



together...
WE CAN

Stop their pain...

SQUIRT (11-261) – At six months young, the only life he knew was the puppy mill, living in his pen. The farmer kept him in inventory, evidently hoping that even a \$50.00 sale would offset some costs. When it finally became clear that Squirt had some serious health problems that would render him useless, it was time to “get rid” of him. On December 12, he arrived at DVGRR, soaked with urine on his entire belly. He alternately leaked uncontrollably or seemed unable to pass urine at all. Most times, he would strain and cry and just a few drops would pass. Clearly, it was very painful for this sweet little guy to try and urinate. And clearly, he had been in pain all six months of his life – not only from the difficulty in urinating, but from the “urine scalding” on his belly caused by the periodic incontinence.

Dr. Erin Murphy saw Squirt at our Veterinary Treatment Center the next day and recommended an ultrasound to assess the problem. DVGRR’s Veterinary Assistant Marie Redcay loaded Squirt into the van and made the first of ten trips (a total of 770 miles) to the Veterinary Referral Center (VRC) in Malvern, PA for the ultrasound, which showed that (as suspected)

Squirt’s internal “plumbing” was not operating properly. A complicated surgery was his only hope of a normal life. In all other respects, this little guy is a happy, adorable, affectionate young Golden, so we never hesitated for a moment in scheduling the procedure ASAP.

Squirt’s FIRST surgery was performed on December 16th. The procedure basically changed the opening of his urethra to a new one, so that he now squats to urinate. At his two-week recheck appointment, the surgeons noted an unusual swelling at the surgery site and performed another ultrasound to identify the cause. A hematoma was the

culprit, so back went Squirt for another surgery, this time to remove the hematoma and improve the healing process.

At present, Squirt is recovering well from the second surgery and still has two drains at the surgical site that will need to be removed at his next recheck appointment. He’s been a real trooper throughout all the trips to VRC, the incessant poking and prodding, and the need to wear an uncomfortable e-collar to keep him from licking at the incision. When he’s under the weather, we find Squirt reclining on his Kuranda bed in the office, looking up at us forlornly with his BIG black button eyes.

When he’s feeling perkier (thankfully, that is more and more often now!), he is up and about, playing with his toys, nipping at our clothes, attempting to climb onto chairs and tables, darting through legs, etc. – in other words, acting like a typical rowdy puppy!

Squirt’s not completely out of the woods yet medically, but we are very hopeful that he will indeed have that normal life he so deserves and needs. We are all in love with the little guy and just want the best for him!

IMPACT TO CODY LIFESAVER FUND: \$7463.48



Kory is severely underweight



Kory in intensive care at VRC

KORY (12-004) – We regularly see and talk with so many people (staff, adopters, volunteers, and supporters) who are exquisitely tuned into their dog’s health care needs and seek medical attention for anything out of the ordinary without a second thought. It’s hard to imagine, therefore, having your dog diagnosed with a serious (but very treatable) condition and not doing anything about it, then nonchalantly giving her up for adoption instead of committing to work with the problem. Such was the case with Kory, however.

Kory arrived on January 12 around noontime, and by 2:30 PM she was already at Adamstown Veterinary Hospital for an emergency appointment. She had been diagnosed with diabetes on January 7 (though she had most likely been sick for a long while before that because this normally 85 lb. dog weighed only 57 lbs. at intake!) and her insulin levels were seriously unregulated, causing her to be very unstable. Our vet at Adamstown, as well as two specialists they consulted with, were all worried that Kory might not make it through the night without round-the-clock care and treatment, so Marie transported her late that evening to our friends at VRC in Malvern.

Kory was extremely dehydrated along with the diabetes so the vets at VRC started her on both IV fluids and insulin therapy. After five days in intensive care, she had improved enough to return to Gateway, where we welcomed her back and made her comfortable on a soft blanket and comfy Kuranda bed. She is currently on insulin injections and we’ll nurse her back to good health (plus administer heavy doses of love and attention!) until she is ready for a new (and more responsible) home.

We are just getting to know Kory, since her initial stay was at VRC instead of Golden Gateway, but our first impressions are of a very lovable, endearing, and brave Golden. These impressions have been confirmed by the staff who attended her at VRC, where she easily worked her charms on all of them!

IMPACT TO CODY LIFESAVER FUND: \$4701.25

Save their lives...

Renew their strength...

MAIZEY (11-252) – At the other end of the age spectrum from Squirt is Maizey, who was found as a stray in Delaware and estimated to be 8-10 years old. How can anyone not turn the world inside out searching for a lost senior Golden??

You'd be hard pressed to find a sweeter, gentler, more well-behaved senior. She'd never been spayed so we thought as soon as we took care of that surgery she'd be ready for adoption – and with her lovely personality and adorable white face we knew we'd have people anxious to have her join their family.

Unfortunately, Maizey's health issues turned out to be more extensive than originally anticipated. First, we found three mammary masses during her initial exam. Due to her age, we did chest x-rays to be sure no additional masses were present in her lungs. The x-rays were clear, thank goodness, so we removed the masses during her spay surgery. While still recuperating from the surgery, Maizey suddenly began walking into walls and acting like her vision was declining rapidly. This was literally an overnight development and acute eye problems are not something you want to wait to assess, so we took Maizey to Adamstown Veterinary Hospital. There, a consult with a veterinary ophthalmologist was recommended.

Maizey rests with her blanket and pillow after one of many vet visits.



Send them home.

So, here we are in mid-January

and our Cody Lifesaver Fund AND General Fund (gas for 948 miles, Marie's time, medicines dispensed from our Veterinary Treatment Center) have already been hit with more than \$14,270 in extraordinary veterinary care costs FOR JUST THREE GOLDENS. We can't remember a time when we've had three dogs in a row with such serious medical issues causing such an acute drain on our resources.

While the post-acute care is being provided for onsite at the Veterinary Treatment Center (saving hundreds, if not thousands of additional dollars), we are still faced with a HUGE loss in our Cody Lifesaver Fund.

This was the Thursday before New Year's, so four out of the five ophthalmologists we called were out until Tuesday of the following week. Finally, we located an available appointment at a specialty clinic in Langhorne, PA, and Marie drove Maizey up for the 6:00 PM visit (178 miles round trip). There, Maizey was diagnosed with KCS, or "dry eye," and thankfully the medication regime prescribed by the ophthalmologist helped quite dramatically with her vision. Phew, dodged that bullet, we thought! Uh oh, not so fast...

No sooner had Maizey's vision begun to improve than she presented with two badly swollen paws, extreme lethargy, lack of appetite, and difficulty walking. Again, we sought urgent medical care for her at Adamstown and she spent the day in the hospital while the vets took x-rays, performed a joint tap to test her joint fluid, and started her on heavy doses of two antibiotics. Once the medication kicked in, Maizey improved significantly, but if the symptoms recur after the course of antibiotics is done, there is still the possibility she has some kind of autoimmune disease or systemic infection.

Nonetheless, our gal proved she still has plenty of spunk left in her!

Now, here is where we get OUR (emotional) paycheck: The family who had just adopted 10-year-old Boo (11-233) a few weeks ago, and who is absolutely head-over-heels in love with senior Golden retrievers, wanted to adopt Maizey and provide her with a better life than she had previously.

Maizey and Boo had already met as they were their own "play group" and were quite fond of each other (you know, the old "there may be snow on the roof, but there is still a "fire" in the furnace!). Boo came along for the ride to pick up Maizey and the look in her eyes when she saw him AND her new family, was priceless!



Going home!

IMPACT TO CODY LIFESAVER FUND: \$2105.35

We'd like to be able to say that Squirt, Kory, and Maizey are rare cases, but the past three years have shown us that Golden retrievers who need our critical care to return to good health throughout the year probably won't stop arriving at our door.

We don't hesitate to give them what they need, as long as they retain quality of life, but we need to be sure there is enough in the Fund to take care of the next dog who comes through our doors, and the next, and the next....

We know times are tight all around. But if you can make a donation of ANY AMOUNT to the Cody Lifesaver Fund it will make a difference in recouping this significant loss to this literally life-saving fund.

Please go to www.dvgr.org and click on "Donate now for Squirt, Kory and Maizey" from our home page, or send a check to 60 Vera Cruz Road, Reinholds, PA 17569-9713. THANK YOU!