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Atchison Memorial

Dogs show off benefits of stem cell therapy

Posted: November 14, 2011 - 9:28am



THAD ALLTON/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL
Carrie Hoffman, left, with her dog Gunner, and Bruce Zimmerman, right, with his dog Sherman, were at the University Bird and Small Animal Clinic, 2619 S.W. 17th, to celebrate the one-year anniversary of being the first animals in Kansas to be treated with stem cell therapy. One year ago, 12-year-old pit bull mix Sherman and 9-year-old Labrador Gunner were hobbling around and in visible pain. Now, their owners say, they are active and energetic.

By Samantha Foster
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

The tails wagging Monday morning outside University Animal Clinic, 2619 S.W. 17th, were proof that animal stem cell therapy works.

One year ago, 12-year-old pit bull mix Sherman and Gunner, a 9-year-old Labrador, were hobbling around and in visible pain. Now, their owners say, they are active and energetic.

Veterinarian Larry Snyder said the change wouldn't have been possible if not for the stem cell therapy both dogs underwent Nov. 13, 2010. The therapy involves using the body's own stem cells to heal itself. Fat tissue is taken out of the body, activated and then injected into the area that needs it, promoting regeneration of damaged areas in the bone, cartilage, ligaments and tendons.

Snyder said Sherman was the first animal in Kansas to be treated with stem cell therapy, and Gunner was the second. Since then, he said, he has treated about 30 other animals at the clinic in the same way.

Carrie Hoffman, Gunner's owner, said he was in so much pain that she thought he would have to be put

down. Pain medications weren't an option because they made him sick.

Hoffman said she did some research and saw that animal stem cell therapy was being used to help racehorses get back on the track. She approached Snyder with the idea, and he ran with it, she said.

Now Gunner's health has improved so much that he acts like a puppy, jumping up and wanting to play

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Frisbee and catch balls, Hoffman said.

He also has lost a lot of weight because he is able to be active again.

Sherman's owner, Bruce Zimmerman, said the post-therapy difference for Sherman has been amazing too.

"His eyes are bright, he's not on any pain medication," Zimmerman said. "He's up early, and he has no problem with stairs. It's done everything we'd hoped for."

The procedure once involved having to send tissue samples to California, Snyder said, but now it is a one-day in-house procedure.

Snyder said Sherman participates in animal stem cell therapy presentations across the state. He said he is very pleased with how well both dogs are doing, but he also cautioned it still isn't known how long the therapy will last. It may need to be repeated at some point.

But these dogs are happier and healthier than they were before the therapy. And their owners and their veterinarian are happy, too.

Samantha Foster can be reached at (785) 295-1186 or samantha.foster@cjonline.com.

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30



Comments (7)



We need this for people but . . .

By [LoRida](#) | 11/14/11 - 09:34 am

the religious folks won't let us have it - until they or theirs need it, that is.

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And by that I mean

By [LoRida](#) | 11/14/11 - 09:38 am

The real deal - embryonic stem cells - the ones that are plueralpotent and the most promising - the ones that are more conducive to doing what the scientists/researchers/doctors want them to do. You've heard the saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks"? The same applies to embryonic vs. adult stem cells. The young ones are more adaptable. More promising. Get it?

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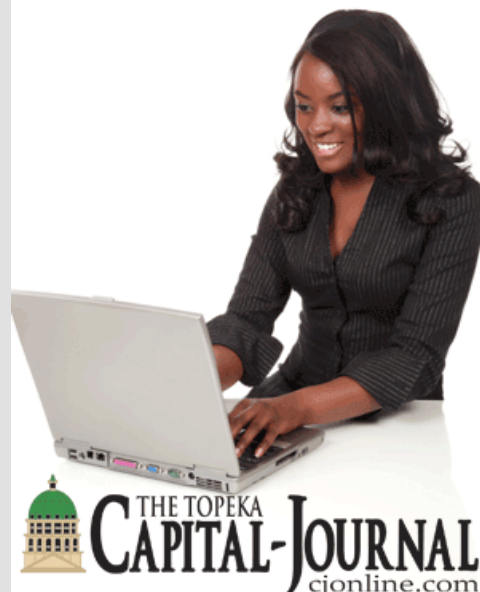
Human stem cells

By [you_first](#) | 11/14/11 - 11:11 am

They are having success with adult stem cells culled and returned to the same subject:

<http://news.yahoo.com/stem-cells-hope-heart-failure-patients-193836164.html>

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LoRida

By [sunflower1](#) | 11/14/11 - 12:14 pm

What makes you think the stem cells of viables have not been used. Trafficking in fetal tissue is about up there with selling human organs.

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Hello?????? LoRida, do you

By [independentthinker](#) | 11/14/11 - 12:58 pm

Hello??????

LoRida, do you understand this is NOT embryonic stem cell treatment, but the same as adult stem cell treatment, which no (mainstream) religious organizations object to?

Wake up America.....start a revolution..... restore the Constitution

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"The real deal - embryonic

By [CrackpipeCardozo](#) | 11/14/11 - 01:14 pm

"The real deal - embryonic stem cells - the ones that are plueralpotent and the most promising - the ones that are more conducive to doing what the scientists/researchers/doctors want them to do."

I'm no medical professional, but I wouldn't be so quick to claim that ESC's are more conducive for medical treatment. Mensenchymal/adipose-derived cells have been pretty effective in treating a host of different ailments

<http://www.cellmedicine.com/treatment/>

"It is not very unreasonable that the rich should contribute to the public expense, not only in proportion to their revenue, but something more than in that proportion." Noted communist Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*: Book V.

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So far

By [Liberal Fanatic](#) | 11/14/11 - 03:35 pm

The only thing Embryonic Stem Cell research has produced are more virulent forms of cancer. Adult stem cells (used in the above story for the dogs) have done everything to help the lame walk, the blind see and cure some forms of Parkinson's.

Morons like LoRida are to stupid to realize which is which.

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