



# PAWSITIVE PRESS

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Max at the beach :)



## Max's Recovery

BY ELIZABETH FAZIO, DVM, MPH

Meet Max, the 12-year-old Malti-Poo! He came to see me at the start of 2024 for back and neck pain that was preventing him from doing activities that he loves. Just like many of our beloved companions, Max and his owner love spending quality time together. Max, however, has a special talent for modeling and performing tricks together such as “playing dead”. When Max’s mom told me he was losing interest in playing and participating in his favorite activities, I knew this pain was significant...*Continued on page 2...*

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## ...Max's Recovery Cont...

It was affecting not only his life, but his owner's too. I am an adamant proponent that age is not a disease. And just because a dog (or cat) is in their senior years, does not mean they should live without daily joy.

Neck and spinal x-rays were performed to find the source of physical trauma and assess the degree of damage within his neck and back. Once this was done, I could more easily assess not only where he was hurting on the physical exam, but the exact vertebrae causing his source of pain.

To reduce the initial inflammation we placed Max on a treatment plan of daily Gabapentin and weekly laser therapy. With the increasing pain, Max was unable to even bend his neck down to pick up toys and food from the ground without help. Knowing this, we set up time for an Integrative Medicine Consult. This opened us up to utilizing not only conventional medicine such as anti-inflammatories, laser therapy, and supplements, but Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine as well. Essentially, we doubled our toolbox of opportunities to heal Max.



Our initial goals were to regain neck mobility for his day-to-day life and get him back to performing activities/modeling. Max is a special companion. His bonding time with his owner is more than lounging on the couch or going for walks. He loves to model for the camera and learn tricks. (See photos for reference). I wanted Max to not only be living pain free, but to also resume quality time activities. Acupuncture was started within the following week, then repeated weekly for a month.

By the second session, Max was already starting to “play dead” again! Even his anxiety that had developed from the chronic pain was dissipating. After a few more sessions, Max was regaining mobility and playing like himself again. Both the owner and I were ecstatic to see Max revitalized. He turned into a different dog from the first time I met him. It is incredible what chronic pain and inflammation can do to the body and the mind.

Max is now happily sleeping upside down on his back, “playing dead”, and playing with his toys.

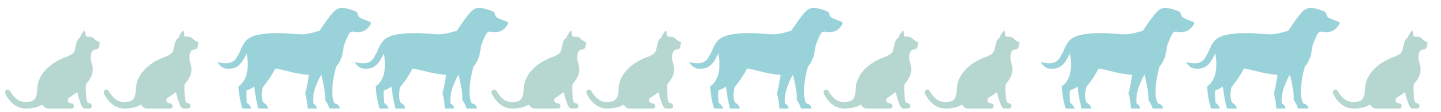
We currently continue his acupuncture and herbs routinely to upkeep his progress and reduce the incidence of flare ups. He is now able to lounge on his flamingo floaty in the pool again while mom takes some very adorable snapshots.





# Fun Fact!

According to *A Brief History of Veterinary Medicine* by Joshua Mark, **the first veterinary school in Europe was founded in France in 1762** by Claude Bourgelat, a veterinary surgeon, as a response to the large amounts of cattle dying due to the plague. However, the history of veterinary medicine is much richer and may extend back as far as 12,000-10,000 BC. Many cultures contributed to the evolution of veterinary medicine including China, Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, Greece, and the Roman Empire.



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