

7 Months of Clarence

It started with plea sent out for "Buster", now known as Clarence, on Dec. 2, 2011 to those of us in HSFM known as complete suckers for old Labs:

His face really got to me...any takers? Here's his bio on the Arlington website:

URGENT! ARLINGTON TX -Buster, SENIOR NEUTERED LAB with ABSCESS in NEED at AAS!

BUSTER, ID# 14574395, DH107

Male, Senior Lab, NEUTERED, 58 LB

Heads up everyone, I KNOW this is a long shot, but have to try to find help for Buster! He was "found" by a citizen wandering around. He is microchipped, but it's a Home Again Chip that is not registered.

Buster has an abscess on the side of his face and I don't think he has received ANY medical attention for it! Just MY opinion, but whether still on STRAY HOLD or not, this abscess should have been drained and Buster should have been in R/R (rehab and recovery) NOT left sitting in a regular kennel! He's an old Lab and a sweet fellow and deserved a better life than he got and better CARE from AAS than he's had! If a dog comes in HBC, they don't WAIT for the stray hold to be up to care of injuries OR one would HOPE they don't wait! Buster has now pawed at his face and broken open the abscess!

PLEASE CAN SOMEONE SAVE BUSTER???? He shouldn't have had to endure this kind of neglect and then DIE at the shelter!

BUSTER HAS \$360 PLEDGED for EXPENSES THUS FAR to a reputable rescue that can help Buster!



With his sweet eyes, the fact he was at Arlington Animal Services, where my first yellow lab Moose came from, and the lump on his face that stuck out so far it blocked his ear, of course we said yes. Vicki P., a dedicated volunteer who helps with many of our transports from Arlington, went and picked him up. After getting Clarence out of her car and moved to his foster home, much of the evening was spent trying to find the right name for him – Buster just didn't seem to fit. Clarence was suggested since it was right before Christmas, and a name for the angel in Miracle on 34th Street really seemed to fit this old man, who truly was an angel. Clarence could barely stand up, and our hearts broke each time he collapsed. We thought it was a miracle he was alive.

Humane Society of Flower Mound has helped Clarence and hundreds of other senior pets. This was his story written by his foster mom, adopter, and HSFM volunteer. Follow us at facebook.com/HSFMFans



Getting Some TLC

When we first saw the wound on his neck, it was horrendous. It smelled awful, and covered the whole side of his face. Another volunteer at the shelter told us it was a growth that he had scratched at, not an abscess, and needed to be removed. Clarence could barely walk. This was partially due to his arthritis, but also because his claws that were so long he could barely touch his pads to the ground. But he always wagged his tail when you loved on him. He was also covered in fleas.

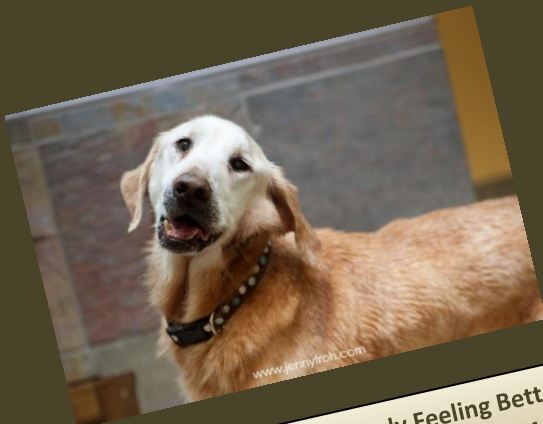
So the next day was bath day at the Nosey Dog in Flower Mound to get rid of the fleas and try to see how bad the thing on his neck was. Our wonderful volunteer and professional photographer Jenny Froh, met us there to get some photos of him. He was a perfect dog through the whole process.



The nasty tumor on Clarence's neck



Even in his sad state, Clarence was adorable. He really hated getting his claws done, but he was such a trooper he even let them sand them down! Patricia and the Nosey Dog team were wonderful, and went above and beyond. Jenny, ever the wonderful volunteer, stayed to help bathe him. During his bath, the water was so dark that Jenny kept saying he was bleeding from somewhere. I had to keep reassuring her it was just all the dried blood since he was horribly infested with fleas.



Already Feeling Better!
Photos from www.jennyfroh.com

Next up was dealing with the tumor. Since I already had an appointment scheduled with my vet for that Monday, I took Clarence along. Those that know me accept that I am crazy enough to drive to Joshua, TX from Corinth to see Dr. Suzy Stuart, who has been my vet for 19 years. I may have taken Clarence there also because subconsciously I already knew he was home. Either way, Dr. Suzy was pretty much horrified at his condition. When I asked her what she thought his age was, her best guess was “older than dirt.” She was fairly certain he wouldn’t survive the surgery to remove the tumor on his face and neck, but we both agreed he couldn’t live with it as it was. So she did some bloodwork, and Clarence’s first miracle was that even in his poor condition, all his levels were great, so she agreed to do the surgery. On December 7th, we brought Clarence home again, looking like a Frankenstein dog.



With the tumor gone, being on some really good food, and getting some arthritis medication, Clarence flourished. The dog we thought may not make it to Christmas became frisky and playful. He couldn’t play long, but for the few minutes he did play you could see the pure joy in his eyes.

Reason #1 To Adopt A Senior Pet: The soulful eyes of an older pet will absolutely melt you. We could see in Clarence’s eyes how much better he felt when he just walked up and stared at us. His eyes were especially soulful when it was breakfast and dinnertime since he had been put on a wet food diet due to his poor teeth. That canned food is good stuff!

On Christmas day, watching Clarence “open” his presents, we knew he was a part of the family, and we adopted him December 31, 2011. “Open” means the stuffed Santa got shredded!

Fast-forward to the spring, where we were still surprised he was alive. He was playful, happy, and getting a tad pudgy even. He went back to Dr. Suzy, who said he really was a miracle dog. At that point, he had dug 3 good-sized holes in our yard trying to help control the moles, and we debated on asking her if we could cut down on his medication a little bit, as he might be feeling a little too spry! Of course we didn’t, because to see him experience the joys of just being a dog lifted our spirits, even as we were lifting the shovel to fill in the holes.

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The Truly Golden Years

Clarence has continued to improve, odd progress for an older dog. He is a gift each day. Jenny Froh took more photos this summer to show how this gentle soul is savoring his golden years.



Reason #2 To Adopt a Senior Pet: They fill in their holes. The last time we caught Clarence digging, my husband tapped him on the back (since he can barely hear) after seeing his wagging tail sticking out from between the air conditioners. Clarence looked up at him, turned 180 degrees, and started pawing the dirt back into the hole he had just made. He must have decided that was too much work, as he quit digging after that.



Reason #3 To Adopt A Senior Pet:

The joy they bring is two-fold; you get a wonderful pet who is beyond all the typical troubles of a younger pet. More importantly, the joy you feel in giving these animals a safe, loving home for their final years is incredibly rewarding.



We know we won't get to enjoy having Clarence in our family as long as we would like to, but we cherish the days that we do, and are so thankful that so many volunteers worked so hard to get this guy a 2nd chance.