

Cassie – Free at Last!

For the past several months, my beautiful little Klee Kai dog, Cassandra (Cassie) has been bedridden (actually crate-ridden) in conjunction with complicated leg surgery she underwent on January 3. The surgery was to correct a congenital defect. As she is a young, exuberant, very active, energetic and agile dog, the bed rest was very disturbing, frustrating and distressing both for her and for my husband and me and our dogs' caregivers. We were permitted to walk her on leash for only a few minutes several times a day – a very limited amount of exercise and playtime compared to that to which she was accustomed.

Initially, postoperatively, I think Cassie was in a lot of pain despite the pain meds she was given. I hated to see her suffer. She seemed so weak and fragile. However, she was remarkably resilient and seemed determined to make a rapid recovery.

Only two years old, our Cassie was incredibly patient, mature, stoic and persevering. Helpless and confined, she had to watch her canine siblings freely play and go in and out of the house while she was forced to stay behind. She trusted me, and I know that she somehow understood that she was being treated this way because it was so important for her to recover and heal. We were amazed at how well Cassie managed to adjust to her confinement.

Our animal companions are so vulnerable and dependent upon us for all aspects of their health and well-being. We owed it to Cassie to give her the best possible care in spite of the sacrifices we all made to make certain that the outcome would serve her well for the rest of her days. The veterinary orthopedic specialist who performed the complex procedure had assured us that if Cassie did not have the surgery, she would be lame for the rest of her life. As we hope to provide our animal companions with the highest quality of life possible, we had no choice but to proceed.

This past Sunday, we were finally able to liberate our girl - to let our Cassie out of her crate and off-leash to run and play with her siblings in our back yard. And run she did! As if to make up for some of her down time, she zoomed around the pond, ran in and out of the wooded area, swam and splashed in our pond, displayed her agility skills, and played and played and played some more – especially with her best friend, Higgins. The two of them were inseparable and a joy to behold.

And so, Cassie is free at last – free to run, free to play, and free to enjoy the outdoors. Her leg has healed perfectly, and my little girl is perfect (well, practically!) in every way...