

Puppy Love

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Newsletter of *Belle Amore Dachshunds*

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HOPE

THROUGH RESEARCH

Fifi's dad adopted her in June 2017 when she was about 2.5 years old, she was adorably full of energy and super sassy. Unfortunately, one year later doctors diagnosed Fifi with lymphoma. The best anyone could offer was treatment to give her pet parents more time with her. Fifi always needs to know everything about everyone and anything going on around her; she's a total busybody! But she's also very sweet and loves to snuggle and cuddle. When she was going through chemotherapy, she still had to be close to her dad and literally fell asleep with her whole body on top of his chest. During Fifi's six months of chemotherapy at Tufts University's she received three different regimens, during the first two treatments her tumor continued to grow. By the time she got to the last option, Fifi's oncologist said she only had a 30 percent chance of responding positively. With the third chemo regimen, Fifi's tumors kept shrinking at every visit! However, later during the treatment an MRI showed what appeared to be tumor metastasis to the sciatic nerve branch in one leg. Thinking Fifi's lymphoma had spread, her dad stopped treatments and took her home so she could enjoy the time she had left. Thankfully, her prognosis was wrong. Three years after Fifi's diagnosis, her oncologist declared her tumor-free. There were no tumors or any signs of disease anywhere. Fifi had a death sentence but she beat it! Without **biomedical research** and all the time, effort and resources countless scientists, veterinarians, laboratory animal technicians and physicians put into their work, we would not have access to the treatments that we do today. **Biomedical research saved Fifi!**



Nala is at home in New York being spoiled and loved by her new forever family.

Top 10 Signs of Cancer in Dogs

Many of these signs can be caused by other conditions and are not always an indication your dog has cancer. However, if you notice any of these signs consult your veterinarian. Just like with people, the earlier cancer is caught the better.

- * Lumps or Swelling
- * Loss of Appetite
- * Weight Loss
- * Sores that Don't Heal
- * Offensive Odors
- * Coughing or Difficulty Breathing
- * Difficulty Urinating or Defecating
- * Bleeding or Discharge from any Opening in the Body
- * Lameness or Stiffness that Persists
- * Decreased Stamina or Lack of Interest in Playing

Things You Need To Know

Getting the diagnosis of cancer is terrifying, but it is not a death wish. The first cancer treatment specifically for dogs occurred in 2009 and everyday research continues throughout the world to attack this life threatening disease. But, be cautious, 50% of all dogs over the age of ten will develop cancer. Big dogs are more vulnerable to the disease, but doxies are not immune.



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