



Tickled Pink Weimaraner Rescue

Lollipop, Lollipop, ... Oh Lolli, Lolli, Lolli ...

Lollipop came into rescue in the middle of summer, a 12 week-old puppy, a mere skin and bone...

She was surrendered to rescue by a family who had purchased her just a few weeks prior from a local breeder.



Shortly after she joined her new family, her owners noticed her becoming ill - she was lethargic, drinking water excessively, and urinating uncontrollably. This was certainly not what the family had expected a lively Weimaraner puppy to be like!

The family took the puppy to their veterinarian, who determined that her size and weight were more like an 8 week old puppy and therefore delayed by several weeks! They did testing and

blood work and determined that Lollipop not only had an infection with Giardia, a gastrointestinal parasite that can lead to life-threatening diarrhea and dehydration, but that Lollipop's blood sugar levels were at critically high levels. Lollipop was diagnosed with juvenile Diabetes mellitus, a condition in which the body does not produce enough of the blood sugar-controlling hormone insulin, resulting in high blood glucose levels. This condition can occur in humans and canines alike at a very young age which is when it is 'juvenile' in onset. Because of her lack of insulin production, Lollipop's body could not gain weight, and kept losing water due to constant urination. This led to her being underweight and not thriving as a normal puppy her age should have been.

Immediately, Lollipop's family started her on insulin replacement, the only known treatment of diabetes in dogs, in order to lower and control her blood sugar levels. Facing a lifelong chronic medical condition for this puppy, with a condition that can be treated medically but for which there is no cure, the family realized they were unable to care for

this precious girl! They turned to the breeder which they purchased her from to return her for continued care, only to find out the breeder would take Lollipop back, but would likely euthanize her instead of providing ongoing medical care! In return, the breeder offered them a new puppy from their next litter (which was due any day) to replace her at no cost ...

The family did the honorable thing and turned to a breed-specific dog rescue organization, Tickled Pink Weimaraner

Tickled *Pink* Weimaraner Rescue

Rescue (TPWR). TPWR is a federally recognized 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of Weimaraners and Weimaraner mix breeds in need for rehabilitation and rehoming in the southwest US. Relying entirely on the help of private volunteers, and volunteer donations, TPWR operates to give even the most challenged dogs - behaviorally or medically - a chance at a normal and happy life within loving homes.

After her arrival, Lollipop spent several days with one of our volunteers where she experienced a lot of human love, as well as canine companionship of other Weimaraners in rescue, including our 15 year old senior Holly. There was an instantaneous bond between this beautiful junior and our precious senior Holly who took immediately to snuggling with little Lollipop.

Lollipop's medical treatment was continued and intensified as she was admitted to the care of a veterinary internal medicine specialist to help determine her medical needs. Her blood sugars remained high due to the fact that the surrendering family never had the opportunity to adjust the insulin dose needed to control Lollipop's blood sugar. Lolli needed to have her blood drawn regularly to check blood sugar levels (same as a human patient with diabetes has to do to control their condition). She needed to start eating a special, low-carbohydrate diet that was especially ordered for her, and she needed to be monitored very closely

for her fluid intake so that she would not suffer from dehydration.



In the meantime, Lollipop made the transition into her wonderful foster family, where she currently resides together with three other Weimaraners as well as one Weimaraner mix. Although Lollipop was doing well learning basic puppy commands such as sit and down, it was very hard for her to avoid accidents in the house, because of her frequent urination. Therefore, her foster mom got Lollipop used to wearing diapers, knowing that with improved

blood glucose control, her frequency of needing to urinate would improve - now, Lollipop was unstoppable!

After several weeks with her foster family, Lollipop faced another medical crisis - one evening, Lollipop's foster family had noticed her struggling to maneuver their



house in dim lighting, and within a few days, she was walking and bumping into walls and objects even during normal day light! Lollipop was going blind!

Urgently, Lollipop was taken to a veterinary Ophthalmology specialist. She was diagnosed with end-stage cataracts in both of her eyes. Due to her diabetes, the natural lenses, i.e. the focusing power of her eyes, had become completely clouded and Lollipop could see no more than light or darkness! Unless these cataracts were to be removed surgically, Lollipop would never see again!

Within hours from this diagnosis, TPWR started a fundraiser campaign to come up with the \$3,500 needed for Lollipop's eye surgery. All the while, working with the Internal Medicine specialist, Lollipop's insulin dosing had to be constantly adjusted due to her being a puppy and growing. Yes, Lollipop was finally growing! With the correct medical treatment, despite her eye problems, Lollipop had started putting on weight and growing - slowly but surely she was improving thanks to the wonderful and persisting care her foster family was providing.

One morning, in the late summer weeks, her foster mom took Lollipop to the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Ft. Collins, CO, to undergo anesthesia and have her cataracts removed. While under

anesthesia, the veterinary staff performed further testing. Using ultrasound technology, it was determined that Lollipop's internal organs, including her pancreas (the gland of the body that produces insulin) and her kidneys were normal, and that everything looked healthy, except for the lack of insulin production by her body. Additionally, her eyes were examined further using the same ultrasound technology. This showed that her left eye had a one hundred percent chance of improved vision once her cataract was taken out!

Unfortunately though, her right eye showed abnormalities from birth that were not treatable, determining that this eye did not and would not ever have the chance of meaningful vision.

In an hour-long operation, Lollipop's blinding cataract was removed from her left eye without any problems or complications. Following her surgery, she required regular use of eye drops to help her eye heal; she had to wear a hard collar for three weeks, so that she could not scratch her eye or bump her eye in any way. Lollipop returned to her surgeon for a check up one week after



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her eye surgery, and they were impressed and happy to see that not only was her left eye healing normally, but more so, her left eye appeared to have normal vision! Lollipop's vision had been restored!



At this time, little Lollipop is thriving! She is growing up in a loving foster home, gaining weight, playing with the other dogs in her family. With the wonderful care she is receiving, both by the medical team as well as her volunteer foster family, she is getting healthier every day!

Although her medical condition, juvenile Diabetes Mellitus, will never go away, with the right treatment and care, she has the life expectancy of a healthy Weimaraner. Despite her special needs, Lollipop is on our list of adoptable dogs, and is awaiting matching for her forever and loving home!

For many different reasons, we feel that Lollipop's story is worth telling.... Not only because, this precious little puppy struck TPWR and its volunteers with her will and determination to overcome all the obstacles in her way to a normal and healthy life. Not only, because she came from an irresponsible

and unethical breeder, who at times produced 56 Weimaraner puppies in the matter of three weeks, and whose only goal was their own commercial benefit. But much more so because Lollipop's story demonstrates that with the right care and will, many of the dogs ending up homeless, do not need to end up in kill shelters, or euthanized because one person does not or will not pull through for them! Instead, with determination and persistence, many of these animals can be rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed into a much brighter future!

It is with great appreciation of our volunteers and supporters, that we want to tell you Lollipop's story, because without their support, TPWR could not provide for these wonderful animals. It is thanks to the help and support of these amazing individuals, as well as a wonderful expert veterinary medical team at the University of Colorado School of Veterinary Medicine, we were able to offer Lollipop a chance to her bright and shining future!

Today, Lollipop's lives in the Pacific Northwest with her loving forever family, where she adores both her canine and human family members!

