

Fizz Chronicles

12/26/03 am	<p>I swear, this dog is going to continually keep me broke!! Her latest is being unable to open her jaw. Earlier in the week she started picking the meat off her bones which I thought was weird, but figured she was being "picky" for some reason. I went to exam her mouth at Christmas and she was unable to fully open her jaws. There doesn't appear to be any obstruction or tooth problem. I can slide a finger inside and practically down her throat. She had a slightly elevated temperature. I started her on Cephlex. She's bouncy and happy – still runs and plays with the dogs. I should have realized that she hasn't been barking the past several days. She's able to drink, eat (with her front teeth) and pant.</p> <p>Last night I discovered a lump on the right side of her esophagus. Our vet appointment is this evening at 7:40.</p>
12/26 pm	<p>Fizzie barked!!!! Woo hoo. She is able to open her mouth far enough to do that. Her temperature has gone down a little bit so the Cephlex has helped whatever it is she has.</p>
12/26	<p>My vet and UC Davis both feel that Fizz has tetanus. Of course Fizz has tetanus, since dogs rarely get it! Her temp is up. Davis recommended against using the anti-toxin due to the potential multiple adverse effects. Metronidazole is the best drug to stop the progress until the toxin unbinds. One small problem with this drug is the risk of seizures.</p> <p>I'm home all next week so I'll take the chance with the Metronidazole. If she starts to get spacey (ok – spacier than usual) and disoriented then we'll need to change medication to one of the 'cillans – not as effective. She can only be on Metronidazole for 10-14 days and then has to come off. The tetanus effects can last from 2-4 weeks. The thing I thought was a little growth was a slightly enlarged gland (can't remember which one). Her blood test ruled out some of the other things that could have been going on (including myositis).</p>
12/30	<p>Fizzie didn't eat yesterday. Today she decided the only possible way for her to eat turkey glop was out of my hand. I complied with her wishes and I'm now hand feeding her. Her head looks much better – not so skeletal. Her jaws are still locked. They feel very strange when you compare them with the other dogs. To make her feel better, I'm allowing her to take naps with me on the bed. Not that she's spoiled or anything.</p>
01/02/04	<p>Fizz had a seizure this afternoon. It was a little one, only lasted for about a minute. She jumped on the couch and snuggled up real close. She then started shaking, rumbling and her eyes rolled back in her head. We'll reduce her medication, but if she has another one then she'll have to go to a less effective antibiotic. She's eating again. I have been cutting regular meat up into small pieces for her to swallow. She likes that much better than liquid glop. Poor little girl.</p>
1/3	<p>Fizzie keeps twitching her ears. I guess I should call the vet tomorrow because that probably is a neurological thing and another side effect of the medication. Today she chased birds and made little barky noises trying to grab on to Louis neck. Couldn't get much hair into her clenched teeth! She also picked up a rawhide chewie that had a little sliver hanging off that she could grip with her front teeth. The rest of the time she is very clingy and needy – alternates between following me everywhere and sleeping on her dog bed.</p>
1/5	<p>Fizzie can open her mouth twice as wide as she was able to yesterday!!! The muscle spasms she was having last night (along with the ear twitching) must be the toxins unbinding.</p>
1/7	<p>Fizz will go back to the vet tomorrow for a checkup. She has a bunch of swollen lymph nodes under her jaw. Poor little thing. She's happy at least. I bought her a new doggy bed yesterday at Costco. It's too poofy right now and she sort of slides off of it, but she knows it's hers. I have to put a chewie on the bed with her so she doesn't feel left out. She can't chew it or carry it, just puts it between her paws.</p>
1/8	<p>Fizz's movement is starting to get a little stiff. The vet aspirated the swollen lymph nodes under her jaw. They appeared to be normal and no other lymph glands were swollen (yet). She is now on injectable penicillin and valium. Robaxin pills would be too difficult to get down her for muscle relaxing so valium was the choice. Just for a few days so she doesn't get addicted. I had to laugh at my vet -- all I need is a dog hooked on valium and looking for</p>

	<p>a fix. Fizz would definitely be that dog!! She's lost 5 lbs. She was a little chunky to start and is just right at 39.8 lbs. She just can't lose anymore weight. If she starts losing more, she'll have to start IV feeding. What a doggy pain she is. The vet gave her a little kiss on the top of nose this afternoon right where Fizz normally gets her kisses – she was pleased.</p>
<p>1/14</p>	<p>Just got back from our weekly vet visit. Fizz hates the vet's office, but she did enjoy standing on a chair today and watching them unload boxes from a truck and people walking around the parking lot to the large animal clinic.</p> <p>I stopped the penicillin injections on Mon. due to the lumpy reactions she was having around the injection sites. My vet was not pleased when I told her one of the vets down there had told the receptionist that the lumps were from incorrectly giving the shots and for me to come down so they could show me how to give a subQ shot. Lol. I was right. They were from Fizz reacting badly to the injectable penicillin. They are trying to find some liquid penicillin to try now (none of the local pharmacies seems to have it – they just have ampicillin).</p> <p>She is showing some signs of improvement – stiffness going away, but her jaw has closed slightly since we stopped the metronidazole. Her lymph glands around the neck were slightly enlarged from last week, but smaller than yesterday. We aspirated again and they are showing lots more activity, vet sent the slide off to the lab, she'll have the results tomorrow. So that's not good. But the bright side is that none of her other lymph nodes are affected.</p> <p>Fizz lost less than ½ lb. this week, so that is good. Yesterday she had horrible diarrhea – but that could have been from the penicillin breaking up. I started her on a bunch of stuff from Marina last night – Bioprin, CoenzymeComp II, Traumeel, and the antioxidants – Lvr-drn (for the liver) and Gentle Drainage. Those might also be causing some of the increased activity in the lymph nodes.</p> <p>If she doesn't improve noticeably this week, then she needs to go to a neurologist. 3-4 weeks is when tetanus should normally break up and this will be week 4. Her coat is trashed after having a raised temperature for 3 weeks.</p>
<p>1/16</p>	<p>Took Fizz in to see if they could get her jaws to relax a little bit with a large dose of Valium (she will be feeling no pain for a while). The vet couldn't see anything physical that may be causing the continued clenching.</p> <p>They took blood again – still no elevated counts to indicate masticatory myositis, but they will send a sample off to the lab to have them check just in case. It will take a week to get the results back from the lab.</p> <p>I hate this not knowing thing. Dog breeding absolutely sucks.</p> <p>Masticatory Myositis Masticatory myositis is an immune-mediated, inflammatory condition that affects the muscles of mastication. The exact cause is unknown. Specific autoantibodies directed against type II muscle fibers have been detected in affected animals. In acute cases, muscles are swollen and there is difficulty in opening the jaw. In chronic cases, there is anorexia, weight loss, difficulty in opening the jaw, and muscle atrophy. Diagnostic hematologic values include eosinophilia and increased levels of globulin and muscle enzymes. Electromyography reveals abnormal spontaneous electrical activity in affected muscles. A biopsy sample is usually taken of the temporalis muscle; histologic changes include lymphocytic-plasmacytic cellular infiltrates, muscle atrophy, and fibrosis. Although spontaneous regression can occur, treatment with oral corticosteroids, decreasing the dosage, is usually effective. Relapses are common, and long-term medication may be required.</p>
<p>1/16</p>	<p>\$304 Later</p>

	<p>\$150 for the muscle biopsy alone.</p> <p>One of the symptoms of masticatory myositis is loss of appetite. Fizz regained her appetite several days ago and is a little pig.</p> <p>She'll probably wake up tomorrow barking her little head off and jaws operating normally.</p>
1/16	<p>My stoned little doggie is laying down ripping at a rawhide with her front teeth. She also mugged the cat and tried to eat her (this is after getting along for the last week). Fizz is hell on wheels when she is on valium.</p> <p>She's now locked in a crate (and pawing at the door to get out). Inhaling two chopped up chicken breasts was ok, trying to pull anything off the counter that looked like food was a bit much, the last straw was the Frisbee tossing. Drugged doggies can't toss Frisbees very well. Maybe I could give her valium before going in the show ring if I ever show her again.</p> <p>Must go – she's crying in her crate. I think this is going to be a long night.</p>
1/18	<p>Her jaw is opened a little bit more (very slightly). I can slip her pills in the side of her mouth and she sucks up pieces of meat. I'll call the vets tomorrow and see about getting her started on prednisone as a precaution since we won't get the biopsy results back until the end of the week. She is feeling really spunky and very stretchy. She's also pretty licky.</p>
1/19	<p>I think her mouth may be opening a slight bit more. She definitely has her appetite back. Brian told me today he thinks she just likes having her body parts shaved – if we shave her ourselves, then she won't keep coming down with weird things.</p>
1/21	<p>Fizz's lymph node aspirations came back showing reactive hyperplasia which basically means that her cell activity was increasing with no known cause.</p> <p>I came home last night to a very "Fizz-like" dog that was leaping, bouncing and being her old self. Her mouth was also opening slightly more than normal. I fed her and let her out. When she came back in the house, the top of her head looked like it had caved in.</p> <p>I called the vets to see if I could get in, but Fizz's vet wasn't going to be in until the tomorrow. The receptionist checked for lab results and found one in my vet's inbox that said negative for myositis. I made an appointment, but just didn't feel right. I stayed home from work today and took Fizz in to see a different Dr. The lab report that the receptionist read was from the 19th and said the titer showed negative, but the muscle biopsy wouldn't be back until the 30th.</p> <p>The vet felt that the sunken head was very typical of myositis. She was already familiar with Fizz' case (evidently been the topic of conversation at the clinic). Her theory is that Fizz originally had tetanus but it has now potentially morphed into myositis. She's shaking her head the whole time because they rarely see either of two problems. I mentioned that I had seen in my research that reaction to antibiotics could contribute to myositis – unfortunately I couldn't remember which website, but I told her it appeared to be "reputable" information with references. She is going to research today and also discuss with the other vets.</p> <p>We started Fizz on 20 mg of prednisone 2x/day; 1 g Carafate 3x/ to protect the stomach; 10mg Pepcid & the ampicillin. I'll work from home the rest of the week to see how she handles the high dosages. I would rather do this than wait to get the results of the biopsy. What a mess. At least she's a happy, hungry, little pig.</p>
1/22	<p>Took Fizz in this afternoon to see her regular vet. She already had an appointment scheduled and I wanted her to see Fizz's head. Dr. Zatkin asked if I would like to have their veterinary acupuncturist see if there was anything she could do to help stimulate the nerves and muscles. She also ran a full thyroid panel and took a sample to test for toxoplasma.</p> <p>The veterinary acupuncturist felt that with the tetanus and weakened immune system, it wouldn't be too difficult for some auto-immune issues to crop up. Fizzie looked like such a</p>



	<p>punk rocker with all of the needles sticking out of her head and neck (a couple on the rear legs too). She applied some electrical stimulation to 4 of the needles (looked like mini jumper cables). Fizz was very relaxed and at ease during the procedure. She had a mild reaction each time the electrical charge was increased. When we left the exam room, she happily greeted the receptionist (normally she hates the vet's office). We have another session scheduled for Tues. and should be receiving some of the lab results back tomorrow.</p> <p>I just gave her some medication and her mouth is now open slightly more than 1/3 of an inch!!!! This is a major improvement, hopefully it will stay and isn't just a temporary effect.</p> <p>Woo hoo!!!!</p>
1/23	<p>Sigh of relief – Fizzie's mouth is really starting to work again.</p> <p>Her face and eyes continue to sink. Poor little freakazoid.</p> <p>I missed the vets call earlier so I am waiting for her callback.</p> <p>Fizz can open her mouth about ¾ of an inch now. She scarfed all the cat food up when I wasn't looking and then had horrible, icky breath. Bad Fizz.</p> <p>Results from the full blood panel we did yesterday came back –</p> <p>Liver enzyme up – probably due to pred Muscle enzyme – fine Globulins are up – inflammatory related which could be bacterial or myositis Thyroid 1.4 – grey zone, probably due to illness Cholesterol – fine CBC slightly up – inflammatory related</p> <p>I'm already scared watching her head waste away. Plus this is dog dying season around here. Taylor died in Feb. Gator died the following year in Feb. Is it Fizz's turn? Crap I hate dogs being sick!</p>
1/24	<p>We've doubled Fizz' prednisone dosage to 40 mg twice/day. I can't tell if she's sunk anymore since yesterday. Her vision has definitely been affected so I have to make sure I go outside with her each time to keep her safe. I gave her a big, meaty chicken leg quarter to work on. I figured she needs to start working those muscles as soon as possible. It's taking her a long time and I'm sure she's going to be exhausted – but she's getting exercise. She's gaining weight and being her normal bratty self. She jumped Mica last night when Mica growled at Moss (like Moss needs her protection). lol.</p> <p>It just seems strange to me that there would be no indication in her muscle enzymes that it was myositis. Oh well. Who knows – I just want her better.</p>



1/25



I think the muscle wasting has stopped. Maybe. It's hard to tell. She's a brat. She's also enjoying chewing on rawhide again. She has to work on a fairly flat piece, but any jaw workout is a good one.

She's picking up full size rawhides and carrying them around now. She's ripping her meat off the bone and trying to do a little chewing – not quite there yet. I gave her some kibble pieces as treats today and she chewed them up. Except for the skeletal look she's back to being a normal Fizz. She goes in tomorrow morning for acupuncture and a regular

	<p>appointment on Fri.</p> <p>Maybe this is what happens with tetanus when you can't use the jaw. I keep coming back to her normal muscle enzymes on every blood test. I hope her eyes will come back. I'm afraid to let her out alone since her vision is deteriorated. Not that I can protect her either – she jumped up on top of the hose caddy tonight like she always does. BRAT!</p>
<p>1/27</p>	<p>The vet felt that Fizz had more muscle than last week, except for the eye sink. Fizz can also move her eyes forward when she is at attention, so maybe the atrophy behind the eyes isn't permanent. The needles stayed in much better, last week they kept falling out because there wasn't enough muscle to hold them in.</p> <p>I have hopes that she will regain some muscle function – if not, she can get botox injections to fill out her face.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>1/30</p>	<p>Fizz's muscle biopsy finally came back. She tested positive for masticatory myositis. The consulting neurologist felt that her original symptoms were not indicative of myositis. Complications from the tetanus (or possible other bacterial infection) caused the myositis. The good news is that he felt she stands a very good chance of regaining the muscles in her head. Dr. Zarkin was thrilled to see that she is able to open her jaws about 80%. We'll keep up the full dose of prednisone for another 3 weeks and then begin to taper her off.</p>
<p>2/1</p>	<p>Poor little thing! The pred is starting to take its toll on her stomach. I thought she was having horrible farts yesterday, but they were actually horrible burps. She's not able to digest her food. She threw up a lovely pile of chicken this morning. Little pieces of meat from 2 chicken leg quarters fermenting all night in a stomach is not the most pleasant odor to greet your nostrils in the morning. I didn't even hear her throw up.</p> <p>She's on carfate for ulcers and pepcid for acid, but they don't seem to be helping. I'll go get her some yogurt to see if that helps her digestion.</p>
<p>2/2</p>	<p>Fizzie's eyes are sinking again with the lower pred (30 instead of 40). It's about 4 hours after giving her the lowered dose of prednisone. Yikes. Will this thing EVER end?</p>
<p>2/6</p>	<p>Fizz is doing wonderful. Her mouth is almost 100% open. Unfortunately she is still requiring 40 mg of prednisone 2x/day for the myositis. Anything less and her eyes start sinking. The vet said, "It's obvious she needs the 40 mg, in spite of what the neurologist said". Her stomach has settled down and no more digestive issues for right now. While at the vet clinic</p>

	<p>on Thurs. she was tugging on the vet's smock trying to steal crackers out of her pockets. It was nice to see Fizz being relaxed in a vet's office again.</p>
2/11	<p>I don't think Fizz is out of the woods yet. Her eyes have sunk, but in a different way than before. I don't know how to explain, it's just slightly different. She's also starting to exhibit Cushing's symptoms – especially the "pot bellied" look from the high prednisone dosages. She is ravenous and constantly wants to eat or chew on rawhide. Today she figured out how to open the pantry to get at food. Cat food and Top Ramen all over the place.</p> <p>I'm starting to get more and more worried that this isn't going to have a happy ending.</p>
2/21	<p>Took Fizz in last night for a recheck. She has been holding her own with the prednisone, but her eyes start sinking towards the end of her dosage. They will usually be sunken in by the time I get home from work in the evening. She's been on the 40 mg 2x/day for 4 weeks now.</p> <p>The vet decided to try switching her to Dexamethasone while waiting for a callback from the neurologist. If she has negative reactions to the Dex, we'll move back to Pred. They were having DSL problems last night at the clinic so she couldn't do any online research to see what else we could be doing. Fizz has developed some classic Cushings symptoms as a complication of the long term pred usage.</p> <p>At least Fizz is enjoying going to the vet's office again. She sits on the sofas in the waiting room (like an obnoxious foofoo dog), sits on a chair in the exam room – last night she even got examined while on the chair. She is generously dispensing kisses to everyone who says hi.</p>
2/21	<p>We'll take blood on Fizz tomorrow and then start her on Azathioprine. This takes some time to get going in her system. The following is a pretty good description of myositis treatments (even it is for humans).</p> <p>CORTICOSTEROIDS: Virtually every physician's first prescription is Prednisone. Often Prednisone creates more problems in other areas of the body than expected. Some side effects include weight gain, moon face, barrel chest, moon belly, depression, mood swings, easy bruising, thinning of the bones, high blood pressure, cataracts, diarrhea, and diabetes.</p> <p>Anyone taking corticosteroids should be monitored carefully by their physician and should report any new medical problems immediately.</p> <p>Some physicians will include other immunosuppressants or corticosteroids which may or may not help every patient.</p> <p>IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS: If a patient does not respond favorably to Prednisone, other drugs (commonly Methotrexate and Azathioprine) are sometimes used. These drugs slow down the immune system, reducing its ability to attack infections and attack healthy tissue in persons with autoimmune diseases.</p> <p>Immunosuppressant drugs are powerful and can result in side effects such as an upset stomach, diarrhea, loss of appetite, mouth sores, hair loss, skin rash, chills, fever, and other various effects on some patients.</p> <p>Myositis, like most forms of muscle disorders, is a chronic disease. It affects every person differently. Some people have remissions and flares which may or may not last for a long time.</p>
2/22	<p>You have to wear freakin' gloves to even administer this medication.</p> <p>I am going to have to take her with me to Fresno in two weeks. It takes several weeks for</p>

	<p>the drug to start affecting the immune system and the vet said it would be ok to bring her and keep her in the trailer and only let her out to potty in an ex-pen with shavings. I really don't have anyone that I can have stay here (can't farm her out) who will get up with her in the middle of the night to pee and also at 4:30. Fresno State isn't a hotbed of doggie activity so there won't be lots of stray germs in our setup area.</p> <p>I cried on the way home from the vets this afternoon. Stopped and got a huge chili cheese burger from Carl's Jr. It didn't help.</p> <p>At least the vets have no issues with me taking Fizz in the back room. Fizz pranced back there, gave her blood, pranced back out and then jumped on the counter to say "Hi" to the receptionist.</p>
2/23	Fizz is now losing hair around her eyes. This sucks so much. She still feels great – just hungry.
3/1	She's now dropping patches of hair from the meds. We go in on Fri. morning for another blood test. She must not be feeling too well – she wants to lay on the couch and have someone petting her all the time. The steroids have altered her temperament a little bit. She has become ultra protective of her fragile, little brother (lol – yes Moose). Like Moss needs protection!!!! Mica isn't allowed to growl at him, Louis can't look at Moss if he has the wrong "tone" in his eyes. It's quite amusing. I have to frequently pick up the snarky, little bitch to save her hide.
3/7	Fizz was pretty tired at the dog show this weekend. I couldn't take my trailer. It got stuck in the mud in the back yard (along with the Expedition and my brother's truck). She had to take the elevator at the motel. We came home early on Sun. after I sprained my ankle WALKING the agility course.
3/11	<p>Fizz has an appointment with the neurologist on Wed. She's a little bit anemic right now. I took Moss, Mica and Sarah in this evening to get them blood typed in case Fizz needs a transfusion due to her ulcerated stomach. They would rather use close relatives with the correct blood type, then donor dogs if necessary. This is something that I had never thought of. The next time you have blood taken, have them check blood type, that way you will have the information on file.</p> <p>Pissed off a huffy assistant. She said there was no way I could go in the back with Fizz. I had to make two trips because I didn't realize that we didn't have Fizz blood type info. I told her to go check with Dr. Zarkin because I wasn't letting my dog go in the back without me. She got all superior and then came back pretty snotty. The tech who took the blood was great. Fizz doesn't have to be held to give blood anymore. She gives the tech little kisses while they draw blood.</p>
3/12	Her hemacrit is up. The "big guy" (Moss) is slated as a donor dog (Mica is also compatible) if she goes downhill this weekend. The backup vet's have already been briefed. Her gums are still very pale, but she's feeling better. Must be all that raw liver I've been pumping down her throat last night and today.
3/15	Acupuncture treatment today
3/17	Trip to Neurologist -- He is waiting for the lab results to be faxed to him (the front office forgot to copy those and I didn't check all of her paperwork). He says she isn't having a "normal" progression of myositis. Big surprise there. Rofl. I emailed him photos of the before, during and today. Hopefully that will help. He is going to present her case to the other neurologists at Davis tomorrow and also on the vet neurologist's list serv.

	 <p>Mar. 17</p>	 <p>Mar. 17</p>
3/22	Fizz is relapsing. She cried when I just tried to open her mouth wide to give her a pill.	
3/24	Results of Fizz' antibody titer came back today and the myositis is under control. My vet will call the neurologist who couldn't be bothered to return my phone calls from the other day and find out what the next steps are.	
4/9	Last night Fizz thought about chasing birds and even took a little run towards them. Bird chasing was her passion so it is great to see her even start to think about it again. We cut her Imuran dosage in half last night. Her liver counts had doubled, but her CBC is continuing to improve. Hopefully she will continue to maintain and I won't have to up the Imuran again.	
4/21	<p>Fizz started having diarrhea yesterday. Gave the poor little thing a bath this morning. She had several accidents in the house, crate, ex-pen, etc. Slightly bloody stools. Took her in for her regular blood test today along with a stool sample. Looks like she itty, bitty roundworm eggs in her stool. While at the vets she had pure bloody diarrhea. The vet gave me some homeopathic stuff to help ease the stomach problems.</p> <p>I left in the afternoon to pick up Brian. Came home a couple of hours later and Fizz had white gums. Raced her, Moss & Mica down to the vets in case she needed a transfusion. When we got there, her gums pinked up a little. She tested negative for parvo (because of the bloody stools) and her red cell count was 35% and unchanged from her morning appointment. She got some IV fluids this evening. Fizz doesn't want to eat, which is definitely out of the ordinary. I'll take her back in the morning for another red cell count. Poor little thing. She is exhausted and definitely not feeling well.</p>	
4/22	<p>Fizz is back to her normal bratty self this morning. Absolutely ravenous. She must have been having a reaction to the cytoxcin.</p> <p>With all of the meds she's on, it's hard to tell if she is reacting to them or starting something new. I will probably take her into the vet this afternoon.</p>	
4/26	Fizz stole a bag of powdered sugar out of the pantry this weekend. Fortunately I caught her before she punctured the bag too badly. She did NOT want to give her prize up. I could just see my house covered in powder sugar!	
4/28	I came yesterday afternoon to a gimpy Fizz. She has to stay outside during the day to ensure that she keeps all of fluids moving through her body. She has begun to feel better and started trotting around the yard a bit, but she isn't racing around and playing. She has a mild, partial cruciate tear in her right rear leg (the same one she broke). I'll take her back in	

	<p>tomorrow to see if acupuncture will help her out since she isn't a candidate for surgery or even NSAIDS with all of the stuff she is taking for the myositis.</p> <p>Sometimes you just have to shake your head and laugh.</p>
5/2	<p>Fizz is being good about being crated and walking s-l-o-w. Now she has two big, fluid pockets on her elbows that will need to be drained this afternoon. We've been watching the spots for about two months and stopped the hot spot issues on one them a few weeks ago. She had only wanted to lay on hard, cold surfaces for a long time. Now that she is enjoying her dog bed again – the spots have become golf ball sized pockets. She was so cute laying on her ice packs last night (they didn't help).</p> <p>Considering its Fizz, I am so amazed about how sensible she is with any kind of treatments or tests. She is really doing much better. Muscle is returning and she has her old sassy attitude back. She keeps asking for me to lift up on top of things. She can't jump with the leg, nor does she have the strength – but she is trying to simulate her old capabilities.</p> <p>The vet drained her seromas and put a padded compression bandage around her elbows. 14 cc's in one and 17 cc's in the other. Quite a bit of fluid, but nice and clear – nothing pussy looking. Pretty turquoise vet wrap. Lol. We can change the bandage out when she goes in for her blood test on Thurs.</p>
5/10	<p>Fizz's latest CBC and chem. panel came back looking great!!! She only has 3 more .25 pills of Dex (every other day) and then we will try her without. After that we start knocking back on the immune suppressants. Currently she's taking .25 pill of Imuran 1x/day and Cytocin .50 pill 4 days on/3 days off. Her seromas only had about half the fluid in them this week, but there were nutrifills so she went on anitibiotics to ward off any infection.</p>
5/29	<p>The vet pulled Fizz back to monthly blood work, so we will go in next week. May was a good month. There were actually two weeks when we didn't have to make a trip to the vet. 1-2 times/week since the beginning of December was getting old. I think she has about run out of side effects and complications.</p>
6/2	<p>I burnt poor little Fizzie's feet today. Her skin and pads are really thin. When we left the vet's office and walked out to the truck she started doing this weird thing with her feet. I told her to hold still so I could check her foot. Then she started hopping around. DUH!! It was 100 degrees, the asphalt was really, really hot. I scooped her up after I realized how bad that must be hurting her. Bad mommy!!</p>
6/22	<p>I made an appointment for Fizz on Fri. I think she is starting to regress. It appears to me that her eyes are beginning to sink again. Brian says her eyes are staying the same and she is getting more muscle and filling in around her face. I just want to make sure. She does have full strength in her jaws back – she is easily crunching up her bones again, so Brian might be correct about the filling in piece.</p>
6/25	<p>The vet agreed that Fizz is losing muscle on the top of her head. We'll have to adjust her medications. I ran out of the transfer factors and didn't re-order them. My fault. I sort of stopped giving it to her after we cut her way back on the cytoxcin. It was so nice only having two pill bottles on the counter. Fizz just adores Dr. Zatkan. She spent most of the visit sitting in her lap, giving kisses. She goes in the waiting room and sits on the seats next to me. When they called "Fizz" this afternoon, everyone in the waiting room said, "that name fits". She had been entertaining them by cocking her head and looking cute at everything.</p>
6/27	<p>She's taken a little step back and we have to up one of her meds again, but not too much. I have to bathe her in dandruff shampoo. Fizz's skin is so thin and flaky and hardly any hair. We just have to keeping moving slowly – got a little over confident since she kept improving. Her seromas are almost gone on the elbows. The ointment form of Preparation H works much better than the cream did. I guess it stays on longer.</p>
7/1	<p>Poor little Fizz has no hair at all. She looks like a rat. I think it may be a hair loss that would normally occur with a heat cycle (minus the heat). She did this in the winter and I thought the hair loss was due to the steroids. She's not on steroids and hasn't been for about 2 months. The hair loss will also be making her head look smaller and less muscled. She</p>

	sure is feeling full of beans.
7/11	Took Fizz to an agility fun match last night. Fizz was in heaven getting to see her "friends" and play with doggies again. She hasn't been anywhere in months.
8/6	Fizz is recovering from a staff infection in her bladder. I just loved taking her potty every hour all night long. Her hair has grown back.
9/26	Fizz is almost off of her medication. We are down to .25 table of Imuran every other day and this week she get 3 - .25 tables of cytoxcin spread over the week (next week down to 2, etc.). She's about ready for another blood test, so we'll see how she's actually doing.
2/28/06	Fizz takes daily Transfer Factors to keep the myositis and the rest of her immune system working correctly. She's a tough little girl!!!!
	
	Fizz (with her 8 week old aunts & uncles in the background)