

# The Story of Jake

Jake was purchased at a puppy mill dispersal auction on July 11, 2015. The angel who purchased him wanted Jake to have a great life so he was immediately transferred into our program to get the best of care. We've since learned that he comes from one of the largest and worst commercial kennels in the country who was among the Humane Society of the US's "Horrible Hundred" list of puppy mills. He has been through so much and words cannot express how happy we are that he is now in our care.

He has cloudy eyes, a badly infected mouth, yeasty ears, matted fur, weak legs and has clearly been very neglected. We will receive his full medical assessment tomorrow, but we already love him so much. This is exactly where he needs to be and we are so thankful for the donor who made it possible and gave him a second chance at the life he always deserved. We are eager to shower this sweetheart with love.

**UPDATE 7/16** Initial vetting has been completed. He's all cleaned up but as expected, he's got eye and ear infections, a significant heart murmur, and one of the most serious mouth/gum infections we've seen. His rear legs and hips are weak and atrophied. After his neuter and hernia repair, the dental cleaning uncovered a serious issue with Jake's lower jaw. It's fractured and there is significant bone loss that does not lend itself to healing. We suspect this is due to the infections from neglect/lack of dental care. It is quite possible he will need a lower jaw amputation.



We have an appointment Monday with a dental/facial reconstruction specialist who will examine Jake, review his x-rays, and give us a recommendation for the next steps. We know a biopsy will be needed to rule out cancer. While we suspect his dental condition is the cause of this, we have to be sure so that the right treatment plan can be determined. Jake will also need to see the cardiologist. We are so lucky to have an excellent one nearby and he will visit her in the coming weeks.

**UPDATE 7/20** This afternoon we visited an oral & facial specialist to further address his jaw issues. Based on the xrays previously taken and his physical examination, it is believed that the condition his jaw is in, with fractures and significant bone loss, has been in that state for quite some time where Jake has essentially adapted to it in terms of functionality. Based on the horrendous condition his mouth and teeth were in and the severity of the infection, we all believe that the jaw issues derived from abscess and infection although cancer will be ruled out with a biopsy. The plan is for Jake to return back to the oral and facial specialist in two weeks to be put under for further xrays, biopsy, and remaining tooth extractions. While it is difficult to say exactly what the the outcome if the surgery will be until more images are taken, we were given renewed hope today that with extracting most or all of the remaining teeth that none of the mandible will have to be amputated. In the meantime, Jake will be visiting our cardiologist since a substantial murmur has been detected.

**UPDATE 7/22** Jake had a recheck at the vet today. Since his eye was still looking infected, we had some testing done to make sure there was not a tear deficiency, ulcer, or scratch. Thankfully there wasn't. He was so happy to see his friends at the vet's office! He loves all of the attention they give him and quickly made himself right at home finding his way into several laps and everyone's heart! Jake is a very jolly and curious little boy. Today, he decided to explore toys. He picked one up and seemed proud to carry it around. These little milestones engrave smiles in our hearts. We are delighted to see this sweet boy "bloom"!

## *The Story of Jake continued*

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**UPDATE 7/31** Jake got a better than expected cardiology report! Has a 3/6 murmur but great heart and respiratory rate and good heart structure- no meds needed yet and should be low risk with anesthesia. This sweet boy is enjoying his new life so much! His next surgery is on August 13th. We are praying that all goes well and his lower jaw can be saved. Please keep this little guy in your prayers too.



**UPDATE 8/13** Today, Jake had scheduled surgery with the oral surgeon. Because they could not take the additional images needed until he was under anesthesia we were unsure of what procedure was needed or what the outcome would be. The images revealed such significant bone loss that the possibility of the cause being cancerous became a very feasible one. So the decision was made to perform a biopsy today and not disturb anything else or do further work at this time. We should have the biopsy results back on Monday. Whatever the results are, we will take whatever necessary steps to give Jake every chance he's got to be well and happy. He already defied many odds by making it out of a puppy mill alive, and being rescued off the auction block. He has a remarkable spirit and he continues to bloom every day he is with us. We will update his story on Monday when we have the test results. Please pray for a negative biopsy.

**UPDATE 8/18** Jake's biopsy shows he is suffering from gingiva squamous cell carcinoma. We have been referred to the specialists at Auburn University's Small Animal Hospital where Jake will be evaluated for a plan of treatment on 8/26. We know this is the BEST place for him to get what he needs to fight this and we are both nervous and hopeful that they will give us a good plan and prognosis for this precious boy. In the mean time, Jake is happy, playful and has no idea he is sick, and, we are not going to tell him! Please keep those prayers for little Jake coming and we will post more updates after his evaluation.

**UPDATE 8/25** We spent the day at one of the best veterinary teaching hospital in the country: Auburn Universities' Small Animal Teaching Hospital. His team of oncologists evaluated Jake and aspirated his

lymph nodes to give us the best options for Jakey. As we waited for the results, we discussed the surgery that was recommended to remove part of his lower mandible. As we reviewed the process to understand the expectations, the lab results came in.

Unfortunately, Jake's news is not good. We found out that the cancer has metastasized to the lymph nodes. The plan is hospice and comfort care and making sure every day he has with us is the best day of his life.

He seems to feel really great and was a favorite today amongst the incredible staff there at Auburn. We could not have been treated better or with more genuine concern. Thank you all for the continued support and prayers as we come to terms with this news.

Jake has suffered for six LONG years and we intend to make sure this sweet boy has the BEST life. We are showering him with love and kisses as he learns he is safe and cared for. He's living every day to it's fullest and we are committed to giving him the best quality of life possible.