

an anti-inflammatory and vitamin B injections at strategic acupuncture points to assist his recovery. He wakes up quickly after his procedure and within an hour is looking bright.

It's nearly lunchtime and I quickly squeeze in replying to some e-mails and returning calls to clients. At lunch I race off to the gym for a quick work out. I normally go after work, but tonight I have a massage booked that I've been looking forward to for weeks.

I arrive back to see Karen with Roxi, a gorgeous little bichon who came to us three weeks ago after being diagnosed with a disc prolapse and paralysis of her hind legs by two other vets. Roxi underwent several sessions of acupuncture, had some Chinese herbs and sessions in our hyperbaric chamber and was standing within a few days. It's so lovely to see her walking around and happy!

The afternoon is full of animals booked in for NIS (Neurological Integration System), a therapy derived from applied kinesiology and osteopathy which I have found to be incredibly helpful for an array of health problems. I work with Kim, who



ABOVE: Liza in surgery;
THIS PHOTO: A fledgling
is given food

is a human practitioner but she helps me with animals one afternoon a week.

The afternoon flows on and finally we have Zak's lab results which indicate hugely elevated muscle enzymes which may indicate trauma, heat stress or poisoning but nothing else to go on. By now, Zak has also had a treatment in our hyperbaric chamber, his head tremors

have stopped and he seems to be more responsive. I speak to his owner and offer Zak overnight hospitalisation or the option of taking him home. We're pleased that she'd prefer the latter – most of our clients are very responsible and adore their animals, they often elect to monitor their pets overnight and ring us if problems arise. I warn that he could

have more fits and dispense some meds just in case.

Pepe is discharged but insists on being carried to his owner rather than walk. Moments before he'd been out for a walk with Louby and happily trotted along wagging his tail. We figured that Pepe would be milking his owners' sympathy for everything that he could.

I love being on call but tonight I'm overjoyed to give the responsibility to Karen and head off to my long-awaited massage at the home of my massage therapist. As I drive onto her property, I see Abby the Labrador scooting her butt along the ground as a special greeting just for me – 'Yay vet, you're finally here, my butt needs your help!'. I get out a rubber glove and some KY jelly, squeeze her full anal glands, wash up and finally lie down to my wonderful relaxing massage and restful evening.

Back at work the next day, our first patient is Zak. After a sad day with Zen and the penguin yesterday, Louby is reluctant to come out of the staffroom, dreading further issues with Zak. As Zak's owner pulls into the car park, I walk out to meet them expecting to need to carry Zak in but before I get to the car, Zak has jumped out and is running toward reception, eyes bright and tail wagging.

It's a great start to the day – successes like this make this job so worthwhile. **F**