Meet the first recipient of Ebby’s Fund: A Leg Up - Linx. Linx is an adorable young Shih Tzu who fractured his neck. While his folks, Jonathan and Madison, aren’t 100% sure how the injury happened, they suspect it occurred when Linx stumbled on the concrete stairs leading to their apartment. Linx visited a veterinary clinic when he first began experiencing pain. Medication given at that time seemed to help, but less than a month later, he was in the ER in terrible pain. The veterinarians there suspected either a bulging or hemiated disc and indicated that surgery would be needed. At this point, Linx’s pet parents contacted Harley's Hope Foundation for help.

We scheduled an appointment for a consult with Colorado Canine Orthopedics, where Dr. Swainson discovered the fracture and immediately sent Linx to the ICU located in Southern Colorado Veterinary Internal Medicine, adjacent to CCO. When traditional pain management failed to control Linx's pain, there was concern that the little dog might not survive. But, the good doctors at Peak Performance Veterinary Group, who specialize in pain management among many other cutting-edge treatments, were able to work their magic on Linx. Within hours his pain was better - within days it was under control. Linx was sent home with instructions to keep him as quiet and immobilized as possible, giving the fracture time to heal. As of this writing, Linx appears to be well on the mend, and anxious to resume life as he knew it before the accident.

Chen Chen, another adorable Shih Tzu, albeit much older, lives with his mom, Andrea, a senior citizen with Parkinson’s Disease. She had adopted Chen Chen from a local animal rescue several years ago, but like so many small dogs, Chen Chen had major dental issues and infections in his mouth. He underwent a full dental with extractions and is doing much better.

Keeping with the “February is Pet Dental Month” theme, we also assisted Sherri, a breast cancer patient and widow, who lives in rural New Mexico. Sherri stays with her daughter in Woodland Park while undergoing treatments in Colorado Springs. She brings her menagerie with her including several dogs and two cats, who, it was discovered, both needed multiple extractions. Cotton, a 20 year old kitty, lost all four canine teeth, and Zoie, his much younger female counterpart, lost nine. Best wishes for good health to the entire Winn clan.
Katy, a former speech pathologist, lost her career when she suffered a head trauma in a car accident six years ago. Her former certified therapy dog, SeBear, who helped in her practice, now functions as her medical assistance dog, alerting Katy to impending seizures. When SeBear presented with sudden stomach pain and distension, Katy called the Animal Emergency Care Center staff, who referred her to HHF. Everyone involved was afraid that SeBear, a black lab, might be suffering from "twisted stomach," a potentially fatal condition. SeBear was seen in the ER and underwent tests that ruled out that worst case scenario. He was, however, suffering some sort of gastric distress, possibly due to eating something he shouldn't have. SeBear was on medication for some time, but seemed frisky and content when I visited him and Katy in late February.

Oci, a little terrier mix, lives with George, her companion who is temporarily homeless and staying with friends. Oci had a dead tooth that needed removing, but once Dr. Lemons from Teller Park Veterinary Services put Oci under anesthesia, she discovered several more teeth that needed to come out, and one that she was able to save.

Lexi, a 4-year old German Shepherd gave birth to 10 puppies, but experienced postpartum bleeding that just wouldn't stop on its own. Her mom, Brittany, had been told Lexi was spayed at the time of her adoption, so she wasn't overly concerned about introducing an unaltered male dog to the household. A few months later and the household experienced a major population explosion. Raymond, a vet tech at Pikes Peak Veterinary Hospital, tried to find help for Brittany, who works, but has a 3 year-old daughter battling leukemia. After medical treatments, there just isn't any money left over. HHF agreed to work with PPVH and Lexi underwent an emergency spay and blood transfusion. Her prognosis is good and she is able to nurse her puppies while recovering. Brittany will have the male dog neutered as it is now a requirement that all clients receiving financial assistance from HHF will agree to spay or neuter any unaltered pets at home.

Our very first emergency foster pets - Sunshine, Chauncey, and Zosia - are doing well and waiting for their mom, Klyle to find a job and new lodgings so they can be reunited. Klyle has visited with her kitties a couple of times so far, helping to keep that bond intact and serving as motivation to keep trying.
Squirt, a 4 lb. Chihuahua mix, broke both bones in her leg while playing with her larger housemates. Squirt's mom, Marie, lives on disability and couldn't afford emergency treatment or the orthopedic surgery required to fix Squirt's leg, so she was referred to HHF. Squirt was seen in the AECC where the leg was x-rayed and stabilized. The next morning, she was seen by the amazing Dr. Bauer at Colorado Canine Orthopedics where it was confirmed that Squirt would need surgery. Dr. Bauer performed the surgery the next day and generously fixed a hip problem discovered during surgery at no additional charge. Squirt is the second recipient of Ebby's Fund: A Leg Up.

And, finally, we provided emergency care for a young cat, Hazel, with a major infection and medications for an older dog, Wyatt, with a torn ACL who is not a good surgical candidate at this time (photos not available).