



FRANKIE TWO-PAWS – PART 2

Rescued Cavalier King Charles Spaniel spreads hope & inspiration

Recap of Part 1 (July 4 – Nov. 30, 2009):

On July 4, 2009, Frankie Two-Paws came to Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue (GCCR) from a Missouri puppy mill as a 12-week old puppy with no use of his rear legs. Frankie earned his “Two-Paws” moniker because he pulled himself around by his two front paws. His courage and determination became a source of hope and inspiration to many, including some undergoing therapy themselves.

Thanks to many, many volunteers – from laypersons to professionals, from children to adults – Frankie made considerable progress toward learning to walk. His treatments included physical therapy, underwater treadmill therapy, chiropractic adjustments, and laser therapy. At the end of November Frankie was able to move about with his wheelchair and was walking with assistance on the underwater treadmill (shown above).

PART 2 (Dec. 1, 2009 – July 4, 2010):

Frankie’s story touched many hearts, perhaps none so much as a group of 10-year olds in Barb Lyons’ 5th grade class in Antigo, WI. Peggy Ruh, Frankie’s mom (his adoption became official in December) recently received an e-mail from Barb, another GCCR volunteer with Cavaliers of her own. Barb wrote: “It’s amazing to me how much my students can touch my heart and a little dog, miles away whom they’ve never met, can touch theirs.”

Frankie Two-Paws videos

Barb’s students took a special interest in Frankie, asked questions about him throughout the year, and would beg to watch the videos of him on the underwater treadmill again and again on YouTube. (Go to YouTube.com and search for GCCR70409 to see these & other videos of Frankie.)

During a discussion this past April, Barb explained about Frankie’s incontinence, and how he goes through a pack of diapers every 5 days.

One of the students suggested they have a penny drive to earn money to buy diapers for Frankie.

No easy task

Barb knew it wouldn’t be an easy task, as the majority of her students received free or reduced-fee lunches and many had either one or both unemployed parents. Barb wrote: “So began a 3-week penny drive. They combed sofa cushions, the floors of their parents’ cars, raided their piggy banks, and even looked on the sidewalks on their way to and from school. At the end of three weeks they had raised \$42.60.”

Barb contacted the corporate headquarters of Drs. Foster & Smith, a pet supply company near her home, in hopes of securing a discounted price on diapers for Frankie. “It was important to me that my students obtain their goal of sending ‘lots’ of diapers to Frankie. I even offered to pick up the diapers to avoid shipping charges”, wrote Barb. What no one expected was a \$50 matching gift certificate to GCCR from Drs. Foster & Smith in recognition of her students’ efforts.



Recent progress

In the past 6 months, Frankie’s left rear leg has become stronger; however, he appears to have no control of his right rear leg. X-rays showed that his right rear femur head is much smaller than the shell that should hold it in place. The femur head slips out easily, which explains his inability to gain control over that leg and the lack of muscle growth. Nonetheless, he’s learned to balance on 3 legs and Peggy has even seen him balance on all 4 for brief periods of time.

The front steps to Frankie’s house no longer deter him (he knows treats are on the other side!) and he loves to play fetch and keep-away with Maddie and Sam, Peg & John’s other two dogs. A ramp, built by GCCR volunteers, Scott & Karla

McKanna, helps Frankie get on and off the sofa, reducing the risk of injury from jumping.

John Neron, Peggy's husband (a.k.a. Frankie's dad), describes him as "a tough little competitor". He adds, "He has no anger in him and only grumbles when he wants to play and he's held back. Frankie's an example of pure mettle and a model of kindness."

Therapies and treatments

Frankie continues to receive regular laser therapy and chiropractic adjustments from Dr. Michelle Herlihy, DVM, in Downers Grove, IL and occasionally sees Dr. Nick Kuennen at Chiro One Wellness Center of Yorkville for adjustments.

Frankie also continues to receive underwater treadmill therapy from Teri Baughman at Ancare Veterinary Clinic in Spring Valley, IL. To keep his right rear leg from tripping his left, Teri uses a swimmer's "noodle" to keep his rear legs separated.

Teri and Dr. Herlihy suggested a brace to keep Frankie's right hip in place and perhaps lead to weight bearing. Frankie was examined by Dr. Christine Jurek of TOPS Rehabilitation Center in



Grayslake, IL who suggested a Walkabout™ sling and harness (shown here) rather than a brace which can be difficult to fit. Frankie tried both and found the Walkabout

worked best for him.

Did you feel that?

Dr. Jurek also suggested electric acupuncture to help improve nerve function, which Frankie now receives from Dr. Sara Ford at Ancare. Frankie continues to respond well to the acupuncture and has shown indications that his nerve function may be improving. He definitely has feeling in some places where he previously had none!

Other new treatments in the last 6 months include canine triggerpoint myotherapy and massage by Jan Smart of Smart Touch to help relieve pressure on Frankie's neck and shoulders, the results of his propelling himself with "Two-Paws".

A harrowing experience

Frankie's "can do" spirit and determination were never more evident than when he underwent three surgeries in a 1-week period in early May. What should have been a fairly simple procedure – his neutering – turned tragic when blood pooled in his groin area and the swelling refused to go down. Frankie underwent a second surgery, known as a scrotal ablation, a few days later.

During that surgery the vet noticed some irregularities with his blood and sent for more tests. But before the tests could come back, Frankie nearly died from undetected internal bleeding and was rushed back to the hospital for a blood transfusion and emergency surgery. A team of doctors found and repaired two arterial vessels, the source of the leaking. Frankie fought for his life as he received more fluids and blood during recovery. But with many prayers and Frankie's strong will, he recovered well and has resumed most of his normal activities.



Disability – Shmis-ability!

Frankie even made it to Camp Dogwood in Ingleside, IL where he demonstrated again what a special boy he is. He wasn't about to let a disability keep him from taking a turn at the tire jump and plank!



Determination leads to inspiration

Everywhere Frankie goes, he's an ambassador of hope and inspiration. Last December Frankie made a special visit to the Rush Copley Medical Center Rehabilitation Unit in Aurora, IL. The hospital has an Animal Assisted Therapy program to help patients who are undergoing physical rehabilitation to overcome their own disabilities. Although a little overwhelmed himself, Frankie brought many smiles and much needed inspiration to the patients, physicians, and staff.

In May Frankie participated in an Arthritis Walk in Peru, IL along with several of his doctors and specialists. Frankie wore a special vest with pockets for donations and wheeled around the grounds, garnering \$38 to help toward arthritis research and treatment.

An important lesson

What makes Frankie so special? Some might say it's his adorable Cavalier face with those big brown eyes! Some might say it's his fiery red coat. Or maybe it's his courage and determination – his never give up attitude. The obvious answer is all of the above.

Frankie Two-Paws doesn't focus on his "flaws" because he doesn't think he has any. In his heart, he's just like any other dog and he's loved for who he is.

Greater Chicago Cavalier Rescue
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