



Ice's story...written by Ice!

In March 2010 I was rescued

from a home in Peterborough where I hadn't had a walk for over six months. German Shepherd Dog Rescue did a fantastic job at finding me two humans who lived in Suffolk right by the sea who wanted me. I couldn't wait to be wanted and loved. After a long journey, we arrived at my new home.

A rather old ginger cat who hated me at first sight already lived at my new home. I just wanted to love him and I've since turned him around with my wonderfully placid nature. We are best mates now and quite often share my bed together, the sofa, or the human's bed!



There is also a small boy who was very bouncy and just wanted to play which was great as so did I. I like it best when he's on his swing and I grab my ball and growl, bark in play, and try to drop it in his lap as he swings. I was very nervous at first and we had two weeks of uncertainty as I tried to get used to this new home and new people.

I stole quite a bit of food and things I wasn't supposed to, as I wasn't used to having regular meals put in front of me until then. I wrecked the workshop door, broke out of the side gate and went to see the next-door neighbours a couple of times but it was all teething problems.



My human's got pet insurance for me as every responsible human should do when they get a pet

Unfortunately, nobody knew my medical history and a week after I arrived at my new home in Leiston, Suffolk I was out for a walk in the woods with my human's mum and had a very very bad sneezing fit and nosebleed.

It is horrible to see as I get very scared, back up into corners, and shake my head violently, so violently, and then the blood comes out.



Everyone panicked and quite rightly and took me to the vet. That was Easter Saturday last year. The vet worried I was haemorrhaging or something and sedated me, checked out inside my nose, gave me steroids and antibiotics, took some blood tests.

**This all cost a lot of money
and my human put in an
insurance claim.**

I chose the wrong day to have that horrid nosebleed. It turned out that insurance companies are cruel and make the human's wait 10 days from the start of a policy before you can put a claim in.

My human, Lucy, put a claim in 3 days before those

**10 days ran out and the claim was
rejected**

What would you have done if I had had that nasty attack and bled like that? You would have taken me to the vet too. The insurance companies just have no heart...



I then had to go and have my bits sorted out. Part of the deal of my rescue was to have me castrated so under the knife I went.

Just as well I did as my humans were told I had a tumour there - small - but it looked a bit dodgy and the vet thought that it had the potential to be something the human's got all worried about

and everyone ended up pleased it was caught now rather than in a few years time.



All through last summer, I carried on sneezing and having steroids, Piriton, antibiotics on and off. The vets are a second home to me. It wasn't too bad though and we all thought I was over the worst of it.

**In late autumn my sneezing came back
as daily attacks.**

Those violent attacks came back and my human's would find blood splattered on walls, up the cupboards in the kitchen, in the back of the car and various mud patches in the garden where I go outside to rub my sore nose and face in the cool mud and wet grass. I then have a long drink from the birdbath as it's at the perfect height for me! It's my only relief sometimes.

**It makes Lucy human cry
she loves me so much**



For someone who a year ago was scared of German Shepherds that make me doggy laugh as look at her now - a wet blanket over me!

I have her wrapped round my doggy paw and I milk the situation reminding her every evening where she keeps my packet of sponge

fingers! I humour her and give her one paw, then the other, and speak on demand. I then get a couple of sponge fingers to savour! Yum-yum

Back to my story....

Lucy human had enough at Christmas time and rang the vet to say enough was enough. We needed to sort something out but they had a very long conversation about how much things cost and she couldn't afford much as insurance wouldn't pay now for anything to do with my nose as they said it was related to when I was first taken to the vet.

I don't know how long I've had this problem, no one does. My humans had done some research on the internet for my nose problems and found out about a fungal infection called

Aspergilliosis.



A picture of what is up my nose



They approached the vet with all the information and all the experts started talking to each other, looking at me, up my nose, taking blood and all sorts.

I'm so good - I love people and have never once raised so much as a paw to say leave me along. I remember one time going into the

vets again they had a workman kneeling on the floor tiling the reception area and I took my human over there on the end of my lead and gave him a big sloppy lick. I didn't realise she couldn't keep up with me!



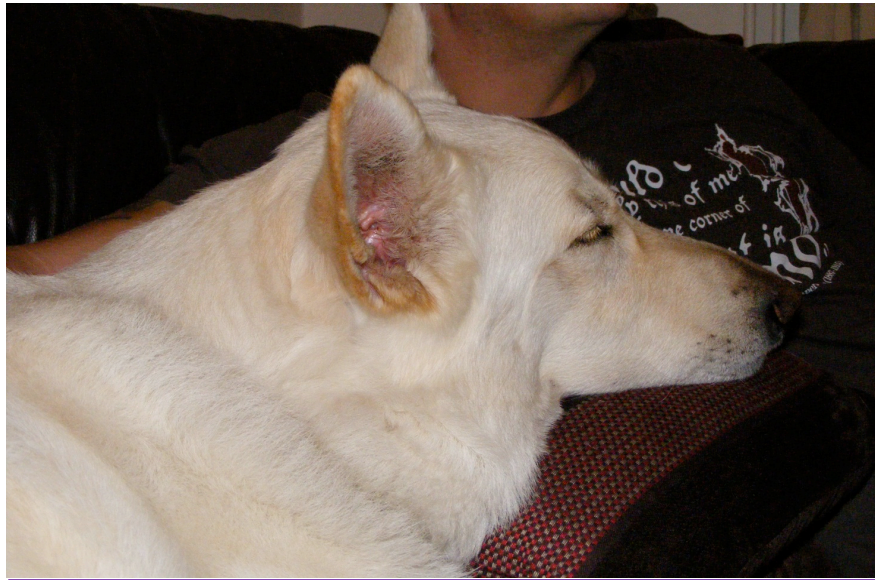
The vet had a colleague in Ipswich who had the right tools to do a nasal flush for me. This was all my human could afford. I think I heard them talking about it was £500 pounds and a lot of money.

I arrived on 18th January to the fantastic, wonderful place called Christchurch Veterinary Centre in Ipswich. If any animal out there reading this gets poorly, I recommend these humans.

They were lovely to me and helped me a lot.

I was a bit stressed in my cage waiting my turn for surgery and chewed right through the leather handle of my lead. I don't like being on my own.

I don't remember much after that until my human came to pick me up after her work. Why she was crying I don't know, as all she needed to do was say hello and put me in the car. Humans hey! Admittedly, I wasn't very good on my feet just then and staggered a bit but managed to jump into the car and fall asleep.



Snoozing with my Mark human

My nose bled a lot for another week and I had yet more pills.

I don't mind the pills anymore as Lucy human wraps them in the best ham in the fridge, or cheese to make them taste nicer!

I heard my humans talking later saying that Shane the nice vet had put me to sleep for a little while, scraped out all the nasty fungus spores that is the infection called Aspergilliosis from deep inside my nose. He laid me upside down and packed my nose cavity with medicine then put a tube in my mouth, up my adenoids and flushed the medicine out through my nose.

After the initial trauma of that procedure had died down, I had nearly a whole month of being able to breathe normally.

**It was wonderful,
everyone was happy
I was a different dog**



**Jump
for Joy!**



Then...
my sneezes came back
I'm back with nosebleeds
like I was before Christmas

My human spoke to Shane where I had my operation. He had told her that the nasal flush is no guarantee that the nasty infection can be 100% treated without further surgery.

We dogs have air pockets deep inside our sinuses and this is where the air borne fungus lives. As it is deep inside the head, sometimes the nasal flushing isn't enough and the infection just creeps down from the air pockets in the head/sinuses and re-infects the nose and nasal cavities again. They think this is what has happened to me.

Shane vet needs to drill two holes in my head called 'trephining' and repeat the flush but this time get to the source of the infection which he can't get to unless he does this kind of procedure.

Shane vet man is lovely too and he is offering to do this operation for me at well below the value it would be if I went anywhere else.

**I need £1,400
to pay for my operation
(other vets want over of 2,000)**

Lucy human is crying again. Women hey? She is worried, as she cannot find the money needed for the more invasive surgery.

**Then more bad luck!
In February I was back at the vets
again and the humans found
two lumps on me**

Everyone got worried again and said the lumps had to be taken out which happened a few days later. My immune system was low anyway and unfortunately, two weeks afterwards when my stitches were taken out one wound burst right open. My Mark human rushed me back and I was stapled up.

My human's were very worried and because I was on steroids for my nose, my wounds wouldn't heal properly.

This all cost a lot of money to treat and luckily the insurance company have given my human's the money back for this.

**Luckily, the lumps turned out to be ok and
everyone is sighing with relief.**



But I am still suffering badly with Aspergilliosis

My nose hurts and bleeds a lot

My human had to take me to the vet again on Friday for more steroids and antibiotics as my nose had swollen up so I couldn't breath unless through my mouth. Liquid oozes and bubbles out of my nose too.

I know I am going to need a lot of love and care after the surgery, as I won't be very well for a while.

My humans have enough love and care to help me through all that and I just love them all to bits too so I'm not worried about that side of things!



I still love life and do my best to get on with it

I still give the bunnies on the beach a run for their money in the mornings with my human Mark before he goes to work.

I then go to my nana's house, help her eat her morning yoghurt by liking out the pot, and sleep on her sofa.



She takes me out for a walk mid morning and I love it!

Hard life for a well-loved German Shepherd Dog isn't it?

**I love all people, children
and animals especially my
cat**





My ginger cat shares my life with me and is my best pal. We share my bed every day and night

I just want to be able to breath properly again and have a normal life free of nose bleeds and antibiotics and steroids.

I've piled on the pounds because of steroids but I have to have them or I can't breathe out of my nose very well and it hurts so much



Here I am having a snooze with my Mark human

**Lucy human has had many conversations with
the insurance company people**

**They will not pay for any treatment
to my nose so I can live a long and healthy life**

**Lucy and Mark human have run out of money,
as I have had a lot go wrong up until now, and
they used all their money up on my vet bills**

HELP WANTED

**My human's wouldn't
normally ask for help
but they don't know
what else to do!**

**Please give what money you can so
I can have my nose operation**

**Me, Mark and Lucy human are very
grateful for all your help**

Thank you for reading my story. Love Ice xxx

