

BILLIE JEAN'S STORY

PART II: SURGERY IS SUCCESSFUL

Helping Paws, 2500 Harding Lane, Woodstock, IL 60098
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Billie Jean, now fourteen weeks old, has successfully made it through surgery to repair her damaged knees. She has also overcome her ringworm infection and her fur is growing back nicely.

Billie Jean was born with a condition called "Bilateral Luxating Patellas". This is a condition that affects the knee caps. Instead of her ligaments holding her knee cap securely on the front of her knee joint, or *stifle joint*, Billie Jean's ligaments were too loose. This allowed the knee cap to dislocate, or *luxate*, to either side of her knee joint. This condition is a congenital defect. It is most common in small breeds of dogs such as Toy Poodles, Chihuahuas, Papillons, and Boston Terriers, but can occur in dogs of any size or breed.

Billie Jean is now back in her foster home to recuperate. Her activity has to be extremely limited for the first 1-2 weeks of healing. During this time, she will receive daily massages to keep her muscles relaxed and keep the



BACKGROUND INFO:

- 🐾 Billie Jean, her 2 siblings, and her mom were abandoned at a city pound when she was 2 weeks old
- 🐾 Mom and pups were covered with fleas and ticks
- 🐾 The pups and mom were transferred to Helping Paws so they would not be euthanized
- 🐾 Mom and Pups had little fur and were diagnosed with ringworm
- 🐾 Billie Jean was diagnosed with bilateral luxating patellas, a knee condition that, if untreated, results in a lifetime of pain and immobility.

swelling down. Billie Jean will not be able to resume playing, running, and jumping for at least 8 weeks after the date of her surgery.

The Monday following Billie Jean's surgery, her bandages were removed. At this time, she began physical therapy that she will continue through her recovery.

Billie Jean was an extremely brave girl through her surgery, and has remained sweet and upbeat. She, the shelter staff, and her foster family are extremely grateful for the outpouring of support she has received. Stay tuned for more updates about her progress with physical therapy!

Helping Paws is still collecting donations for the Billie Jean Fund. The money collected will be used toward the cost of Billie Jean's surgery, and will also be used to help cover the medical costs of other shelter animals. To donate, visit www.helpingpaws.net, or fill out this form and send it to Helping Paws.

Name: _____

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A Check made payable to Helping Paws is Enclosed

Please charge my credit card in the amount of: \$ _____

Credit Card #: _____

Exp Date: _____ 3 Digit Security Code _____

Signature _____