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when testing CV247 that he resigned his post and joined John Carter in his shamolic Harrow surgery, attempting to collate the information needed to get the drug licensed by the very frosty drugs industry.

After John's unexpected death, Andor took the CV247 back to his country of origin, Hungary, where he continued with trials and applications to move the drug closer to being widely available for animal and human use. Thanks to his pioneering work, any vet in the UK can now use it. And some GPs are able to prescribe it, too.

"Why was progress so slow?" I hear you ask.

Small beginnings
Well, CV247 wasn't owned and developed by a massive pharmaceutical company. There are very few drugs that ever get invented by 'normal' people. People have only ever heard about CV247 through word of mouth, and our magazine has traditionally been the place where dog owners turn for updates.

And that word of mouth had reached all the way to Matthew in Massachusetts!

At this stage, I didn't even know if you could even get CV247 in the United States. But Matthew was determined to give Bin the chance of some quality extra time, so I made some enquiries and he did, too.

"I called experts in Hungary, the United States and in the UK," Matthew told me.

"I ended up communicating with vet Nick Thompson and my prayers were answered. Nick helped my family focus on Bin and enjoy every day we had with her.

"I looked forward to speaking with Nick every three months on Bin's miraculous health and the benefits of using CV247.

"In August, sadly, she started to take minor steps back and yesterday she decided that her body could no longer keep up. It was heartbreaking and a day we all knew was inevitable, but nonetheless something you are never able to prepare for.

"From the months

between diagnosis and her passing, most days for Bin were better than she had been prior to being sick. She was a spunky and happy girl.

"Bin had, against all the odds, given us seven happy, healthy extra months before it was time to say goodbye.

"Fellow Beardie owners sent condolences from all around the world.

"We were a gift to each other. Bin left us with great memories and lots of love."

Matthew told me later that hearing about CV247 had given them hope, saying, "My family and I refer to it as the miracle medicine."

When I was making enquiries for Matthew, I stumbled on more CV247 news. There are one or two young academics rediscovering CV247 and writing doctorates on its use – and a new application of using it together with chemo to help protect the body from the ravages of this treatment.

There is renewed interest from those involved in human as well as veterinary medicine – a real buzz for the brilliant legacy left behind by the eccentric genius of the late, great John Carter.

In the next few months I hope to bring you more CV247 news and talk to the scientists that are now working with it. If your vet would be interested in using this method, it will hopefully be much easier to obtain. The drugs are now in tablet form; they used to be liquid in my day.

I recently spoke to someone else for whom CV247 has made a lasting impression.

Hamish Monro is a sustainable farmer in Sussex, the son of a doctor. The family's Labrador, Rosie, had started showing distress at 14.

"She kept trying to gag"

said Hamish. "And we realised she'd started to become less keen to wander around the farm and had suddenly started to look like a really old dog."

Hamish's wife took Rosie to the vet and the family had a very ominous feeling.

The vet soon found the problem: there was a growth the size of a golf ball under Rosie's tongue at the back.

Due to her age, the vet wasn't keen on trying anything invasive, but suggested CV247 which he'd had success with on another patient.

"Within a week to 10 days, I noticed a change," said Hamish.

A better life

"She stopped gagging and was much perkier. She was travelling further afield around the farm again – she was totally transformed.

"The tumour shrank to half the size. I'm a sheep farmer! I look at practicalities – I know a healthy animal when I see one: their eyes are bright, their head is up. Rosie was transformed after CV247.

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not all – there are no guarantees. But we got more than nine months' extra quality time with her.

"She was nearly 16 when she died and she was ready to go. We only had to

give two tablets a day – it wasn't invasive, it was easy.

"I think this is potentially very exciting for human use, too. The quality of life improvement for Rosie was really noticeable. After CV247, she started enjoying life again and went very much further on her rambles than she had ventured for years before.

"Having seen what it did for Rosie, I'd be tempted to try it, if I ever needed to – it's such a shame it isn't yet more widely known about." *

If you have a CV247 story, past or present, do get in touch and share them with me. Email beverley@dogstodaymagazine.co.uk and put 'CV247' in the subject line.