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Tail of Inspawration

Featuring Audie and his mum - Lori-Ann

More commonly called "Baby-Boy" by his caring mum, this 2 year old Papillon mix was diagnosed with megaesophagus as a young puppy. This condition forces the muscles of the esophagus to fail at propelling food down into the stomach. This means that if Audie were to eat out of a bowl on the ground like most dogs do, the ingested food would just sit in the esophagus within the chest cavity and would never make it to the stomach. This could ultimately lead to aspiration pneumonia which is very serious. Unfortunately, most dogs with this condition wind up being euthanized because it's next to impossible to train dogs to eat this way.

To manage his condition, Audie's mum has turned her life upside down to ensure the health and happiness of his. Lori-Ann's day consists of a very strict feeding schedule for her beloved Audie. He is fed every 2.5 hours. Luckily she has a willing neighbor and daughter who will help during the day while she is at work. Unfortunately the frequency of feeding is not the only factor in keeping him safe while digesting his food. Audie also has to be vertical while eating. Every meal consists of his body being upright, like a person. This way, gravity takes care of getting the ingested food down the path to the stomach. If he isn't being fed upright, he will regurgitate and may even breathe food into his lungs, which is called aspiration pneumonia. Sadly, most dogs with this condition wind up being euthanized because it's next to impossible to train dogs to eat this way.

Even though this takes a very large toll on Lori-Ann's personal life, she is incredibly committed to endure this with Audie in order to give him the best life possible. We genuinely thank her for being such a positive role model for other pet owners out there!