

Dodger's Digest

Official Newsletter of Dodgerslist

Web site and care forum offering education and support for owners and dogs with disc disease

www.dodgerslist.com



Bright Outcomes: Lilo

By April Natesiri



It was a gloomy, crisp November morning in 2012, just a couple days after the Thanksgiving weekend. That day began like any other: we napped, we ate, we took a walk. It soon became the most heartbreaking and unforgettable 24 hours of our lives. Lilo lost her ability to use her back legs the moment we returned from her stroll around the neighborhood. The look of terror and hysterical crying will never leave my memory. I instantly thought she had hurt her leg during our walk, or

perhaps she was experiencing a seizure of some sort. Within minutes we were on the way to the emergency vet. The VCA Animal McClave Hospital threw out a term, that will forever affect mine and Lilo's life. Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD) - herniation of the disc, causing inflammation surrounding the spinal nerves, resulting in pain and even paralysis. I instantly searched the term on my phone, and found the Dodgerslist website. Terrifying, but it was our reality. We left the clinic and raced to the specialty veterinarian center where we could consult with a Neurologist at ACCESS, in Woodland Hills, Calif. And just like that, Lilo was in surgery that afternoon.

Fast forward 2 months post-surgery. We received the greatest package in the mail. It was Lilo's very own custom cart from Eddie's Wheels For Pets. That moment she regained her mobility was the single most happiest time for us. It was a part of her, and it was as though she knew it would be her best friend for many years to come. She took to her cart instantly and had no trouble getting back on her feet! Despite 7 months of intensive rehabilitation, Lilo's paralysis was never reversed. She no longer had control over her bladder or bowel. Risk of urinary tract infections was high, and often haunted us. There were several things she could no longer do. And there were many things we had to change and adjust to. But only two things mattered - that she was in no pain & her quality of life would be sustained. Together we challenged ourselves with those hardships and found a way to rise from our experience, by sharing her story with the world.

We started an Instagram page in 2014, a bit over a year after her surgery. She was 6 years old, and more active than ever before! It wasn't long ago that we were faced with an overload of new information and felt terribly alone, scared and confused. Social media outlets have become an excellent source for information, and that's what we hoped to achieve. It has opened many doors and graciously accepted Lilo for who she is and what she represents: the underdog.



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Lilo

Raising awareness and education about IVDD has helped many of our followers, in both acute and preventative care. It has also connected us with many opportunities with rescue organizations and fundraising events (such as WagAware, the Dachshund Rescue of South Florida, Umbrella of Hope, and The Frankie Wheelchair Fund). Lilo amazes me everyday and just gives me a reason to keep thriving at everything I do. She has reinforced the most precious gifts in life: unconditional love and patience. Her sassy personality and hilarious dachshund characteristics has touched many lives and brought them smiles and inspiration. Sharing her tenacious story as a special-needs dog has now reached over 50,000 people worldwide through her Instagram and Facebook pages. We have been so fortunate to have the opportunity to help our community. It has been a rewarding experience, and we have met some very amazing people throughout our journey, including many fellow wheeliedogs and The WeenTeam, a group of intelligent, creative Dachshund moms across the globe!



It is a myth that dogs are color blind.

They can see color, just not as distinctly as humans. It is similar to our vision at dusk or in low light.

We see a beach ball like this:



While your dog sees this:



Intervertebral Disc Disease is not a death sentence. Lilo is now 8 ½ years old and wheeling around like it's nobody's business – living proof that it can be manageable and that having a disability doesn't necessarily slow you down. She is a happy little ween, and I am proud to be her Mother! Watching her zoom around in her wheels and chase after tennis balls is a sight for sore eyes. Keeping a realistic and playful outlook on a daily basis has brought inspiration and a better understanding about the disease and its aftercare. Our hope is to continue to share her story through her infectious smile and zest for life.

Dodgerslist Gets Around

On March 28, 2016, Terri Morgan gave her 4-H presentation on IVDD at the freehold agricultural building for the 14 Carrot Rabbit Club.

Holly, her mother, commented "I wish I had my husband come to video it. You would have been proud of her. Not bad for an 8 year old."



Barking: Fear and Aggression

By John Visconti, Rising Star Dog Training

Essentially, these are linked. Fear is the emotion the dog is experiencing; aggressive barking is how the dog manages that emotion.



Here's the math: "Spooky item = discomfort = fight or flight."

When encountering fear producing stimuli, dogs gain comfort by increasing distance between them and the trigger of their fear. One way to increase distance is through a display of aggression; in other words, the best defense is a good offense.

If you and Fido are out for a walk and your dog encounters an upsetting stimulus – stranger, another dog, etc. – your dog's body primes itself for action, fight or flight. Since your dog is on leash, flight isn't possible. What's left? Fight.

"Woof woof. Bark bark. I'm warning you...don't come closer. Woof woof. Snarly woof...back off. Grrrrrrrwoof. I'm going to count to three...wooooooof. WOOOOoOOoOOooof. Bark bark." You get the idea.

What to do? It's quite simple; change your dog's emotional response to the fear instigating stimulus.

Let's take a look at this in human terms. How many parents are in such a rush to relive the "wonderful" experience of being introduced to Santa Claus that they bring their child to the mall, plop Johnny on Santa's lap, and watch in horror as their kid screams and cries in total fear? Parents often forget what it was like to first meet that loud fat guy, with white hair, a long white beard, wearing weird clothing and bellowing "HO HO HO". Spooky stimulus, indeed. BUT over time, with lots of happy talk about presents and Santa coming, we all learn to LOVE him especially after he delivers the goods. Our learned fear of Santa is counter conditioned into total joy at even the mention of his name.



Photo credit: Paula Milner

Your dog is no different. Once you have identified the spooky object, you can change your dog's emotional reaction to that object by slowly desensitising and counter conditioning your dog. This is done by pairing things your dog loves, often yummy treats and happy talk, to the fear-causing stimulus.

Sadly, most ill-informed trainers teach dog owners the exact opposite of what they should be doing. These trainers teach owners to "correct" (euphemism alert: "correct" means jerk the leash, use a choker or prong collar and jerk it, administer a shock...in other words, correction = cause pain/discomfort). The dog now learns "Every time I see another dog, I get hurt. I hate other dogs even more than I used to." That the dog might eventually quiet down in order to avoid the pain being doled out by the owner doesn't mean he/she feels any less fearful and is any less inclined to react the next time. In fact, due to the consequences of the corrections, the dog will often begin reacting more strongly in order to ward off the object that is now associated with pain.

Let's take another look at this in human terms. A child is placed on Santa's lap. The child starts to cry. The parent YELLS at the child "STOP!" The child still cries. The child is slapped across the top of the head. I don't know about you but I'm not seeing the creation of a happy relationship between that child and Santa as a result of these methods.

Available in the Dodgerslist Store:



Thermos

http://www.cafepress.com/dodgers_list.1670605039

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Link something positive to the appearance of the spooky stimulus and your dog will change his/her emotional response to that stimulus.

John Visconti, CPDT-KA, is Certified Professional Dog Trainer and owner of Rising Star Dog Training in Long Island, New York. <http://risingstardogtraining.com/>



The American Kennel Club has introduced two new breeds in 2016:

- The American Hairless Terrier joins the terrier group. The breed started in the U.S. in the early 1970s.



- The Sloughi is also known as the Arabian Greyhound, and joins the Hound group. This is an ancient North African breed noted for hunting and endurance for long runs.



Discospondylitis

SAGE Centers for Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Care, Concord, Calif.
www.sagecenters.com

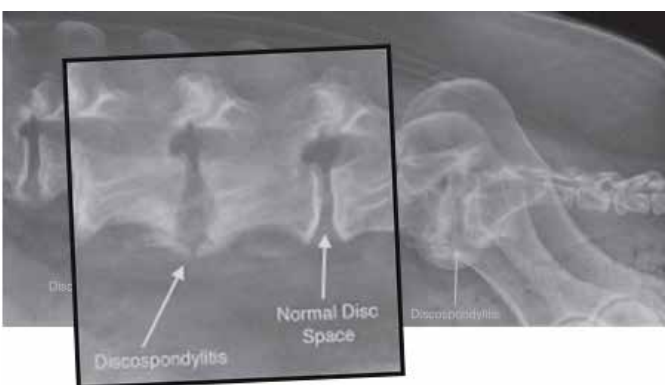
What is discospondylitis?

Discospondylitis is infection of the space between vertebrae (disc/disc space). It can occur as a result of spread of infection from elsewhere in the body (i.e. urinary tract, blood stream, prostate) or from local infection only in the disc space. It is most commonly caused by a bacterial infection, however fungal discospondylitis can occur. It occurs most frequently in young to middle-aged, male, large-breed dogs such as the German shepherd and Rottweiler. Dogs who are not neutered and develop infection of the prostate are predisposed to discospondylitis. Discospondylitis also occurs more commonly in animals that are immune-suppressed.

What are the clinical signs of discospondylitis?

The most common clinical signs are back or neck pain, reluctance to walk, and decreased appetite. Some dogs may cry out when getting up or down or be reluctant to run or jump. The location of the pain depends on the location of the infection.

Discospondylitis occurs most commonly in the lower back but can occur anywhere along the spine and often occurs in multiple locations. If the infection is severe or goes for a long time without treatment, the bone can become very weak and is prone to fracture. In some cases, the infection can also spread to affect the spinal cord. If fracture or spinal cord infection occurs, animals can become paralyzed.



How is discospondylitis diagnosed?

Spinal x-rays often show evidence of infection at the disc space, but MRI or CT scan is preferred to better visualize the bone and spinal cord, and is often necessary in early cases of discospondylitis where

x-rays don't show dramatic change. Where it is safe, a needle can be inserted into the disc space to try to sample and culture the infectious organism. Because the urine and blood may also harbor infection in some dogs with discospondylitis, they are also cultured.

How is discospondylitis treated?

The appropriate antibiotic or antifungal treatment is chosen based on the type of infectious organism grown via disc, urine, or blood culture. In some cases, the infectious organism is not or cannot be identified and treatment with an antibiotic that kills the most common type of bacteria (Staphylococcus) is initiated. Treatment for discospondylitis continues for a minimum of 4-6 months, with recheck neurologic exams and x-rays at regular intervals. When an animal has been pain-free and the x-rays show complete resolution of the infection, treatment can be discontinued.

Avoiding the Pitfalls of Microchipping

By Mary Wall, Johns Island Animal Hospital

There are many manufacturers of microchips (MC's) and thus many different groups that register them and, also, many manufacturers of microchip scanners.

Although there are some scanners that will read all types of chips, there are also scanners that do not.



Advice to anyone who owns a pet:

1. If you know there is a MC, ask your vet to scan and confirm that it is present and functioning, and that the number documented is correct. Every time you go to a vet, ask them to scan (we do at Johns Island!) And sometimes, we find no chip, extra chips, or the wrong number chip (disastrous).

2. Ensure that all of your personal info is current with your own company of registration. When we move, change email, change phone number, etc., we must remember to update our microchip registration.

3. Try to keep a microchip tag on you pet's collar. I realize this can be impossible, but it is very helpful to do so.

4. Understand what a chip can and cannot do. It can return the pet to his owner, IF:

- the chip is properly scanned
- the chip is scanned by a scanner that can read the type of chip you have
- information with the registry is accurate



Steve Fowler's Ollie

MCs are not trackers. If you have not registered the chip, the only info that is obtained is who purchased that chip. If it was a breeder, a disorganized shelter, etc., there may be no way to find you.

If you adopted a previously owned pet, be sure that the contact registration is now for yourself. It is important to note that an MC can be surgically removed. I am saying this not to encourage stealing a dog, but sometimes there can be problems with transfer of information and it may be easier to remove the old MC and replace it with a new MC.

MICROCHIP NIGHTMARES

1. We scan and find multiple microchips. I found 3 on one dog once! Often, the pet was never scanned prior to chipping; there was already a chip there when a second one was inserted. Or, often the scanner used by the latter chip placers was not able to read the other chips that were already there.

2. I have scanned and found no chip even though the owner had paperwork indicating a chip should be present. MCs show up on radiographs/X-rays so I can use that tool to confirm that there is no chip present. The chip either fell out or was never placed. MC placement is an art and, in our clinic, only vets perform this procedure.

3. Sometimes the wrong chip number is found compared with the tag or adoption agency paper number. Usually, these chips come from a shelter where there is an "assembly line" set up for spay/neuter/chip, and in the chaos, details about which chip goes with which pet are lost.

Beware of companies who sell chips and register chips in their own registry. These are chips that have been re-marketed from another manufacturer. Often these independent registries charge registration fees and only answer their hotline Mondays through Fridays from 9 to 5, rather than 24/7.



The 2016 Super Bowl commercial featuring a stampede of dachshunds for Heinz was consistently ranked one of the best super bowl ads. The ad was created by the DAVID ad agency in Miami.

<https://youtu.be/aNN9nL2vppM>

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Microchipping



Pet owners should also know that you can always register your MC with the AKC registry. This has nothing to do with pure-bred pedigrees; they will register anyone's chips. So, you can have a dual-registration and multiple tags from different registries with the same chip number. I really like that the AKC does this!

Microchips can be an incredible blessing, but, if not dealt with properly, an incredible curse! If one calls the wrong registry, has the wrong chip number, inaccurate owner info...well, you get it!

- Get your chips scanned
- Keep your registry information up-to-date
- Get tags for collars
- Ensure that your vet has all the relevant information

What inspired this? Lots of things, but, in particular, recent events involving no chips where one was thought to be present, a dog with a chip that did not match the number on his tag, and the dog with two chips, one from Washington state and one from South Carolina. In the last case, the information on the Washington owner led to a dead end, and we the helped owner change the former registration so that if that chip were ever to be re-scanned it would lead to the correct, new owner.

One dog already had a chip but needed me to place a second chip, called an "ISO" chip, to leave the country. At the facility the dog ended up at for insemination, they either did not scan for chips or did not own a scanner that could read the implanted chips. They implanted another, and this dog came home with three chips.

One final note. Two of my patients have chips that have migrated to their elbows. So, it is important for your vet to scan the entire body.

Available in the
Dodgerslist Store:



Baby Bib

http://www.cafepress.com/dodgers_list.557844087



Serenity Prayer
Blanket

http://www.cafepress.com/dodgers_list.557821025

SHARE THE LOVE



Dawn's Max (the superdog) tests out his new set of wheels for cruising in the neighborhood.



Joe's dogs love to play ball. Tauree has IVDD and is a 7-year-old Piebald. Armani is a 2 1/2-year-old silver dapple.



Erin's Jessie was diagnosed with IVDD in July 2014. If I didn't happen upon Dodgerslist, I would be lost. I can't thank you enough.



Tryniti's Suki is a mini-Schnauzer/ Yorkie mix

who slipped a disc in her back over a year ago. Four months of strict crate rest, and I haven't had an issue since. I've been really careful not to let her jump or take stairs.

Preventing Heat Stroke in Dogs and Cats

Reprinted with permission by Brett C. Wood, DVM, MS Diplomate ACVS Asheville Veterinary Specialists/R.E.A.C.H.

Heat stroke is a major concern for pet owners. Humans and animals respond differently when they get too hot. Humans are able to sweat to cool themselves; dogs and cats cannot sweat and must rely on panting to make themselves more comfortable. Panting isn't a very efficient method of cooling off when it gets very hot and/or humid, however, and as a result, dogs and cats can overheat. With dogs this is especially true if they are overweight, have a thick coat, have heart or lung problems, or have a short muzzle.

Heat stroke symptoms

If your companion animal is overheating, s/he will usually appear sluggish and may not respond to you. His or her tongue and gums may be bright red and very dry, and s/he may be vomiting or having diarrhea. He or she may also have an unusual breathing pattern, panting very hard, or have a high heart rate. Heat stroke in animals is very serious and can be life-threatening. If your animal has been exposed to elevated temperatures and exhibits any of these signs, seek emergency veterinary help immediately.

Heat stroke's deadly affects

Animals that overheat can develop kidney problems, bleeding disorders, and brain damage very rapidly, sometimes within a few minutes. As a result, an animal can go into a coma and die. On the way to the veterinarian, cool your animal down with wet towels, by spritzing him/her with cool water, or by providing ice chips for him/her to chew if s/he is conscious. (Note: these measures are not substitutes for medical treatment.)

Heat stroke prevention

Heat stroke is preventable. When the weather is warm, your companion animals must have access to plenty of water and should not be left outside for long periods. If you must leave your animal outside, make sure that s/he has a cool, shady area in which to rest. Additionally, if you exercise your animal, do it in the early morning or late evening – not in the middle of the day when temperatures are at their peak. And NEVER leave your animal in a car, even if you leave the windows down. Your furry friend could die of heat stroke in as little as 10 to 15 minutes. Remember the



A farmer is lucky enough to own a talking sheepdog.

After the dog gets all the sheep in the pen, he says to the farmer, "All forty sheep are accounted for."

The farmer says, "But I've only got 37 sheep."

The sheepdog says, "I know. I rounded them up."

"Is it Too Warm to Take My Dog Along Today?"

We need to ask ourselves this question every time we take our dog for a ride in the car.

Warm weather can literally be a killer for a dog left inside a car. On warm days, the inside of a car heats up very quickly. When it's 85 degrees outside, the temperature inside a car – even with the windows cracked – can soar to 102 degrees in 10 minutes and 120 degrees in just half an hour. Even outside temperatures in the 70s can be dangerous to dogs.



Leaving a dog for "just a minute" may be too long! Because they rely on panting and aren't able to sweat, dogs can't cool themselves like people can and their body temperature can rise quickly. Dogs left in the heat can suffer severe illness, organ damage – or even death – in a matter of minutes.

Keep your dog cool. Join other people who love their dogs by taking the "Cool Dog" pledge at MyDogsCool.com

If you see a dog in a hot car: Try to locate the dog's guardians, then call animal control, the police or 911 if the dog is in distress. If the dog is overcome by heat, wet the dog's feet and coat with water and seek veterinary care immediately.

Share this lifesaving information.

Please pass this along to another animal lover and help keep dogs cool!

MyDogsCool.com

Keep a stack handy to give out – especially in parking lots. Order or download the Hot Car Flyer: <http://mydogiscool.com/order-materials/#hot-car-signs>

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Heat Stroke



factors that increase an animal's risk of developing heat stroke: water deprivation, excessive humidity, obesity, excessive exercise, cardiovascular disease, and lack of acclimatization to the temperature. Don't forget, your companion animal relies on YOU, so take good care of him/her and enjoy your summer together!



Considering whether to purchase pet insurance? Check out these two links for more information about coverage for IVDD surgery and therapies.

- Compare Pet Insurance Companies "A Vet's Guide To Pet Insurance" http://www.pet-insurance-university.com/compare_pet_insurance.html
- AARV has just released a newly updated version of its summary of pet insurance coverage for rehabilitation services, current as of March 2016: <http://www.rehabvets.org/docs/AARV-Pet-Insurance-Summary-030516.pdf>

Download your "Hot Oven" free poster: <http://mydogiscool.com/product/hot-oven-poster/>

Help Your Dog with Thunder and Fireworks Season

Reprinted with permission by University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Kelly Ballantyne and Dr. Valerie Jonckheer-Sheehy

Even though noise aversion presents a significant problem for many dogs and often gets worse without appropriate treatment, many treatment options are available.

Millions of dogs all over the world are terrified by the sound of fireworks. In fact, the town of Collecchio, Italy, recently introduced legislation requiring the use of silent fireworks to reduce the stress caused to pets.

Even if everyone in the world used silent fireworks, there are plenty of other loud noises that cause anxious, fearful, and phobic responses in dogs. In a study conducted in the United Kingdom and published in *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* in 2013, 49% of dog owners indicated that their dog responded fearfully to a loud noise, including thunder, gunshots, and cars backfiring. Too often dogs affected by this condition also suffer from other anxiety disorders, particularly separation anxiety.

Signs of a Problem

When should you be concerned? Your dog may have a problem if you repeatedly notice any of the following reactions to a loud noise:

- Trembling or shaking
- Hiding
- Following you closely/seeming clingy
- Panting or drooling
- Attempting to escape or chewing on furniture, walls, or crate
- Pacing or appearing restless
- Whining or barking
- Covering
- Appearing hypervigilant

This list is not meant to be exhaustive or definitive; a dog that displays one of these signs in response to a sound does not necessarily have a noise aversion. However, if your dog shows one or several of these signs in response to a noise, please seek help from your veterinarian.

What Causes Aversion to Noises in Dogs?

No specific cause has been identified for this condition, but the noises that cause these reactions share common characteristics of being very loud, difficult to localize, lacking in pattern, and impulsive (that is, occurring in short bursts).

Dogs can inherit noise aversion or may develop it after a traumatic experience involving a loud noise. Dogs suffering from other fear or anxiety disorders may be more likely to be sensitive to noises. Noise phobias can affect dogs of any age, breed, gender, or neutering status. Results from an Internet survey published in the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association* in 2001 indicated that herding breeds such as German shepherd dogs and border collies seem to be more susceptible to developing this condition.



What Can We Do?

The first step is to bring your dog to your veterinarian for an evaluation. Your veterinarian may take a detailed history, perform a complete physical and neurological examination, and take blood samples from your dog for testing to rule out underlying medical conditions.

There are also many steps you can take to control exposure to loud noises or reduce their intensity to help your pet feel more comfortable.

- **Avoid triggers:** Noise-averse dogs should not be brought to fireworks displays or forced outside during a storm in the hope that they'll get used to these sounds. In fact, doing so will probably intensify their fears.
- **Modify or remove triggers:** You could encourage your dog to stay in a sound-insulated area during thunderstorms, or you could install acoustic tiles in his/her safe spot. Play the TV/radio and use white noise to muffle the loud noises. Shut blinds, shutters, and curtains or encourage your pet to rest in a windowless room. Consider teaching your dog (in a positive way) to wear earplugs or noise-cancelling headphones, such as Mutt Muffs.
- **Don't use punishment:** Don't punish your dog physically or shout at her/him for reacting to a loud sound. This will only make your dog more anxious/reactive and may even cause your dog to react aggressively. Punishment may also reinforce that there was something to be worried about in the first place.
- **Comfort:** Try to be home or have someone stay with your dog during a loud noise event. There is no evidence that proves comforting or ignoring your dog makes the situation worse or helps. It may help some dogs to hold them firmly and lean into them; only do this when your dog approaches you and you think he or she will benefit. Release your dog if he or she struggles. Long, firm massage strokes may also help.
- **Safe haven:** Create a safe haven for your dog with familiar blankets, cushions, and toys. Feed your dog there or leave tidbits there frequently for her/him to find. Let your dog get used to this space before the fireworks and storm season. It can be a place that your dog is already accustomed to. If you think your dog will want to escape to that place during a loud noise event, then try to get her or him to go and settle there before the events start. Ideally this would be an interior windowless room.
- **Medication:** Your veterinarian may prescribe anti-anxiety medication to aid treatment and minimize your dog's suffering. The goal of using medication is to reduce the intensity of your dog's fear and anxiety. These medications should be used in combination with a behavior modification plan outlined by your veterinarian. All medications should be prescribed by a veterinarian. Never give your dog any medications without first consulting your veterinarian, as you may seriously harm your dog's health.

While treatment will not cure your dog of noise aversion, it will help to improve her/his ability to cope and make storms and fireworks more manageable events.

Treatment is most effective when employed at the first sign of a problem. Consult with your veterinarian as soon as possible. Your veterinarian may refer you to a veterinary behaviorist in complex cases.

About the Authors: Kelly Ballantyne is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists providing services through Veterinary Behavior at Illinois, a Chicago-based practice that is part of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. Valerie Jonckheer-Sheehy is a diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine (subspecialty Behavioural Medicine of Companion Animals) seeing patients at the Veterinary Referral Centre de Wagenrenk, Wageningen, The Netherlands.



Kathy's Max has had three episodes of IVDD. She was having a terrible time with people knocking on the door during the crate rest period.

So, she made a sign reading, "Please Do Not Knock or Ring Door... Max is a Dachshund With A Hurt Back. Please Leave Packages on Porch or Call (phone #). Thank you!"

She placed it in a decorative frame and hung in on her door. It has worked wonders and she plans to leave it on the door even though Max is off of crate rest.

Available in the Dodgerslist Store:



Bad Back Decal

http://www.cafepress.com/dodgers_list/7897715

IVDD Survivor, Olympia, 2002-2016

By Cris Lewis

I miss the upside-down smile Oly gave me when she rolled over for a belly rub. That smile made me laugh every time Oly “helped” me make the bed – she would zoom from one corner of the bed to the next, rolling over for a belly rub. Could not help but laugh, and the chore always took at least 15 minutes when Oly was “helping.”



I miss the breathing blankets that told me which dog bed Oly had burrowed into.

I miss the zoom-zoom running of a little Dachshund who did not realize her rear legs were not 100%. See, Oly was an IVDD (Intervertebral Disc Disease) survivor.

Two emergency surgeries, within 6 months of each other, for ruptured discs that initially left her paralyzed did not stop her. She is also the IVDD dog that taught me so much about cervical disc care, as Oly spent many long weeks on crate rest between her surgeries – that was the year from hell for us!



At Rally - 2011

Oly never gave up, and she taught me the same lesson. It was because of Olympia that I became involved with Dodgerslist.

Olympia was my first show Dachshund; the first dog with which I bred a litter. As a young adult, Oly was Best in Match at a fun match; she bounced back at 9 years of age (after recovering from two surgeries and a neck disc issue treated with crate rest and conservative methods) to finish her Rally Obedience title – her third leg was a perfect 100, but she took 2nd place because an Irish Setter also had a 100 and longer legs.

She continued to stay active in her senior years doing Nose Work. Oly completed her Birch ORT, and since the rigors of competition were not for her, she enjoyed Fun Nose Work. The happy tail and bright eyes when she found the hide and got her treats said it all!

For the last 4 years, Oly battled a heart murmur and early congestive heart failure (CHF). In the end, CHF won the battle. But Olympia made it clear to me when things took a suddenly worse turn – she wanted to be home.

As we learned and practiced in Nose Work: TRUST your dog, ALWAYS listen to your dog.

July is
IVDD
Awareness
Month

> Act quickly with signs
> Know the two treatments

sponsored by Dodgerslist.com

It's time to talk about it!

Let's get ready to make sure everyone with an IVDD prone breed is knowledgeable and aware. <http://www.dodgerslist.com/literature/litorder.htm>

Disclaimer: The information in this newsletter is presented for educational purposes and as a resource for the dachshund community. The coordinators are not veterinarians or health care professionals. Nothing herein should be interpreted as medical advice and all owners should contact their pet care professional for advice. The coordinators are not responsible for the substance and content contained herein and do not advocate any particular product, item, or position contained herein.

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Our inspiration. Dodger was euthanized possibly prematurely because his owner and vet were unaware of the latest treatments available both in traditional and alternative treatments for Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD).

The amazing bond we had allowed me to give her a peaceful end to her nearly 14 years' journey. Oly passed away on her own terms at home, held in my arms. She knew she was home and loved.

Love you always and forever little Oly. Love you Oly best!