

PETS IN NEED



PIN Clinic Newsletter

November
2017

HELP US

IN THIS ISSUE

Thank You!

by Pets in Need Clinic

Thanks to our many supporters, the Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic has cared for more than 3,200 animals since its opening in June 2016. Your donations of money and supplies have helped us examine eyes and ears, inspect skin, palpate joints and muscles, evaluate the function of internal organs, assess changes in weight and behavior, perform x-rays, provide spay/neuter services, administer surgical and nonsurgical treatment, and much, much more.

We are grateful for the continued support of our partners; the Rhode Island Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Companion Animal Foundation, and the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association, as well as for the generosity of the many veterinarians, veterinary specialists, and others around Rhode Island who support the clinic, restoring the health of thousands of loving pets and returning them to their families.

In a little over a year, the word has spread, enabling us to help an ever-growing number of pets. On average, we see about 40 more pets per month than we did last year. With your help, we can meet the needs of old and young pets, and make sure they continue to warm the hearts and brighten the lives of their owners.

Please consider donating to the Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic. We are a small clinic and all donations go toward veterinary care. Please help us help them.



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Diego's Story

What are the options when your pet is suffering but you can't afford the treatment that will take away the pain?

Diego's owners, a middle-aged husband and wife, suspected that their 10-year-old Yorkshire terrier was experiencing dental problems, but when their beloved pet refused food, they knew it was time to bring Diego to the vet. The sweet little Yorkie's dental problems were severe, the vet told them, and required surgery. Diego's owners knew they didn't have the money to pay for surgery.

Two years ago, there were few options for low-income pet owners unable to afford veterinary care. But that was before the Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic opened its doors in June 2016.

The PIN Clinic was established to serve low-income pet owners. From wellness checkups, to spay/neuter services to major surgery, the clinic does it all, at discounts that average 75 percent. The caring staff is supplemented by skillful and compassionate veterinarians throughout Rhode Island who volunteer their time or provide it at a small fraction of their customary fees.

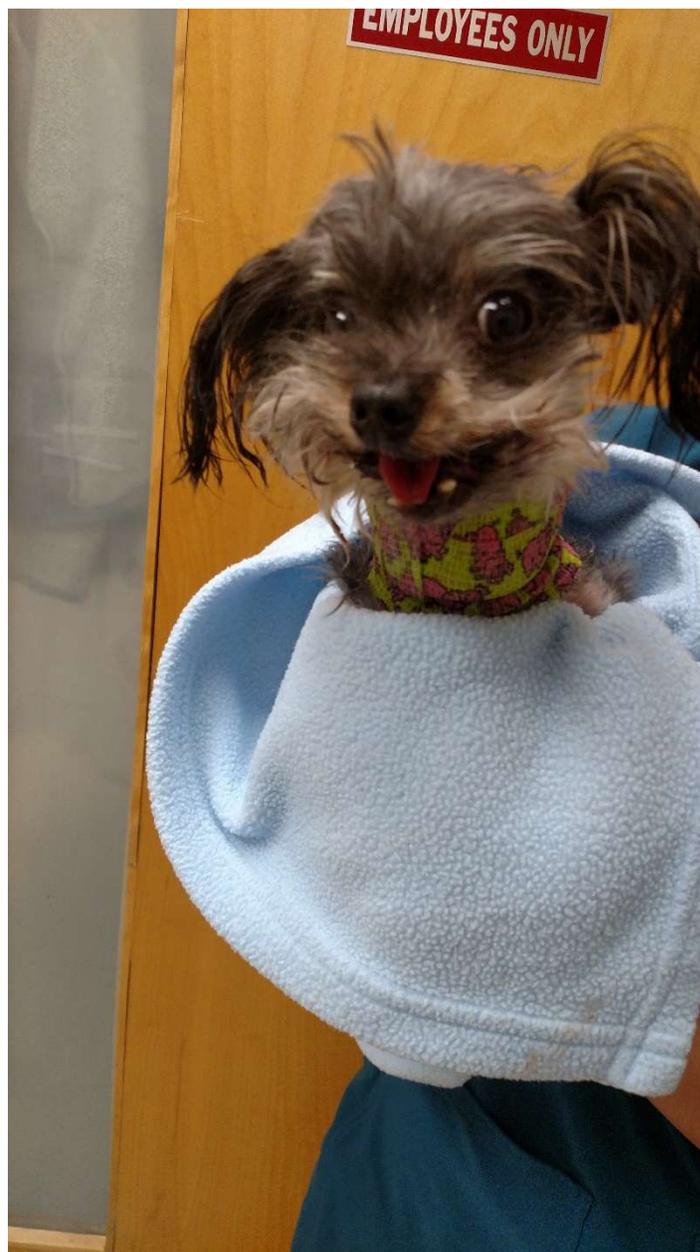
Diego's care required the services of several specialists. His dental problems had led to rotting teeth, and had spread to the bone, resulting in a fractured jaw. A thorough examination also uncovered a pronounced heart murmur, complicating the treatment: unless the vets knew the nature of the heart murmur, they couldn't safely anesthetize Diego for surgery. PIN didn't have the diagnostic equipment needed to diagnose the murmur, but fortunately, the clinic is supported by a veterinary cardiologist who provides sonograms at a deep discount.

The ultrasound was done, and the first surgery was performed to address Diego's weight loss and build his strength. The surgeon inserted a feeding tube, so the little Yorkie would receive the nutrition he needed. For the next few weeks, Diego's owners fed him exactly as they'd been shown and maintained his rigorous schedule of antibiotics and pain medication.

The owners were "very dedicated" according to PIN's staff—so dedicated that less than three weeks later, Diego was ready for the second surgery, during which the rotting teeth were extracted and the rest of the teeth given a good cleaning. The couple continued to provide medication, expecting that a third surgery would be needed to repair the broken jaw. But Diego surprised everyone: before the surgery was scheduled, he was eating on his own. The fracture had begun to heal without intervention.

"A lot of people played a part in Diego's care," says Dr. Hank Wietsma, who performed the dental surgery. "PIN's head veterinarian, Dr. Alison Elias, inserted the feeding tube; the cardiologist determined the nature of the heart murmur." And Diego's owners, so devoted to their little Yorkie, provided loving care when Diego was home.

One look at Diego will tell you that he's delighted to be pain free. So delighted, his owners say, that Diego's "acting like a puppy again."



Ghosts's Story

Ghost is what veterinarians call a domestic long hair; in other words, a house cat. A 6-year-old male, Ghost is mostly white, with mild, thoughtful eyes. It's not unusual for male cats to develop bladder stones that make them unable to urinate, and his young owner had brought Ghost to the vet several times in the past, where he was treated non-surgically. But while the treatments were successful, Ghost continued to develop stones over time. The recommended treatment when stones recur is complex, exacting surgery--and when the owner brought Ghost to the veterinarians at a specialist hospital, that's what she was told.

There are a thousand reasons why people can't afford the care their pets need. Sometimes they're retired and their income just pays for the basic necessities of life. Sometimes they're on disability. Some have recently lost a job. Some are homeless. Some are just getting started in life, working at jobs that barely cover the rent and the groceries. Many reasons—but all these pet owners have one thing in common: their pets are family, are truly loved and deeply cherished. When people don't have a lot to call their own, what they do have becomes even more precious.

Ghost's young owner had been able to pay for non-surgical interventions, but the cost of Ghost's surgery was well beyond her means. She was determined, though, to find the money to pay for it. The other options, she'd been told, were to have Ghost euthanized or to give him up. Under no circumstances was she abandoning Ghost.

Like a lot of people who come to the Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic, Ghost's owner was willing to do whatever it took to get the care her pet needed. She asked friends for help, and when she discovered that she still didn't have enough, she created a Go Fund Me page on the Internet. But it was agonizing waiting, knowing that Ghost could have a recurrence at any time.

Then someone mentioned the Pets in Need Veterinary Clinic. And finally, the wait was over...

The good news was that the PIN Clinic could perform the surgery. Better news was that the procedure was so heavily discounted that Ghost's owner could afford it. The best news came when the complex surgery was successful. This domestic longhair may have been named for the ghostly color of his coat, but with the help of the clinic's expert vet and vet technicians, Ghost came through the surgery with flying colors.



These are just two examples of the thousands of pets in our community that need your help!

DONATE

**Please donate at our website
PINClinicRI.org**