

5-18-18

Today is 2 weeks from her stem cell injections. Her appointment today included PRP injections in the two lesions in her spine originally found on her X-ray and another in the cauda equina to encourage the bladder and bowel control.

We have been doing lots of walking and standing therapy at home and it is paying off. Junie walked all the way from the waiting room to the exam room, a distance of about 35 feet, and at the end she was happy standing for another minute or so before she finally sat down. When she went back for her injections she walked again down and back in the treatment area. She was then pooped, so she gets to rest for the rest of the day. This week we will do single-leg standing exercises as well as walking therapy. She goes back for another follow up in two weeks and if she is doing well we will start her water therapy in the pool. Her doctor is very pleased with her progress.

She is showing signs of better bladder control and signs of being able to sense when she needs to have a BM, which is making caring for her much easier because I can have her on a schedule and pretty much prevent accidents, so that is a huge improvement.

Lots of other little signs of improvement that I can see from having cared for her since February. As always, any donation towards Junie's care is appreciated.

There just is not a more determined or deserving little girl.



5-13-18

Junie update from her foster mom: "Junie is resting and Johnny is standing guard, as usual. She is tired because while I was going about my chores inside and out this morning she went out and came back in the doggie door...TWICE!!! You who do not know her story may think that is no big deal, but she has been paralyzed for 4 years and had stem cell injections eight days ago. She is slowly regaining some use of her back legs, some feeling in her back end, and I watched her WALK the length of the TV room rug...not scoot, not stagger, but actually walk...to go

lay down on her bed. She has more awareness of her back legs and when they get tangled she can fix them more often than not rather than just giving up and collapsing. We are doing physical therapy with a towel under her belly to help her stand and walk a few times a day and will do one leg standing when she is a little stronger. I checked the pool this morning and we are close to swimming temp. So all good news in the Junie report. It is an exciting thing we are doing."

If you would like to help Happy Tails help Junie as she continues on her journey.

5-9-18

This in from Junie's foster mom: "Here is Junie in the waiting room for her one-week follow up after her stem cell injections. She had quite an audience today as they wanted to see her walk, which she did a little. I am to start assisting her now with a towel along under her belly to help support her and help her to gain strength in standing and walking. Next week she gets more PRP injections and if she is doing well we will step up her physical therapy. It is little changes like being able to sit on her haunches rather than on one hip, and being able to stand up at the water bowl that got them excited. She has also rediscovered that a scratch on the butt feels really, really good as she has regained some feeling in her back end."



5-3-18:

Junie is home after a long and very busy day. We piled in the car about 7:30 this morning for the trip to Grand Paws. First order of business was to get a "before" video.

Then she went for the stem cell collection from a small incision in her abdominal midline to get the stem cells in the adipose fat on the falciform ligament. While she recovered from anesthesia the cells were processed and isolated and mixed with PRP which is platelet-rich plasma from her own blood. This acts as a carrier for the cells in the injection but also as a natural anti-inflammatory. She also received a slow IV infusion of cells which will naturally migrate to the damaged tissue in her spine and work systemically to wake up the damaged cells and start the regeneration process. She then received eight or nine small injections (I lost count) to the individual levels of her lumbar spine and thoracic spine as well as an injection into the cauda equina which is further down in the pelvis and is the nerve bundle that contains the nerves for bladder and bowel control to help with her continence issues. She was a real trooper, but I could see in her eyes that she was tired and just wanted to come home to her Johnny.

She will be on crate rest for 4-6 weeks with short periods of time outside for potty breaks. She goes back tomorrow for a quick check and then in 7 days to check her progress. She will receive another PRP injection on day 14 and maybe day 30 depending on how she is doing. As little movement as possible for

2 weeks, then I can start doing standing therapy with her twice a day and build her tolerance for having her legs under her. About week 3 if all is going well and the pool is warm (no problem there as we are into the 100s starting this weekend) she can start paddling a little in the pool and slowly increase the amount day by day.

On our way out of the clinic we met a lovely couple with a dachshund and turns out they adopted her from Happy Tails about 3 years ago. She and Junie looked a lot alike.

So it has begun. She ate a little dinner, drank some water, and is sound asleep in her crate. Johnny is very happy to see her and have her home. Stay tuned as she progresses through her recovery and therapy. Donations are always appreciated to help Junie with her procedure and recovery.

5-2-18:

Junie being prepared for her injections

She had a lot of injections but she held very still and did great. Tired eyes, poor baby.

This is the area of the spine where each level received an injection.

And you can see the area further down towards her tail where she received the cauda equina injection.

This is Dr. Johnson at the Grand Paws Clinic. She was with Junie every step of the way today.

These are Junie's two new BFFs. They checked her in this morning and were with her all day.



4-27-18:

Junie's cancer screening is negative and she will be having her first stem cell injection next Thursday. Stay tuned for more updates and join Johnny in cheering on his BFF Junie.

4-20-18:

Meet Junie, she came to Happy Tails, in February, from a rescue in Payson that was disbanding. Her story is a sad one, and unfortunately, not uncommon in animal rescue. Junie had been a breeder dog in a backyard operation until her back finally gave out, and they got rid of her. The Payson rescue took her and her buddy, Johnny, and began some therapy with Junie. In the four years she was with them, she regained some use of her back legs but remained completely incontinent. She has been with our Happy Tails foster since mid-February. She is with several other dogs, including her ever faithful friend, Johnny, and gets lots of exercise, so she has shown even more improvement

in the use of her back legs. Happy Tails had Junie evaluated at Grand Paws Animal Clinic in Surprise, AZ, where they have had tremendous