



There's life in the old dog yet. . .

A GREAT many elderly West country dogs are feeling a lot happier and healthier thanks to Mr Michael Brookman, the herbalist from Winscombe in Somerset.

Back in the autumn, the Western Daily Press invited readers to nominate their elderly dogs for a trial of Mr Brookman's herbal mixture, which he had specially formulated to help dogs with skin and digestive problems, arthritis, lack of energy and all the other ailments of old age.

He was flooded with volunteer dogs for the trial. He wanted 30 and 150 dog owners wrote in: those who were not selected for the free trial mostly tried the tonic anyway.

The owners were asked to try the tonic out daily for three months, and give monthly reports on their dogs' progress.

"The results have been amazing," says Mr Brookman. "Every dog which has been given the tonic has shown an improvement of some kind. One or two results have been spectacular, with the owner reporting that the dog has a new lease of life."

The most notable change has been in levels of energy. "She behaves as she did when she was half her age," reported the Portishead owner of an 11-year-old terrier.

The other big improvement was in skin condition. Several owners said that all skin problems had cleared up and that the dogs' coats were in much better condition, so much so that neighbours remarked on it. Bald patches have grown again, and eczema problems diminished right from the beginning of the trial.

The dogs' appetites have improved too. "Eats everything that is put on his plate" and "enormous appetite" said owners.

Secret

One highly nervous dog was able to come off Valium as a result of the tonic!

"The dogs suffering from rheumatism and arthritis, have shown some slight improvement, in that they find walking less of an effort, but I think they need to be taking the tonic for a much longer period before there is marked change, because the effects of the tonic are cumulative," says Mr Brookman.

He is delighted with the response to the trial, and is now going ahead with marketing his tonic, which he has named the Essential Herbal Dog Tonic and Conditioner, nationwide. He also plans to sell it in America.

The ingredients are still secret — but quite a few of the dog owners would like to know what they are. "They said to me: if you can do this for my dog, what can you do for me?" laughs Mr Brookman, who most of the time treats humans at his surgery and healing centre.

Now the Press has a new challenge for him. A reader has written in asking if Mr Brookman can help a pigeon with nerve trouble.

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