

## Boa's Story

My dog Boa is the best dog in the world, literally. He came over with us from England so we always say he barks with a very cute accent! When Boa was 5 we moved out to the country to a house with 5 acres- his dream had come true! He has 3 acres invisible fenced that included part of the driveway. The day before New Year's Eve, I had to run out to the store. I packed the baby into the car, put Boa outside and left for the store- just like any other day. When I returned an hour later, Boa could not stand up and was bleeding pretty severely. My neighbor had been out in his yard and had seen a delivery truck come up our driveway. He heard Boa yelp, but then saw him run and sit under his favorite tree so he did not think much about it. I rushed him to the vet for x-rays. Lucky nothing was broken! About 20 stitches later and a splint on his back leg, we were on our way home. The only major injury he sustained was a torn ligament in his left rear hock that required surgery. He could not put weight on his left rear leg for some time, but eventually was able to run and play again. He always put more weight on his "good" leg even months after the surgery. As expected, he developed arthritis in his surgery leg. Unfortunately, he developed arthritis in his "good" leg from compensating for his surgery leg. This process took a few years, but had really knocked him down. As they say, he did not have a good leg to stand on.

He was on a maintenance dose of NSAID twice daily, but it did not seem to be helping him with his pain anymore. I tried Adequan injection which helped for a while, but his pain level was even breaking through that treatment option. Both of his back legs were swollen and he could not stand up for very long and was always holding one leg up. We were discussing how long we were going to let him go on in pain and were preparing ourselves for the decision we would have to make. Sooner than we ever thought we would have to make it because his pain level was so high every day. It did not seem fair to have him exist in a world where he couldn't run and play at will.

Thankfully, Dr Sears recommended laser therapy for his arthritis. She warned me I would not see a difference until we had completed a few treatments. Well, I saw a difference after the first treatment! He seemed more comfortable and was able to put weight on both of his back legs evenly. He was sore again the next day, but after the 3<sup>rd</sup> treatment in that same week, he was running and even played with his Doberman brother! I took him off the NSAID regiment and he has been medication free since the first week of treatment! His legs are no longer swollen, he walks up and down the stairs with ease, and he runs after the birds in the yard. The biggest improvement I can see is he is just a happier dog. He is back to wagging it tail, giving kisses, and interacting with our family.

I cannot thank Dr Sears and her team enough for giving me my dog back. His loving and playful personality is able to come back out since it is not masked with pain anymore. I would recommend laser treatment to anyone with an animal with arthritis. The results have been nothing short of astounding!