

A Minnie Hochwarter Memorial Fund Success Story!

In March, 2016, PAWS of Tinley Park responded to a plea from another shelter to take a puppy that could not walk. They were not financially able to seek the treatment she might need to live a normal life. Harmony was just six weeks old and could barely get around. Her back legs would drag behind her as she inched herself along. It was *heartbreaking* to watch her.

PAWS immediately sought treatment and began physical therapy, nutritional response therapy, acupuncture and chiropractic care in an effort to build strength and muscle. All of these treatments provided encouragement, but were temporary.

Harmony would walk, and at times even run and play for a few days, but would then revert to sitting or dragging herself along.

Although Harmony was x-rayed shortly after she arrived at the shelter, x-rays on very young pups are often inconclusive. Harmony was now of age to be x-rayed a second time. This time, the findings were worse than we ever expected. Harmony had luxating patellas in both rear legs (this was the least of her problems) and severe deformities in both front legs. She would require **immediate and extensive** surgery.



On May 31, 2016, Harmony underwent Ulnar Osteotomy & Tibial Crest Transposition surgery at the Veterinary Specialty Center in Buffalo Grove. Plates were inserted into both front legs and both luxating patellas were repaired. In one single procedure, Harmony had surgery on all four legs.

At her two week follow up visit, things did not look very promising. The plates inserted into her front legs were in place, but she was not walking yet. Her doctor suggested swimming to help get her legs moving. With just a few sessions in the pool, she was up and moving. We believe she started walking so she wouldn't have to get into the pool again! Swimming was *not* Harmony's favorite



activity.

Harmony not only began walking, but she was setting land-speed records! She played with her 80# siblings like she was the boss! That joy was short-lived when we were hit with more devastating news.

Upon examination for her spay surgery, a heart murmur was detected. With any congenital deformity, there are often heart issues. Harmony was diagnosed with PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus) and would require immediate surgery. On October 19th, she underwent surgery at Purdue University. Following the surgery, she required one month of complete rest. She spent this time recuperating with her loving grandparents, Wayne & Joan. She returned to Purdue on November 14th to determine if the surgery was a success. We are happy to report it was, and that doctors have lifted all activity restrictions! She can finally be the pup she was meant to be! Without the surgery, she likely wouldn't have seen her first birthday. Surgery to remove the plates in her legs has been put on hold at this time.



Sadly, she may require additional surgery on her legs in the future, but we will take that as it comes. Today, we are just enjoying her incredible spirit and her love of life. She is one happy girl despite all her troubles.

Thanks to all those who have played a vital role in her care including:

- Dr. Gendreau, Veterinary Specialty of Buffalo Grove (Surgical)
- Midwest Animal Hospital (Physical Therapy)
- Dr. Cindy Howard - Innovative Health & Wellness

Center (Chiropractic Care)

- LePar Animal Hospital (Nutritional Response Therapy & Acupuncture)
- Dr. Valenti, Family Pet Clinic (Veterinary Care)
- Dr. Luethy, Med Vet Chicago (Cardiologist)
- Dr. Tropf & Staff, Purdue University (Cardiologist)

And finally.....

Harmony is here today because of the kindness of Wayne & Joan Hochwarter and the Minnie Hochwarter Memorial Fund. The fund was created in memory of their beloved girl, Minnie, to treat dogs with extraordinary medical needs. **Every cent** of Harmony' s **extensive** medical care was paid for by the fund and the generosity of the Hochwarters. Your purchase of a bandana at our fundraising or community events helps to treat dogs like Harmony. If you would like to make a donation to The Minnie Hochwarter Memorial Fund, please mail your check to PAWS to the attention of The Minnie Fund. You may also donate via our website. Please note your donation is intended for the Minnie Fund. Thank you for your support!