



November 2010

To our Colleagues,

On the occasion of our 10th Anniversary, we would like to thank the veterinarians of Southern New England for their support – your trust allows us to provide state-of-the-art care to the pets of Rhode Island. We would also like to take this opportunity to celebrate the incredible bond that so many people have with their pets. The depth of people's connections with their animals, and the lengths to which people will go to save the furry members of their families is truly heart-warming and makes the hard work our staff does very rewarding.

Please accept this book – which documents a few of the many unique and gratifying cases that you have referred to us over the years – as a small token of our appreciation. We hope that you find these stories of resilient pets and devoted owners as inspiring as we do.

With our sincere gratitude,



Justine Johnson (co-owner)



Gary Block (co-owner)



Cheryl Rizzo (hospital manager)

NOTES:

- > The text on this page was written by the staff at Ocean State Veterinary Specialists.
- > The photograph on this page was taken by Dirk
- > The text on the following page was written by Dirk

Tanner

While ocular disorders are not often life-threatening, this story highlights how this important specialty can make a tremendous difference in the quality of a pet's (and owner's) life.

Tanner, a 10 year-old female spayed Australian Shepherd, was presented to the OSVS ophthalmology service for progressive vision loss of approximately 10-12 months duration. Tanner had been an avid Frisbee player and was no longer able to participate successfully.

Ocular examination revealed bilateral, essentially mature cataracts. Vision was limited to light perception in the left eye and inconsistent detection of moving objects in the right eye. The lens opacities prevented adequate examination of the retina, so an electroretinogram and ocular ultrasound were performed. Results of those tests indicated a healthy retina and good candidacy for cataract surgery.

Cataract surgery using phacoemulsification was performed and artificial lenses were placed in both eyes. Surgery and recovery were uneventful. Tanner was visual immediately after surgery, and has continued to do well since. Her vision appears to be very good and she has resumed all normal activities, including Frisbee.

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Clinician: Marcia Aubin (Ophthalmologist)

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NOTES:

Both the text and the photographs on this page were by Dirk

"Tanner is a ten year old Australian Shepherd who is well-known in our small town of Hollis, New Hampshire. We walk at least four miles a day and up to fifteen on occasion. Many people stop to ask about her, to touch her remarkably soft fur, and end up praising her lovely golden eyes.

Then, one year ago, she became despondent. She seemed reluctant to walk with me and, in the evening, she would sit by the fire and lick her paws obsessively. It would be some months before we realized that she had begun the process of going blind through the growth of cataracts in her eyes. First, we began to notice a milky-cloudiness to her pupils. Later, the cataracts solidified into what appeared to be pupils of solid white and she could see no more. No wonder she licked her paws; it was her response to her worry.

After some time, Tanner adjusted to her condition and stopped licking her paws and again walked with me at her regular rate; however I had become her seeing-eye person. I would signal her with a gentle tug of the lead to let her know there was an approaching step up or down such as a curb or pothole.

By early spring we had made the journey from New Hampshire to East Greenwich, Rhode Island to visit Ocean State Veterinary Specialists. Tanner had an appointment with Dr. Marcia Aubin. After several visits she concluded that Tanner's retinas were functioning and therefore she was a candidate for cataract surgery. On the twelfth of May, 2010, Dr. Aubin operated on both eyes. In the span of one day Tanner went from blind to full-sight. This affected not only her eyes but her spirit as well.

Now that the healing process is done, she again jumps for Frisbees, catches even tiny bits of treats in mid-air, and shows happiness that any dog owner would instantly recognize. Now Tanner is now well-known in our small town for more than being a lovely and fun dog; she is known for being the dog with the lovely golden eyes that went blind and can once again see. This made Tanner (and me...her person) VERY happy.

Thank you for all that you do at OSVS!"

Very respectfully,

Dirk S..... and TANNER!

