

The Wobbly World of Allagash

“Happiness is a warm puppy”

- Charles M. Schulz



Week 5

Rehab Exercises

Walking Allagash gets around at home great. He is very precise as to how he places his feet. Still holds a toy in his mouth, still falls over if he gets to excited

Cavaletti Rails Does well when they are spaced far enough apart. Height varies from 4 to 6 inches so that he can recognize height changes.



What's with the new look?

I have had a lot of requests regarding updating on the progress of Allagash in regards to his rehabilitation and also just general life. I have found that in the previous posts I sometimes have the ability to ramble or when putting together a post I will retrospectively look back over the past week to see what have been achieved, or in some cases, failed. Since these thoughts can sometimes become disjointed, as I typically tend to write these posts late at night, after work and Allagash being put to bed, I have decided I need an outline/format. So hence, the new update with the new look. Kinda like when I feel the need to buy Allagash a new toy, a new pair of shoes, or new something... No shoppers anonymous is not needed.



Growth spurts & Pains

I would like to first start out by thanking everyone for the offer of condolences on the passing of Java. While the hurt still is sharp, I have been able to smile and continue on. Mostly, because I have Allagash which cannot replace my beloved old man though takes some of the ache away...

This is a late update – because I am currently in Nashville, TN at a conference (literally typing this as I am listening to an awesome lecture

on nasal aspergillosis (fungus). Oh and it just so happens to be the CMA fest (if you listen to country music you know what this is).

The past 10 days.. BUSY. I was trying to finish my presentations for the conference, continue Allagash's rehabilitation, and oh, yeah... Nurse a baby raccoon. Yes, I did that and please NOTE: do not pick up wildlife, the mom is usually nearby, or more importantly, wild animals may carry zoonotic (you

can get it) disease. And it's illegal for you to keep wildlife unless you are a licensed rehabilitator (regulated by the state agencies). I got this baby raccoon due to a co-worker watching it almost get hit while driving home. Mom was dead on side of road. Since I have Allagash only, no kids, and no cats I offered to take home until we could contact the wildlife center. Unbeknownst to me, this kit was unable to eat and was still nursing.. So I became raccoon momma for a



night. Here is some video of me nursing the kit. NOTE: I am vaccinated for RABIES. And my RABIES titer is still protective when last checked. DO NOT PERFORM THIS AT HOME.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u78tStss2oM>

Back to Allagash - he looked for Java for the first 1-2 days, and actually laid in his spot and would not go to work with me on Sunday. "Nah mom, I don't wanna go – I just wanna stay home, play, and lay where Java use to – I am the new doggie man of the

house"... So I shed a tear and then proceeded to pick him up - "Maybe if you could walk without falling over and climb steps you could have a day off rehab – not to mention your bladder won't allow me to leave you home for 10 hours". Yes, I have dialogue with Allagash – and he does answer me with his eyes and body language.



Allagash did not perform well on his 'formal rehabilitation day and Sheila, his PT tech, said "Heather I think he is bored with the exercises". It also could have been the 2 lbs. weight gain in 10 days along with the serious spurt in height. I think he was having an off day for both reasons. So some revisions to the exercises (primarily his "happy trails with cavaletti rails") have been made. I gave him a rest and the latter portion of the week as spent having fun (though I was truly working with him - tricky of me, wasn't it!?) Thursday was a day at the park while I played tennis. Allagash was eating all the weeds so I worked on his recall/attention grabber of clicking my tongue. Friday - Allagash helped me work in the backyard - or more importantly; he ate the weeds I wanted to pull. Saturday - swimming! I took him to meet some family and utilize the lake my aunt and uncle live on. Allagash had fun, I had to swim too - not so fun. I knew this was going to occur since Allagash tends to follow me and I didn't think he was going into

the drink without me tagging along. So off we go into not quite comfortable water on a windy day.

So after the swim we had a photo session. My aunt likes to snap photos on a hobby level, though I think all the equipment is professional grade. The pictures here are from her session. I have also gotten a new idea to bring Allagash to a limelight but will talk about that at another time and if it comes to fruition.

So after swimming, and vogue-ing for the camera Allagash wetted his whistle with some ... you guessed it... water (I had the beer). But Allagash was cute enough to get two hot dogs from the Chef's at UNO's where they were hosting a beer & BBQ outdoor event.

http://youtu.be/z52c_A0Ku58



"I can help pull the weeds - and recycle them too"

