

# VETERINARY cancer care



www.vetcancercare.com

Take a **BITE** Out of Cancer!



SUMMER 2010



Lucy playing ball more than 6 months after amputation of her right front leg!

## The Good Life on Three Legs

Osteosarcoma is the most common bone tumor in dogs and is most commonly found in the limbs. Amputation of the affected limb is typically the first step when faced with this diagnosis. For most people, the decision to have a pet's limb amputated is weighty one. The question we hear most often is "will my dog have a good quality of life with only 3 legs"? In almost every case, the answer to this question is yes. Bone cancer is very painful and amputation removes the source of pain thus providing a great deal of relief. The decision to amputate is not emotional for our canine friends. They are free from the emotions that a human facing amputation might experience—shame, loss of esteem, or anger—they are simply happy to be out of pain. Most owners find that their pet's quality of life actually improves after amputation. An otherwise healthy, active young dog will typically have fewer challenges post amputation than an older or overweight dog. And some dogs may need a little help from a physical therapist to learn how to use their new body effectively. But many never skip a beat and are back to playing ball, wrestling with friends, chasing cats, and checking the food bowl in no time!

Many human's need the support of others that comes through trading stories, & photos. Luckily, there are many on-line groups dedicated to helping owners through a diagnosis of osteosarcoma and amputation. For additional information, inspirational stories, videos, photographs and more please visit:

 [www.tripawds.com](http://www.tripawds.com)

 [www.bonecancerdogs.org](http://www.bonecancerdogs.org)



Max exercising on an underwater treadmill at Dr. Hady's clinic in Santa Fe, NM (photo courtesy of tripawds.com)

## Upcoming Events

- ♥ **Bark for Life in Albuquerque, August 21st** - For more information or to register please visit: [www.relayforlife.org/barkalbuquerque](http://www.relayforlife.org/barkalbuquerque)
- ♥ **Bark for Life in Santa Fe, August 28th** - For more information or to register please visit: <http://events.cancer.org/barksantafe>

## Shadow's Story

Shadow is my best friend and constant companion. He came into my life after his first mom died in 2007. After moving to New Mexico I noticed that his arthritis was worsening and he started physical therapy and acupuncture. In March 2008 suspicious lumps were found and Shadow had surgery. Two of his lumps were malignant. Shadow had 2 types of cancer – mast cell tumor and soft tissue sarcoma. Unfortunately, surgery did not remove all of his cancer so Dr. Kelly started Shadow on chemotherapy. He has been cancer free now for 2 years and 3 months and we are thoroughly enjoying our life together. Shadow will turn 13 in Oct. and there are no words to describe the gratitude I have for Dr. Kelly, all her staff, and his entire veterinary team for giving me time with my best friend.

~Anita



Shadow and Anita



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