

Duke Holey

Last Updated Monday, 24 July 2006

Facing starvation and a serious infected wound, will he survive?

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Duke Holey Is this the way I was meant to live ? I have been hungry all my life, people treat me with scorn, contempt and abuse and it is so hard to find food. Other street wise dogs who have lived this life longer are so fierce to me and they refuse me any. I try my best to be as fierce but it is not my nature, my last fight has my face throbbing with pain, but no one will help me. I am starting to smell bad and I try to plead with them for help, but the people avoid me like the plague and add more injury with their boots and shoes .. Dear God, who will help me ???

When Lim Eng called to report a severely malnourished dog in Sin Ming with 'a hole in his face', we didn't understand the extent of that statement. In our cosy protected world of cars, condos and credit cards, it was hard to fathom the extreme hardship that some living beings have to deal with and the cruelty dealt to them.

While we prepared to receive the dog, Lim Eng was having a harder time on the ground. Duke, as we named him, though gentle and docile, was understandably wary. Despite his condition, he was able to elude efforts to collar him. Lim Eng watched helplessly as Duke tried to get sustenance from the nearby coffee shop only to get kicked and abused. But her determination paid off after 1 week of tailing him around and feeding him to gain his trust. She was able to collar Duke and send him to the clinic.

When we got to the clinic, it was not only the sight of him but the smell that assaulted our senses. Half of the right side of Duke's face was gone, it was just a mess of rotting flesh and dripping pus. And the smell was so overwhelming, it was hard to breathe. He was all skin and bones, every single bone in his body could be seen and there were bald patches of skin here and there. We don't know how Lim Eng had the courage and stomach to handle Duke, but it must have been her overwhelming compassion and desire to help Duke that propelled her and we can only thank God for people like her.

Despite his condition, Duke still managed to wag his tail and come to us. He was weak and frail and his eyes told of uncountable days of suffering and pain. Given his gentle and docile nature, he must have lost out in fights with other dogs for food to survive and the untreated wounds had become infected. He seemed to know we meant him no harm, for he allowed us to stroke him and to reassure him that all will be well.

(This is the 'mild' version of Duke's pics, click on this link to view the actual pics; be advised that this is not meant for the queasy or faint hearted; the pics are not meant to shock but to portray reality as it is) On that very night, he was operated upon to remove all the rotting flesh. Fortunately, no major functions were impacted by the extent of his injuries, 'he will just be a messy eater'. He stayed at the clinic for about a week for observation before we brought him to his foster home. Amazingly, his wound continued to heal fast and well, and he allowed us to clean his wound without much fuss. More amazingly, he began to exude enthusiasm and happiness, wagging his tail and even shaking hands ! This led us to believe he was abandoned when he served no more purpose ...

All went well for about 2 weeks before his condition deteriorated. He started bleeding from the nose and became very quiet. A rush to the vet found his red blood cell count to be dangerously low at 16 counts vs the normal healthy count of 37. He was given antibiotics but did not respond to them. Tests confirm that his bone marrow was not producing red blood cells. When his count dropped to 8, he was given a blood transfusion and expensive human hormone drugs in an attempt to kick start his system.

At this point in time, the 12th of Dec, his count remains critically low at 16, but he is stable and perkier and looks forward to his 3 daily walks by the vet assistant. He is on vitamins and iron to boost his red cell count but his future will depend on his fate.

For the rest of us, all we can do is ensure that he receives all the help he needs, and to let him know that in his harsh world, there is a thing called love, and should he depart, he will do so with dignity, respect and all the love that we can muster for him.

If you would like to help Mr Duke Holey with his medical expenses or in any other ways, please call us at 92590698 or email us at info@asdsingapore.com.

Alternatively, contributions via cheque can be made payable to :

Action For Singapore Dogs Society

and sent to :

ASD c/o Ricky Yeo
Blk 402 #06-246
Clementi Ave 1
Singapore 120402

Pls indicate 'for duke's treatment' behind the cheque together with your email so that we can send a receipt.

Duke Holey Comes Home For Christmas

Duke was finally discharged Monday 22nd Dec to spend Christmas at his foster home. The vet remained cautiously optimistic as he had not bled from his nose (a sign of insufficient red blood cells) for almost a week. But his red cell count has only increased by 2 to 18 which is still very low and the regeneration rate is still slow.

It was a worrying 2 weeks while Duke stayed at the vet. Each time we went to see him, he looked weak and frail. He was always lying down and there were faint thumps of his tail just to acknowledge us.

But as the days went by, and with the continued medication, Duke regained some of his energy though his red cell count remained critical. Soon he was eager to go for his 3 daily walks and will bark for the vet assistant to take him when it was time.

A day or two before his discharge, he was now standing in his cage, tail thumping hard, eager to resume life as normal, his new life away from the streets.

Despite the critical medical statistics staring at him in his partial face, Duke remains as perky and puppy happy. His tail wags non stop and he will nuzzle you for affection, and he cannot stop shaking hands with you ... He has a good appetite but is a really messy eater ...

While we dare not hope for anything, other than a 'one-day-at-a-time' philosophy, Duke's optimism for life will definitely play a part in his recovery, if that is his fate

He is on iron supplements, antibiotics daily and twice weekly hormone shots to boost his regeneration rate and will be up for review in another 2 weeks.

To the many who answered his plea for help, your contribution gave Duke the gift of life this Christmas. Without your prayers, love and contributions, he wouldn't have made it this far. Do continue to send him your love and thoughts for we are sure he knows now the world isn't all that bad and he will want to enjoy what he can for now and the future.

We will post more of his pics as he gets stronger and healthier.

And as for the many kind souls who help contribute towards Duke's medical expenses, we are sure he would personally want to shake hands with everyone....

Dhana Krishnasamy
Kerry Leow
Constance Tham Su Ling
Wendy Tan Soo Khim
Candace Crawshaw
Cheang Woon Chun
Chia Siak Hong
Lim Siok Chin
Chan Wai Sun
Kelly Hu
Cheng Pei Yen
Goh Geok Sim
Agnes Leong Yook Meng
Lim Shiao Wen
Shanice Tan
Joseph Ong
Goh Hock Lye
Sng Pek Lan
Joey Tan Hai Hwa
Wong Mae Ling
Cara Lim Chia Yeng
Ooi Choo Keng

Lauw Ben Ben
Alicia Leow
Chan Kok Wah
Mae Goh Mui Hoon

Pamela Sng Ai-Lin
Soo Siew Keong
Mary Kong
Lim Lee Wah
Wong Yin Ling
Lim Yean Kuan Amy
Chua Hwee Pheng
Keith Lim
Wong Tze Chin
Ivy Koh
Ng Siew Hoon
Jill Hum
Saphire78
Irma Felicia Hardjasatya
Victor Ng
Rosalind Chua
Huan Lin
Lay Mun Yoke Clara
Ong Hui Tze
Chan Joo Yim JeanneLee Chen Tze
David Su Tuong Sing
Liew Choon Hwee
Lee Hwee Theng
Wee Mei Imm Penelope
Ingrid Wee
Junice Liew
Liw Whui Lee
Ng Chen Chen
Peggy Tan Pooy Gee
Wong Heng Mum Raymond
Tham Bao Lee Shirley
Low Lean Yi
Jolie
Ng Yeung Ng Sow
Peng Marie c/o Tenny Lau
Abigail Yap
Anita Satheesh Kumar
Grace Paramaspry
Karen Sim Chui Wei
Tan Teck Kee
Mandy Lim

Duke Takes His Third Chance At Life 27 Jan 04

We have optimistically good news about our survivor Mr Duke Holey. He had been going for reviews every 2 weeks or so to have his red cell count monitored and during his convalescence, with the vitamins, fresh liver, hormone injections and 6 meals a day, he has gain quite a lot of weight and now weighs 18 kgs ! His side ribs have filled out and he has a look of contentment in his eyes. Of course, he still can't stop shaking hands with everyone !

The best part is his red cell count has climbed from 18 to 28 (5th of Jan) and is now at 31 (26th of Jan). The normal red cell count is 37 but the vet feels he is now normal and need only go back for a review in a month's time if the need arises. Our friend is now a confident dog, barking at strangers and trotting like a proud little prince during his walks !

His wound has also healed very well and though, there is still that gap in his mouth, it is not that obvious anymore and we say he has a 'perpetual smile' . I am sure everyone who has been following his story and offered their love and help will be very happy to hear about this !

Duke Holey also received an honorary mention in a Streets article dated 20th Jan 2003 when the reporter paid him a visit !

Many thanks everyone !

The Passing On of Duke Holey

15 Mar 06

We are very sad to announce that Duke Holey has passed on and gone to a better place where there is never any hardship and pain. If you all remember, he was the severely malnourished dog back in Dec 03 that had a massive rotting mass of flesh around his mouth due to probably a fight that led to the infection around his mouth

Many of you responded generously and that has enabled him to get the best treatment and nutrition. Some of you even came to see him

In the 2 years or so that he was with us, he blossomed into a handsome, strapping old lad, and was content to spend his days in quiet comfort. (see attached pic) He was a friendly, affectionate and independent dog who was always wagging his tail whenever he saw a human being, such is his beautiful nature. And underneath that calm demeanor was that steely survivor instinct. He is the only ASD dog known to have survived a red blood cell count of 8 when his immune system failed, a normal dog's count is 37. Those below 15 or so never survive more than a day or 2 ...

But in the last 2 weeks or so, he started losing weight and his sight and we knew it was inevitable as we estimated he was at least 10-12 years old. His vet visit was already planned but on Wednesday night, he suddenly collapsed and started vomiting and had severe diarrhea. We rushed down to his foster home to tend to him and he opened his eyes to look at us before he passed on minutes later ...

We are really sad that he had such a hard life and hoped at least for that last 2 years of his life, he experienced the love, warmth and kindness that all dogs should experience. In return he has taught us many things, the value of life, of things which really matter, unconditional love, appreciation of the simple things in life, qualities which all dogs have, and which we humans lack so much ...

We want to thank everyone who has helped Duke in so many ways and for believing in him and for giving him that second chance, without which he would just be another statistic

We know you are in paradise now, Duke, where each and everyday is filled with love and warmth till the end of eternity ...