Success Tail

Sammi

Sammi was an active, happy 8 year-old Springer Spaniel living with his mom Janie, dad Steve and his cat and dog family in Simi Valley. We first met him this March after he had suddenly become a quadriplegic, due to bone growing inside his spinal column and putting pressure on his spinal cord. Sammi needed intense rehabilitation following surgery, where his surgeon was unable to remove the excess bone.

While he had a tremendous life force and will to move again, the prognosis for Sammi’s complete recovery was bleak. Full paralysis in pets is, just as with humans, complicated and challenging to treat.

After three months of daily rehabilitation to strengthen his core muscles, including electronic stimulation, electro-acupuncture, assisted standing in the underwater treadmill, and sensory rehabilitation over a therapy ball, Sammi was able to master sitting up from a down position. We then continued treatment to pattern his legs to walk again, while constantly fighting them, as they were stiff and rigid from his neurological condition.

Then one day it finally happened -- he took his first steps, and although he could not even stand and balance on his own that day, through continued rehabilitation, patience and sheer determination, he learned to walk again and never looked back. Today Sammi not only walks - he runs, jumps, swims and plays. You’d never know what he’s been through to look at him now!

Check out Sammi’s progress in rehab at this video link:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0BPJ-p6Ik8

Watch his mom see him walk for the first time since surgery:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfJRP24Wib8&feature=user

See Sammi swimming at home on July 4th:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11fFU0AUVBk