

Cold Case Cockers

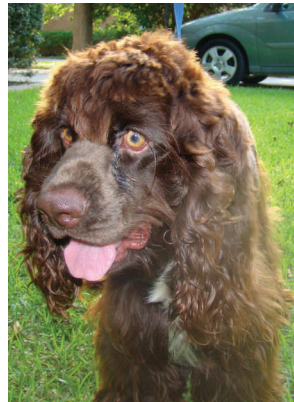
Buddy G, Case #2009-01

We won't mince words. Buddy G's problems are substantial, but we would still like to find him a home.

Back in August we jumped at the chance to take a gorgeous chocolate ten month old puppy turned into a shelter because he "didn't like his owner." We suspected there was more to the story but we were in no

way prepared for the surprises that followed.

In an unusual twist, Buddy G's foster mom was able to contact his original owner. She learned Buddy was dumped at the shelter not so much because he disliked his owner but because they couldn't get him housebroken.



Crystals in the Urine

A urinalysis revealed the reason Buddy G couldn't be housebroken --- he had crystals in his urine. **Crystals in the urine** form into stones in the bladder. When the bladder fills with urine the stones begin to move around causing discomfort. The dog soon figures out

that if he pees frequently it doesn't hurt as much.

Buddy G was put on special food to break up the stones and prevent reformation. Although the special food appears to have done its job Buddy G still often pees in the house or in

his crate. He knows to go outside but he just can't wait. A doggy door (not feasible in his foster home) would go a long way to minimizing his problem. He will need prescription food the remainder of his life.

Grand Mal Cluster Seizures

The next health issue to arise was **grand mal cluster seizures**. Not just one, but clusters of them. In these seizures he falls to the ground, flaps around, extremities are in spasm, he drools, sometimes urinates and his mouth opens and closes. After a seizure is

may be disoriented, pace about, bump into walls, or be lethargic. At one point the seizures were so bad we injected valium in his rectum to stop them.

Daily doses of liquid potassium bromide help control the seizures. He is down to having

one seizure every two to three weeks. The downside of this medication is that it makes him excessively thirsty and contributes to the need to frequently urinate. He will be on this medication the rest of his life.

Cold Case Cockers

- > Dogs who have been with us six months or longer and have not found homes
- > Older dogs
- > Minor health issues such as special food, daily eye medications, post ear surgery or suffering from allergies.
- > Behavior issues such as not liking other dogs or cats, separation anxiety, fear of strangers or just being "quirky."

We never give up solving our cold case files.

Dogs featured as Cold Case Cockers are available for adoption. Please e-mail cockerinfo@swbell.net for information on adoption.

Odd Behavior

Buddy G's foster family noticed several **odd behaviors**. He often walks in counter clockwise circles. He will sometimes pace the house for an hour or so before he settles down. Buddy literally gets under foot. He moves around quickly and in

unpredictable directions. His foster mom insists he be crated when she is working in the kitchen for fear of falling over him. He grabs at flapping pants legs and gets progressively manic about it. Fortunately he stops after a few

warnings. If he is defending himself against other dogs he quickly works himself into a mild frenzy and snaps at anything that touches him. Buddy G is not a mean or aggressive dog.

Liver Problems

In the course of monitoring Buddy's blood to see if he had therapeutic levels of the seizure medication our vet noticed his liver results were not normal. Hoping for the best, CSR found donors to underwrite a \$400 abdominal ultrasound to see what was going on with the liver and to make sure there were no stones in the bladder.

The liver is a critical organ that cleanses the blood of toxins. If the liver is not functioning properly it could be causing the seizures and some of his odd behavior. The test showed no indication of a portosystemic shunt (a blood vessel that carries blood around the liver rather than through it) however it did not rule out the presence of a small shunt. We

had a bile acid (lab blood work) test done which indicated there is a **slight problem with the way his liver** is cleansing the blood. Without further, expensive testing, we will not have a good diagnosis.

The vet has opted to treat him nutritionally. So now Buddy G is on prescription liver food in addition to the crystal food.

"Finding a home for Buddy G will be nothing short of a miracle. But here at CSR, we believe in miracles."

The Right Home for Buddy G

We have speculated that Buddy G has some sort of neurological damage. We will never know if he was born this way, injured or if liver problems contribute to his strange behaviors. A brain scan would be helpful but CSR simply cannot justify such an expenditure. We question the quality of his life but have been unable to bring ourselves to put him down.

Buddy G needs a home with people willing to deal with his multiple health issues and strange behaviors. Buddy is now fifteen months old. He crates well but in the morning

we often find pee or poop in the crate. A home with a doggy door might be a solution because he knows to go outside.

Buddy needs a calm and stable home. Our foster homes are usually rather chaotic with dogs coming and going. We don't take Buddy G to adoptions because he gets stressed being exposed to so much stimulation. We also think he would do better in a home with fewer dogs - he is fine with other dogs but they sense something isn't right about him and pick on him. His foster family keeps a close eye on him but know

there is a better place for him.

He is an expensive dog to own (special food, regular blood work, medications and additional testing) and his problems may not be solvable.

Buddy has many wonderful qualities too. He is trainable and has learned to "kennel" up for a treat. He loves to "sunbathe" inside or outdoors. Most of all he is a loving dog who likes human touch and attention. If anyone is willing to take on Buddy G's multiple special needs please e-mail cockerinfo@swbell.net.