

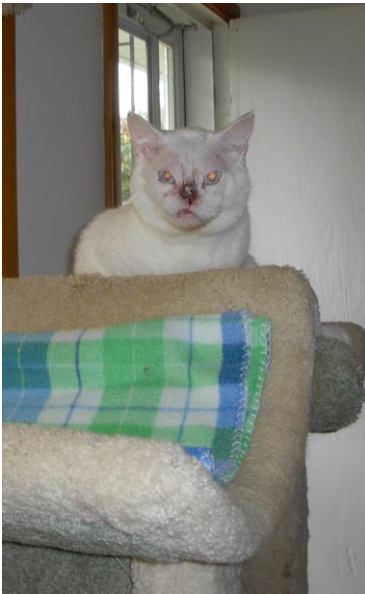
Marvin's health journal (most recent to beginning):



January 8, 2013: Marvin continues to do very well. His activity level is top notch. He is playful, interactive with his foster parents and is certainly a good candidate to integrate into a multi-cat home! He had a great Christmas. Let's hope there are many more to come for this extraordinary boy.



November 5, 2012: A flap of skin had been sewn over the surgical area with the hope it would graft. But through the course of several sneezes in a row one day, Marvin blew the skin flap right off! We felt it was the time for another re-check so off to Calgary he went. Despite losing that piece, the surgeon was very pleased with how his surgical site looked. To us, it looks red and raw but to her trained eye, she sees all the signs of the healing process continuing as hoped. What a relief! She explained to us (again) that even though there were a few cancer cells at the edge of the removed tumour, it doesn't necessarily mean the cancer has gone into the bone.



October 20, 2012: What a marvelous fellow Marvin is! He continues to heal very well. To his PAW friends, it is truly unbelievable how well he is doing considering what he's been through. The cone is now off for most of the day. He is finished with all his medication and has come back to full energy. We are getting to know Marvin's personality more and more and have discovered he is a very smart boy - ever observant, eager to explore and active. When he tucks in for the night, his favourite sleeping position is on top of his person. He truly couldn't be a better friend for some lucky family. We would love to place Marvin in a permanent foster situation where PAW would remain financially responsible for his health care and related decisions. He deserves to be 'home' and loved for as long as that may be.



October 10, 2012: Marvin had his follow-up appointment at the Care Centre in Calgary yesterday. His surgical site is healing very well but we did not get the news we hoped for as far as the tumour is concerned. The histopathology report of the tumour showed its margins were not clean - meaning the surgical team was not able to remove all of the tumour from the nose cavity. This means the tumour could continue to grow. We were very sad to hear this as both the oncologist and surgeon had felt optimistic about the ability to cleanly incise the tumour. From here, we have been instructed to monitor his nose area for signs of redness, swelling or the appearance of a sore that does not heal. It's a wait and see game but, as the cancer was not fully removed, the outlook for Marvin is guarded at best.



October 2, 2012: Marvin is back in Lethbridge, being cared for by Roxanne, and continuing to heal. He no longer has the outer part of his nose. This has altered his beautiful little face significantly but he still has some swelling so it's hard to tell what he will look like until he is completely healed. He is such a good little fellow. He came through the surgery extremely well and is back to his normal loving, happy self. His appetite is good but he sure would like to get that cone off so he could give his face a good rubbing on, well, anything! Of course, he has many stitches so he is not allowed to do that. He will be returning to Calgary for a follow-up appointment with the surgeon next week.

September 28, 2012: Marvin was interested in eating this morning so he is being discharged and will be back in Lethbridge later this evening. He will be staying with Roxanne for a few days, still on pain medications and antibiotics but when he gets feeling better, he'll go back to his temporary foster home.

September 27, 2012: A good report today from Dr. Little, Marvin's surgeon. She tells us the area is still quite swollen and tender but his breathing remains good. He's not interested in food yet but he is quite heavily medicated to help with his pain and still on i.v. fluids. He will not be discharged today. We await tomorrow's update.

September 26, 2012: Marvin's nosectomy was performed today. The oncologist, Dr. Larson, said the surgeon incised the area aggressively and felt she achieved clean margins around the tumour (another lab report will confirm this). The right side of Marvin's nose was removed, not sure how much of the left side is intact. The surgeon pulled a flap of skin over the incised area but it will be swollen for a while. Marvin also had several other spots on his face and ears treated with cryotherapy. Cryotherapy is used to treat a variety of lesions. Marvin will be discharged either Thursday or Friday, if everything continues to progress. He's an otherwise healthy fellow so we expect his recovery to go well.

September 25, 2012: Finally some reasonably good news. Any family dealing with cancer knows it is a bit of a roller coaster. The bone biopsy above his canine came back negative - "only" an infection. Marvin's nose surgery can now proceed. It will be done on Wednesday, the 26th. Marvin continues to do well in the care of the Care Centre. He is such a happy fellow, content and easy going.



September 19, 2012: Today, at the Care Centre, Marvin underwent a CT scan. Turns out the tumour is not a basal cell but a squamous cell - not great news. Although the tumour looks as though it can be cleanly incised, there is a concern about the bone area above one of his missing upper canines. This will be biopsied today with the results expected on Monday, the 24th. Marvin will be staying in Calgary until at least Monday, the day the second biopsy results are due. The clinic staff tell us Marvin is doing great. They are very much enjoying him and giving him as much extra attention as they are able to.

September 11, 2012: Results back today. The sore on Marvin's nose is a basal cell carcinoma - not the worst kind of cancer, but, because it was left untreated for so long, it is now more difficult to remove. Marvin has been referred to an oncologist and a surgeon at the Care Centre in Calgary on September 17th.

August 30, 2012: Marvin is now in the care of a PAW volunteer. Our vet is very concerned about the sore on his nose. He is scheduled for a biopsy on Tuesday, Sept. 4th. We should have the results about a week after that.



August 22, 2012: The top picture of Marvin, above, is not recent. Marvin was recently returned to PAW but came back with a problem with his nose, a large sore on the right side of it. PAW will be having this assessed before he is placed in a foster home.