



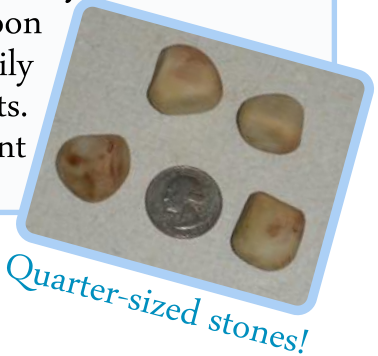
# Four Hearts Foundation Newsletter

The need for help has not diminished, but neither has your generosity. Donations from our 2011 Holiday newsletter totaled nearly \$1,300! Contributions such as this ensure help is given to those in need. Here are just a few examples:



## Zoey

Zoey, a Rat/Fox Terrier mix, had some urinary issues that soon turned into urinary accidents in the house. When the accidents turned into bloody accidents, they quickly took Zoey to the veterinarian's office to see what was wrong. Zoey had bladder stones and they needed to be removed as soon as possible. With surgery never being cheap, Zoey's family found The Four Hearts Foundation to help with the costs. Zoey is back to being their "Baby Girl", pain and accident free.



Quarter-sized stones!



## Lexi

This five year old Brittany Spaniel was struck by a vehicle one night that caused severe trauma to her spine. Upon examination, it was revealed that her L7 vertebrae was broken, and there was also potential for a herniated disk. Surgery was performed immediately, and a long recovery process was imminent. Remarkably, Lexi was standing, with sling assistance, only twelve hours after surgery, and was back home less than two weeks later! As of today, Lexi is back to her "crazy-Brittany-self" and having fun wrestling with her siblings. Without the donations we receive from people like you, Lexi's family would have had a mountain of medical expenses to pay off, instead of a hill. Lexi says - thank you so much!



Such a Brave Girl!



### Geo

A badly broken canine tooth almost gave this poor pooch more problems than pain! An extraction had to be done quickly before an infection set in, but times were very difficult for the family, and the burden of a costly vet bill was too much to handle. Fortunately, they contacted The Four Hearts Foundation before the situation turned rotten. With the ailment gone, Geo can go back to being a happy, pain free pup.

For more inspiring stories visit: [fourheartsfoundation.org](http://fourheartsfoundation.org)

## Thank You, Everyone!

### ♥ Donations (In Cash or In Kind) ♥

Kelly and Kerry Saunders - in memory of Buddy  
Derek and Dana Strunk  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Meyer  
The HALO Group  
Joyce Fisher  
Gloria Holland  
Jill Rutter  
Susan Fizer  
Cliff Helfrich  
Barbara and Jerry Davidson  
Phillip and Linda Hanson - in memory of Max  
Phyllis Ulrich  
Martha Dexheimer  
Kenny and Samatha Krieg - in memory of Mia

Ruth Erlinger  
Vivian Vermeersch - in memory of Lady  
Stephen Krische  
Edwardsville Kennel Club  
Wendy and Larry Kricensky - in memory of Bradley  
Donna Billedeau  
Theresa Reynolds  
Roni Aguirre  
Cyrilla Watson  
Geri Gallagher  
Effingers  
Renae Eichholz  
Mike Barker  
Angela Schaefer

### ♥ Pet Memorials ♥

In Memory of Samantha  
Karyn Moser  
Matt, Tracy, and Alex Eichholz  
Dave and Cathy Moeller

In Memory of Boomer  
Noelle Miles  
Naiomi O'Sullivan  
Laurie Eisenhauer  
Karyn Moser  
Dave and Cathy Moeller  
Carol and Jim Eichholz

### ♥ In Memory of Mildred Kricensky ♥

Judith and Raymond Gruender  
Carol Lesko  
Bonnie Schad  
Senator Bond  
Thompson Coburn LLP  
Thomas Kinsock and Ellen Bonacorsi  
Stephen Vilcheck  
Stanley and Carol Phillips  
Sean and Lisa Saunders and Family  
Wendy and Larry Kricensky

Christy Shelton  
Nikki Camey  
Carol Beck  
Jan and Jon Gettys  
Laurie Prickett  
Jean Durr  
Cyrilla Watson  
Helen Phillips  
Joan Gettys

## What are bladder stones?

Bladder stones, also known as uroliths, are mineral concretions that form in the bladder. In humans, uroliths typically form in the kidneys and cause acute pain when they lodge in the ureter. In dogs, 85% of uroliths form in the bladder, and can be asymptomatic or can cause pain and blood in the urine.



## How would I know if my pet had bladder stones?

The most common symptom that leads to presentation at a veterinary clinic is inappropriate urination. If your cat begins voiding outside the litter box or your housebroken dog starts having "accidents" in the house, your veterinarian should examine your pet and perform a urinalysis. Straining to urinate and blood in the urine also warrant prompt evaluation for urolithiasis.

## My veterinarian said my dog had a bladder infection, but the antibiotic did not cure her symptoms. What's the problem?

Often, dogs have a bladder infection and bladder stones at the same time because the infection shifts the urine pH so that minerals in the urine precipitate out and form stones. If your pet's symptoms do not resolve within 3-4 days of starting an antibiotic, your veterinarian may perform radiographs of the bladder because many types of stones are readily visible on a radiograph ( or "X-ray").



## What are other causes of bladder stones?

Besides urinary tract infections, genetic and breed-related factors commonly cause bladder stone formation. Schnauzers, Shih Tzus, and Dalmatians have strong breed predilections towards bladder stone formation. Also, any dog that is diagnosed with ammonium urate stones should be tested for a liver disorder called a liver shunt. Ammonium urate stones can quickly recur if the underlying liver disease is not treated.

## How are bladder stones treated?

Surgical removal of the stones via an incision in the bladder is the recommended treatment. Bladder stones can range in size from the size of a poppy seed to the size of a paperweight, so the duration of such a surgery will vary accordingly. Some male dogs may also require an incision in the urethra if urethral stones are present.

Continued on next page

## Leaving No Stone Unturned? (cont.)

### How do you prevent bladder stones from recurring?

Once the stones are retrieved from the urinary tract, they are sent to a laboratory for analysis of their mineral composition. Common stones in dogs and cats include magnesium struvite, calcium oxalate, and ammonium urate. Once their composition is known, a special prescription diet can be implemented to prevent the recurrence of the stones.

I also recommend using distilled water for the pet's drinking water to minimize ingestion of minerals. Periodic urinalyses should be performed to monitor pH changes, microscopic blood in the urine, and microscopic crystals that may signal a need to change the treatment plan. Bladder stones are common in pets, but with the help of your veterinarian, they can be removed and your pet can live stone-free with appropriate dietary management. Be sure to tell your veterinarian about any changes in your pet's urinary habits - what you think is just "Bad dog!" may be a serious medical problem.

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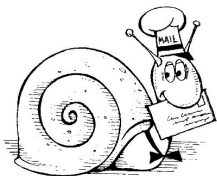
## Twirlin' Tigers to The Rescue

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Twirlin' Tigers, and their coordinator Barbie Duncan, for their continued support of The Four Hearts Foundation. This is a group of very dedicated, caring young women from St. Theresa's school who have helped us in the past with our trivia nights and mailers. These girls run the tables at trivia, keep things moving in a timely fashion, and also help in processing our newsletters. The Four Hearts Foundation thanks you all! We could not have done it without your help!

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### Go Paperless!

Enjoy reading our newsletter but want to help cut costs and save trees? Go paperless! The Four Hearts Foundation newsletter is also sent out in electronic format, with all the same stories and articles, but delivered instantly to your email address as soon as it's finalized! All you have to do is send an email to: [tracy@fourheartsfoundation.org](mailto:tracy@fourheartsfoundation.org) stating that you would like to receive our newsletter by email, and we will take care of the rest!



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

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