

# The Wobbly World of Allagash

“My fashion philosophy is, if you're not covered in dog hair, your life is empty.”  
-Elayne Boosler



Week 7 and 8

## Rehab Exercises

Strengthen  
Front  
legs/Go  
down steps

Place him with hind legs on  
medicine ball and have him  
balance his fronts on  
ground.

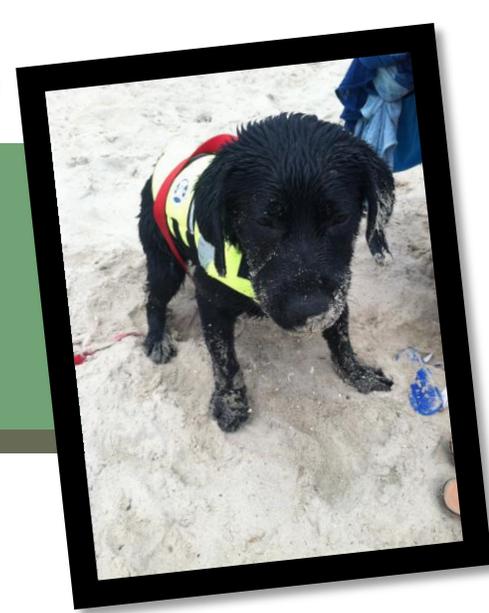
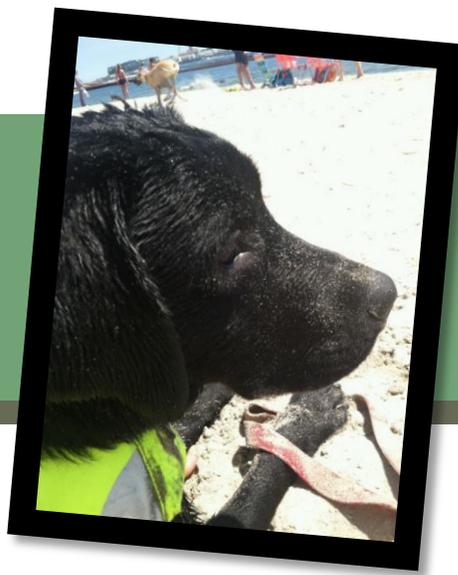
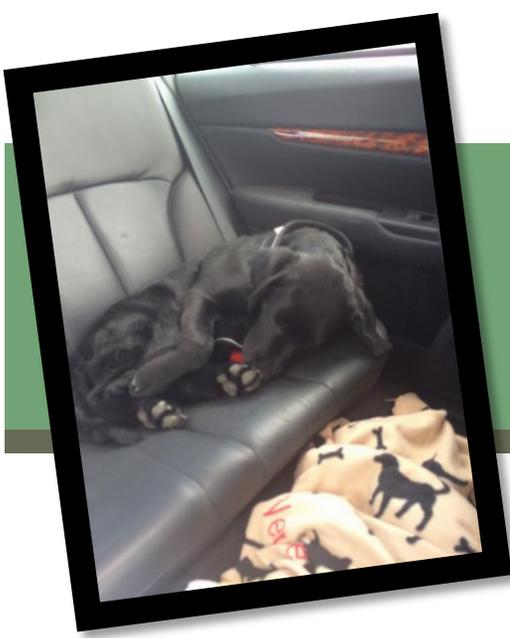
Stamina

Longer walks. Increasing  
his treadmill time



## Allagash... A.K.A BILLY GOAT

I am very aware that my dog is a foreign body/obstruction waiting to happen. No matter how diligent I am in monitoring him. Why? Well so far, he has pooped out four socks, various innards of stuffed toys, part of a leather leash, and some unidentifiable items. I have also figured out that Allagash loves mulch and grass. And this past week I also know that he loves shrimp shells and sand. He is a dog after my own heart, though I like to eat the shrimp sans shell and lay on the sand. So even though I watch him like a hawk, he sometimes still gets into things. Or he pulls items into his crate I place on top. He is a full time job at this stage to which I will liken to the 'terrible two's' that I hear my friends who have children say. No, I don't regret him; I just wish he would eat pairs instead of single socks.



## Mission: Surveillance

An eventful week this has been and I am writing this update knowing that it hasn't been my best showing of rehab and teaching Allagash much because I am indisposed (forgive me I was watching Downtown Abbey episodes the other night, hence the use of 'indisposed'). I was in a car accident that has left me with lingering pain that has highlighted how physical it is to deal with Allagash. Everyone is ok, and before you gasp - no, Allagash was not with me. Seriously, my aunt found out and after she said hello called me and first words after hello were 'was Allagash in the backseat'? While I know my family loves me, Allagash is the special one.

Allagash became acquainted with what a typical night at my house is like in the summer - Some friends, some wine, and whole lotta seafood on the grill. This occurred midweek and someone left the shrimp shells in the backyard and Allagash decided he wanted some extra chitin in his diet. And out the chitin came Thursday -in a more liquid form. UGCHH

So what do you do when you need to get information, as in how your puppy is escaping down the deck steps and into the yard. Doesn't seem like too much of a whodunit mystery, unless you take into account I am talking about Allagash. Three times this week he has gone radio-silent and he isn't under the bed. Nope - he is in the backyard doing his thing. Why this freaks me out is that he goes through the dog door in the screen, down two deck levels of maybe 3 steps each and into yard, AND I HAVEN'T TAUGHT HIM HOW TO GO DOWN STEPS!

I literally don't know how he is doing this without hurting himself. When I take him out he literally will launch himself off the top step as I grab his harness handle. He does this 'Superdog' impression like he is flying and then I have his weight suspended in air until he puts his legs under him. So, when I have found him outside in yard, he hasn't done the launch off the top step cause I would hear him land - crash land that is.

So now I need to catch him in the act. In the meantime I am now trying to get him to bark at the top of the step to alert that he needs to go down. He rings the bell on the back door to say he has to go outside for bathroom, so I am hoping he learns this as well. But, (there is always a but), he doesn't seem to bark. Collectively, I have heard him bark about 4 times in 7 weeks. Strange, a LR that isn't vocal. So I am thinking about getting a video camera, like that Nanny Cam. No joke.

Beach time... I am a water baby, love summer, and am at the coast any time I can be. So I wanted to introduce my dog and hope he loves it as much as me. Oh, he loves it, loves eating sand that is. Do you know how hard it is to pick up poop that is essentially sand? It's hard, it disintegrates as you scoop it up. Not to mention the thought that he might cause an impaction from eating sand. But he loves the dog beach I took him to. We have been there twice now, and he has found 1-2 dogs there

Hanna the working dog was very tolerant (she was a black lab too) with Allagash running and jumping around. It's pretty much a free for all at the beach. You come there with the knowledge you will have dogs invade your towel space and try to steal whatever treats you left in the beach bags. Allagash loved the time he had and all the pups we met. He will follow the other dogs into the water to chase them though more often than not, they didn't want to play with him. Not to sound maudlin, but I get sad that not all dogs will interact with him and a lot just react badly to him. It warms me that there are dogs who do play with him. Someone at work likened him to the child's story of 'Ugly Duckling' - which made me snuffle.

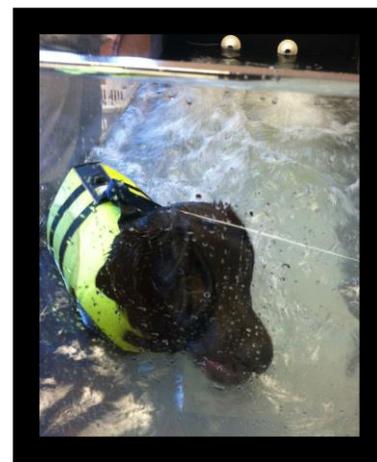
What's next for Allagash? Well the 4<sup>th</sup> is almost here so hopefully he doesn't eat any of the clamshells or god forbid, the corncobs. We are diligently working on stamina and walking. I'm trying to teach Allagash to shake paw. I know, seems mean to ask the wobbly dog to sit on three legs and hold out his paw, but I know he will master it once he figures out it will gain him more attention. Oh, and I finally introduced Allagash to FrostyPaws. Sure enough, he knew how to hold it and lick it. Java must have taught him that too.



Click on pic to watch video of Allagash swimming at the beach



Click above to link to some video of Allagash playing at the beach.



Treadmill Time! Click above photo to see Allagash's latest Treadmill Workout on YouTube . He doesn't wear a lifevest now.