

Grant helps save family's injured Chihuahua

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Melissa Carrillo of Victorville and her dog, Cinderella, recently received a grant from Orthodogs Silver Lining Foundation. Cinderella is a 13-month-old pup who was found as a stray when she was 9 weeks old, but was fortunate to be adopted by Carrillo, a mom with three children.

Recently Cinderella escaped through a hole in the fence that the family did not know about, and when she tried to cross the road to return home, she was hit by a car. Cinderella had a fractured foreleg and femur, dislocated hip and needed expensive surgery.

Cinderella's surgeon, Dr. William Connelly of Barstow, lowered the cost of the surgery from the usual \$2,000 to \$1,200. Melissa raised half of the funds on her own, but it was still more than the family could afford. They turned to Orthodogs Silver Lining Foundation for aid.

OSLF is an all-volunteer, Internet-based, nonprofit orga-

nization that provides financial assistance to families who cannot afford medical care for their dogs.

Many people rely on their dogs for assistance, companionship, love and more, but if they are low income, they may not be able to afford to pay for their dog's medical needs.

This dilemma affects the dog and its owner who relies on his or her dog to live a full life. 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.

OSLF has awarded a grant to Melissa and Cinderella to cover most of the balance of Cinderella's care, but their funds are limited and they are constantly getting more applications for assistance than they can fund. They continue to raise awareness about the medical needs of dogs like Cinderella with the hope of assistance from the community.

For more information about OSLF, visit www.oslf.org.



Photo courtesy of Amy Mall

Cinderella, owned by Melissa Carrillo of Victorville, had surgery funded in part by a grant from the Orthodogs Silver Lining Foundation.