

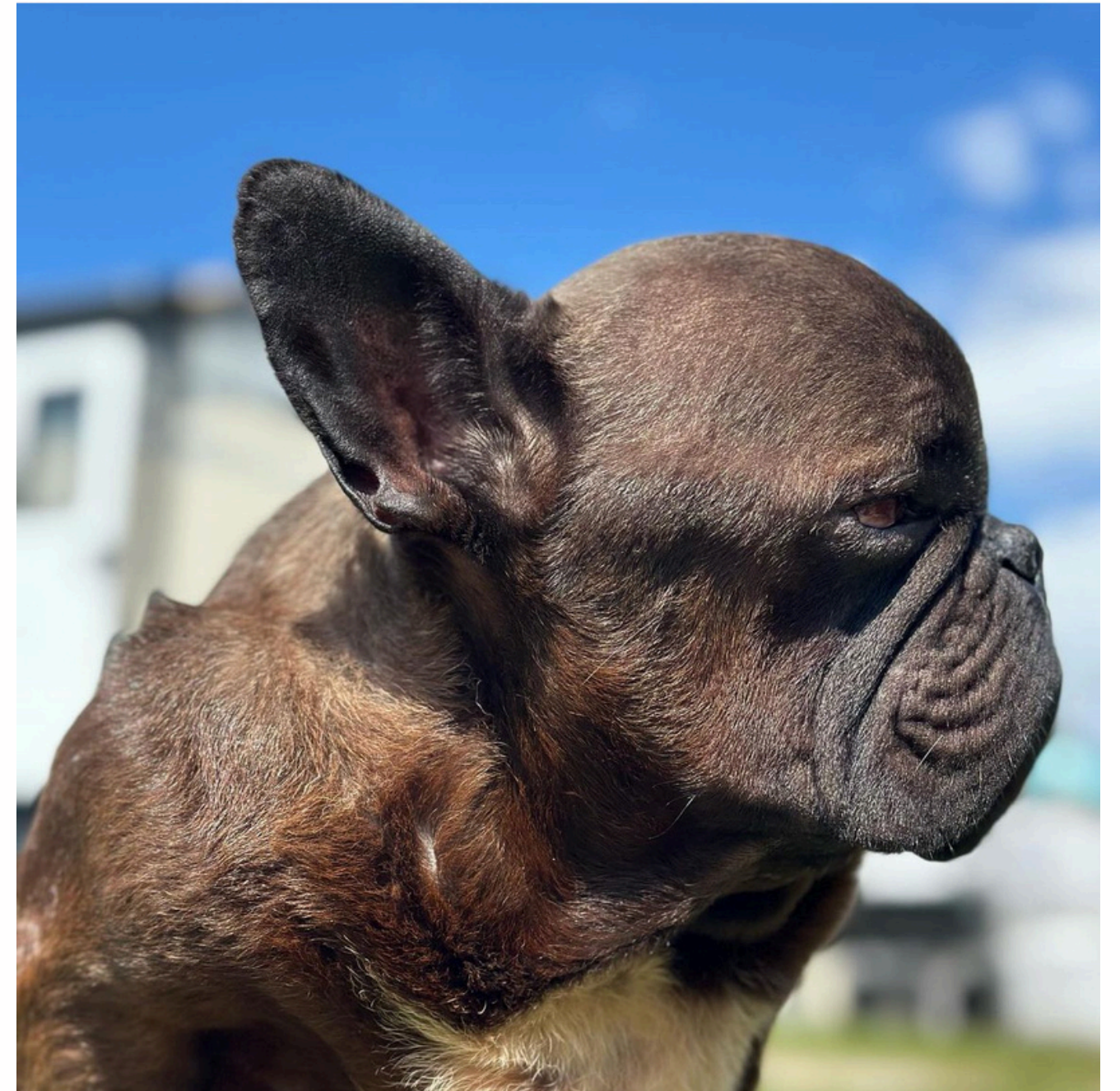


Neurologic Disabilities in Pets

www.disabledpets.org



presentmomentrescue



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Causes of Neurologic Disabilities

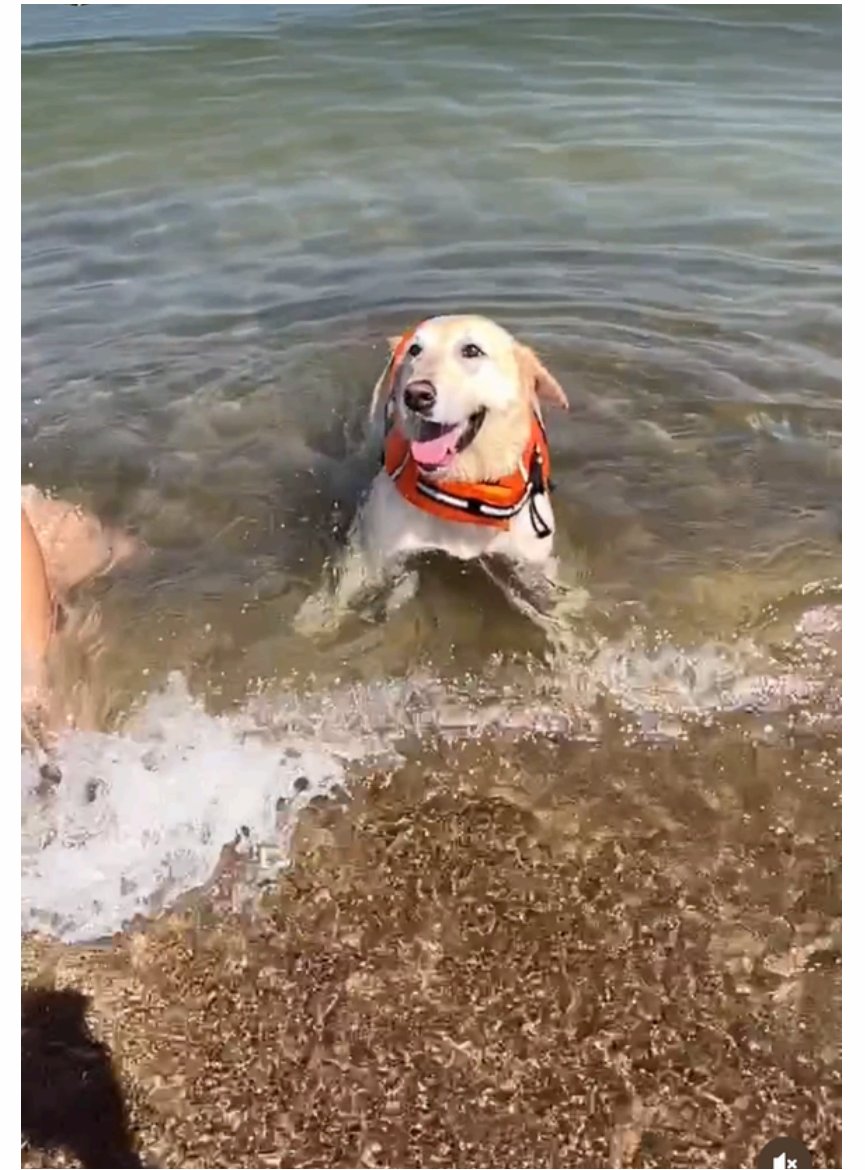
- **Cerebellar Hypoplasia**- Airedale, Boston Terrier, Bull Terriers, Chow, Cats,
 - **Hydrocephalus**- brachycephalic breeds, cats, congenital or acquired later- neoplasia
 - **Epilepsy/Seizure disorders**- Beagles, Golden Retriever, Australian Shepherd, Boxers, Cocker Spaniels, Collies, Poodles, Keeshond, Irish Setter,
 - **Spina Bifida**- brachycephalic breeds, English Bulldogs, Frenchies, Chihuahua, Collie, Boston Terrier, Mini Poodle, German Short Haired Pointer,
 - **Spinal Cord Disease**- dachshunds, beagles, corgis, bulldogs,
 - **Vestibular Disease**- older dogs
 - **Peripheral Neuropathy**
 - **Neoplasia**- brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves
 - **Cerebellar Abiotrophy**- Border Collies
 - **Syringomyelia and Chiari like Malformation**- Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- Degenerative Myelopathy- large breed dogs- German Shepherds

Diagnosis

History- detectable congenital defects, breed predilection, behavior, changes in ability to move about, origin of pet, others in household affected, injury or incident, chronic or acute, cats- history of panleukopenia virus in mother causing kittens to be born with cerebellar hypoplasia

Physical Exam- full exam, detailed neurologic exam checking for sensation and deficits, balance, symmetry in face and other part of the body, pain

Diagnostics- Bloodwork, Radiographs, MRI, CT Scan, Consult with a Neurologist



@stevie_the_wonderdog

Treatment

- **Medications**- anti-inflammatory meds, steroids, anti seizure meds, meds to decrease CSF in hydrocephalus
- Keeping pets *safe* with gates and pens
- **Physical Therapy**
- **Paralysis**- express bowel and bladder, mobility aids



Caring For Pets with Neurologic Disability

Depending on the disability and severity, neuro pets can be extra needy. Cerebellar hypoplasia cats and dogs can range from being completely independent to the point that their disability is barely noticeable all the way to being unable to ambulate without being held by a harness or being supported by a cart. Fit is very important in dogs and cats that need to use a cart to get around. Physical therapy can be very helpful to CH dogs and cats as they can strengthen muscle groups and improve balance.

Hydrocephalus animals need medications to control the excess fluid causing increased pressure in the brain. Many live very comfortably for a long time and others succumb to their illness within weeks or days of birth. Dogs with paralysis do very well with support in the way of bladder and bowel expression, carts, drag bags, and hygiene supplies. Some people can't imagine doing all of this for a dog, and others are more than willing to make adjustments in their daily schedule to keep their paralyzed pets happy and healthy.

Epileptic dogs and cats can be well controlled with seizure meds but sometimes there are individuals who don't respond well. Pet parents manage their epileptics as well as they can, understanding that it is very hard to predict the future but we manage these animals day to day and enjoy having them living with good quality as long as possible.

These same principles go for all the pets in this category.



Supplies / Accommodations

- **Mobility devices**- wheels, braces, prosthetics, strollers, ramps, harnesses
- **Hygiene supplies**- diapers, pee pads
- **Gates and Pens**
- **Drag bags**
- **Footings**- yoga mats, runners,
- Click [HERE](#) for our supplies list



Quality of Life

There is a wide range of neurologic diseases and conditions in pets. It's not easy or fair to lump them into one category when we talk about quality of life. Like any other pet category, we need to consider individual animal's situations when evaluating quality of life. Each disability/medical condition affects animals differently- more or less severe combined with the temperament of the pet, and the capability of the pet parent to support their dog, cat, or other pet.

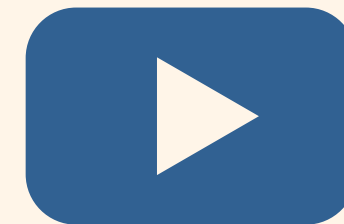
As with all other pets with disabilities, consider your options for caring for them before making major decisions about their short and long term care.

Support for Parents of Pets with Neurologic Disabilities

→ Support

Support from others with pets in similar situations is very helpful in learning to navigate caring for a disabled pet.

Click [HERE](#) for Support Groups and other online resources



Check our Disabled Pets [YouTube Channel](#) for instructional videos

www.disabledpets.org

