

Dear Margie,

I thought I would give you an update on Chloe. After seeing our own veterinarian and being recommended for an orthopedic consult at Colonial Veterinary Hospital in Ithaca, it was recommended that we have surgery on Chloe's hip as soon as possible. Because she is young and healthy her prognosis is excellent.

She had surgery at Colonial yesterday to remove the ball of her hip on the left side. The right side is slightly dysplastic but both vets felt that if the left side was corrected there might be no future problems with the right. Chloe has learned to walk primarily on three legs and the muscles in her left hind leg were atrophying. It is these muscles, along with scar tissue that will result when the ball of her hip is removed that will allow her to walk normally. Both vets were very impressed with the quality of the digital x-ray taken by your vet. This enabled them to make a really good judgment about the extent of Chloe's condition.

I called the hospital at 5:30 last night and Chloe had just come out of surgery. They told me that she had done very well and was progressing as expected. That made us happy but didn't do much for the hole in our hearts that Chloe left. We sure do miss her. She is the most wonderful dog we have ever had!

What lies ahead is two weeks of cage rest at home, then physical therapy performed both by us (they will teach us what to do) and physical therapy in their underwater treadmill (he called it a "fishbowl"). The orthopedic surgeon told us that this is fairly common surgery and dogs who have it go on to lead absolutely normal lives, running and playing like other dogs.

This is very expensive and will amount to several thousand dollars. She is so worth it! We are thankful that you rescued her and that she is in our lives. Somehow, in just one short week, she has become the light of our lives.

I will keep you updated and let you know how she is doing when she returns home and as she progresses in therapy. I will certainly send you pictures when she is active and playing again.

Thanks again for all you do!

Mike & Sandi Polakow