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Procedure makes old dogs act, feel like puppies again

Pets feeling better two months after procedure

By Kim Kimzey
kim.kimzey@shj.com

Published: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.
Last Modified: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 at 8:38 p.m.

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Medications helped some, but Molly's owners, who'd had her since she was a 10-week-old puppy, were considering acupuncture and massage when they learned of a stem cell procedure that might ease Molly's discomfort and increase mobility.

The procedure was performed in May at Heartland Animal Hospital in Boiling Springs. Scooter, a 12-year-old golden retriever from North Wilkesboro, N.C., also underwent the procedure the same days.

Theirs' were the first stem cell procedures entirely performed in a



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Two months ago, Molly, a 12-year-old English bulldog, received a stem cell procedure at Heartland Animal Hospital in Boiling Springs. Beth Edwards, her owner, pictured here with Molly, said the dog has done remarkably well since the procedure.

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veterinary clinic in the Spartanburg/Greenville area, according to a written statement.

Stem cells were intravenously administered and injected into the dogs' affected areas to allow for cartilage regeneration in the dogs' joints, McCurry explained in May. Platelet-rich plasma was also mixed in and injected directly into the joints for its anti-inflammatory properties.

Molly and Scooter were back at the veterinary clinic on Monday.

Scooter's tail was wagging and he trotted across the fenced yard behind the clinic. He once walked with a limp, McCurry said. Scooter has some hip dysplasia, osteoarthritis and has had surgery on a knee, McCurry said last May.

She said Scooter was able to cut his medications in half and that his "mom" said the dog was like a puppy again — bounding up and down the stairs.

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Molly has had two knee surgeries and osteoarthritis. She ambled through the veterinary clinic on Monday and was able to ease herself to the floor. Edwards said Molly is "doing fantastic" and seems more comfortable. She sleeps through the night and plays and is off one of her medications.



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Two months ago, Molly, a 12-year-old English bulldog, received a stem cell procedure at Heartland Animal Hospital in Boiling Springs. Beth Edwards, her owner, pictured here with Molly, said the dog has done remarkably well since the procedure.

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"It's remarkable how well she's doing," Edwards said.

Molly has not fallen since the second day after her surgery.

McCurry has performed the procedure on nine dogs in the last two months.

"Across the board, they're showing improvement," she said.

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