



MUG SHOT GALLERIES

MyrtleBeachonline VISITORS' GUIDE

careerbuilder.com

SEARCH MyrtleBeachOnline FOR

Search

Sign In

Become a Member

Web Search powered by YAHOO!

NEWS - TOP NEWS

3 COMMENTS TEXT SIZE: E-MAIL PRINT

Connect with Us:

Twitter Facebook News Letters Text Alerts Weather Alerts Daily E-Edition RSS

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011

Beau the dog, a stem cell recipient, making big strides

By Lorena Anderson - landerson@thesunnews.com

Two months ago, Beau Pastor, a 14-year-old Lab-chow with severe arthritis, couldn't often get up from the floor. He needed help walking, and took a lot of pain medication every day.

His owner, Bill Pastor of Darlington, said the medication wasn't really helping, and he was at that crossroads almost every pet owner faces at one time or another: Continue treatment or put the animal out of its misery.

That was before Pastor took Beau to see Dr. Noel Berger of the Animal Hospital and Laser Center of South Carolina in Pawleys Island.



sjsesmore@thesunnews.com - Bill Pastor, of Darlington, brought his 14-year-old Labrador-Chow mix Beau to a 60-day checkup with Veterinarian Noel Berger on Tuesday. The dog had undergone stem cell transplant and according to Pastor, has seen dramatic improvements in his mobility and quality of life. He readies to hop in the car, something he could not do by himself before the treatment. Photo by Steve Jessmore

CLICK FOR MORE PHOTOS

Stem Cell Check Up Shows Progress

When Beau first arrived there, staff members had to help him stand up.

But Tuesday, 60 days after a new stem-cell treatment was applied, Beau walked. He got up on his own, over and over, even on an uncarpeted floor.

"This is fantastic," Berger said, watching Beau move. Even in a sitting position, Beau showed he was comfortable, able to bend his legs and rising on command without assistance.

Beau still hesitates a little when getting up or in the car, but Pastor said he thinks that is psychological -- Beau anticipates pain, so he's cautious.

He hopes that in another two months, it won't be an issue for Beau.

New process

Tuesday was Beau's 60-day check up, and Berger is pleased with the progress in the dog and in the other 11 animals he has performed the new treatment on since he treated Beau.

Although veterinarians have been using stem cell therapy for seven or eight years, they are often expensive and take a few days to complete.

Berger was the first on the Grand Strand to try this new in-house therapy developed by Kentucky-based MediVet-America, and so far, is still the only one, although the treatment's distributor has been talking

MOST POPULAR MOST COMMENTED

- Ex-CEO takes helm of Coastal Carolina University football team
- What they're saying about Coastal Carolina's new head coach
- SC woman charged with throwing toddler off balcony
- Issac J. Bailey | Coastal Carolina University football swaps country mouse for city mouse
- 1 Aiken officer killed, 1 wounded in shootout
- Myrtle Beach police investigate check scam
- Poll: Do you agree with CCU's decision to hire Joe Moglia as head football coach?
- Police | Georgetown man facing drug charges
- Horry County salaries for 2011
- One killed, two shot in Myrtle Beach area

Get the Deal!

\$50 for \$100 worth of dry cleaning at any local Lapels location.



\$50.00

Buy Now!

Value: \$100
Discount: 50%
You Save: \$50

dealsaver.com

[Privacy](#)

with several more Grand Strand vets, said Bob DeWitt, spokesman for MediVet. He said the next closest veterinarian using the treatment now is in Charlotte.

The treatment itself is drug-free, and uses the body's natural ability to heal itself by charging up the stem cells that will regenerate defective tissue.

It's not the same as embryonic stem cell therapy, Berger is careful to point out. It's more like donating your own blood before you have surgery.

The procedure requires an animal to have a little liposuction under general anesthesia. The vet harvests 1 to 2 ounces of adipose, or fatty, tissue, and by the time the pet wakes from the surgery, 10 to 20 million stem cells have been extracted and are being prepared.

Instead of sending the tissue to a lab on the West Coast for processing, veterinarians can perform this new procedure in about four hours.

Similar stories:

[Pawleys Island vet performs first of new stem-cell treatment on dog and cat](#)

[Conway neighbors fear pets being poisoned](#)

[Dog's mystery joint problem diagnosed as immune disease](#)

[Sammy's fever could be due to Lyme disease](#)

[Police will probe dog poisoning accusations near Conway](#)

Once the cells are harvested, enzymes and an LED light process activate them, then they are injected into the affected area on the animal.

Beau went home the same day he was treated.

There are stem cells for every organ and nerve in the body, Berger said. The trick is getting enough of the healing cells to the right place, quickly.

The stem cells will dissolve the excess bone in the ball-and-socket joints of Beau's hips, and regrow cartilage where it has been worn away.

They will also help Beau's heart, liver and brain.

More than 3,000 of the new stem cell kits have been delivered to veterinarians across the country, and they are seeing amazing results, DeWitt said. The kits have been used on horses, dogs, cats, a ram, a goat, camels and MediVet is talking with zoos about possible treatments,

"We don't know exactly what to expect long-term," DeWitt said. "These are sort of like clinical trials. But the results so far are great." Two dogs from Kansas that had the treatments a year ago, when the procedure was almost brand new, are still showing signs of improvement, he said.

"Their owner said it's like the clock has been turned back."

Beau's clock hasn't been turned back quite yet, but Pastor and Berger said they expect to see maximum results between two and four months from now.

Pastor wasn't expecting Beau to be a puppy again, he just didn't want him to be in pain.

Now, he said, he has cut back Beau's pain medicine from once a day to once every three days, and expects to be able to take him off it completely at the 120-day mark.

More pets

Berger had also planned to use the stem cell treatment on Granny, a cat nearly mauled to death by dogs. He used the platelet-rich plasma extracted from Granny's blood, instead.

Granny was in danger of losing a leg that had almost been torn off, and was missing some large pieces of muscle.

Making the platelet-rich plasma is a phase of the stem cell extraction process. He said he put the plasma into Granny's wounded areas, and it worked. Granny not only still has her leg, she is up and walking, happy and healthy. The treatment didn't regenerate the lost muscle, but that hasn't stopped the cat.

"It's not pretty," Berger said of Granny's leg. "But the skin closed up around the wounds, and she has turned out to be a very spirited little cat."

Since Beau's treatment, 11 more animals have undergone the procedure at Berger's office, most of them with osteoarthritis like Beau's. One had three broken legs after being hit by a car, and another had a torn ligament.

In each case, Berger said, the animals are recovering well.

The treatment costs about \$1,800, which is about half the price of the older stem cell therapy.

Sign up for the daily deal email



Events Calendar:

21 Wed	22 Thu	23 Fri	24 Sat	25 Sun	26 Mon	All Events
------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	----------------------

[Search Events](#)

? Restaurants ? Movies ? Music ? Venues ?
? Performing Arts ? Add an Event ?

LOCAL WEATHER TRAFFIC INFO POLLS

Myrtle Beach, SC Cloudy

65°F



High: 69° Low: 62° 15-Day Weather Forecast

[Click here to see all of the Sun News Weather Kids](#)

Local Shopping

- 10-4 PI
- 20/20 Eyewear(2)
- 21 Main at North Beach(3)
- 4 Seasons Car Wash & Detailing(2)
- 501 Furniture
- A Father's Promise
- A1 Xpress Packaging & Shipping
- AAA Blind & Shutter Factory(2)
- Abrams
- AccuQuest Hearing Centers
- Affordables
- Alabama Theatre / The South's Grandest Christmas S(2)
- AlueCure
- America's Mattress
- Ark Animal Hospital

[View more >](#)



Quick Job Search

Enter Keyword(s):

Enter a City:

Select a State: South Carolina

Select a Category: - All Job Categories -

[Advanced Job Search](#)

[Search by Category](#)

Top Jobs

Restaurant Fire Suppression

Systems Technician

Not Specified
US-SC-Florence

Medical

WACCAMAW
CARDIOLOGY
US-SC-Myrtle Beach

ENGINEERING

GRAND STRAND
WATER & SEWER
US-SC-Myrtle Beach

Medical

PRINCE GEORGE
HEALTHCARE VILLG
US-SC-Myrtle Beach

Pastor said the money he's saving in medication for Beau is already covering the cost of the procedure.

The treatment might not last forever -- it's too new to tell. But Berger banked some of Beau's stem cells, and if he does come back for another treatment, surgery won't be necessary. It will be a quicker and easier treatment than the first.

MediVet is already promising a new enzyme for 2012 that will increase the number of stem cells that can be extracted from a tissue sample by 10 times, Berger said.

Christmas with the family

Bill Pastor said his nieces and nephews wore Beau out on Thanksgiving, which was just a couple of weeks after the treatment.

Before, Beau only got himself up to go outside in the morning and at night, and even then, sometimes he needed to be carried.

Now, Pastor said, Beau goes out about 10 times a day -- not because he has to, but because he wants to.

Other animals that have received the treatment have had to have their movement limited during the recuperation process, DeWitt said, because they find themselves pain free and want to do all the activities that were once normal for them.

"They think they are puppies or kittens or kids again," he said. "They don't know that they have to take it slow and let themselves heal."

Beau is already an older dog, so he's mellow, Pastor said.

Berger wants to see Beau exercise more to build back up some of the muscle mass his back legs lost when he was inactive. Other than that and some age-related hearing loss, Beau seems to be in good health.

When asked if he was getting any special treats for Christmas -- like a juicy steak -- Pastor said Beau gets those almost every day.

"I'm going to stop by Burger King on the way home," Pastor said. "That's his favorite. He loves those little cheeseburgers."

Pastor said he's the one getting the treat by having Beau home and making progress.

In the past, Berger said, there wasn't a lot that could be done for some of these animals.

But stem cell therapy -- particularly this new technology -- means a vast improvement.

"The possibilities are limitless," he said.

Contact LORENA ANDERSON at 444-1722.

Like
 Tweet
 Follow

Get The Sun News newspaper delivered to your home or business. [Click here to subscribe.](#)

The Sun News allows readers to comment on stories as a privilege; the views expressed in story comments are not those of the Sun News or its staff. Readers are required to adhere to all commenting policies, and must avoid commenting behavior such as personal attacks, libelous posts or inappropriate remarks. Users in violation of The Sun News' commenting policies can have their comments blocked, removed, and/or ultimately see their account banned from the site. Some comments may be reprinted in the newspaper. Registered user names will be posted with comments. The Sun News Terms & Conditions and Commenting Policies can be reviewed here.

Like liked this.

Add New Comment

[Login](#)

Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)

Showing 3 comments

Sort by newest first

smalworld

[Post a Resume](#)
[Post a Job](#)
[See more jobs at CareerBuilder.com](#)

[All Top Jobs »](#)

powered by

Keywords:

City & State and/or Zip:

Category: **Within:**

This could be available for us, but the pharma's won't allow it. They would lose money not being able to push their ineffective, or marginally so, drugs on us, creating a dependency that boosts their sales.

Today 08:41 AM 2 Likes Report Abuse

Like Reply



vrexyl

Wish they could develop this for humans!

Today 08:28 AM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



Strandgrandr

It's amazing what these new procedures can do. Very happy for everyone involved.

Yesterday 05:45 PM 3 Likes Report Abuse

Like Reply

M [Subscribe by email](#) S [RSS](#)

<p>51 Yr Old Woman Looks 25 Mom publishes free facelift secret that has angered doctors... ConsumerLifestyles</p>	<p>AARP® 50+ Auto Insurance Over 50? Save an Avg \$357*. 4 out of 5 AARP® Policyholder's saved. AARP.TheHartford.com</p>	<p>Airport Jobs 12 Positions Available: \$17-21/Hour No Experience Required. Apply Now! doteall.com</p>
--	---	--

Ads by Yahoo!

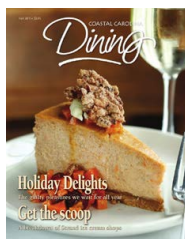
MAGAZINES



« Living Here



« Home & Lifestyle



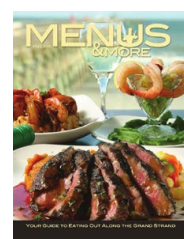
« Dining



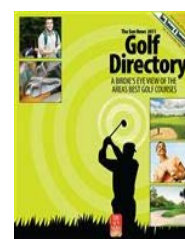
« Carolina Bride



« Destinations



« Menus & More



« Golf Directory

» REQUEST FREE INFORMATION «

MYRTLE BEACH ONLINE.COM QUICK LINKS

NEWS

Local/State
Business
Nation/World
Weather
Politics
Blogs

SPORTS

Sports News
Golf
MB Pelicans
Youth/Rec
National
Coastal Carolina Univ.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kicks!
Comics/Games
Horoscopes
Movies
Contests

OPINION

Letters to the Editor
Editorials
Columnists
Issac Bailey
The Opinion Blog

PHOTOS

Staff Photo Galleries
Reprints
Reader Photos
Videos
Celebrity Photos

LIVING

Living
Home/Garden
Celebrations

VISIT

Visitors' Site
Plan your trip
Golf
Search Businesses

SITE LINKS

Contact Us
About Us
FAQs
Subscriptions
Advertising