

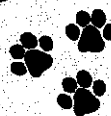
CASE STUDY



She only has three legs, but Maggie still competes.

"Tripawd" Triumph

BY RENE AGREDANO



A holistic approach helped this champion agility dog with cancer leap the biggest hurdle of her life.

From the first days of her rambunctious puppyhood, Maggie reaped the benefits of a holistic diet and an outdoorsy lifestyle in the mountains of northern Maine. An award-winning agility dog who has garnered over a dozen titles and awards, nine-year-old Maggie was a poster child for perfect canine health.

So her guardian, Tracy Snow-Cormier, was shocked and stunned when a veterinary oncologist discovered a cancerous soft tissue sarcoma in Maggie's left rear leg.

"I was angry and sad, all wrapped up in one," Tracy says.

The pain Maggie was in left Tracy with little time to wonder why this had happened. Treatment decisions had to be made to help her champion agility dog overcome the biggest challenge of her life.

Being a good advocate pays off

The first signs of Maggie's pain appeared in May of 2009. "She wasn't limping, but she was shifting her weight some from the left to right side," Tracy says. When a long break from agility competitions didn't eliminate the symptoms, a local vet palpated Maggie's knees and decided an ACL tear was the culprit. A second veterinarian diagnosed a muscle injury to the iliopsoas (deep groin area).

A third veterinarian repeated the ACL injury diagnosis, but Tracy intuitively knew something else was going on.

Finally, a fourth veterinarian confirmed Tracy's suspicion: Maggie's pain was caused by a rare, undiagnosed type of soft tissue sarcoma. The orthopedic doctor gave Tracy only two recommendations: euthanasia, or a complete amputation. For Tracy, the answer was a no-brainer.

"The decision to amputate was easy. Neither I nor Maggie was willing to give up. She still wanted to live."

An uphill battle

Unfortunately, five days after surgery Maggie developed a low-grade fever, became lethargic and refused to eat.

Tracy's biggest ally during Maggie's recovery was her sister Gina Snow, a holistic-minded licensed veterinary technician. Gina suggested natural remedies to help the healing process, including Parotid (Standard Process), a supplement to help Maggie's body rid itself of the drugs she received during surgery. Next, Gina treated Maggie's fever with Belladonna, a homeopathic fever reducer. Finally, she encouraged Tracy to return to the vet for an IV fluids flush to cleanse Maggie's system of further drug and chemical residues.

By early November, the sparkle had returned to Maggie's eyes. As she adapted to life on three legs, Tracy considered holistic versus conventional cancer treatments. "I listened to Maggie and she said no way to chemo!"

The cancer specialist also advised against chemotherapy

since Maggie's post-amputation recovery had been so difficult. And since doctors couldn't pinpoint the exact type of soft tissue sarcoma Maggie had, any oncology treatments "would be a shot in the dark," as the doctor said.

Turning to natural remedies

With chemotherapy off the table, Tracy consulted Dr. Charles Loops, a homeopathic veterinarian from South Carolina. Dr. Loops selected specific plant and mineral-based homeopathic remedies to manage Maggie's unspecified cancer condition. The remedies were chosen to stimulate her vital force (or life energy) and prevent cancer metastasis.

Dr. Loops' approach is working. More than three years after being diagnosed, Maggie is thriving on the following homeopathic cancer fighters – and they cost Tracy less than \$25 a month:

- Sempervivum tectorum LM9
- Lapis albus LM9
- Carc-P 200C+5
- Transfer Factor



Maggie also regularly receives the following supplements:

- Mushroom supplement (K9 Immunity or Power Mushrooms)
- Omega 3 essential fatty acids
- Boswellia for pain and inflammation
- Joint Strong (Animal Naturals)
- K9 Super Fuel (Animal Naturals) to build muscle mass

Maggie's diet also contributes to her anti-cancer health regimen. She enjoys low-carb, raw dehydrated foods, which are ideal for dogs fighting cancer.

Maggie as role model

Cancer and amputation have radically changed life for this "tripawd", but Maggie still regularly competes and earns new titles in Rally-O trials held by the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT). She is also the inspiration for the Wag It Training Center's games program in Maine for physically challenged dogs who still want to compete. 🐾

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