
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Testimonial 2 - Wobbler Disease



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TESTIMONIAL: WOBBLER DISEASE

BY SANDRA UBALDO, FRANK PAGLIALUNGA & MAX, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

“We have been lucky to have our beautiful Doberman boy, Max, in our life for almost 9 years now. Max is a half European and Half North American Pure-Bred dog from a reputable breeder in Canada, with no serious diseases in his lines. In fact, his Sire has won several dog shows, and at one point was the top Doberman in Canada. Despite his strong lineage, in April 2017, we faced a grim diagnosis that took us by surprise when we were told that Max had developed Wobbler’s Disease.

The symptoms came on suddenly one day when during a routine walk, he began to drag his left hind leg. We suspected a pulled muscle or perhaps arthritis, but we never suspected something serious was happening. After weeks of seeing two Veterinarians, a Dog Chiropractor and a Neurologist, Max’s diagnosis was confirmed as Wobbler’s Disease based on his MRI results.

The MRI showed Max’s spine at C6-C7 and C5-C6 were significantly deteriorating, and in addition he had an extruded disc in his lower spine at T13-L1. We were in total disbelief. At this point we were told we had three options. The first choice was to do nothing. This choice meant Max’s condition would continue to quickly spiral downward, and we would soon be faced with having to put him down. Of course, this was not even an option for us. The second choice was to put him on Prednisone. Well after several weeks on Prednisone, which he was prescribed to help relieve some inflammation, the side effects became intolerable. While on Prednisone, Max was lethargic, refused to eat, and urinated several times an hour. The long-term effects of this drug can cause other serious ailments, and although this medication may buy a dog some time, it does not repair the spine. Eventually, we would have to face putting our dog down. This option was also not the answer. The third option was surgery. Surgery would involve removing the bulging disc material that is putting pressure on the spine and reinforcing the disc with a metal piece. This option would also buy our dog more time, as it would temporarily cause relief, but the discs would inevitably continue to deteriorate all down the spine [which could mean more surgery needed in the future], and eventually the end result would still be to put your dog down. This option was unacceptable to us. All of these options were not acceptable to us. It was not the cost of the surgery that deterred us, which we would have made any sacrifice to pay for it to get it done, but it was the fact that in the end it would resolve absolutely nothing. With surgery, Max would need months of physical therapy, risk complications from surgery, and he would be in a tremendous amount of pain for a long period of time. He would have to suffer all of that, for a temporary fix, while his spine would continue to degenerate.

No, these options were not the answer!

That night, after a desperate search on the internet to find an alternative, we came across a video on YouTube by Mike Masters, which showed his Doberman, Titan, who was cured of Wobbler’s through a series of injections called Goldic. After reaching out to Mike & his wife, Melissa, we were put in touch with Daryl Boyd, President of Arthrogen, makers of Goldic. With all of their support and guidance, and after several weeks of trying to find a Doctor willing to perform the treatment, we travelled 8 hours with a very sick dog, from Toronto, Canada to Cincinnati, USA. By the time we reached Cincinnati, Max was not able to stand on his own [he needed support for both his front and hind legs], he could not urinate standing or squat to defecate, he lost his appetite, his bark was weakened, and his general demeanor was solemn.

Max received his Goldic treatment over a course of three weeks. The results of this treatment were seen almost instantly. After his first injection he was already stronger on his front legs and the knuckling had improved. After his second injection he had a surge of energy and was standing on his own and even ran a short distance. Although as expected, Max was in pain during his third and fourth injections, and needed support for his hind legs, we noticed he was attempting to squat again to defecate. He has been on the mend since that very first injection. We are now approaching the eleventh week after his final Goldic injection, and every week is a step forward. Although he does tire after a few short walks in the yard, and he still finds stairs and the tile floor a challenge, Max has improved tremendously. Max is now walking independently, running short distances, squatting to defecate, and climbing 2-3 steps without assistance. He has even jumped on the couch on a few occasions, something he has not done in over 6 months! His ferocious Doberman bark is back, and he is attempting to chase squirrels again! The improvements we have witnessed with each passing week is nothing short of miraculous! We are certain that Max would not have had this type of recovery with surgery, and most definitely not with the use of steroids. Goldic has given our dog the opportunity to live his remaining years healthy and fully functional as his spine continues to heal and regenerate! We are thankful for Mike & Melissa Masters, who shared their story and supported us through the entire process, and we are forever grateful to Daryl Boyd, whose vision of a non-invasive treatment to heal both animals and humans, is the reason we have our Max on the mend! There is no other suitable alternative when it comes to deciding how to treat your dog with Wobbler’s. Goldic is the answer!

