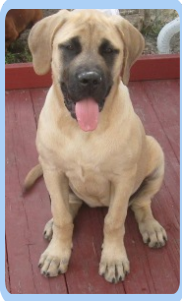




Four Hearts Foundation Newsletter

2011 was possibly the busiest year yet for us. Many stories of sour situations turned into sweet triumphs are in this, our final newsletter of the year. We hope all of you get to enjoy your holidays with loving family and friends.

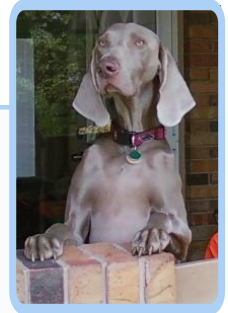


Allie

This precious pup had been hit by a car and ended up with a broken leg. Major surgery was required in order to save her leg, but the price was painfully steep for the owners. Luckily, they had been told about The Four Hearts Foundation and were able to give Allie the surgery to save her leg. Now Allie can go back to being a playful, happy puppy!

Bishop

This 4 year old Weimaraner needed help with the daily medicine he took to control his seizures. In order for him to receive a refill, he needed blood work done that was a little too costly for his owner to handle alone. From the donations made by people like you, Bishop was able to get his blood work done and medicine on time. Many kisses from Bishop to you for that!



Steve

This kitty was rescued from a hoarder, but had been weakened by the poor living conditions she had to grow up in; yes, Steve is a girl kitty! In her weakened state, Steve developed a very bad eye infection that eventually ruptured and needed emergency surgery. The Four Hearts Foundation helped ease the burden of some of the cost and, while she was under during surgery, she was also spayed! Steve may have lost an eye, but she gained health and a new loving home.

more stories on next page!

Sheba



A five year old Rat Terrier, Sheba was referred to us by the Belleville Area Humane Society, still looking for a forever home. In poor health from previous owners, Sheba had blood in her urine and showed signs of discomfort. After a visit from the veterinarian's office, it was found that Sheba had bladder stones, prompting an immediate surgery. All went well, and now Sheba is pain free and even found a new owner to show her love.

Killer and Rex

These 3 year old miniature pinscher siblings made a date with the veterinarian to be spayed and neutered. Now they can both hang out with each other without the worry of making mini-miniature pinschers!

Thank You All!

Donations (in cash or in kind)

- Pam & Chris Thornton
- Jim & Carol Eichholz
- Barbara Davidson
- The HALO Group
- Debra Skaer
- Carol Lesko
- Suzanne Schaefer
- Joyce Fisher
- Cliff Helfrich - In honor of Carol Lesko
- Jay & Sharon Hoffmann
- Bill & Cindi Miles
- Walter Politsch
- David Arndt
- William Turkington
- Carol Smithson
- Marilyn & James Krische
- Linda Linder

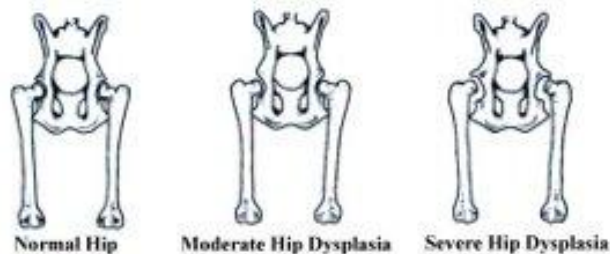
Trivia Donations

- Laurie Prickett
- Stephanie Andrews
- Mona Miller
- Stephanie Perkins
- Barbie Duncan and the Twirlin' Tigers
- Dana Strunk
- Karyn Moser
- Cathy Moeller
- Naiomi O'Sullivan
- Jo McCarty
- Charmagne Higgins
- Kelly Keller

Pet Memorials

Jim & Carol Eichholz
In memory of Tyler Lutz and Ozzie Holland

Matt, Tracy, and Alex Eichholz
In memory of Tyler Lutz and CJ Eichholz



What is hip dysplasia?

The word “dysplasia” means malformation; therefore, hip dysplasia means a malformation of the hip joint. Instead of being a smooth, well-seated “ball-and-socket” joint, a dysplastic hip has a flattened femoral head, and the “ball” portion of the joint does not fit tightly into the “socket”.

My dog is lame in her hind legs. Could she have hip dysplasia?

Yes, although there are many other causes of hind leg lameness in dogs. Your veterinarian will need to examine her and take some radiographs while she is sedated to rule out other causes of lameness like lumbosacral disease, spondylosis, anterior cruciate ligament rupture, and panosteitis. Sedation is required to ensure that the pelvis is positioned in a perfectly straight manner.

Besides lameness, what are other signs of hip dysplasia?

Difficulty getting up from a lying down position, a “bunny-hopping” gait, trembling and vocalizing, and reluctance to stand up on the hind legs are all signs of hip dysplasia. Some dogs “toe out” when standing (i.e., their back toes are angled so they point outward), and severely dysplastic dogs even make a popping or clicking noise when they walk.

How do dogs get hip dysplasia?

Hip dysplasia is a highly hereditary disease, so dysplastic dogs usually have inherited the genes for hip dysplasia from their mother and father. Certain breeds of dogs are more likely to have hip dysplasia. These breeds are generally the larger breeds, such as Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and Mastiffs. Conscientious breeders will have their breeding animals radiographed and OFA-certified to make sure that they have good hip conformation and will be likely to pass that on to their puppies.



more information on next page!

My dog has hip dysplasia and I can't afford surgery! What can I do?

Not all dysplastic dogs need to have surgery. If a dog has severe hip dysplasia, surgical procedure may be the only way to avoid crippling pain, but for many dogs with mild to moderate hip dysplasia, medical management and dietary management to prevent obesity can be the key to staying pain-free. Medical therapy for hip dysplasia may include non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like Rimadyl or Deramaxx, glucosamine supplements like Cosequin or Glycoflex, and injectable cartilage protectants like Adequan. Surgical procedures such as FHO (femoral head ostectomy), TPO (triple pelvic osteotomy), and total hip replacements can be performed by an experienced orthopedic surgeon if the dog is deemed to be a good candidate for that procedure. Consult your veterinarian if your dog has symptoms of hip dysplasia.

Remember - your dog can live a long, healthy life with appropriate medical and/or surgical management.



Tricks, Treats, and Trivia!

Thank you to everyone who made it out to our second trivia night in September, and our Halloween party in October. They both had wonderful turnouts, and between the two fundraisers, The Four Hearts Foundation received nearly \$4,200! What a great show of support to our cause.

Our next trivia event is scheduled for March 10, 2012. More information will be available in our Q1 2012 newsletter.

The Four Hearts Foundation was established in June, 2005 as a tribute to our canine and feline family members who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

In their memory, we work toward a better life and future for the homeless, abused, unwanted and unloved animals in the community. Our goal is to make a difference, even though it may be just one small heart at a time.



Tracy Eichholz, President
Jan Gettys, Treasurer
Christy Parkin, Secretary
Noelle R. Miles, D.V.M.
Jessica Draughn, Webmaster

Four Hearts Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 361 O'Fallon, IL 62269

paws@fourheartsfoundation.org



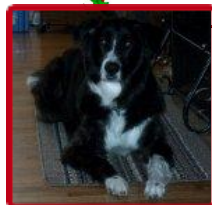
The generosity of all of our donors this year has had a tremendous impact on these animals and many, many more. These positive results are based solely on donations – 100% of what we do is only possible because of that generosity. So what exactly does donating to The Four Hearts Foundation provide to an animal in need?



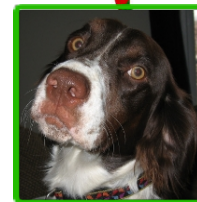
Can be enough to give an animal a **\$25** very important heartworm test.



Will be what a little kitten needs to rid herself of a terrible respiratory infection. **\$50**



Would help a small dog be able to get neutered, and help bring an end to **\$100** the pet over population problem.



Every dollar makes a difference, particularly in these difficult economic times. The animals continue to need you! We hope that during this holiday season, the generosity can continue to shine.

From everyone at The Four Hearts Foundation:
Thank you so much for your support and Happy Holidays!

