



Bruno

Four-year-old Bruno ran out of his house and later returned with unknown trauma that included scrapes to both of his back legs and having to be non-weight bearing on the right back leg. Bruno is a male neutered Pitbull/Mastiff mix and weighs 40 kg. After further workup, it became apparent that there was a severely comminuted fracture of his right femur. There was also a wound to the inside of his right back leg near the knee joint.

Bruno was stabilized overnight, and the surgery department evaluated him the next morning. The injured right femur had very limited healthy intact bone near both the hip and the knee. Reconstruction of the bone shaft was unable to be accomplished due to the numerous fragments. Since Bruno is large in size, his parents were given a guarded prognosis with the possibility of infection and failure to repair the injuries. Furthermore, amputation was declined, and his parents wanted to pursue fixing the fracture with the help of a charitable grant from The Empath Project.

The surgery was performed the day after the injury occurred, which happened to be his fourth birthday. The femur was repaired with a large intra-medullary pin, and a large bone plate that had a minimum of three screws at the ends of the bone in order to hold the plate in place. There was also a bone graft installed along the shaft of the bone to help with the healing process. Bruno was a model patient and maintained a sweet disposition throughout his hospitalization.

He was discharged the day after his surgery. In order to allow for healing, Bruno must be crated for a minimum of six weeks and will need to be sling walked at home. Supervision is also extremely important in order to prevent slipping. This fracture will likely take up three months to heal. We wish him the best.

"We would like to the staff at MLAH for taking such good care of Bruno. Dr. Garzotto did a wonderful job putting the pieces back together. He is only a little over a week post op and he thinks he's healed. Of course under protest he is still on confinement. A special thank you also to the EMPATH Project for your help with some of his expenses. He is now on the road to recovery." Dawn E.