

## Rory's story Part 1

I first met Rory when he came to stay with me for the weekend while his owner went away. Rory had recently had surgery to remove his left hind splint bone following an accident in a trailer. He also had a very large soft swelling on his hock on the same leg.

I could see there was a lot more going on in Rory's body too. He had a lack of back muscle, his pelvis tilted permanently out behind him causing a prominent bump in his Sacroiliac-region. His weight was very much over his front legs with bracing through his neck, poll and jaw. He was generally very stiff and cautious in his movement.

Rory went home after his short box resting stay with me. He was then reassessed by vets who drained the soft swelling on his hock and were happy for him to return to ridden work. His owner decided that riding him with his body in its current state wasn't the best option so asked me to help with his rehabilitation ground work.

When Rory came for his first session/assessment how he looked during his stay with me was confirmed in his movement. He was extremely unbalanced, earthbound and disconnected. His head carriage was low, he used speed to move and carried his tail very much to the left.

My starting point was to try to unlock his front end and improve his balance and coordination. We started with two exercises and the use of balance pads. His owner continued with these at home and over the next three weeks we used these and other exercises to help him.

The results have been amazing, he is a very clever horse who has learned the exercises quickly but he really wasn't aware of what his body can do. His owner reports he can now roll completely over in the field, she had not seen this prior to starting this work. She also reports he is easier to handle and has more body and spatial awareness. Rory is also now testing what his body can do by having a play in the field once turned out, something he also has never done.

The pictures below are from week 1 to week 4 and show clearly how his body has changed and is starting to develop. Watch out for more on Rory's progress.



Week 1



Week 4