



Mosby's Mission

All About the Dogs!

PO Box 1978, Staunton, VA 24402 • 540-885-2260 • info@themosbyfoundation.org • www.themosbyfoundation.org

NEWSLETTER OF THE MOSBY FOUNDATION

Location Withheld

The Dog She Wanted to Be

Molly, a veterinary technician, stared down into the face of her new foster, Lemon. The dog's beautiful gray blue eyes stared back at her with sadness, fear, and gentleness. Her tail thumped uncertainly, as if to say, "I'm scared, and I don't know you."

The young Pitbull, just six months old, came from, as Molly called it, an unsavory situation. Lemon's front legs were bowed, and she did not know how to walk on her deformed legs. Plus, Lemon had been urinating blood for three months.

Molly, who would start veterinary school in the fall, worked at a vet practice that had a close relationship with a shelter. It was there she had decided to foster Lemon. The shelter ordered an ultrasound to see if they could find the cause of the bloody urination.

In the meantime, Molly picked up her trembling new charge and took her home. It was then she discovered how limited Lemon's contact had been with the outside world.

Wide eyed with terror all the time, Lemon was confronted with a world of sights, sounds, smells, and activity. All foreign to her. She had no idea what TV or radio was, or cats! She had no concept of the great outdoors and didn't know how to bark.

At the time, it was winter with plenty of snow on the ground. When it was time to potty, Molly would carry Lemon outside and gently lay her in the snow. Lemon would stay exactly where Molly placed her and pee huge red puddles of blood. Then Molly would carry her back inside, where she would lay on the couch all day.

For the first eight weeks that Molly fostered Lemon, that was the potty routine. She did not walk, but Molly would not give up. She kept encouraging Lemon. For her part, it never occurred to Lemon that her body could do more for her.

Finally, with Molly's continual encouragement, she began to experiment. At first, she would Army crawl, as Molly called it, on her front legs. Once she figured out her body would support her deformed legs, Lemon did what she had never done before. She walked.

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(Name and some identifying details changed.)

The Mosby Foundation
PO Box 1978, Staunton, VA 24402
540-885-2260



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NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



Happy New Year! Looking back over 2023, we are grateful for so many things. Our donors, our partners at the Petco Love Foundation and our volunteers. We could not do this without you!

We are thankful for Shannon, who worked directly with applicants and shared her empathy and compassion with them for over 6 years. Shannon has moved on to another position, but we hope to see her as a volunteer!

2024 is the 20th anniversary of The Mosby Foundation. Do you have a memory from the past 20 years that you would like to share? Please send it to info@themosbyfoundation.org. We would love to share these throughout the year.

In support of canines,
David Fitt, President

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The Dog She Wanted to Be

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Then to Molly's amazement, this brave dog began to run on those bowed legs, tail and tongue wagging with her extraordinary achievement, as if to say, "Look what I did, mom!" Molly was over the moon. In just eight weeks, Lemon had gone from terrified of everything to moving, grooving, and loving life.

During this transition, the ultrasound was performed. It was discovered that Lemon had a bladder stone, which was causing the bloody urine. Lemon was later spayed, and the bladder stone removed. Problem solved!

She also had an enlarged heart. Molly suspected the enlargement was due to Lemon's diet. She had been on grain-free dog food which is not recommended for either puppies or adult dogs because of its link to heart disease.

Molly switched Lemon to a prescription grain-based urinary dog food. A few months later, when Lemon was re-scanned, the results showed an abnormally shaped heart, most likely a genetic deformity from inbreeding, but the heart was functioning just fine. Molly crossed that worry off her list.

The big question the shelter had was what to do about Lemon's legs. Shelters are all about saving lives, but no one knew what to do with Lemon or how to help her. Should they adopt out a dog with

legs so deformed? Should they fix one leg and amputate the other? Should they do a double amputation? What was best for Lemon?

The vet practice was just as stumped because the condition was so bizarre. Was the deformity a result of fractures that were left to heal on their own? Or was it genetic?

All kinds of possibilities were tossed around, but then the subject no shelter wants to consider was brought up, euthanasia. As much as the shelter hated it, it was discussed as a possibility. Molly froze.

Every day, she watched Lemon shed more of her shell. "I watched her grow and walk and run. I saw the kind of dog she was, the kind of dog she wanted to be." Molly knew what a sweetheart Lemon was. She loved, loved, loved kids. Her tail would thump, and she would light up whenever kids were around.

And Lemon loved people. She was very social, wanting to be a part of the big, beautiful world Molly had shown her. Lemon loved wrapping up in blankets and would destroy a toy in five minutes flat. Plus, she had just learned how to bark. So much progress for a dog who couldn't even walk eight weeks ago!

To end a life that never had a chance to begin because of her legs? Molly was scared enough to say, "I'll adopt her. I'll figure this out." And she meant it.

But even though Molly was determined, she felt the enormity of what she was trying to do. Fortunately, she had one doctor in particular who was a strong support system. She told Molly, "Even if Lemon doesn't get the surgery now, you're probably the only person who's ever going to fight for her to have it ever." And fight she did.



Molly sent Lemon's x-rays to three different orthopedic specialists who all gave similar diagnoses, dysplasia of both frontal limbs requiring orthopedic corrective surgery. A co-worker told her about an orthopedic specialist who would discount ortho surgeries. As it turned out, Dr. DeCamp's quote was the cheapest and he was also the #1 orthopedic veterinary specialist in the area.

When he saw Lemon, he had one emotion no one else had, excitement. Usually when Dr. DeCamp treated conditions similar to this one, dogs were much older, eight or nine years old. By then, the dogs could no longer walk. Since Lemon was still a puppy, she would have her whole life ahead of her. Hence, his excitement.

Continued on page 5

Gimme Shelter

We are helping so many dogs, we do not have space to list them all!



AVOCADO, LAS VEGAS, NV

The tooth fairy flew to Las Vegas to peak under Avocado's pillow in search of her fractured tooth. Well, no one has any proof of that happening or was really sure how the tooth became damaged. Extractions for both humans and pets are pricey. Your donations made it possible for the cute Chi-mix to have the necessary dental work done. Avocado is back to grabbing her own personal toy as she proudly trots around so others can admire them. She may not share her toys but she freely shares her love.



DIXIE, RICHMOND, VA

Zoom! Zoom! Zoom! Wait. Slow down. Put on the brakes. Oops, too late. Three month old Dixie jumped off the couch during a zooming session and broke her little leg. After a successful surgery, the friendly Frenchie is back in her favorite spot, sitting on the window ledge watching city traffic pass by. Dixie has made a full recovery and won't be making any more crash landings from the couch. Cats might land on all fours, but not all dogs do.



KINGSTON, LONGBRANCH, WA

Never say never. Diagnosed with a spinal tumor meant the possibility of being paralyzed or euthanized, but giving up was not an option. Treating the cancer was a long, scary, expensive process. The five year old precious American Eskimo had more life to live, more memories to make. The day after surgery, Kingston was standing and walking on all four paws. Now pause and repeat, "Never say never." There's still a long road ahead with radiation and physical therapy. Kingston is making progress every day. So fur, so good. You got this, Kingston!



RILEY, INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Poor Riley was dealing with several kidney stones in his bladder. This obstructed the urinary tract, causing the bladder to swell. The painful stones needed to be removed as quickly as possible or it could reoccur at any time. Riley was not happy wearing the cone of shame, but that was the least of his problems. The grateful German Shepherd can now relieve himself freely because he was able to have the procedure done right away. Mosby to the rescue, again. Thank you all!



SASSY, ROANOKE, VA

Sassy's tale is that she will not be able to joyfully wag her tail anymore. Rushed to the veterinarian's office after being hit by a car, it was discovered that the Dachshund/Russell Terrier had an enlarged heart. This put the dear dog at high risk for surgery. But if Sassy's tail weren't removed, necrosis (death of body tissue) could poison her. There was no choice but to have her tail removed. It needed to be done immediately. If Sassy's tail could wag, it would be off the charts saying thank you for The Mosby Foundation's help. "Tears of joy and relief, and prayers of gratitude," now that Sassy is home and healing.



WINSTON, STURGIS, KY

An SOS went out, and The Mosby Foundation was quick to respond. Winston's perineal hernia was causing him severe pain. Surgery was critical to save the precious Boxer/Lab mix. Post surgery, Winston's appetite has returned and he is once again energetic and full of joy. "Winston means the world to me. Thank you so much for your organization's generous financial support. Without your help, I would not have been able to afford the surgery to save Winston's life." We wish Winston many years of tail wagging days.



SOCKS, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

A broken femur didn't keep sweet Socks down for long. That's because the American terrier and his family were able to receive help from The Mosby Foundation. Socks started off with slow walks to build up strength in his leg. Active games of tug-of-war with a rope, snuggle time, and naps on the couch also helped him get better. He is healing and running around like crazy again. Running to the finish line is in the near future, thanks to our Mosby fans!

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The Dog She Wanted to Be

continued from page 3



But what was wrong with Lemon? Dr. DeCamp's leading hypothesis was genetic dysplasia, most likely due to inbreeding. It seemed unlikely that her legs had been injured because they both looked the same. The kind of health issues Lemon had were also common if breeding was not done carefully.

As a result, Lemon's front leg wrists were curved as was the bone connected to the curvature, creating a 45-degree offset from what they were supposed to be. A careful man, Dr. DeCamp wanted to correct one leg at a time.

Then the biggest question of all. How much would it cost to give Lemon life back in her legs? Knowing the operation would be quite involved, Molly wasn't surprised the surgery for one leg was five figures.

Deep breath. "I have a matter-of-fact-spring-in-to-action mind," Molly told us. She evaluated the facts and then got to work on two fronts. First, she started a GoFundMe page. Then she applied to organizations to help fund the surgery.

The only organization to respond was The Mosby Foundation. "When it came to getting her the care she needed," Molly told us tearfully. "I felt pretty alone a lot. The Mosby Foundation was the only reason I had any hope, to be honest. It was the first moment where I thought I could do this. Without that moment, I don't know where we'd be. I can't tell you how grateful I am for even just something as simple as being interested in helping, let alone seeing how much

money you guys were able to put towards it and make the surgery actually possible."

Then we saw Lemon's beautiful eyes and her severely deformed legs. There was no question we had to help. But like Molly, we knew we couldn't do it alone. So, we turned to our community to help us raise the money. Have we mentioned how tremendous our supporters are?

You, too, saw both the hurt and the gentleness in Lemon's eyes. You saw how much she wanted the good life with Molly. So, you gave. How can we ever thank you?

Between Molly's GoFundMe page and our fundraising efforts, Lemon got the surgery on her front right leg. Dr. DeCamp took out some of the curved bone and reshaped what was left. "She has crazy hardware in her leg with screws," Molly said with a grin.

"Our goal once her legs are fixed is to take her hiking because she likes to be outside. Now that she knows what the outside is," Molly said. Until then, Molly has shown Lemon some other pretty awesome activities you can do outside, like swimming (she has a Finding Nemo life vest) and going on a bike ride.

The dog that quivered with fear from seeing a television show now was stoked to have the sun shining on her face, her nose lifted to the sky to catch all those glorious scents.

It was Molly's own fear of losing this treasure of a dog that most likely saved Lemon's life. And when her cast comes off, Lemon will make another discovery, one that seemed impossible when she was born. Lemon will walk with a straight leg.

Molly is planning more fundraising for Lemon's other leg later this fall when she is on break from vet school. (We know you're going to make a great vet!) She's determined that Lemon will have two straight legs. No matter what, we know that Lemon now is the dog she always wanted to be. Love gave her back one leg; love will give her the other one.

Note: Lemon will be having her second leg surgery in the Spring when the snow and ice is over! 🐾

Continued from page 4

Gimme Shelter

BANDIT, BRYAN, TX

What's a perfect name for a dog that likes to steal toys and food and stockpile them in his secret hiding place under his pet pal's bed? Bandit, of course! He has been making up for the time he lost while being treated for sarcoma on his neck. "Thanks to The Mosby Foundation's help, Bandit was able to get the final post-radiation mass removal surgery he needed and is completely cancer free." The Catahoula hog dog has good odds of never having cancer again thanks to the final surgery...and our generous donors.



Mosby's Mail

Letters may have been edited due to space.



Thank you from Aitana Vargas for helping my gorgeous Husky, Lolita, be by my side for 2 additional years.

Aitana Vargas
Los Angeles, CA



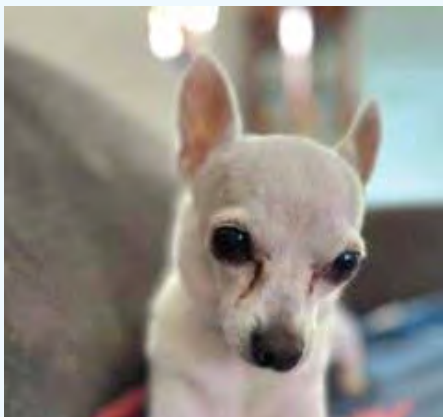
Thank you so much! They were difficult few days, but Tyson "graduated" radiation therapy today. I'm grateful for all the help that went into making this possible! He is in great spirits and we are going to celebrate. There is nothing more valuable and precious than having more time with my baby! Hope you have a great day! Bless you, for all you do to help people in these situations.

Lindsey Haggard
Sweetwater, TN



Thank you for your generous donation for Goldy's medical bill. My daughter and I are so appreciative and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Kim and Tiffany Toth
Meshoppen, PA



Rocky has now fully recovered from his surgery with good news. The lump they removed was not cancerous. He is doing well and thank you for all the help.

Andrea Gleason
Chicago, IL

An update on Kally: She has been doing great with her treatments! She is acting like herself and getting along so well. Thank you for your assistance in her treatment!

Brandy Jewett
Washington, IN



Thank you very much for all of your help. C'mon had a successful surgery and is almost back to his old self. You guys really came through. You have no idea how much this means to me. Again, thank you.

Shantil King
Apple Valley, CA



Here is an update. Millie is doing great!! She is eating and drinking normally. We have to tell her to slow down and keep her off of the couch. Here is a pic of all of us and again we thank you so much for your generosity. We are so excited for Millie to be 100% healthy. She did have a secondary infection in her uterus. They had to do some extra work. It was a little bit more money but most importantly, she is healthy. We couldn't be here without your foundation's help!!

Kenneth C
Gaithersburg, MD

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Memorials

IN MEMORY OF DOGS

Gunner, pup of Barbara Persinger

Spanky and Melvis form Larry and Yolanda Beasley

Yeller and Creamy from Raymond and Sheila Roeder

Bella, beloved dog, from Barbara Bradley

Freckles, from Fran Mackey Slemmer

All my beloved Bouviers, from Nancy Burton

Maddie, most precious and missed, from Nancy Basmajian

My sweet girl, Coco, loved by Sharon Whisten

Bindi, pup of Maggie and Will Campbell from Barb and Tom Amatucci

Alfie, beloved Yorkie of Kevin and Arianna Goodrow from Sharon Goodrow

Lolita, from Aitana Vargas

Roxie Neighkers, from Donna Gaffney

Sydney and Dottie, beloved fur babies of Gail Brown

Bob and Sandy, our canine companions, from Jeff Smith and Mary Janick-Smith

IN MEMORY OF PEOPLE

Judy Armstrong from Deborah Armstrong

My husband Ray Dunlap and all of my deceased dogs from Susan C. Dunlap

Jack L. Dull from Sandy and Claude Dull

Rachel Parks, she loved all of her dogs. She would do anything for them

Jane Cangalosi
from Stephen and Betty Capenter
from Phyllis Stratton
from Thomas W. LaBere
from Mr. Louis Phelps
from Jack and Linda Earhart
from McDonough Toyota

IN HONOR OF DOGS

Our grand dog Tundra from Larry and Yolanda Beasley

Spanky VanKan from Gloria VanKan

Harley from Deborah Armstrong

My four babies Emley, Megan, Darcy and Angus from Sharon Angle

IN HONOR OF PEOPLE

Victoria, Chad, Loki and Dr. Jha from Karen Van Es

Angela Brown from Anne Frank

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Mosby's Mail



Bella is a week out of surgery and doing really well for an old girl. We so appreciate your assistance and caring. Blessing to you,

Jeannie Brandt
Colton, MN

Thank you, Mosby Foundation!!!!
Since Harlow's teeth extraction, she is a new dog! She's the same kind, super sweet, loving girl, only now she eats everything and runs around happily. Harlow smells so good. Best of all, we are giving her all of our kisses that we have saved up for years since we were unable to get close to her face. She's loving every kiss. She woke up from her 3-hour surgery absolutely starving. She was so grateful to have her rotten teeth gone.



My daughter and I cannot thank you enough. I am a DV and SA advocate myself (volunteering every Sunday), but I really hope to start an emergency fund for victims of DV with animals that need veterinary help (regardless of what kind of help). Animals are so incredibly important for healing. Thank you again so very much.

Very kindly,
Anna Swan
Lake Elsinore, CA



The Mosby Foundation
PO Box 1978
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"It came to me that every time I lose a dog they take a piece of my heart with them. And every new dog who comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart. If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are."
— Unknown

Mosby's Mission

The Mosby Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, to assist in the care of critically sick, injured, abused and neglected dogs through financial support and public education. We are a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Thanks to our donors for making 2023 a success!

In 2023

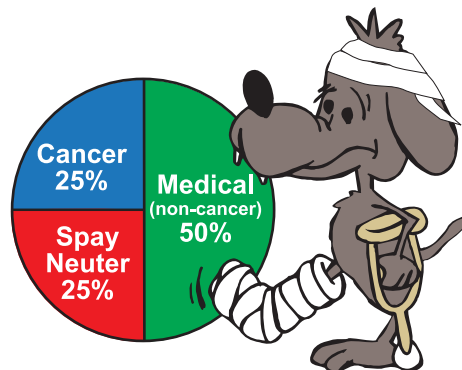


680
dogs were
helped




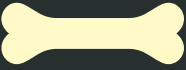
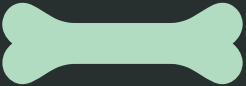
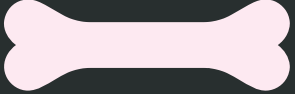
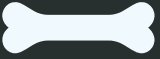
1393
pets fed from
our
Pet Food
Pantry

How you are helping the dogs...



Top reasons people asked for help:

1. Tumor removal
2. Bladderstones
3. Pyometra
4. Tooth Extractions
5. Heartworms
6. Broken Legs

AGES	PERCENTAGE OF DOGS	
Under 1		5%
1-3		19%
4-7		29%
8-11		33%
12+		14%