



Hope

Hope, a young 11 month old pit bull mix, is the love of her family's life and a registered therapy dog to a young girl. She had it good and she knew it! One Saturday afternoon, Hope escaped from her house and was hit by a car. Her owners found her and immediately rushed her to Mount Laurel Animal Hospital, blowing through stoplights and traveling as fast as they could. They knew her condition was severe and the degree of her blood loss was alarming. Based on the appearance of her injuries, it appeared that she was dragged under the car for a period of time.

At presentation to the hospital, life-saving measures were immediately initiated. A team of doctors and nurses all began working on her. An arterial bleed was quickly recognized and the bleeding was controlled. Diagnostics were performed to evaluate the extent of her initial injuries. Evaluation of her left hind limb revealed a total de-gloving injury (the skin was peeled off the underlying tissues) to her entire foot and there were several broken and shattered bones. Extensive abrasions on her back were also identified, but fortunately, her bladder and internal organs did not appear damaged. Signs of head trauma were also apparent. Hope's condition was critical.

Over the next few hours, Hope was stabilized in the ICU at Mount Laurel Animal Hospital. There was little hope for salvaging her mangled limb based on the severity of her injuries, and so once she was stable for surgery her affected limb was amputated. She was cared for around the clock for several days while her condition was monitored. She made a quick recovery and was walking on her 3 good legs 12 hours after her amputation. Throughout her entire hospital stay and follow-up care, Hope's demeanor never changed and she was always happy and affectionate.

Hope's medical condition was very unanticipated, and thus it left her family in a very difficult position. The EMPATH fund helped to provide medical care.