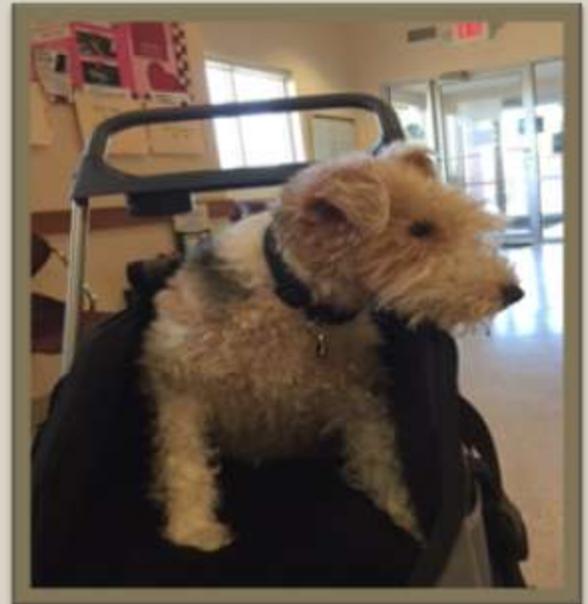




FELIX FIGHT FOR LIFE

Felix was not feeling well in December 2014. He was reverse sneezing but his was harsh and seemed uncontrollable. When drops of blood were seen coming from his nose he was brought right in to see the vet. Felix's cytology definitely showed infection and he was put on a strong antibiotic and instructed to keep watch. It seemed to clear up & he felt better.

The symptoms returned in January and after seeing a good amount of blood on the floor from Felix, the vet was called. Dr. Navin squeezed him in for surgery on January 30th. The initial plan was to do a nose scope and dental while under. He could see nothing in his nose from limited view but did discover the gums and bone on his upper left side were swollen and did not look right at all. The radiographs also confirmed that Felix had an infection in the bone of his mouth. Two teeth were a must for extraction and on the molar, doctor went in and took a piece of the bone and sent off for biopsy. The doctor felt his infection was chronic from his days in Arkansas and also his birth defects and receiving no medical treatment for years until arriving at Rescue. The biopsy returned negative so it was a relief that was short lived.



Felix was put on Clintabs again and the sneezing subsided but the blood was now clots, frequent and large amounts. An appointment was made with a specialist at Arboretum View Animal Hospital in Downers Grove, IL for a consult and procedures. On April 1, Felix saw Dr. Galvao who examined him and took his history and symptoms and shared his thoughts on what should be done and causes and possible diagnosis. His blood pressure was taken, blood for a full blood panel and he was scheduled for surgery the next morning.



The next morning on April 2, it was back in the car early to bring Felix to Arboretum. He was trembling and scared and very heart breaking to leave him. The staff could not be more wonderful both with Felix and with me. Felix was to be put under and have a Rhinoscopy of his nose and a CT Scan of his head. When Dr. Galvao called, it was not the news expected to or had hoped to hear. Felix has a large mass blocking his right nasal cavity. There was very little air flow detected through his right nasal passage. There is some bone loss as well as other suspicious areas. Felix was kept overnight for pain management and observation and was able to go home Friday morning.



The biopsy from the rhinoscopy returned quickly and sadly it is adenocarcinoma. It has already eaten through his septum and a portion of his cribriform plate.

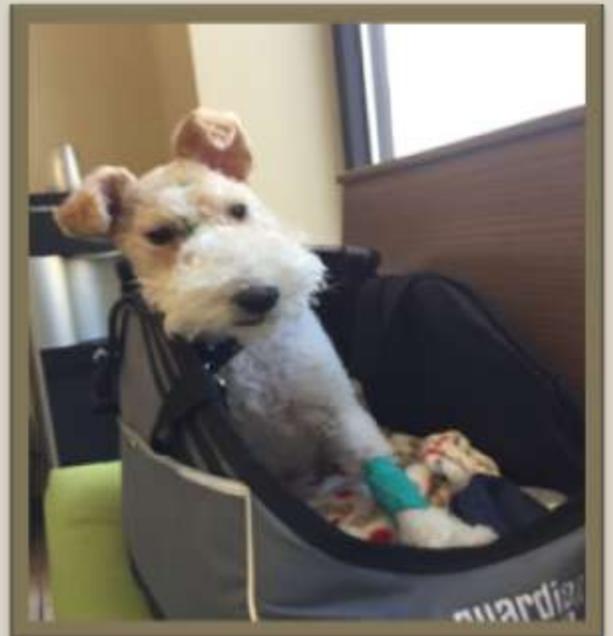
Felix continued to have blood filling his nasal cavity and with the blockage in the right, the left was now bleeding. He was waking up in the middle of the night crying as he could not breathe well. We had bought a baby aspirator to help clear his nose. He was not very open to that brilliant idea so a quick grab with the fingers seemed to remove enough to help his breathing.



Felix is happy to be home and after resting the first few days was back in the yard exploring and visiting. His pals all know something is up and are worried and concerned for Felix. We are hoping and praying to keep Felix around for a lot longer so we can visit all those trails with his new strollers now that the weather is getting nicer.



On April 8, Felix went to Chicago for a consultation with oncologist Dr. Loper at Chicago Veterinary Cancer Center. We were given options for his nasal tumor and prognosis. There is no cure for this particular tumor and cancer. Alleviating pain, symptoms and prolonging life a bit longer. Radiation therapy will hopefully shrink his tumor. After heavily contemplating the options, we have decided on the once a week for 4 weeks. I do not believe Felix would be able to handle or understand the aggressive heavy dosage of the everyday radiation therapy and side effects. He starts his first treatment on Monday, April 13th.

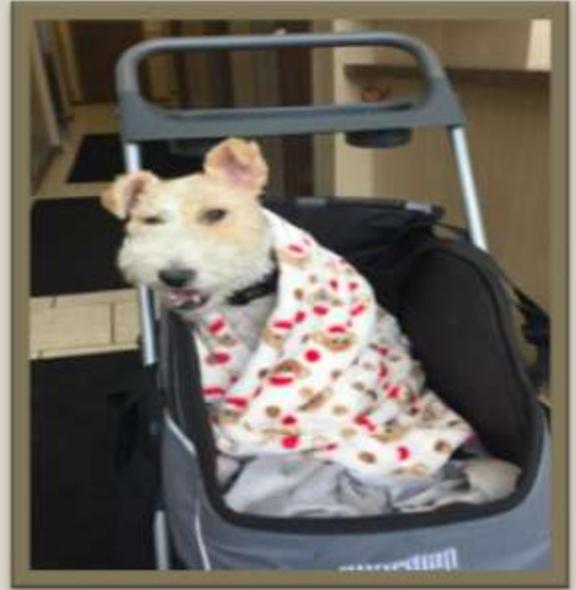


We were both nervous for his first Radiation Treatment, not knowing what to expect or how Felix would do. His visits last about an hour where he is mildly sedated and marks are placed on his head along with the hair being shaved for the laser treatment.

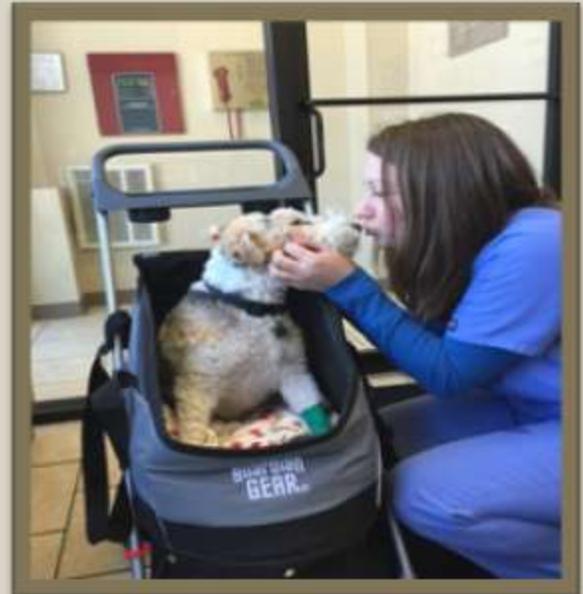
The side effects are expected to show up weeks after initial treatment. Possible burning mouth could occur and could not think of a better treat for Felix than ice cream. He did get to sample some Ben and Jerry's but went and bought the little vanilla cups just for him.



Radiation Treatment two was on April 20. Felix met a pretty Airedale getting chemo for a large tumor on her cheek and he was in love. The weather turned a bit chilly so it was good that Felix had several monkey blankets in his stroller to keep him warm. He is getting to know Kelsey and Matthew and enjoys seeing them each week. So far Felix is doing ok but the day following his treatment he sleeps, not hungry and is pretty cranky. He paws at his face and has expelled some blood clots this week. Staying positive but inside very worried for the little fellow.



Felix is getting a clog in his left nostril and making it difficult for him to get enough air. He is very guarded with anyone touching his nose or mouth area. They clean him up when he is under sedation but Matthew says the clog cleaning usually wakes him right up and he is wondering who is messing with his nose.



Radiation Treatment three was on April 27. He is familiar with the trip and the procedure and waits to be taken in the back. He was a bit sleepy still afterwards and slept in the car on the way home. His eyes were starting to darken around them. Felix has also been on Piroxicam daily which has to be compounded and ordered from an Arizona pharmacy. He has been good about taking his pill each night in some cheese. Felix loves all the attention he gets when he gets to CVCC and begs for more ear rubs and even gets kisses after his treatment is all done. What a charmer!



Felix's fourth Radiation Treatment was on May 4. He has been rubbing his face on his blankets and rugs and has lost a lot of the hair on his snout. His skin has also darkened quite a bit. There were little matts on his beard that were trimmed off while under sedation. He was good for his treatment and even received a bandana and a picture with his friends Kelsey and Matthew.



His nose will be delicate so we are taking care not to let the other dogs rough house with him although Feefers is the one who initiates it. The skin is also itchy and he was given a soft cone to protect him from rubbing his snout and causing further soreness. On the way home, we stopped at a drive thru for a special treat for Felix. He is usually pretty hungry afterwards as he has fasted the night before each treatment. If looks could talk, Felix was giving the laser eyes to the drive thru woman and telling her to hurry it up! He is still a happy, good spirited little Wire Fox boy and still very adorable!



Felix went for his 2 week check up on May 19 at CVCC since finishing his radiation treatments. After his exam and some tests, Dr. Looper had the best news ever to share. Felix had normal air flow in both nasal passages. This was so incredible and means the radiation treatments are working on his tumor. Everywhere there is no hair is the extent of the tumor and his right nostril was completely blocked. It was basically from behind his sinus all the way down his snout and even ate through his septum. We had gone to his appointment bracing for sad news and left with happy news.



Felix celebrated his good news with a big nubz bone that he licked and worked on most of the night. He also likes to ice cream and any little thing from the bakery. Loves little scones, donuts and muffins.



We are going to take each day now and be grateful for all the time we have together and many many stroller rides. Felix just loves going in his many strollers and looking for critters and varmints and also seeing other people out and about.



After a trip to the groomer for a summer haircut, Felix and Odie were treated to a trip to McDonald's where each one received a Happy Meal. The smell was wonderful and Felix ate his French fries on the way home.

