



Our 10-year old Pomeranian, his name is King Louie, was diagnosed last August with chiari-like malformation and fluid sack in spinal cord (SM). King Louie came to us from a breeder of Pomeranians, We have several Pomeranians from this breeder and she has been in the business over 35 years and I love her so much for all the joy and happiness she has given to us through each of our babies. She has been with us every step of the way keeping in touch often about King Louie. It appears by everything that I have read that most dogs are diagnosed much, much younger than King Louie and we thought that you might be interested in his case. We have even been in touch with Dr Clare Rusbridge who in turn is also very interested in King Louie's case and they now have his DNA for their testing and case studies they are doing.

Since the spring of last year our male neutered Pomeranian started having issues and it was like his legs would keep giving out from under him. Then in late July of last year his back right femur was found to be dislocated from his hip socket and he had an episode where his trachea collapsed (he's had issues before with trachea -- very, very narrowed). Also, two years ago he was diagnosed with a heart murmur and put on Enalapril once a day. My vet, Dr Johanna Clark from Steele Creek Animal Hospital in Charlotte, NC performed a closed reduction to pop femur back into the socket and taped the leg up. A week later tape was removed and leg instantly popped back out of hip socket. He was then scheduled to see a specialist, Dr Laura Dvorak at Carolina Veterinary Specialists here in Charlotte, NC USA to perform a FHO on August 28, 2009. He went in for his pre-op consultation on August 27th and after close examination and x-rays and consultation with the cardiologist (Dr Peggy Sayer) too due to his heart issue, he was cleared for surgery; however, she found he had pain in his neck.

Therefore, the plan on Friday was for King Louie to have an MRI first and then the FHO surgery. Before they could ever get started on Friday and before they even put an IV in his leg, while sitting in the cage, he appeared to have a seizure and then cardiac arrest. Dr Dvorak was standing in front of his cage when it happened and did a couple of chest compressions and heart immediately started again and they gave him an injection and placed him in constant oxygen.

After stabilizing King Louie, Dr Dvorak and the neurologist, Dr Peter Brofman, met with us and wanted to go ahead and proceed with MRI to find out what was going on and we postponed FHO leg surgery. Louie did great under anaesthesia and an hour and a half later, Dr Brofman met with us to give us the news and show us the MRI that Louie did in fact have a chiari-like malformation and a fluid sack (SM) in his spinal

cord. Louie stayed Friday night because when we came back Friday evening to pick him up (they thought he would do better at home), as soon as they took him out of the oxygen chamber, his oxygen number went down, so back in chamber he went and he spent the night. Dr Brofman came in that Saturday morning and Louie was doing better. He has put him on Prednisone (2.5 mg/tab) at 1/2 to 1x/day; Prilosec (20mg/cap) 1x/day; Neurontin elixir (50mg/cc) 0.2cc orally 2x/day; and, torbutrol (1 mg/tab) at 1/4tab as needed for coughing (trachea issue). Today Louie continues on medication daily (Prilosec once a day, Neurontin twice a day, Enalapril now twice a day, and Theophylline for his collapsing trachea.) Every other day he is on Prednisone.

Due to Louie's age and other issues, Dr Brofman says that surgery for the chiari-like malformation and fluid sack in spinal cord is not really an option so he is treating through medicines. It seems like he is continuing to go downhill and is really struggles with any type of balance. Not sure where we will go from here.

Thank you in advanced for just reading this and listening to us. We were never blessed with 2-legged children so our Pomeranians (we have 6) are all that we have and they are our children. I wish I could show everyone pictures of King Louie. He is a very special little boy. Right now we are just keeping him very comfortable. He's not over weight so when he does get up to move around or go to bathroom he wobbles a lot because of the chiari-like malformation.

Again, I really thought you would be interested in hearing about this due to the late age at which he has been diagnosed. He receives very good veterinary care throughout the year by Dr Johanna Clark of Steele Creek Animal Hospital in Charlotte, so he has been well cared for, just very surprised with what has been found so late in his life.

We are hoping for support from this group as it's nice to know we are not alone in this and others have or are going through the same exact thing. Louie truly is an angel.
Sincerely, Dottie