



Our Journey with Fergie

(GCCR #582)

by Cathy Schadel, Co-Rescue Coordinator

In July 2015, one of GCCR's wonderful sleuths, Judy, arranged a breeder release from Missouri. While waiting for the vet to do the intake exam at Yorkville Animal Hospital, a tiny, 15-pound Blenheim girl – dirty, smelly, and full of her own excrement – begged to get in my lap.



Normally at intake, most dogs are frightened and we have a hard time peeling them away from the corners and walls, but there was Fergie (whom I named) wanting nothing more than to be in my lap. I thought to myself, oh girl, you have no idea of the shape you're in! In my mind I reasoned, if I let her in my lap, I'll need a change of clothes and a shower as soon as I get home... and then there's the car... but before I could even finish that thought, Fergie was in my lap! And boy did she love it!

As it turned out, 4-year-old Fergie came to foster with us. She immediately fell in love with my husband Robert and wanted to be with him all of the time. As our foster, Fergie learned what it was like to live in a home, sleep on the bed, and what good food was all about. Fergie was a dream!

In September it came time for Fergie to make her way to her adopter's home. Anyone who's ever fostered knows what a mix of emotions that is! But as fate would have it, Fergie found her way back to GCCR only 3 weeks later after sustaining an injury resulting in fractures to her rear leg. Thanks to generous donors, Fergie underwent surgery to repair her right femur. Her new "bling" consisted of 2 plates, a pin, and 10 screws!



After a few days of rehabilitation with her Aunt Rosie in Madison, Fergie returned to foster with us for the remainder of her rehab. Even in her condition, she was ecstatic to see Robert again. It was challenging and time-consuming, but we gladly carried her up and down the stairs and outside to do her business several times a day while she recovered.



Once her leg had healed, Fergie needed one more surgery to remove the hardware and to repair both of her luxating patellae. This time she came back with BOTH legs in wraps! True to Fergie style, she toughed it out and we again carried her up and down the stairs and outside for two weeks. Once the wraps came off, Fergie needed to learn to walk and gain muscle. Again our little trooper pushed forward, never looking back. In just two days Fergie ran! It was so adorable and heartwarming to see her ears flopping in the wind as she ran to me.

It wasn't a hard decision to adopt Fergie. I should have known months ago that it was meant to be when this dirty, smelly little girl made herself at home in my lap. We thank all of you for supporting us in this journey both emotionally and financially. It is because of all of you that GCCR is able to help so many of the neediest Cavaliers.

With love and gratitude,

Cathy, Robert, and Lady Ferguson "Fergie"

