

Hard as Rock - by Jane Finlayson, Backbone Marketing Ltd



It was November 2004 when Rocky acquired the Mundays as his family. Cindy and Kevin found this young Huntaway X, with a big personality, curled up in one of their sheds. No one claimed him and since Kevin is a stonemason Rocky got a new name and a new home which he shares with Cindy's son Jonathan and Kevin's daughter, Karla.

It is a busy household situated on 3.5 acres between Bombay and Pokeno. Along with Kevin's stonemason and landscaping business there is a café and minigolf course on the property. The Mundays also have a cat, Pebbles, three greyhounds, some chickens and a couple of steers.



Every morning as Kevin set out for work down the long driveway Rocky would accompany him, running in front of the truck. One morning in May 2005, Rocky suddenly turned around and ran under the front wheel of the truck. Kevin heard him yelp and carried him down to Cindy. They rushed him to their local vet (Pukekohe Veterinary Clinic), ringing on the way to make sure someone was available to see him.

Rocky had injuries to all four legs. The left back leg was broken, the right was dislocated. One front leg had a loose toe which had to be amputated and the other front shoulder had damaged ligaments. He took a blow to his forehead from which he still harbours a scar.

Once Rocky had been assessed Cindy and Kevin decided to undertake whatever treatment was necessary to repair his injuries. He

was a young, tough dog and he deserved a chance. So he underwent a couple of operations.

About four weeks after the operations his leg broke again. When he was x-rayed it was discovered that the plate inserted in his leg had broken and he had developed bone infections in both back legs. Dr Currall saw him that day and suggested sending his x-rays to VSG for a second opinion. Cindy recalls "I had previously taken a cat of mine to VSG for a scan so was already familiar with the wonderful work they carry out. In their initial report, VSG indicated that they could "heal" Rocky's injuries (instead of just "repair") and that really impressed me."

Their vets arranged a consultation with Alex Walker straight away. The news was positive so Rocky's operation to repair both back legs and treat the infections was performed that afternoon.

It was a long road to recovery for Rocky, he had many weeks of physiotherapy and Cindy used massage to aid his recovery. However his eyes always remained bright throughout his ordeal and he possessed the personality and stamina to get through it all.

Cindy speaks highly of the VSG team, "All the staff, starting from the receptionists through to the surgeons, nurses and physiotherapist, displayed absolute professionalism. I admire their professional expertise and dedication to their work. I felt part of the team helping Rocky walk and run again."

Cindy also talks of the human touch throughout the process. "The VSG team would suggest ways of boosting Rocky's morale with treats and their cups of coffee for me while I waited were always appreciated. We also received a lot of caring and compassion from everyone at Pukekohe Vets. Don Alexander often took time out to ring me inquiring how Rocky was doing".

Although they were expecting a good recovery for Rocky from the day of the operation at VSG, the Mundays and other people are still amazed at his excellent progress. "Rocky is better than ever now. He runs like a race horse and he is certainly in better condition than we could have envisaged on the day of the accident."

