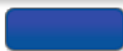


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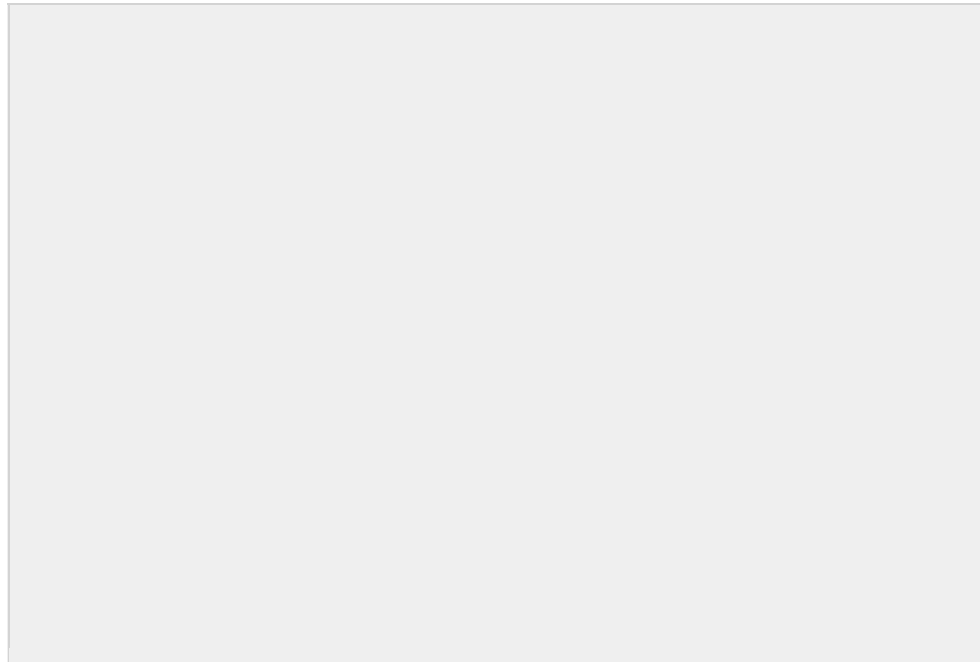
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GEORGETOWN - Bo paced impatiently next to his owner, Bill Pastor, inside the waiting area of the Animal Hospital and Laser Center of South Carolina in Pawley's Island on Tuesday morning.

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GEORGETOWN - Bo paced impatiently next to his owner, Bill Pastor, inside the waiting area of the Animal Hospital and Laser Center of South Carolina in Pawley's Island on Tuesday morning.

It's a far cry from when Bo visited Dr. Noel Berger's

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GEORGETOWN - Bo, a 14-year-old labrador-chow mix, waits while his owner, Bill Pastor of Darlington, talks with veterinarian Dr. Noel Berger at the Animal Hospital and Laser Center of South Carolina in Pawleys Island on Tuesday. Bo was in for his two-month check-up after undergoing stem cell treatment in October to help remedy severe arthritis pain.

clinic in October, and became the first dog Berger performed a new stem cell procedure on.

"What I saw (in October) was a dog who was down, couldn't get up, and the owners were ready to put him to sleep," said Dr. Berger. "All of the medicines and all of the other treatments weren't working."

Pastor and Bo live in Darlington.

Bo, a 14-year-old Labrador-Chow mix, was arthritic and Pastor said he would have to pick the dog up and move him around in the yard when the illness would bring him down.

"Those are the ones we know we can make a huge difference in. It's dramatic," said Dr. Berger.

The adult stem cells are already formed for specific areas of the body, said Dr. Berger.

"We're trying to find those cells in fat, purify them, and also put them back into the joint, where they create joint fluid (and) can create new cartilage and they can also smooth out some of the rough edges of the inflamed bones," said Dr. Berger.

Since the October surgery, Bo has been able to walk with little pain, and get up on his own once he sits or lies down.

"That was beyond my expectations," said Dr. Berger.

Also beyond his expectations are the other benefits of the procedure, said Dr. Berger. He said the improvements with the 11 other patients include relief from inflammatory bowel disease, kidney failure, chronic hepatitis, asthma, skin infections, dry eyes, and urinary incontinence.

"We have these owners who have these pets as members of the family, day in and day out. They know them a whole lot better than we do, and they're able to tell us they think their dog is smiling again," said Dr. Berger.

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