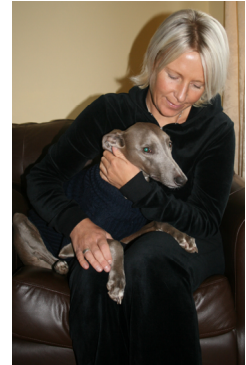


Whippet owners on cloud nine this Christmas

THIS Christmas brings extra blessings for one family as their beloved whippet named Cloud recovers from a third near-fatal accident.

The six year old pedigree's owners are celebrating uneasily however as their pet has had one major accident every year for the past three years. From being lacerated by barbed wire and suffering a punctured lung and broken ribs to being mauled by an aggressive cat, and being at death's door twice, Cloud is very lucky to be alive.

The latest accident happened as Cloud's owner Kirsten Davies was taking her pet out for his daily walk near their home in Hamsterley, County Durham when he disappeared.



"I was frantic as I called and called but he didn't come running back, as he usually would. Minutes later I heard the most awful screaming and saw Cloud entangled in some barbed wire writhing in agony. Blood was coming out of his mouth and it was really horrific," explained Mrs Davies, who has another whippet called Twiglet.

Suffering deep lacerations, the animal, which was then in agony, was rushed to The Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital in Leadgate near Consett.

Mrs Davies said: "We had already almost lost Cloud on the operating table and I was terrified that we could lose him this time, as he had lost so much blood and the cuts from the wire were really deep."

But with prompt treatment, care and a lot of luck, Cloud is again on the road to recovery, and all that remains of his accident are a few scars.

Jacqui Molyneux, Principal Vet at The Prince Bishop Veterinary Hospital, said: "Cloud has got to be one of the luckiest animals we have ever treated. Even though his breed is naturally very energetic and inquisitive, Cloud does seem a lot more accident prone than most. He's a lovely dog but we hope not to be seeing him for anything else other than his check-ups in future!"

Mrs Davies, who has two young children, added: "We're so happy to be celebrating Christmas with Cloud as he's such a character and a real part of the family. We're just hoping that next year does not see him being rushed to the vets for the fourth year in a row."