

CLIENT STORIES

January of 2012 started out with a major veterinary case. Maya, a 10 year-old hearing assistance dog, had a cancerous growth the size of a tangerine on her chest. Her folks, John and Melodie, couldn't afford the surgery, but desperately needed to get Maya help. John has been unemployed for some time and Melodie suffers from Fibromyalgia, Meniere's Disease, and is deaf. She relies on Maya to keep her safe - something Maya has done many, many times.



John contacted Harley's Hope Foundation and while the clinic they had visited is not a network provider, they agreed to match one of our provider's estimates for the surgery. Maya had a her growth removed, is sporting quite a scar from the 7-inch incision in her chest, but is still faithfully by Melodie's side, trying to do her job while recovering from her own trauma.

Sometimes life just won't cut you a break. Rhonda was going through a very painful time in her personal life, facing a divorce and having to give up her house, when her dog, Buddy, dislocated his hip. Buddy is a young and active Lab/Weimaraner mix who loves his daily walks. Unfortunately, his shallow hips made him a prime candidate for an injury like this.

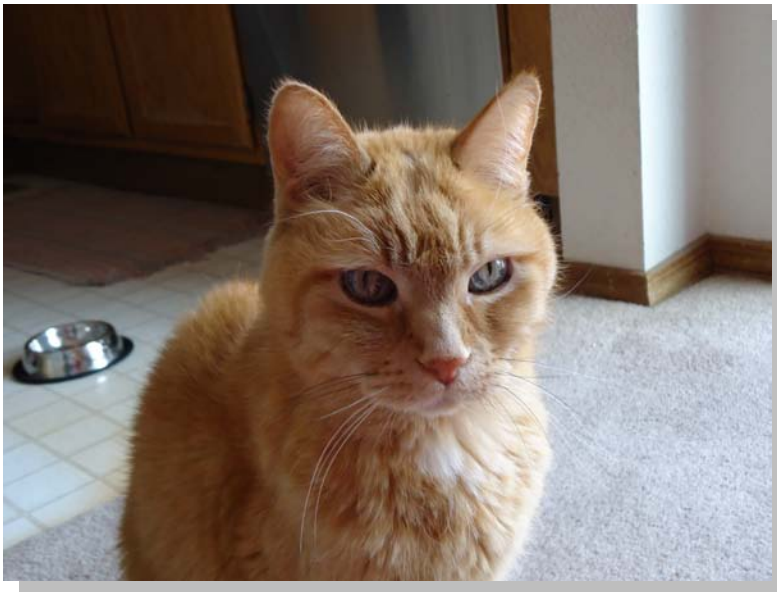


Rhonda's veterinarian also happens to be with one of our providers - Yorkshire Veterinary Hospital. The staff referred her to HHHF and we just couldn't resist those sad puppy eyes - Buddy's, of course! He had the surgery thanks to the generosity of Dr. Michael Bauer at Colorado Canine Orthopedics and is on the mend. We're hoping he'll be able to join us next month for the St. Patrick's Day Parade! Meanwhile, he provides much needed companionship and comfort to his mom.

When you hear the name, Roo, you probably think of Winnie-the-Pooh's little kangaroo friend. Well, not this time. Roo is an adorable terrier who bears a striking resemblance to Toto from the Wizard of Oz. I can't remember if Toto ever pulled the stuffing out of the Scarecrow, but Roo definitely pulled the stuffing out of a toy....and ate it! His mom, Anita, scrapped together the necessary funds for surgery to remove the foreign body from Roo's stomach. Unfortunately, he continued to vomit and his doctor recommended an ultrasound to check things out. Retired, but still looking for work to supplement her Social Security payments, Anita was referred to HHF. Roo had his ultrasound, which showed a minor anomaly in his stomach lining, but nothing life-threatening. He was put on medications and Science Diet - maybe that will satisfy his cravings and save him another trip to the surgical suite!



When I received an application for assistance for an 18-1/2 year old cat suffering from cancer, my heart dropped. Every cancer case is a painful reminder of our own journey with Harley, but in this case, I knew we couldn't help. P.J. was already near the end of her lifespan, and the thought of putting this senior citizen through chemotherapy, not to mention the very high cost, was more than we could do. I had a lengthy conversation with P.J.'s mom, Petra, and she agreed that it was time to let P.J. go. One week later, Petra



contacted me with a request I could approve. P.J.'s brother, Spanky, also 18-1/2 years old, had a urinary tract infection and needed veterinary care. A UTI can be awful at any age, but can be particularly hard on an older gentleman like Spanky. He is on medication and getting better physically every day, although he is still grieving the loss of his sister.