

# tripawd<sup>®</sup> heroes

volume one



inspawrational tales of canine amputees loving life on three legs



 **TRIPAWDS<sup>®</sup>**

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When my people were told I had osteosarcoma, they were devastated by the news. They knew nothing about cancer in dogs, and had never seen a canine amputee. They felt scared and all alone.

Faced with difficult decisions about my fate, they turned to the internet in a frantic effort to do all the research they could. After learning that amputation was the best way to improve my quality of life, they quickly made plans that changed their own lives forever.

Doctors gave me just four to six months to live. Boy were they wrong! My pack traveled the country for nearly two years spreading the word that it's better to hop on three legs than to limp on four, sharing our adventures in my three legged dog blog at [tripawds.com](http://tripawds.com).

On the following pages you'll find my story and those of other amazing tripod dogs and canine cancer heroes.

Visit the Tripawds Blogs community and discussion forums at [tripawds.com](http://tripawds.com) for many more, or to share your own.

Together we can help show the world that dogs are born with three legs and a spare.

**Jerry G. Dawg (10/1998 — 10/2008)**

Tripawds Founder & CFO\*

PS: See [pages 36-38](#) for some helpful links!

\*Chief Fun Officer



It's better to hop on three legs than to limp on four.<sup>SM</sup>

<http://tripawds.com>



Helping amputee pets and their people everywhere.

<http://tripawds.org>



## Jerry Here and Now

We had just returned from another epic hiking adventure when Jerry first started limping. We figured he was just sore after the long trip, we all were. Never in our wildest dreams did we think it would be our last long hike together.

Over the next couple months Jerry's vet insisted his pain was just arthritis. Each time he went off pain meds, however, Jerry's limp seemed worse. One night while Jim was poking his shoulder to find out where he hurt, Jerry let out a loud yelp. A second opinion was long overdue.

A trip to the UC Davis veterinary teaching hospital resulted in a diagnosis we never dreamed of. Jerry had bone cancer, and we were presented with very few options. Medicate him to keep him comfortable for a couple months, if we were lucky. Or, proceed with amputation to maximize his quality of life.

Jerry bounced right back from the surgery, quite literally. Given a prognosis of only a few months, we opted not to put him through chemotherapy every couple weeks. Instead we quickly made plans that changed our lives forever. We sold nearly everything we owned and bought an RV. Focused on quality of life – not quantity – we hit the road to explore the country as a pack, making the most of every moment we had left together.

After reaching the Atlantic coast in Maine, swimming in the Gulf of Mexico, and crossing the Continental Divide multiple times, we discovered his lung mets about 17 months later. We were once again devastated, but Jerry continued to beat the odds. We started him on metronomics and K9 Immunity, and continued our cross-country adventure. We were honored when PBS documented our story in *Nature, Why We Love Cats and Dogs*.

Throughout our travels we learned important lessons from Jerry about the importance of living in the Now. Nearly two years after his amputation, just days following his 10th birthday, Jerry earned his wings under the big Montana sky.

Today, his spirit continues to shine on as ambassador for Tripawds and canine cancer survivors everywhere, showing the world that “It's better to hop on three legs than to limp on four.”

“Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.”

~ WINSTON CHURCHILL



*Click links to  
visit sites!*

[tripawds.com](http://tripawds.com)



## Calpurnia

### Tinytown, CO

They called me Calpurnia, after the wife of Julius Caesar; a noble name which suited me fine. I was not just a sled dog, I was a great sled dog. I was fast and smart, tolerant of long distances and sub-zero temperatures. I was the Queen of the Oदारoloc Sled Dogs.

In September 2007, I became a Tripawd when a soft tissue sarcoma in my right front leg wouldn't respond to chemotherapy. Almost immediately, I resumed my role as Queen of the pack. None of the other dogs even questioned my authority. By January 2008, I was back in my harness at the front of the team. I retired from running in 2009 when I was 14, but I never gave up my sport. I watched over the younger dogs and everyone called me Coach Cali.

As a 15 year old Queen, I had the time of my life in Alaska where I spent the 2010- 2011 winter running the trails where our ancestors ran, exploring our native land under the dancing Aurora Borealis. I ran – oh, how I ran!

When we returned home, I realized that my job here on Earth was complete. I moved on into the next world but I died with nothing left on my plate. I lived my entire life one day at a time. My gift was teaching others not to accept perceived limitations – to shine at what they love to do, no matter the effort involved.



**“Legs are only anatomy; the heart is where the spirit sings”**

~ SPIRIT CALPURNIA (3/6/1995 – 5/20/2011)

# Maggie

Lake Portage, ME

Maggie was diagnosed with soft tissue sarcoma at age 9. She had her rear left leg amputated to the hip for the best chance of the cancer not coming back, and she stayed in the hospital for two nights.

The two weeks after amputation were up and down with lots of downs. Five days after amputation, Maggie went off her food with a low grade fever. Two visits to a local vet and one visit to the surgical vet to try to help Maggie with her non-eating issue provided no relief. Nothing helped but a homeopathic remedy, Belladonna, for her fever and a supplement called Parotid by Standard Process to rid her of the side effects of anesthesia. It was a great day when she ate a McDonald's cheeseburger!

Maggie's normal life returned with time. The only issue she still has is fear of slipping on slick floors. I have worked her regularly on physical therapy exercises to regain her core strength. Maggie competes in APDT Rally Obedience and also Wag It Games where she is the "poster child" for the "Heart Dog Program" where disabled dogs are allowed to compete with special circumstances based on disability.



**“It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get back up.”**  
~ VINCE LOMBARDI





“Nothing great was ever  
achieved without enthusiasm.”

~ RALPH WALDO EMERSON



## Wyatt

### On The Road

Back in the day when I lived in the Oakland ghetto, they called me “Chopper.” I was a little gangsta pup and nopawdy told me what to do. I was all by myself and tied up in somepawdy’s back yard, but I was a Good Dog, darnit! I barked as loud as I could to guard the crib and nobody dared come over. But can you believe, my people never played with me?

It’s hard being tied to a rope all day. Pretty soon my leg got wrapped up in that thing, and it really hurt. When I cried loud enough, the humans checked on me. They took me to the vet, but when they heard that my leg couldn’t be fixed, the people didn’t want me anymore. So the vet said to them *“Get outta here! You don’t deserve a pawesome dog like bim!”*

The next day when I woke up, my leg was gone, but not my spirit. Some good humans found me and named me “Wyatt Ray.” They took me to my foster house, where I met that crazy Oaktown Pack – ya know, Codie Rae and her peeps. My foster parents knew about two people who needed dog love real bad after their hero, Jerry, earned his wings. You know. **The** Jerry.

Before I knew it, I was on the road with Jim and René. Life got real interesting once I left Oaktown and I got to see a lot of this great big country. Bye bye concrete jungle, hello great wide world. Now I spend my summers in the Rocky Mountains, keepin’ an eye on all the critters.

I get so excited when we go out traveling in the little RV doghouse on wheels, I can’t help myself! I love showing everypawdy what three legged dogs can do. Some people say I’m so crazy, they don’t even notice that I’m missing a leg. I’ll take that as a compliment.

I might have lost a leg, but I’m all Shepherd. I do my job, and I do it well.

I am Wyatt. Hear Me Bark.





Yoda

# Yoda & Gerry

Madison, WI

It means so much to me to share my boys' stories, because I know from personal experience how one heroic example can help so many, strengthening hearts and saving lives. My beautiful Doberman mix, Yoda, and I watched the story of Jerry – founding dog of tripawds.com – on a PBS special, “Why We Love Cats and Dogs.” Months later, Yoda was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. Without seeing how well Jerry lived and loved on three legs, I might have believed I needed to euthanize Yoda right away to spare him the incredible pain of his tumor. Because of Jerry’s inspiration, I sought more information and Yoda received an amputation and chemo instead. Soon after his surgery, I realized his tumor had affected his quality of life much earlier. He had stopped wanting to get in the car months before he began limping. That reluctance vanished. All of a sudden he was catching the tennis ball on the fly, which he had never done on four legs. We had four high quality, three-legged months. Less than a week before I had to let Yoda go, he caught a rabbit in the backyard.

While trying to recover from losing Yoda, I volunteered at local animal shelter. Suddenly, this adorable Doberman mix – also called Jerry! – arrived, was found to have a nasty old knee injury, and needed a foster home and amputation ASAP. Eventually, he convinced me to keep him permanently. I spell his name Gerry to avoid confusion, but Jerry is his namesake just the same. Today, Gerry is a proud, joyful boy, who visits a nursing home and is a volunteer “pet visitor” for some of our Humane Society’s educational and fundraising events.



Gerry





## **Bart** Cumming, GA

Meet CH Razn the Bar MH, known to those who love him as “Bart.” Bart was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in June, 2008, when he was only 3 years old. Are you kidding me? My boy was young, healthy and active and just hitting his stride in the field, placing in AKC Field Trials and earning 3 of his 4 “legs” towards his AKC Senior Hunting Title. I knew Bart would excel as a Tripawd, so we sprung into action to rid his sweet body of cancer by any means possible.

I learned that with Osteosarcoma we were on borrowed time so I promised to enjoy every second with Bart and party like a Rock Star until the curtain came down. And that we did!!

Only 3 weeks after Bart completed chemotherapy, he earned the final leg of his Senior Hunting Title. The next day, he wowed the crowd and earned his 1st leg towards his Master Hunting Title. After many months of training, passing, failing and challenging peoples’ beliefs on what could be accomplished on three legs Bart finished his 5th leg, becoming the first Vizsla in history to earn an AKC Master Hunting Title, one of the highest field titles awarded by the AKC. Finishing that title was a fitting metaphor for all Bart and I endured and a true testament to Bart’s heart and zest for life.

Three years later he is still going strong! Bart’s leg may have been amputated, but his spirit remains intact!





## **Nova**

### Linden, MI

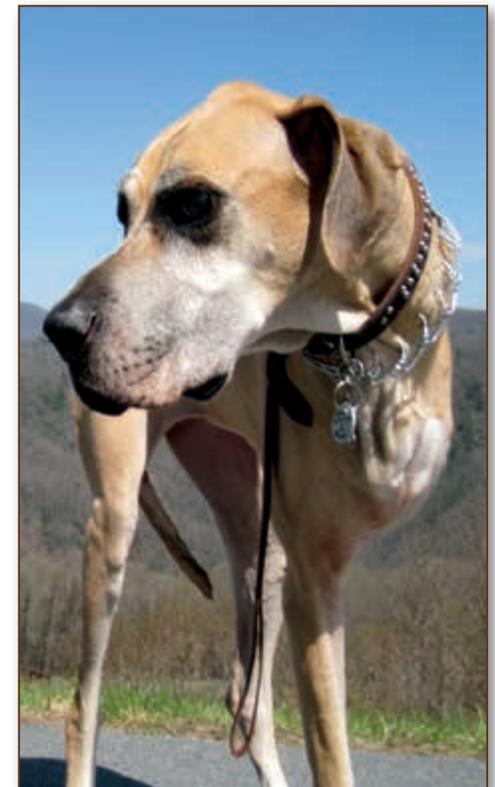
All Hail Queen Nova!

Great Dane Nova is a true "Tripawd Warrior." She is an osteosarcoma survivor who has "kicked cancer's butt" since November 2008. Nova is a role model for all giant breed Tripawds, and is known among the community as "Queen Nova" because of her size and status as a long-term survivor. Life on three legs can be a challenge for any pup, but for a 140 lb. Great Dane it is a tremendous challenge. Nova was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in her left distal radius in October 2008. Her amputation was scheduled immediately, even though it was considered risky for such a large dog.

Nova's recovery went tremendously well and after her leg was removed there was a sense of relief that the pain was gone. But the worry that the cancer had spread still lingered, so she had four rounds of chemotherapy. After her chemo ended in Spring 2009, chest x-rays determined that she was indeed in remission. She started metronomic therapy, along with other natural supplements, and switched to a grain-free diet, and now, nearly THREE YEARS later, she STILL remains cancer free.

But the Queen's life has not been without challenges. Nova is one of the few (if not only) Tripawds who is also entirely blind. She was blinded by glaucoma in April 2009, only 6 months after she became a Tripawd. Yet she still remains a happy, healthy girl with a constantly wagging tail and an incredibly positive attitude and zest for life. Those members of our community who have met the Queen can attest to the fact that she is loving, affectionate, and happy to be alive!

Queen Nova is living proof that a diagnosis of osteosarcoma is NOT necessarily a death sentence. Cancer CAN be beaten, and Nova is living proof. "Long Live the Queen!"



“Life is not about waiting for the storms  
to pass...it’s about learning how to  
dance in the rain.”

~ AUTHOR UNKNOWN



# Luna vom Burghard

Lake Mary, FL

“Strong. Fast. Brave.” These are the words which described my beautiful black two year old German Shepherd dog, ‘Luna vom Burghard.’ She was an active and athletic dog who was one of ten puppies born to my two German imports, Eik vom Blausteinsee and Kora von der Bultersteige. I kept all of these dogs as a family group. They were my pride and joy. Luna was a dog full of joie de vivre, prey drive, and personality.

“Shock. Disbelief. Despair.” These are the words which described what I felt on October 5, 2007 when I received a phone call from Luna’s vet with a stunning diagnosis. Her words hit me like bullets: “Hemangiosarcoma. Primary bone. Unusual presentation... a few months to live. Options: amputation... hemipelvectomy... chemo... no cure... aggressive.” That same evening as I walked Luna in the back yard it was raining hard – it matched my emotions. I wrote in my diary that night, “I don’t know what is falling harder – the rain or my tears”.

It was the beginning of a long journey with Luna. Through amputation, hemipelvectomy, chemo, metronomics, and SAHA, nearly a year after diagnosis, Luna’s spirit shone through the adversity like a full silvery moon in a clear night sky. We would lose Luna on September 16, 2008. She inspired the first “Luna Award for Advances in Canine Cancer” which was presented at the 5th International Canine Cancer Conference in 2009 in Orlando, Florida. Luna fought her battle well, so strong and full of life.

Shine on, Luna, shine on.





# Lincoln

## Snohomish, WA

My birthday is November 28, 2001, but I was brought to life on December 17, 2003 when I was adopted and came to live with my family. This is the when my life truly began. Now I have more than any dog could ever ask for. Love rescued me.

Sure, I've run into some health issues. I had a brain tumor and was given six months to live. But I'm still here, more than four years after that surgery. Next came ACL surgery on my right knee, which was quickly followed by another ACL surgery on my left ACL. Those were tough ones.

Just after my left leg healed, it started hurting me again. It was the big C, and the only thing they could do was amputate it. Osteosarcoma hurts.

I was back on my feet quickly, but now I only have three of them. It hasn't slowed me down, and doesn't keep me from living my life exactly how I want to. Sometimes I get extra attention when people realize I only have three legs.

The doctors only gave me 6-9 months then, but by now we all know that I'm going to defy the odds. It's been 18 months and I'm still going strong, fulfilling my long term goal of swimming as much as possible. Considering everything I've gone through, I'm one lucky dog.

My Mom says I'm irrepressible and have more courage than any creature she has ever known. She also says that I've taught her to love, and that I actually saved her, not the other way around. I'm glad for that, since I wouldn't be here if I hadn't been given so many chances.

When you really look at it, love rescued both of us.





“You have to accept whatever comes,  
and the only important thing is that you  
meet it with courage and with the best  
that you have to give.”

~ ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



## Genie

### Edmonton, AB Canada

We were very blessed to have Genie as she was always a good dog from the beginning, when we got her as a 6-month-old pup from the SPCA in February, 1996.

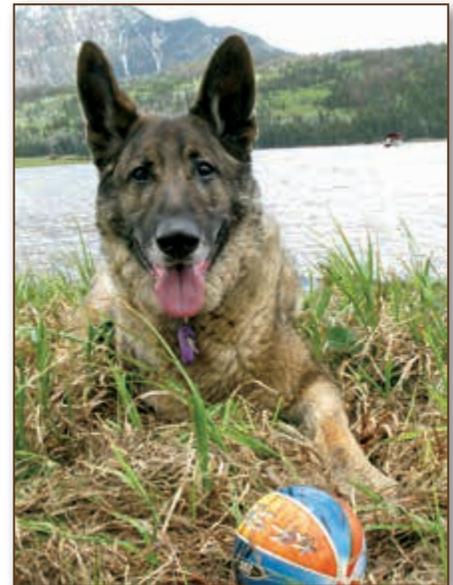
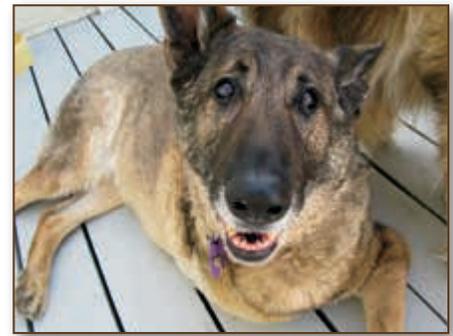
Most of the time Genie earned clean bills of health. She was in great shape for her age. I used to racewalk with her 4-5 laps around the neighborhood up till 2005. By 2006, she could keep up with me for only 2 laps.

In September 2007, Genie started limping, to a point she hesitated to go down stairs. Later in the month, she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma.

On October 3 of that year, Genie had amputation surgery, and quickly started recovering and rehabilitating. We opted not to give her chemotherapy. About one week after the surgery, she started hopping around in the house and in the backyard quite comfortably. I would take her out for frequent short strolls in the yard. Weeks later, Genie began feeling much better. Her incision started healing, and she was not showing any discomfort though her appetite was weak, and it was a challenge finding foods she might enjoy.

She had another chest x-ray done in January 2008. Comparing the ones taken prior to her amputation and the new ones, the radiologist in the report suggested that the lungs had some calcified spots, and there was no indication that any of those were cancerous.

Genie continued loving life on legs for another five months, and we were truly blessed to enjoy every moment together.



## Eisen

### Pagosa Springs, CO

Eisen and I were destined to be together. The moment I saw him at the German Shepherd Rescue, I knew there was something extra special about him. Eisen and I have the best time wrestling and just plain being goofy. He's been on numerous TV and film sets working with me, gone camping in Sedona, and has hiked all around Los Angeles and Colorado.

When Eisen was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in October of 2007, the blow was worse than anything I could have imagined. The vets gave a horrible life expectancy and treatment outlook, but I refused to accept this. I knew God would use him as a positive role model of hope. I made my vet keep positive thoughts in his head around Eisen, put him on the prayer list at church, and only allowed positive words to be spoken around him and about him!

I threw myself into a panic research mode of looking for any information on the internet, and we started treating the cancer, quickly. I chose amputation of his affected leg, and changed his diet to high-end dog food with half raw foods, supplements, and holistic remedies. His surgery reports showed that the sarcoma didn't spread and was localized. Eisen has been beating cancer now for four years! His spirit, vitality and dog-ality have not changed.

He's happy, plays with his favorite toys, and still plays with Daphne. Sometimes, I think... "where is his other leg? I must have forgotten to put it back on!" I tend to forget that he's had this situation come upon him. That's how great he's doing! Eisen has been my companion, best friend, winter bed warmer, guardian and protector for over eight years, and I'm looking forward to even more years with my best buddy!



## **Abby** San Diego, CA

Six weeks after our beagle, Bailey, died from cancer in October 2009, I met a lanky puppy at the shelter where I volunteer. I wanted her, but she got adopted immediately. When a similar tall, skinny fluff-ball arrived, we pounced! We brought Abby home the day after Thanksgiving.

She was so sweet . . . for one day. Then her true personality emerged! She needed lots of running, walking, hiking or terror reigned. When she started limping in October 2010, we thought she'd overdone it. She was only fifteen months; we never considered cancer. When the vet said "osteosarcoma," all I could think was: "we just lost Bailey to cancer." It seemed so unfair and the grim stats terrified us, but five days later we had her leg amputated. Abby came through surgery plus chemo like a trooper. And although now, ten months later, she has two lung "mets", she doesn't know it. She runs and plays like the maniac that she is. We visit her favorite beach almost every day. She lives a great life and doesn't know that it won't be as long as it's supposed to be.

Since I'd wanted the other dog, it seemed Fate intervened. People say Abby's lucky, because we can afford her care, but we are the lucky ones. Our Thanksgiving pup gives us much to be grateful for. She teaches us to take time for the little things, like tummy rubs, and be in the moment. We wouldn't trade her for anything.

“The state of your life is nothing more than a reflection of your state of mind.”

~ DR. WAYNE DYER



# Codie Rae

Oakland, CA

Hey Everypawdy!

I am Codie Rae and I rule the Oaktown Pack with an iron paw. My life changed for the better about 5 years ago, when I was dumped at the shelter with a wire wrapped around my leg. Dang that hurt! Next thing I knew I was waking up with 3 legs and it was time to get regulating! I do dogs, cats, cows, horses, skwirls, bikes, and pretty much anything else that moves. But my all time favorite is sheep! Being a regulator is a full time job, let me tell you. I never get to just let my hair down and relax.

In spite of my 24/7 job I found time earlier this year to represent all of our Tripawd heroes, past and present, by starring in a music video! I was so thrilled to be able to do this because nothing means more to me than the Tripawds community. We have over 600,000 YouTube views and people are still commenting about meeeeeee! If that video results in the adoption of just one lonely Tripawd out there then I will be the happiest grrrrr! on the planet!

Here is my favorite quote from an adoring fan:

*Hey Codie Rae I love you Baby! I am glad today cause you paid it forward for us Codie Rae, I can shake off this generalized depression the world is suffering from and just be glad today, bitchen!*

He is sure right about the bitch part!

xoxox,

Codie Rae





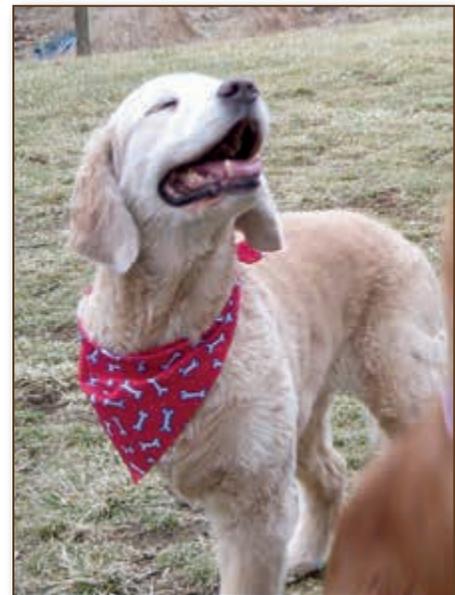
## **Zeus**

### Oakton, VA

I just turned 10 when Mom received the news that I had osteosarcoma, bone cancer. I remember that evening's phone call, she burst into tears and couldn't stop for several hours crying, "Not Zeus!" The next day we met with an oncologist and had a biopsy done. Afterwards, the oncologist gave us our options and recommended amputation of the leg with chemotherapy treatment as our best option. I remember Mom looking at me with tears streaming. She was watching me look out the window from the exam room watching the squirrels I wanted to chase, strong, tall and focused. How could she amputate and leave me lame? If she didn't go through with the recommendation, she would lose me in the very near future, something we weren't ready for.

After 3 days of countless discussions with family, friends and doctors, she lay with me and explained everything to me. She said she didn't know what to do and wasn't sure what I wanted. She was scared I would be mad at her if she took my leg off and I couldn't run and play anymore. I wanted her to know that I wanted to live; that my time here wasn't over, so I jumped off the bed, chased my tail, threw my toys around and went to the window barking excitedly. I looked back at her with fight and life in my eyes. She knew what I was trying to tell her, our time together was not over.

I recovered from surgery and chemotherapy with flying colors. I ran and played; I chased the squirrels. We lived...one day at a time. We had hope and we had faith. We had courage and we had strength. We treasured each moment and we had each other. What more could we ask for?



“He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.”  
~ FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE





# Moose

Paso Robles, CA

When Moose, our Harlequin Great Dane was just four years old, we noticed a lump on his right leg and took him the next day to the veterinarian. He was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a form of bone cancer on August 23, 2005. We were told that this diagnosis was very serious with few good options.

With advice from the great people on the Internet, two local veterinarians, other dog lovers, and our own gut feelings, we made the difficult decision to have his leg amputated and to follow with chemotherapy. The internet support group mentioned that the University of California at Davis Veterinary Teaching Hospital had an osteosarcoma study that Moose might be able to participate in. Moose was accepted for the study.

The purpose of the study was to test the use of photodynamic therapy in the treatment of bone cancer in humans. The researchers needed a way to test this experimental bone cancer therapy. Dogs with osteosarcoma in the leg offer a perfect opportunity for the researchers to test and fine tune this new treatment, before testing on humans. The study paid for the amputation and 4 rounds of chemotherapy. Moose had only minor side effects from the treatments.

Moose adjusted to his amputation amazingly well. He was able to hop out of the hospital two days after the amputation. After a couple week period, he was able to do everything he did before amputation. Over the course of two years, he played wild with our other dogs, hunted for squirrels, jumped in and out of the car, and even figured out how to dig for gophers with only one front paw.

Only about 10% of the dogs with osteosarcoma make it to two years without the cancer returning, even with amputation and chemotherapy. We were so grateful that Moose was in this lucky group of dogs.

On November 11, 2007, two years and three months after being diagnosed, Moose lost his fight against the most aggressive cancer in dogs. Moose will always be an inspiration to our family. His remarkable tenacity proves to us that the fight for life can be more powerful than the most terrible disease.



# Rio

## Kingston, WA

I met Rio on Father's Day 2000. We had just sold our home, and would be living in a 25-foot travel trailer for the next 9 months while we built a new house. We already had two large dogs. But, I fell in love with her sweet face!

In June of 2007, when I found a pea-sized lump in her armpit, the diagnosis of Mast Cell cancer was devastating. But, the statistics for this sort of cancer are pretty good... Surgery usually is curative. However, a month or so after removal, Rio had another tumor in the same area. We scheduled a second surgery, thinking optimistically that this would be the final one. A third tumor appeared practically overnight. Another surgery, and as soon as the sutures were out, she started radiation therapy.

After a year of remission, I found another tumor in her neck. We opted for chemotherapy this time. She (mostly) breezed through chemo, and was cancer-free for two more years.

In December of 2010, I found another lump on the back of her leg. I convinced myself that it was another of her many lipomas, although I knew in my heart that the cancer had returned. Still, I was stunned when the oncologist said, "we'll have to amputate." February 8, 2011, Rio became a Tripawd, and underwent another round of chemo.

Rio was also diagnosed with Cushing's disease in early 2011. Despite this additional setback, Rio has demonstrated what courage and resilience truly mean. She has never let cancer define her. She has never stopped being happy. She just keeps hopping along. She is the epitome of a Tripawd Warrior Princess!



**"Oh, my friend, it's not what they take away from you that counts – it's what you do with what you have left."**

~ HUBERT HUMPHREY





## Maggie the Tri-Pug

Livermore, CA

Maggie was born on March 23, 1999; she became my heart dog the first time I held her. Maggie was a smart, obstinate, inadaptable girl; I loved everything about her. Our 4.5 year cancer journey began in the winter of 2006 when the first mast cell tumor (MCT) was removed from her side, it continued on September 7, 2006 when she lost her left rear leg to a second MCT, and it ended on June 2, 2010 when I let Maggie go; not because of the mast cell cancer, but an oral melanoma tumor that had been diagnosed just three months earlier.

Post amputation her prognosis was 6 to 9 months. At first I was watching the calendar, counting the days, expecting her to vanish when her projected time was up. I realized that while I was waiting for the worst to happen, Mag was right there in front of me, going on with her life, not worried about a thing except her next meal and a comfortable lap. We were on both ends of the cancer survival spectrum: Maggie beat mast cell cancer, yet had only 3 months after the melanoma diagnosis. The 'be more dog' philosophy I learned from Maggie during the first cancer battle helped me through the second one. Don't focus on stats and prognosis, be happy for each day, don't look too far ahead. Be realistic, but at the same time stay optimistic until there is a definite reason not to be. Maggie never cared that she was a tri-pug, never knew that she was sick. She found joy in each day as only dogs can do.

Maggie has inspired me to stay active at [tripawds.com](http://tripawds.com), supporting others who are dealing with cancer and amputation.





“Life is 10% what happens to you, and 90% how you respond to it.”

~ LOU HOLTZ



# Gretchen

## Yant, MN

In 1989, Gretchen captured the hearts of our family. Until she came along, we had never had a dog with such a unique personality, loving traits and incredible intuition. Gretchen's story began quite innocently, but showed how a terrible diagnosis can still have a happy ending.

In December of 1998, all seemed well. One Sunday, she returned from a bird hunting trip with a slight limp on her left fore. Despite a strict low-exercise routine and arthritis medication, the limp worsened. In April, we sent X-rays of her left shoulder to the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Hospital. When the results came back, I was horrified to hear what was essentially a death sentence. Gretchen had osteosarcoma in her scapula.

There were lots of tears, and our family just couldn't agree on what to do. The cost for surgery and chemotherapy was more than we could afford, but after much debate the decision was made. Gretchen had her surgery two days later.

To see her recovering little by little always brought a smile to my face. When hunting season rolled around again, Gretchen was every bit the hunting dog she always was. Sure, she was tired after a few miles of running through the woods, and we would try to make her rest, but she would have nothing of it. She was in her glory. When not hunting, she would prove herself by chasing the squirrels out of our bird feeders!

Each morning, I would look at Gretchen with thanks that she was there for at least one more day. She made me a better person – more accepting, more patient, more hopeful.

In April 2001, Gretchen began suffering from unexplained neurological symptoms. By May 10, her condition worsened, and Gretchen was humanely euthanized at home in the loving arms of her family.

We were so fortunate to have had two happy, healthy additional years with her, and her spirit will always continue to shine and inspire those who face the same dreadful disease she did. The void in our lives is immense, but we cannot forget what a special dog she was and for that, we are eternally grateful.





## **Max**

### Tustin, CA

The first thing everyone noticed about him was his eyes. A brilliant shade of light blue, they seemed to glow against his black muzzle and dark golden fur. He was a big, muscular Lab/Husky mix who would have been a little intimidating if not for his perpetually enthusiastic facial expression.

For above all, Max was happy. He never worried about anything, and loved the simple pleasures of eating, playing, and being with his family. He ran for the sheer joy of it, and people in the local dog park used to cheer him as he streaked by, outrunning dogs who should have been much faster than him. And when the day ended, Max loved nothing more than to climb up on the couch and fall asleep with his huge head in his mom's lap.

He was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in 2008. Max's life as a Tripawd began when his left front leg was amputated on November 23. He recovered quickly, and soon went on like nothing ever happened. Losing a leg barely slowed him down – he ran as fast as ever. His only concession to being a Tripawd was how quickly he learned to mooch attention and treats from everyone who wanted to meet such a handsome three-legged dog.

His battle with cancer lasted 14 months, but he made them count. In that time, he took three wonderful trips to Carmel-by-the-Sea, the last one including a day trip to attend a Tripawds party in Mill Valley. It was a wonderful finale to a life that ended nine days later on January 17, 2010.

Gone but not forgotten, Max will always be a shining example of a dog who never let cancer slow him down.

“It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.”

~ CHINESE PROVERB



# Travis Ray

Oakland, CA

Yo Everypawdy! Travis Ray here.

They call me goody three-paws but I'm not so good, really. Its just that next to Codie Rae I look like a saint! Thanks sistah! In the space of 2 short years I have gone from a neglected pup missing a foot to a strong 'n proud Oaktown homeboy.

I grew up in a backyard and knew nothing about the world outside, but membership in the Oaktown Pack has expanded my horizons every which way. Codie Rae may be a drill sergeant but I went to school and became a K9 Good Citizen! I've been to the ball park (Go A's!). I've been to the snow, O.M.D. I love the snow. I've been from California to Colorado and all the states in between. I've been to tripawties! Those pawties are the best ever! Sure beats the heck outta sitting in a backyard with somebody chewing on your foot. Oh yes it does!

The girldawgs love me – it's something about my ears and my soulful brown eyes – and I love the girldawgs. Of course I'm nooterred, so that kind of puts a damper on things but hey, there's nothing quite like unrequited loooove! It hurts so good!

I am so happy to be alive and kickin' it in the here and now with all my Tripawds homies, 'specially all you pretty girldawgs!

Travis Ray



“Leap, and the net will appear.”

~ JULIA CAMERON





## **Shelby**

Santa Rosa, CA

Hi, I'm Shelby,

I was born in Taiwan, where somebody hurt my right front leg so badly they amputated part of it. Then, they wanted me to have babies, but I couldn't, so they dumped me off to be put down. Some college students and a humane society saved me and put me on a plane to San Francisco where Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue came and got me. My leg wasn't healthy so they did a full amputation and took care of me.

Three weeks later I got adopted! Dad and I started obedience training and 8 months later I became a Certified Social Therapy dog. I do lots of neat things like visit heroes in a VA hospital and go to an elementary school to help kids read better. Dad takes my big sister Penny and me to visit seniors. Mom, Dad and I go to a local college twice a year to "hang" with some of the students. Once in the fall to help new students who miss their dogs at home feel better and again in the spring to help them relax just before finals.

The best thing I do is visit Memorial Hospital. I see patients, their families and people who work at the hospital, like doctors and nurses, while I ride in my "Little Red Wagon." Everybody pets and hugs me and tells me how soft and beautiful I am. We go twice a month, its hard work but, it's so cool! Whenever we can we get together with other Tripawds and pawty!



# The KillBarney Tour

## Jerry's Traveling Barney Blog

A long time ago, in a lush land by the sea far, far away, Tripawds founder and Chief Fun Officer Jerry G. Dawg had dragged his people away from their computers to go for a walk and they came upon a yard sale. Jerry sniffed a Barney doll and the couple thought of how fun it would be to see their three legged dog destroy the purple icon that had come to identify a completely different generation of TV children.

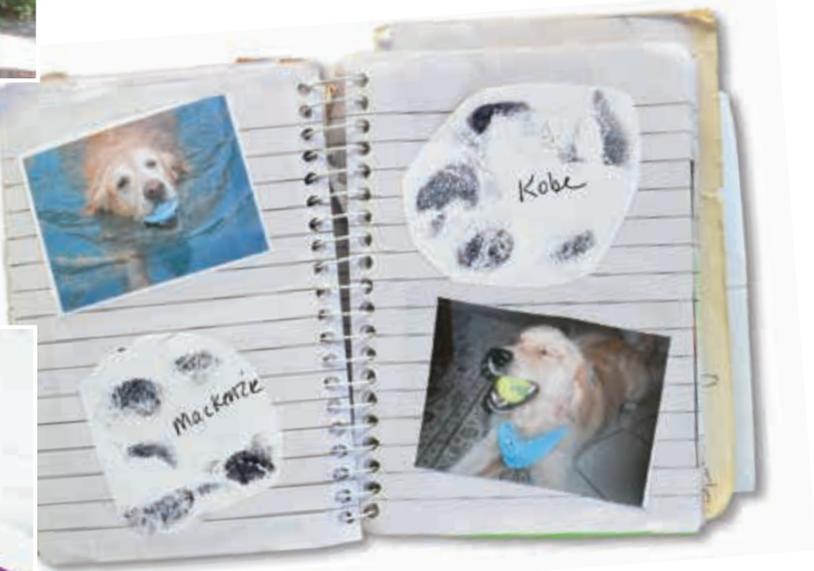
One Barney led to another and before long Jerry had developed a co-dependent relationship with his purple posse. Periodically, one Barney would succumb to his thrashing, but more and more often Jerry cherished his Barneys so they grew in numbers as they were liberated from more yard sales and thrift store shelves. When the pack hit the road after Jerry's amputation, a big bag o' Barneys went along. When Jerry passed, Barney was there with him, on their Barney blanket, under the big Montana sky. Back at the rig, the bag o' Barneys awaited their fate.

One went to Jerry's girlfriend Lalla in Israel first, and another to his best friend Winston in Oakland, CA. Barney B. in Texas needed one of course, as did Rocco when Jerry's pack visited him in Washington. Now Wyatt has developed his own taste for Barney fluff.

When the Tripawds Blogs community was launched, KillBarney started the first member blog and was quickly promoted to be the third site Administrator, along with Admin and Jerry. Here the Tripawds team shared photos and videos from Jerry's cross country adventures with Barney. Then came the KillBarney Tour idea.

One of Jerry's few remaining Barney dolls was packaged up and shipped off to Caira Sue. Her people posted pictures of the fun time they had with Barney on the beach before sending him off to Nova in Michigan. Since then Barney has visited dozens of Tripawds members. From Alaska and Alberta to Florida, Maine and Texas; each host has written in Barney's journal and included a memento in his box. Some Tripawds have lost their cancer battle shortly after Barney's visit, but not before he brought much needed smiles during tough times.





# Canine Amputation Resources

<http://tripawds.com/resources>

The Tripawds Blogs community is the leading online resource for three legged dogs and their people. Search the discussion forums or browse the blogs for helpful information about bone cancer and amputation for dogs and cats. At tripawds.com you will find inspawrational videos of canine amputees, informative veterinary oncologist interviews, a live chat room, recommended reading & much more.

**Tripawds Blogs Community & Discussion Forums**

<http://tripawds.com/>

**The Tripawds Foundation**

<http://tripawds.org/>

**Colorado State University Flint Animal Cancer Center**

<http://www.csuanimalcancercenter.org/>

**Colorado State University's Argus Institute**

<http://www.argusinstitute.colostate.edu>

**American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine**

<http://www.acvim.org>

**The American College of Veterinary Surgeons**

<http://www.acvs.org>

**The Canine Rehabilitation Institute**

<http://caninerehabinstitute.com/>

**Veterinary Cancer Society**

<http://www.vetcancersociety.org>

**Pet Cancer Center**

<http://petcancercenter.org>

**Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy**

<http://theavh.org/>

**American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture**

<http://www.aava.org>

**Dog Food Advisor**

<http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com>

**Chase Away K9 Cancer!**

<http://chaseawayk9cancer.org>

**Land of PureGold Foundation**

<http://landofpuregold.com>

**Puppy Up – Companions Against Cancer**

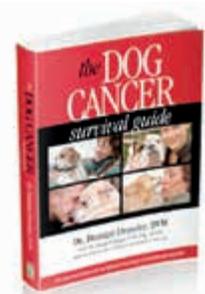
<http://www.2milliondogs.org/>



## Tripawds E-Books

<http://tri.pet/dogampinfo>

The Tripawds Library includes *Three Legs & a Spare* and *Loving Life on Three Legs*. Together these books comprise the most complete information resource about canine amputation, post-surgery care for dogs, and ongoing lifestyle tips for rehabilitation therapy, exercise, nutrition, aging and much more. Download your copy today for immediate answers to most common dog amputation recovery and care questions.



## Dog Cancer Survival Guide

<http://dogcancerguidebook.com/>

Anyone whose dog has been diagnosed with cancer will find Dr. Demian Dressler's *Dog Cancer Survival Guide* indispensable. The information this acclaimed veterinarian reveals has already helped thousands of other dogs, and it will help you sort through all the options available and create a "Full Spectrum Cancer Care" plan.

## Tripawds Featured Blogs

<http://tripawds.com/blogs>

Visit the Tripawds Featured Blogs for the best information to help your three legged friend. From the latest news about canine cancer treatments and helpful gear reviews to nutrition tips and recommended reading, you will find everything you need to ensure you and your dog make the most of life after amputation.



## Tripawds News Blog

<http://tripawds.com/progress>

Read all about Jerry's canine cancer treatment plan and his life on three legs. Then stay informed with survival success stories, veterinarian interviews, videos and more.

## Tripawds Gear Shop

<http://gear.tripawds.com>

Know which products are best for three-legged dogs by checking out Tripawds Gear product reviews and demonstration videos. Here you will find the popular Ruff Wear harness, Float Coat life jackets, traction socks, ramps and other assistive devices.



## Tripawds Nutrition

<http://nutrition.tripawds.com>

Learn about the best dog supplements and healthy pet diets for Tripawds, with or without cancer. Save on dog medications, healthy foods, and learn about K9 Immunity, Power Mushrooms, Dasuquin, and other canine supplements.



## Tripawds Gifts Blog

<http://gifts.tripawds.com>

Show your Tripawd Pride and spread the word about the amazing abilities of three-legged dogs. Visit the Tripawds Gifts Blog to shop for inspirational Tripawd t-shirts, gift cards, stickers, and tote bags. Choose from a wide selection of three-paw jewelry, pet memorials, books and more.



## Tripawds Amazon Selections

<http://amazon.tripawds.com>

Save money and time by checking out the latest dog health supplies, cancer care books, fun dog music, interactive toys, and more. We scour the best of Amazon to save you time!



## Tripawds Downloads

<http://downloads.tripawds.com>

Download helpful e-books, get professional canine cancer advice and watch dog health videos. Learn dog massage techniques, and how to make healthy homemade dog food recipes, or listen to podcasts from cancer experts, Tripawd Talk Radio, and more.



# What is Tripawds?

<http://tripawds.com>

Tripawds is a user-supported community featuring free three legged dog blogs, discussion forums, a live chat room, and a multitude of resources for those facing a cancer diagnosis or amputation for their dogs.

But Tripawds is much more than a website. It is a movement. It is a method for anyone facing difficult decisions about amputation or canine cancer to connect with others and share their experiences. It is an on-going outreach effort to prove to the world that dogs are born with three legs and a spare – that amputation is often a viable option for maximizing a dog's quality of life when faced with a bone cancer diagnosis or other limb trauma.

With over 12,500 registered members and more than 1,100 three legged dog and cat blogs, Tripawds is the largest online resource for anyone facing amputation for their dog. Join the Tripawds community to help shed some light during dark times.

## The Tripawds Mission Statement:

*"To maintain a community of support for those faced with amputation for their dogs, by providing resources and a platform for discussion."*

Tripawds was founded by Jim Nelson and René Agredano in 2006 after their dog Jerry was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. Their journey together after his amputation was featured in *Nature, Why We Love Cats and Dogs* which first aired on PBS in 2009.

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Tripawds News Blog  
<http://tripawds.com/progress>



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@Tripawds



Tripawds on Instagram  
@TripawdsCommunity



Tripawds Gift Shop  
<http://cafepress.com/tripawds>



Tripawds Channel  
<http://youtube.com/tripawds>



Helping amputee pets and  
their people everywhere.

<http://tripawds.org>

- ✓ Free Tripawds Blogs, Forums & Live Chat
- ✓ Toll-Free Tripawds Helpline
- ✓ Veterinary Patient Education Materials
- ✓ The Maggie Moo Fund For Tripawd Rehab
- ✓ Tripawds Rescue Reimbursement Fund
- ✓ Tripawds Amputation Surgery Assistance Program
- ✓ And More to Come, With Your Help!

[Support Tripawds to Maintain These Programs!](#)



**TRIPAWDS**®

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legs than to limp on four.™

<http://tripawds.com>



*Tripawd Heroes, Volume One* is made possible by members of the Tripawds Blogs community and discussion forums – the largest online resource for those facing a bone cancer diagnosis or amputation for their dogs.

In memory of Tripawds founder and Chief Fun Officer Jerry G.Dawg and all the three legged heroes with him at the Bridge.

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<http://tripawds.com>