

## INTRODUCING JOSIE, the first recipient of the Maggie May Fund!

Josie is a 6 year old Pomeranian who started losing her mobility and begun having seizures in July. Her owner immediately took her to the vet for testing, to find out what was going on with her little rescue dog. Josie was diagnosed with meningitis - an inflammation of the central nervous system and the prognosis grave. She was given the option of pursuing expensive treatment or performing a humane euthanasia. Josie's owner was determined to fight for her little girl, who she had recently rescued from a life in a cage: "I will do everything in my power and in her best interest, before I would even consider this option. To not do anything and just give up on her, was not an option. She finally found happiness and ending her life without trying just wasn't going to happen. She keeps trying to get herself up, she keeps moving and I know she's not done fighting and I won't stop fighting until she tells me".

So, she went ahead with the first recommendation and exhausted her funds to get the treatment Josie needed, but there was more treatment needed... When all seemed lost, she came across the Maggie May Fund and reached out to Eva for help. Eva reviewed Josie's case and spoke with Dr. Maja. Both felt compelled to help Josie and her mom and give Josie the best possible change at a long, happy, healthy life. Josie became the first success story of the Maggie May Fund.

Now over a month of treatments later, Josie's neurologist is amazed with her improvement; Josie is now able to walk again and has her smile back! Josie's mom would not have been able to afford these necessary treatments without the help of the Maggie May Fund.

Josie still has a long road ahead of her to control her symptoms, but we are proud to have helped this pup and her mom in their time of need.

We always accept donations for the Maggie May Fund to help other pets in need like Josie. Eva also makes beautiful quilts, of which the proceeds go towards the Maggie May Fund.

To learn more about the Maggie May fund, or to follow Josie's story as she fights through her condition, please visit the following websites:

<http://inmemoryofmaggiemay.ca/>  
<http://beautifuljosie.blog.com/>



It's a common refrain during allergy seasons, like fall and spring: "How can I stop this from happening to my pet?"

Our allergy patients come to us with ear infections, skin infections, hair loss, and painful itching. Sometimes they suffer from chronic diarrhea or anal gland problems. We treat them with antibiotics, antifungals, and immunosuppressant medications like steroids. But every time we put out the "fire" of an allergy flare up, we wonder how long it will be before the same thing happens again.

Thankfully, there ARE some things you can do to help reduce the frequency and severity of your pet's flare-ups.

### **General Allergy Advice**

Protect: A small itch can turn into a big problem when your pet starts scratching or licking at itself. Stop this sort of behaviour in its tracks by putting on protective shirts, or even a "cone of shame", to stop your pet from making things worse.

Boost: Support your pet's skin with supplements like coconut oil and vitamin C, and fight bacteria and yeast with probiotics.

Act Fast: When your pet starts to flare up, act quickly to stop that reaction in its tracks. A couple of days of steroids at the beginning of the flare-up can sometimes suppress the reaction and prevent a prolonged course of steroids coupled with antibiotics later.

### **Food Allergies**

Patients with food allergies tend to have problems year-round, and there never seems to be any real pattern to their outbreaks. The best thing you can do is identify what foods your pet can eat, and which you need to avoid. There are two ways to do this:

1. Elimination Diet: Switch your pet to a limited-ingredient diet (preferably one you prepare yourself to rule out hidden ingredients or contamination) based on foods your pet has never eaten before. Continue this for at least six weeks. If your pet's condition improves, you know that food allergies were part of the problem! Now you can slowly add things to your pet's diet and monitor for reactions to figure out what your pet can and cannot eat.

2. Nutriscan: This food allergy test is only available to dogs, but has been a life-saver for many of our patients with chronic, intractable food allergies. The test is a simple saliva test which checks for immune reactions to a variety of different foods. The test will come back telling us what is safe and what is not safe for your dog.

### **Environmental Allergies**

Patients with environmental allergies tend to have seasonal flare-ups. They may get itchy in the spring when everything is flowering, in the fall when seeds are blowing everywhere, or in the winter when furnaces blow dust mites through the house.

Their infections tend to be focussed on areas of contact, such as the paws or the stomach. If your pet has environmental allergies, there are a few things you can do to help space out flare-ups:

1. Allergy testing: Once you know what your pet is reacting to, you can know more about how to reduce contact. Management methods



## MANAGING ALLERGIES, cont.

will differ depending on whether your pet is allergic to dust mites in the house, or grass outside, for example.

2. Rinse, rinse, rinse: The less contact your pet has with his or her allergy triggers, the less likely and less severe flare-ups will be. If your pet is allergic to something outside, rinse him or her in plain water when you come inside – wash the paws to remove pollen and shower the coat to wash off allergens.

3. Filter: Consider investing in air purifiers in your house to remove pollens and dust from your pet’s indoor environment.

With some hard work and some help from us, your pet’s allergies can go from being a constant problem, to an occasional nuisance. Never hesitate to call us for help and advice!

## MOBILITY SUPPORT INFORMATION

Mobility is an essential foundation of quality of life for our pets. It is heartbreaking to witness the ability of movement deteriorate. In the past, there has been little we, as pet owners, can do to make this easier for our furry family members. However, modern science has provided veterinary medicine with new support for mobility and aging.

Our doctors can present your options, and help you to create and follow a plan that is right for you and your pet. Diagnostic techniques, such as examination and radiographs, make it possible to determine what condition is causing pain and immobility. We are then able to conclude with our recommendations for treatment.

### **Mobility Treatments Offered at Healing Paws:**

- Medications
- Supplements
- Laser Therapy
- Cartrophen Injections
- Referrals to Alternative Specialists
- Surgery

### **Medications** - relief of debilitating pain

- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)  
Bloodwork to be monitored regularly to check liver parameters for long-term use.
- Pain Control Drugs - An alternative to NSAIDs, for dogs whose organ function is abnormal.

### **Supplements** - help to promote healthy joints

- Osteosupport  
Contains: Green Lipped Mussel, Omega 3 Fatty Acids, Chondroitin
- Glucosamine HCL  
Contains: Green Lipped Mussel, Flax seed, Glucosamine, Chondroitin, Vitamins E and C, Marine cartilage
- Sasha’s Blend  
Contains: Green Lipped Mussel, Abalone, Marine cartilage
- Recovery  
Contains: Glucosamine, MSM, L-lysine HCL, Vitamins E and C, Magnesium



## MOBILITY, cont.

- Chinese Herbs  
Contains: MSM, Dolar Artuum

### **Cartrophen Injections**

- Protects and supports the recovery of joint cartilage, which is damaged through *arthritic process*
- Stops or slows down the degeneration of joints through the following modes of action:
  - Stops destructive enzymes that break down cartilage
  - Simulates the body's production of cartilage
  - Produces joint lubricant and anti-oxidants
  - Clears the blockages in the blood vessels to deliver nutrition to the joint

### **Laser Therapy**

- A non-invasive alternative used in conjunction with other therapy/treatment
- Alleviates pain and inflammation, speeds healing, and promotes the rejuvenation tissue and cells

### **Referrals**

- Chiropractors, Hydrotherapy, Massage, Specialist Surgery

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Open House** - October 04, 2014, 5:30pm. Everyone welcome!

**Haw!O Win Costume Contest** is back, by popular demand. Submit your entries by October 31st to be eligible for the prizes.

**Trick or Treat Trail** in Port Moody - stay tuned for details.

**Charlie Brown theme Christmas photos** - stay tuned.

**Donation Drive** for Coquitlam Animal Shelter - non-perishable items and donations accepted through November & December

In the spirit of the **Thanksgiving**  
we introduce a new  
**LOYALTY PROGRAM:**  
Collect redeemable points, for  
services purchased!

102-101 Klahanie Drive, Port Moody BC, V3H 0C3  
Tel 604 461-PAWS(7297)  
[www.healingpawsvet.ca](http://www.healingpawsvet.ca) | [wecare@healingpawsvet.ca](mailto:wecare@healingpawsvet.ca)