



GREYHOUND
PET ADOPTION NORTHWEST

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GREYHOUND PET ADOPTION NORTHWEST IS 501C3 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

Dear Friends of the Greyhounds –



Our foster homes make a huge difference in greyhounds' lives. Not only do they help make the adjustment from living in a kennel to a home, but often their stay is longer when medical issues arise. Today we share a story of a special foster hound and the home that cares for her. **You also have a chance to make a difference during our Winter Appeal. We need you to join with others to help make it possible for us to continue to help greyhounds go from the track to the couch, and care for all their needs, especially medical costs which are about 85% of our operating budget each year.**

Robin is a very young female who came from Kansas with her brother Batman. Both were having medical issues that prevented them from becoming racing dogs. Robin was the worse off of the two and has required extensive medical tests, surgery, treatments and medications. We are so grateful to her foster Mom, Carol, who is still providing on-going care and updates.

These are just a few.

May 13th: Robin and her brother both arrived with multiple orthopedic issues – limping, pain, swelling of joints. Robin's first set of x-rays showed that her right hip is displaced approximately 2" above the hip socket. Ordinarily a dislocated hip can be fixed by doing a surgery to cut off the top of the thigh bone so it can slip into the socket. Because her hip is so displaced, the vet was unsure about that procedure, especially because her other hip is so much lower. When she walks Robin's back feet cross over each other and her hocks touch. To add insult to injury, she also had round worms and has a giardia.

May 20th Robin has developed a limp and swelling in her front wrist so hasn't wanted to go out in the yard. It could turn out that her wrist issue is the same as Batman, which can be caused by early diet issues. Both of them were removed from the mother at 3 days so we could be dealing with the lack of what they get from the mother. A decision was made for Robin to undergo surgery to repair her hip issue.

August 5th A week ago Saturday, Robin fell with her back legs slipping ahead of her (she was in the house). She screamed and I got to her right away and got her laid down. She rested most of the day but had trouble walking in the back. We were terribly worried she had wrecked her surgery. I called right away on Monday and the surgeon wasn't available until the 9th, so I called and was able to get another vet to see her first thing. Repeat x-rays didn't show any fractures or severe differences in her spine. She was able to carefully get up some of the time and walk gingerly. I was able to get an appointment with another vet who is a holistic/acupuncture/reiki vet and she was able to see Robin today at noon. When I got home yesterday, I was disappointed to see virtually no progress. I had great difficulty getting Robin into the car because she couldn't use her back legs. The holistic vet showed me the x-rays that she had received which showed only a slight possible narrowing in her lumbar spine. The vet did acupuncture, chiropractic and tuning – she determined that it is L5 that is the problem and causing sciatica into her right leg. Robin responded really well in the treatment and when I got her home, she walked a bit. She was prescribed some Synovi/joint treats for both Batman and Robin, a supplement that will support Robin's ligaments that are rebuilding in her hip area and a Chinese herb for general musculature health and pain relief.

August 16th After starting her acupuncture/chiropractic treatments and once the rimadyl was washed out of her system so we could start her on prednisone, Robin is improving. We started Robin on prednisone on 8/8/19. She had an acupuncture/chiropractic treatment 4 days before that and she was able to walk a little bit if we got her up. Once we got



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the prednisone started, she was slowly able to get up herself and by 8/12/19 she was getting up and moving. On 8/12/19 Robin had a second treatment and we started a 2-week course of methacarbamol. Turmeric has an anti-inflammatory effect and that was started as well. Right now, we are concentrating on getting Robin's weight up and getting her to exercise her rear legs more. The back half of her is very skinny and her legs are atrophied.

August 28th Robin had a very bad week last week despite now being able to get up on her own most of the time, so the vet doubled her herbal muscle relaxant and anti-inflammatory on Monday. I made an appointment to take her back to the surgeon which happened today to see what he had to say about her ongoing pain. He said it was not surprising that she has spine discomfort because of the maneuvering she has had to do to walk all her life, but to determine if something surgical could be helpful, it would take an MRI. However, he was more concerned that she is doing most of her weight bearing on her right leg (the leg that previously had the hip dislocation). On physical exam he found movement in her left knee and said it was very painful. He did an x-ray to try to identify if it is an ACL or PCL tear, but the x-ray wasn't conclusive. However, he said he was concerned about the arthritic changes showing up in both knees and both hocks. The left knee is more severely whittled away and the movement can be felt, but because there is evidence in all of these places, his concern is that she may have a disease such as a poly arthritis and feels that should be checked out before any surgery is done. So, I'm taking her back tomorrow to have joint taps and blood work. If she doesn't have a disease, we'll have to find a surgeon for her left leg. Her back legs are both in bad positions, which is aggravating her knee injury.

September 10th, we took Robin to the vet today and she confirmed that Robin has acute immune-mediated polyarthritis (IMPA). Both knees, one wrist and one elbow are quite affected. The good news is that there is a drug that works really well in dogs (and humans) so IMPA isn't the death sentence it once was. We will be starting Robin on it as soon as it arrives from the compounders and will discontinue prednisone after a period of over-lap. The vet confirmed the luxation of Robin's right knee, but it can't be corrected surgically until her IMPA is being treated. It does need to be surgically repaired to minimize the amount of instability Robin has in moving. The prognosis for her IMPA is pretty good – most dogs are able to be taken off medication in 6 months, but some have to remain on low doses. We were scheduled for a recheck of her blood work tomorrow to make sure the drug wasn't affecting her liver, but Thursday afternoon she vomited her breakfast and wouldn't eat her dinner. Those are side effects of the drug, so I called the vet right away and they wanted to see Robin the next day. We were to keep her on a daily dose of Cerenia until today. Robin still does not use the right rear leg, but she's moving around well enough not to pee in the house anymore! Based on the bloodwork, it looks as though Robin will be able to take the Leflunimide. I don't think she's gained much weight though.

Robin's story continues and she will need knee surgery in the future. Finding a forever home for such a dog is an extreme challenge so we rely on donations for her on-going care and for loving foster homes. The commitment of foster parents like Carol goes above and beyond when it comes to caring for a dog with these many issues. Your donations make all this possible for Robin and many other dogs.

We know you appreciate the special way these dogs become part of our lives and the love they share with us.

You can show your love and support for the greyhounds today with a donation.

Please use the enclosed form to make your donation – you can pay by check or credit card. Or you can visit our website at <http://gpa-nw.org/donate/> and donate via PayPal if you prefer. If you'd like to make a recurring monthly donation you can become a Sponsor. Click on this page for more information and to select your sponsorship level. <http://gpa-nw.org/sponsorship-program/>

We need your support to keep helping these remarkable greyhounds who touch our lives in so many ways. We thank you for your generosity and on-going support. Remember, if you can't donate, we always need volunteers to give of their time and talent, especially foster homes who are the heart of our program.