

WHISKERS

Rescue of a Sweetheart

Whiskers was a Wire Fox Terrier girl who ended up homeless after her elderly owner passed away in 2014. She went to stay with a relative who was keeping her on a chain in the yard at his trailer home. A neighbor contacted a rescue volunteer for the Shelter to see about getting her some help and after contacting WFTRM – she arrived in Chicago. It was a very sad winter for Whiskers as she had trouble walking and we were told she had some disc issues in her neck. This was the picture sent to WFTRM and we could not turn this precious girl away.



Whiskers' back legs were giving her a hard time - buckling, twisting and straightening out when she tried to walk. Walking on a rug or blanket is doable but no hard wood floors or tile. She loves to be held, kissed on the top of her head and nuzzled and hugged. Whiskers wanted to be loved.

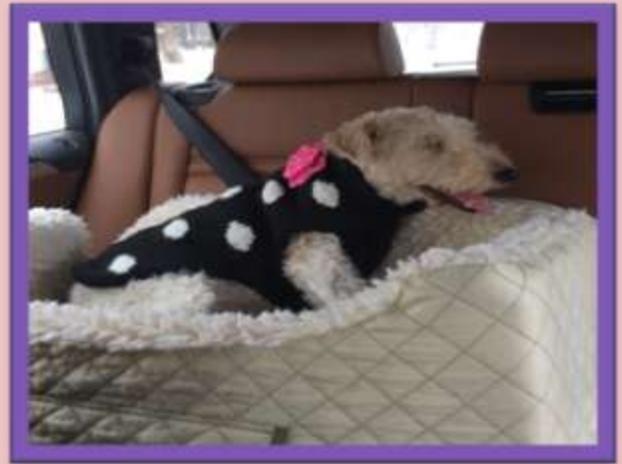
She was a beautiful Wire Fox girl with a dark tri-color coat, weighed 20 pounds and thrived on being petted, cuddled and talked to. Whiskers was friendly, quiet and watches everything around her like a true terrier girl. She has a great appetite and perked up when she smelled a treat. Whiskers was crazy for treats.



Whiskers had to be in some pain and discomfort and in true terrier form masks the pain and heartache. She is such a sweetheart and very easy to love and deserved a chance at living comfortably, pain free and happy.



Whiskers went to Midwest Animal Hospital for a complete examination, xrays, tests and blood work. Her teeth are in great shape and eyes and ears good – they felt she was around 9 or 10 years old. The xrays revealed she has an area in her neck with a herniated disc between C6 and 7. She did very well for all her procedures and is such a mellow and sweet girl.



We had tried to use a support sling to see if this would help Whiskers and encourage her to walk straight. She was not interested in receiving any assistance and stood frozen.



Whiskers went to see Dr. Podell at Chicago Veterinary Specialists for a Neurology consultation on January 27, 2015. She was admitted to the hospital and an MRI of her spine and brain was performed. She also had spinal fluid taken and sent off for results and cytology. As the report reflects, she has degenerative disks at C5-6 and C6-7 but mild and not in need of any surgery or what was causing her problems in the rear legs. There was nothing of significance noticed on the MRI and the source or diagnosis still needed to be found.

Spinal fluid was drawn from the lower lumbar region of Whisker's spinal cord and sent off for results and cytology. If there is an infection, then a course of treatment will be followed to eradicate the infection. The results from the spinal fluid testing returned showing no abnormal cells or change to the barrier. There was a higher protein level which usually indicates inflammatory. Whisker's blood was then sent out for Degenerative Myelopathy testing and unfortunately this test returned positive.

We purchased many throw rugs with rubber backing to spread in Whisker's bedroom to help with her mobility. We would lay them out the door and down the hallway to the kitchen. She loved having the freedom to wander and chose the doggie bed in the kitchen to lounge in and watch all the action. Once she felt safe and loved, her Wire Fox trait for toys emerged. Whiskers favored these small furry squeakables and she went to town on them and loved to collect them in her bed.



There is no cure for Degenerative Myelopathy and progression varies. Whiskers was signed up for therapy at Midwest Animal Hospital twice a week for therapy in the hopes of easing her back and legs of stiffness and nerve function. She was receiving water therapy, massages, laser therapy, acupuncture and e-stimulation. The vets and staff all loved Whiskers and working with her.

Felix was letting Whiskers borrow a wonderful Eddie's Wheels Cart that was donated to him. Whiskers was initially curious about the cart with big wheels and receptive to getting hooked up. It took another dog to get her going in the right direction when at therapy sessions. Otherwise she just stood there and refused to move.

Whiskers just loved heading out in the back yard with the boys. She was very fond of Felix and Odie and wandered around the grass, hanging out and sniffing the fresh air. One day, Odie began his usual bark and chase that school bus down the fence and Whiskers joined him in barking and guarding the yard. She felt she was part of the pack and was very happy living at Rescue.



Your chariot awaits little princess or as we had dubbed hers - The Whiskers Wagon. A red/pink stroller we purchased from ebay was perfect for her. A short jaunt out and about to test the ride and comfort and Whiskers gave it a two paws up.



The DM was progressing rather quickly for Whiskers. She has had two courses of therapy now and it seemed the harder we tried to postpone the disease, the harder it hit her. Whiskers began having many bouts with bloody loose stools and also vomiting. She would be whisked up to the hospital, receive medications and begin eating again several days later. Then the symptoms would return and last a little longer each time. Whiskers slept most of the time but was still as sweet as could be.



Whiskers front right leg lost it's function and trembling increased. Her rear legs completely on the ground as well. DM is a very sad and debilitating disease and to watch a loved one deteriorating is heart wrenching.



Whiskers had peacefully passed to the bridge, being held and told how much she was loved the entire way. She stole our hearts and all who met her and was such a special little angel. Our hearts are broken but know we had given her the best four months and when she was ready, she had a smile on her face and in her heart.

Whiskers would join Felix on his stroller rides around the pond. They were too cute together and seemed to relish in the fact that both had to be in strollers. She had the biggest smile on her face and we know we were making her days as happy as they could be.

