

## Opal's Story



Opal turned 3 years old in last January. Early in March she had a very unfortunate accident – she had slipped on the ice, fell and tore both hind ACL's. Her family could not afford the needed surgeries and extensive rehabilitation Opal would need and very sadly, had to surrender her to GRRoM. It was also discovered that she had a bone spur on her lower vertebrae which made it extremely painful to squat to go potty.

Opal was taken to the vet as soon as she came to GRRoM. She had not urinated or had a bowel movement in over 24 hours. We were told that she was in excruciating pain and would need surgery ASAP.

She was out on pain medications which helped, but the meds wore off quickly and she was still very



uncomfortable. She could only get around with someone holding her belly band to keep weight off her hind legs.

Opal's foster family shared that Opal was such a sweet girl and despite her pain, would still wag her tail. "Opal is sweetest dog I have ever met. She likes to "hold hands" and is very easy, very loving".

Opal's situation was truly heartbreaking. GRRoM was committed to doing everything possible to help her. Her surgeries and rehabilitation were estimated to cost between \$8,000 and \$10,000. It was felt that once her surgeries and rehabilitation were complete, Opal had a long and happy life ahead to enjoy.

Opal had her first TPLO surgery on March 16th at Animal Surgical Center of Michigan in Flint. The surgery went well and Dr. Probst was able to reinforce the joint.

Opal went home to recover. She gingerly put weight on the surgical leg which the doctor said was okay. Surgery for her next TPLO would be scheduled following her checkup and also depended on her progress.

After her 2 month post-op appointment, it was determined that her right leg was healing well and no additional therapy would be



needed on that leg. She was able to take short walks 3 times a day. However, her left leg was very unstable and on July 12th, she had TPLO surgery to repair the ACL on her left leg



Opal is still recovering from her 2<sup>nd</sup> surgery. She's doing great and is able to walk short distances.

*Opal is GRRoM's poster girl for this year's annual appeal campaign.*

