not perform these adjustments. Fortunately we were referred to Dr. Maggie Federhart at Whispering Waters Animal Clinic. I remember that first visit to the clinic. There was no examining room with a cold steel table. Instead, we were seated in a living room complete with a large overstuffed couch and a massive wooden table. A parrot, who was still grieving the death of her owner, perched in a large cage in front of the window. Plants flourished in pots and containers all around the room. Various cats and dogs, some of them there for foster care, casually strolled around, going in and out through the pet door.

Lulu Bell and I sat miserably in a chair; she with her tiny head cocked crazily to one side and me almost in tears. Dr. Federhart came in all brisk and competent and got right down to business. She quickly identified the "wing" in Lulu Bell's neck that had been dislocated due to the fall. Then she assured me it could be treated with acupuncture, laser treatments, and chiropractic adjustments.

It was a long slow process that took many weeks, but Lulu Bell was patient, I was hopeful, and Dr. Federhart was confident. Over the next few months Lulu Bell's little head gradually began to straighten and by April she was looking directly ahead once more. Even better, her sweet, happy personality returned and she was dancing with me again on her dainty hind legs.

Words cannot express my gratitude to Dr. Federhart for giving my precious poodle's normal life back to her. I am a great believer in her holistic method of treating animals, even the "hopeless" cases. Lulu Bell and I thank you Dr. Federhart!

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