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Tale of Courage

Barnegat Light woman helps ailing canine

By Nicholas Huba
Times-News Staff Writer

BARNEGAT LIGHT — Samson has been a fighter for his year on the planet.

Samson is a year-old Shar Pei puppy who had a rough start in life. Samson was bought by someone who wanted a show-quality dog, but something went wrong.

When he was bred, Samson had issues with his hip and his rear leg.

After hearing about this, Shar Pei Rescue immediately arranged transportation for Samson and took over his care. They rushed him to a vet in New Jersey, whom they had worked with in the past, and were told that Samson's condition needed immediate attention.

Samson underwent surgery that same week for a patellar luxation, said Laura Say, a member of the rescue group.

"When I first saw him, I thought he was going to have to be put down," Say said. "But I was glad that I made that choice to keep him alive."

After the choice to keep him alive, Samson then had to go through surgery at the Cherry Hill Veterinary Hospital. The surgery, which usually costs \$2,000, was done for \$750; \$500 of it was covered by an Orthodogs' Silver Linings grant.

"Without them this would never have been able to happen," Say said. "They made this all possible."

Orthodogs' Silver Lining Foundation was started by a small group of people who wanted to find a way to provide some relief for caregivers who were struggling to help their pets lead a healthy life. The goal of the group is to provide access to fundraising resources and make emergency funds available for exceptional cases.



One-year-old Shar Pei, Samson, has battled illness early in his life but has recovered nicely and is being put up for adoption.
(TIMES-BEACON PHOTO BY ROBERT WARD)

OSLF supports medical treatment for dogs with orthopedic needs in shelters or low-income families and also supports the medical needs of service dogs that assist disabled individuals.

"Our funds are limited and we are constantly getting more applications for assistance than we can fund, so we currently do not have any more money," said Amy Mall, a volunteer with the group. "We continue to raise awareness about the medical needs of dogs like Samson."

It's been six months since Samson had his surgery, and Monday morning he went back to the doctor for a checkup.

"The doctor said that he is doing so well," Say said. "He has such a good attitude about everything."

"It's like he was given a second chance," Say added.

After raising Samson for the last half of a year, he is looking for a new home.

"Right now we are looking for a home for him," Say said. "You can tell that he knows that he has been given a second chance."

Say said that he interacts well with her other dogs that she has.

"They are always playing well together," Say said. "He loves people and playing it up for people."

"He has a great attitude and it's great to see that coming out," Say added.

Anyone who would like to adopt Samson can look on <http://search.petfinder.com/petnote/displaypet.cgi?petid=6637259>. Anyone who would like to donate to the OSLF can do so by visiting its site at www.oslf.org.

A Rottweiler named the deaths of family members. Now Bruin is in need of surgery. The dog has tears in and I.

"When I took her into my heart, I was ready for a. I had my work cut out for me."