

## Breckon bounces back to health thanks to herbal treatments

Breckon, a six year-old Welsh Springer Spaniel, has regained his zest for life after his owner resorted to herbal veterinary treatments to cure her pet's long-term anxiety and a chronic skin condition.



Evelyn Arthur took Breckon to her vet at Ashbank Veterinary Centre in Laurieston, Falkirk, where Partner Robert Wallace, who runs The Herbal Vet Company ([www.theherbalvetcompany.com](http://www.theherbalvetcompany.com)), is one of the few vets in the country to use complementary medicine alongside conventional treatments.

Mrs Arthur said: "Breckon was a nervy dog, but most of all we were in despair about his paws which he kept chewing, so much so that the hair had been bitten off each one. He was obviously in some distress and as nothing else had helped, we decided to try herbal treatments."

Vet Mr Wallace, who also runs practices in Bo'ness and Kilsyth, prescribed a herbal paw spray, cream and a skin tonic to soothe and protect the animal's itchy and damaged skin as well as a nervine tonic to combat anxiety.

"Breckon was put on a course of herbal-based treatments and over a few months he became a different dog. His skin improved and his hair grew back, but more than that, he became a much more confident and less nervy dog. His owner is delighted with his progress and Breckon also seems a lot happier in himself," he explained.

Mr Wallace now regularly receives referrals from vets throughout the region who are keen to find more natural solutions to pet health problems or to treat more long-term chronic conditions that have been unresponsive to conventional medicine. As well as his Herbal Vet Company, which is mainly Internet based but also accessible to all

clients with dogs, Mr Wallace provides acupuncture and herbal medicine to a growing number of dogs and cats

at a specially converted unit next to his main surgery in Laurieston or in the animal's home.

He said: "I firmly believe in what is often called 'alternative' medicine but what is more accurately termed complementary or integrated medicine because as in human medicine, complementary treatments are rapidly being proved to be extremely effective in veterinary medicine. As well as frequently being better for the animal, herbal medicines can work where conventional medicine has failed, particularly when it comes to treating more intractable long-term chronic conditions such as skin problems, chronic diarrhoea and respiratory problems."

He added: "Using complementary medicines alongside conventional medicines means that we are able to find the most effective and suitable treatment for the animal. It is important however that owners get advice from their vet before starting their animal on any course of treatment."