

Chloe Update

Chloe is in the greatest of health. Her pill swallowing episode when she was 9 weeks old is behind her and she is now a normal puppy. She was just over 6 months old and was set for her spay operation on Thursday, July 19th. Gail and I were worried about her because she had to have anesthesia and we had gotten very close to her as you would expect. (I still ask myself why we got a dog, although I would never give her up now.) We asked to have the rest of her baby teeth extracted while she was under as recommended by the breeder. We were tense about the operation but met a woman outside of Gail's Doctors office in Toms River who had a puppy that had been spayed three months before. She told us her puppy had the cone collar around her head to prevent her from biting the stitches and it really bothered her and made her cry when she tried to sleep. She bought her a baby's onesie and put that on instead so she couldn't get at her stitches. So, we went right to Bon Ton and bought one ourselves. I thought to myself, we are nuts. We were upset the night before but she was the same as always, full of energy and oblivious as to what was brewing.

On that morning I felt so bad because I couldn't give her anything to eat or drink. Thankfully her appointment was early, 8:15 am. I brought her to the North Dover Veterinary Clinic and the girls were good to her and me and she was excited to see them but I didn't want to let her go and she didn't want to leave me. The tech explained the procedures and charges to me. Pre-Op exam; Before and after pain injections; Pre anesthesia injection; Anesthesia gas; Spay procedure; Pulling of baby teeth; Antibiotic; Cardiac Monitor; Medical disposal and a half day stay. Total \$428. After what I went through with the pill swallowing episode, it seemed cheap.

They told me they would call about 11:00 to let us know how she was doing and we should be able to pick her up at 5:00 that evening. We called before 11:00 and they told us everything went

well and she was awake but groggy. Gail called again at 3:00, they said she was fine but still a little under the sedation and that we could pick her up at 5:00.

I was there at five and a nice young lady named Virginia explained everything that was done to her and what was needed for the next week to ten days. Keep her calm. How do you do that, I wondered? Keep her on a leash I was advised. Give her half a pain pill as needed for three or four days. (I was lucky, I stuck it in chunky peanut butter and she gobbled it up.) The stitches would dissolve on their own she said. I thought that was good because I wasn't going to take them out!

When we got her home she was kind of out of it for two days and would occasionally yelp as she pulled something inside. And because we felt bad for her we let her sleep in our bed. Well, that took only one night to become SOP. I guess it also hurt to empty her bladder and she would go often but small amounts. I thought she might have a bladder infection and called the vet. They

said it is common but if I was worried I could bring in a urine sample. Yeah, right. If someone had a video camera going of me trying to get a plastic cake plate under her and her running off with me running behind ready for the next squat, they could have made a lot



of money on Americas Funniest Videos. I never did get enough for a sample but that problem went away on its own. It has been just a week as I write this and she is completely back to her old self, running and jumping and loving everyone. So now she has wrangled a place in our bed because we felt bad for her and we can't kick her out.