

(February 2014)

Quasimodo aka “Quasi”



CAUTION: Quasi’s story is one that is heartbreaking **BUT** yet in many ways a story of resilience and incredible love for life. Please read his story with the understanding that we are relating his travails to point out the level of abuse that some animals unfortunately suffer and to secondly document his on-going needs.

Quasi is a domestic white duck who has suffered greatly at the hands of a human or humans. When he was first found dumped in a commercial parking lot by a loving PUD worker he was covered with motor oil and his eyes were crusted over due to infection to the point that he could hardly see. He was barely able to walk and his beak area was swollen and his body was emitting a foul odor, possibly due to infections. Additionally it appeared that his neck was badly injured, his wings had been hurt and his right foot extended outward to the right about fifteen degrees further than normal.

The rescuer when seeing the terrible shape he was in, bundled him up and rushed him to the South Sound Critter Care veterinary offices in Kent, Washington.

There the caring and well trained staff went to work immediately on him. They took radiographs (similar to x-rays) to look carefully at the structural damage his body had suffered. To their surprise and horror they found that the three vertebrae in his neck closest to his body were crushed and had fused on their own. This left his neck and head badly misaligned to his body. His wings had also been damaged and his right foot was misaligned due to injury.



At first the clinic staff thought he might have been hit by a car but it was evident after the examination that the injuries had occurred at different times and someone had badly abused him. After the examination the staff cleaned his body and eyes and immediately started to give him antibiotics to fight the infections in his body. Over the next ten days the clinic staff nurtured him and provided all the excellent medical care and attention they could muster.

The staff fondly named him “Quasimodo” aka “Quasi” due to the large bump on his body/neck which had formed after the fusion of his crushed vertebrae and they were amazed by his resilience.

It was also very evident that if he survived Quasi was going to need a lot of assistance to go forward in life. He exhibited not only structural imbalances as he tried to walk but also neurological damage as he tried to wash himself in a sink and navigate his environment.

Wanting the very best for him the clinic began making phone calls to try and find a suitable forever home for him. After discussions with several groups the clinic was referred to Joplin’s Sanctuary as a possible environment for him. After hearing about his ordeals and needs we immediately agreed to take him in.

A couple of days later the original rescuer (the PUD employee) drove him over sixty miles up to the sanctuary. She was not about to leave him with anyone she felt would not give him the very best. Fortunately for us, she felt that Quasi had found his forever home.

After his arrival we examined Quasi again. We were curious to see if his injuries might have been caused by a dog or other predator. We did not find any puncture wounds or any scars

that would indicate that he had been attacked by another animal. What was clear was the fact that he had been severely abused on multiple occasions by a human or humans.

What was and is most appalling to us is the thought: “If someone is capable of and willing to repeatedly abuse a defenseless duck, what are they capable of doing to a dog, a child, a spouse or an elder?” The cycle of abuse which we in the industry know is often a very tight and consistent one.

Quasi has now been with us for about two weeks. He has stolen our hearts and he is doing wonderfully. Unfortunately his disabilities and balance issues will not allow him to navigate the ramps that lead up into our existing sheds/enclosures. He additionally can't climb into or out of the duck ponds at the sanctuary.



As a result, we need to and have decided to purchase a special coop/enclosure which will meet Quasi's long term needs. We will also need to run underground electrical power to it, fence in his environment for safety and construct a pond and other amenities in his yard to allow Quasi to be a “duck”. The end result of the project is going to be called “Quasi's Quarters”. Based upon our current cost estimates the project is going to cost between \$1,500 and \$1,800 at a minimum.

This is where we need your help. We would appreciate receiving any donation amount that you feel you can afford to help in this worthy cause. For individuals who are able to donate \$100 or more to “Quasi's Quarters” we are going to place a plaque on the side of his quarters with the donors' names denoting them as “Quasi Supporters”. The plaque will be visible to visitors and volunteers who meet and work with Quasi in the future. If we receive monies beyond our costs, every additional cent will go in its entirety to the care of the neglected, abused and abandoned animals we rescue and house here.

We lastly want to take a moment at this juncture to thank you not only for your donations but more importantly for your interest in stopping animal abuse regardless of whether it is towards a duck, a dog/cat or a horse etc.

Footnote: The wonderful photographs of Quasi were taken by Julie Austin (jaustinphotography.com) and we are in her debt for helping us document through her photographs Quasi's conditions.