

Daisy Mae is our adorable 7-year-old weimaraner who tore the cranial cruciate ligament in her right hind leg in December of 2009. Before this injury, she hiked and biked with us more than 30 miles per week and, most often, set the pace with us having difficulty to keep up!

She had TPLO surgery in January 2010 and we were worried that her biking days were over and that the inevitable progressive arthritis would be a rapid downward spiral to a sedentary lifestyle. However, we were very diligent with rest and rehab and Daisy was back on the trails in full force in July 2010.

A huge part of her rehab was the underwater treadmill which was the most important part of building back her quadriceps and hamstring muscles. Unfortunately, during the winter months, we were limited by daylight and couldn't hike and bike the number of miles and elevation she was used to... and she rapidly lost muscle mass in her surgical leg. When that happened, she became more lame and had a disturbing amount of internal rotation in her knee. We immediately started her on the underwater treadmill again that winter of 2011 and she quickly regained her muscle mass.

This year, as soon as daylight began to wane in the early winter, we started her in the underwater treadmill once per week, every Thursday. She didn't have any issues with lameness or atrophy this winter and as soon as the trails were clear, we were all back out biking. During the summer, we are able to maintain her fitness without the added rehabilitation and this summer at the age of 7 years Daisy Mae was setting the pace and outdistancing us every day of our 5 day/ 4 night, 46 mile backpacking trip in the Wallowa Mountains.

We've hardly noticed a change in her energy level since the day we adopted her and have had multiple veterinarians comment how amazing she looks especially given her age. We attribute a huge part of her range of motion, strength and fitness to the surgical team and rehabilitation program at Oregon State! Oh, and Daisy absolutely loves Sarah who knows the way to her heart through lots of treats while she is working out! We highly recommend rehabilitation for any dog post-operatively as well as for any ongoing physical problems!

Stacy Cooley