

Kiss of life saves Charlie the Westie

Nov 6 2009 Annabel Mottram

A Hednesford terrier defied death and endured an extraordinary rescue effort, after a harrowing hit on the road that saw the mutt dragged beneath a moving car.

In the fight to save Charlie the West Highland Terrier's life last Sunday, he was given mouth-to-nose resuscitation twice and rushed for life-saving treatment in a specially adapted animal ambulance on its way to St George's Veterinary Hospital, Wolverhampton.

Animals at Home franchisee, Jim Sutton rushed to the scene in his distinctive emergency vehicle, after quick-thinking onlookers called for help.

Owner of the plucky dog, Logan Easy, from Littleworth Road, said: "My wife was walking Charlie in nearby Longacres just after 6pm and stepped out between a parked car when a vehicle appeared from nowhere. She managed to save herself, and escaped with just a gashed hand - but Charlie wasn't so lucky.

"Barbara tried to pull him back on the extendable lead but he was struck and dragged several yards."

Mrs Easy rushed home sure that her pet was dead, but when her husband returned to the scene he discovered that miraculously seven-year-old Charlie was still breathing.

He sought over-the-phone advice from trained animal first-aider Jim as he battled to reach the accident.

Jim said: "I could hear the animal rasping for breath in the background during the phone call, and indicated for it to be kept warm. On arrival I stretchered the victim to the ambulance, but at that point he almost stopped breathing altogether."

Jim knew there was only one thing for it. He gave Charlie the kiss of life and a cardiac massage to revive him. "He was resuscitated, and wasn't bleeding excessively but was in a bad way. I knew we had to get him to hospital, and fast," added Jim.

With Jim behind the wheel, the responsibility of keeping Charlie alive for the journey fell to the owners.

Logan said: "Jim was talking to me the whole time, telling me how I'd have to perform the same first-aid procedure he had if Charlie stopped breathing again - and that's what I did. At the time the most important thing was to save our pet."

After the second successful resuscitation, Charlie was safely delivered into the capable hands of the St George's vets and is now on the road to recovery.