

WEEKLY WOOF



In Memoriam

Maddie

Maddie was a jewel, a gem, who left us too soon. And Jim lost a dependable, lovable sleeping partner. Constant love and affection changed her, of course, for the better. At first, we had to coax her into our yard and a while after that, she was running everywhere, visiting us in the gazebo and vigorously playing with Sadie. She went to the dog SPA religiously, once every 6 weeks, Sea-salt scrub, moisturizing hot oil treatment and paw pad lotion. And that big beautiful tail - so beautiful after her SPA treatment. It should be against the law to dock their tail at birth. So, our time with Maddie was a win-win.

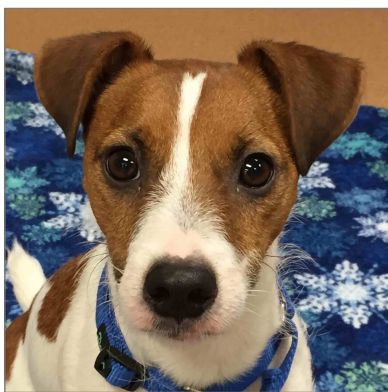
We are observant and we noticed that she didn't seem herself. She encountered difficulty chewing her food and drinking water. Initially, she was prescribed a steroid as the vet suspected a case of temporary megaesophagus. But the steroid did nothing and so back to the vet we went. We had a complete blood count done and her lymphocyte count came back too high. The suspect was leukemia. Our local vet had us take her to the oncologist that very day. Further tests were done and to cut to the chase, the test indicated T-cell leukemia (the worst kind; the other kind is B-cell, much more manageable).

The closest oncology center is in Bedford Hills, NY: VCA Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center. Maddie became a patient of [Dr. Philip Bergman](#) who is one of the most affable persons we ever met. He was, as requested, blunt with us, explained what we were up against, the costs involved, and the poor prognosis with T-cell leukemia. Phil and I decided, then and there, to proceed with the chemotherapy regimen. She got her first dose of chemo on her very first visit - vincristine. It's part of the Madison Wisconsin Lymphoma protocol also referred to as CHOP-25. CHOP is an acronym for the chemicals used and 25 is the number of weeks to complete the protocol. You can read about it [here](#). At the beginning, there is a different drug for the first four weeks followed by a one-week rest period so blood samples can be taken to gauge the efficacy of the treatment. The recovery after the first two weeks was astonishingly such that Phil and I tried to convince ourselves that the initial diagnosis was incorrect. But then, weeks 3 and 4 were not effective. She was getting sicker. So our oncologist took a detour from the CHOP-25 protocol and tried a new conditionally approved drug called tanovea-CA1 where the CA stands for conditionally approved. What it means is no off-label use. That single drug clocked in at \$775.00. Overall, we spent in excess of 10K to keep her going. Tanovea did not help and her condition continued to worsen. So on our last visit to the oncologist, we were given a choice, euthanasia or one last drug referred to as a Hail Mary pass. Being persistent optimists, we chose the latter. But that too was a failure in within 24 hours she moaning, could hardly walk and looked so sick. It was then that we took her to our local vet where we said our tearful goodbyes.

Maddie is now home, resting in a curio cabinet, her urn flanked by her collar and her tags. We miss her profoundly.

- Jim & Phil

New: Rex, Winnie



Adopted: Augie, Betty



Volunteers: [Link to Walking Schedule](#)

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Happy Tails

Shaun

Shaun has now bonded completely with his new brothers. He has learnt to play!



Paw Prints

send your pictures to cindy@pawsct.org

Big Mac, Ziggy (photos: Patrick N)



Volunteers: [Link to Walking Schedule](#)