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## Merlin –I too can jump puddles

In 1955 polio sufferer Alan Marshall penned the novel "I can jump puddles". His amazing and heartrending tale is of an inspirational life in the face of adversity. It serves as a reminder that one person can overcome huge, almost insurmountable obstacles with the right attitude and positive thinking. While he will never be able to read the book little Merlin is well on the way to rewriting it.



Tuesday saw the much awaited removal of Merlin's cast and to our thorough relief all signs of the bone ravaged infection were gone. A new cast was put in place and his time at the vet's almost complete. Almost that is, as alas for poor Merlin we made the most of the opportunity and had him castrated at the same time. It will now be another three weeks of plastic bag duty until his cast is removed for good.



In the wake of Sunday's most welcomed rain Merlin and his buddies, Wesley and Bo, are today enjoying gambolling about their pen jumping puddles and making my heart race. The sight of the "lady with the hat", bottles in hand brings them all to a "baaing" halt. The meek Merlin waiting patiently until his boisterous buddies have had their bottle, he quietly stands looking at the dogs tearing about. When it comes to his turn he obligingly grasps the syringe in his mouth as I deliver its milky contents. Merlin has become most adept at this and looks pleadingly from me to the syringe and back as I quickly refill it.

"Hey doogies, stop chasing the horses" I call as my dear little pom pom lamb looks longingly into my eyes as I hear him whisper "I would never chase after anything, except of course you..."



There is something so special about sheep that only those of us privileged to work with them, devoid of any financial interest, ever get to know. It is my sincere hope that through the tales of Merlin and others of his kind I have been able to take you by the heart and enter the inner sanctum that is a sheep's world. And in doing so you may gain some insight into why I do what I do...

*“If we could live happy and healthy lives without harming others...why wouldn't we?”*