

## CHAPTER 12

# *A True Champion*

Spring came around again. In March, Mrs. Macphee noticed that Scottie-Robbie had begun to limp. His right hind leg was not working properly. He didn't complain about it himself, but he had a harder time keeping up with Mandy's energetic romps and squirrel chasing. Mrs. Macphee made a ramp for him from an old ironing board to help him get in and out of the van. Mandy thought the ramp was great fun, and always beat Scottie-Robbie up it as if she were doing a circus trick. Soon, Mrs. Macphee had to make ramps to help him get in and out of the house doors. Still, no matter how many times he fell down, or how hard it was to get up, Scottie-Robbie kept trying to do his regular things. He was so determined to be himself despite his handicaps, everyone who knew him marveled at his great strength of character.

Finally, Mrs. Macphee took him to see the specialist who had operated on his spine more than a year ago. In her heart, she already knew what the doctor was going to say.