



This is my baby boy Nickel. He is a 6 year old Golden Retriever with an abundance of energy and life. I have raised Nickel since he was six months old and he has been a faithful and loving companion to me since the very first kiss/lick. Nickel has always been a strong and healthy dog....always the first to grab a stick, fetch and play. He has even earned the nickname "bobble head" because his head is always shaking, tail wagging and he's ready to play.....whenever, wherever and with whom ever. Always a hearty eater it came to my attention when Nickel would no longer eat his favorite meals, gobble down his favorite treats or even muster the energy to play. I immediately knew something was wrong with my boy as did his older and younger sister. They couldn't even get him to play.....a rarity in massive proportion!!!! Upon visiting the Vet (his least favorite place on Earth) Nickel was examined and I was told that a mass could be felt in his abdomen. Relatively healthy for most of his life

sans a bout of stomach trouble here or there I was SHOCKED!!!! Nickel was to undergo a CT scan and blood work to tell us what exactly was going on. Bad news came that evening with a rough diagnosis of an 18 CM tumor in his stomach with it having spread into his lymph nodes. Not quite sure if the mass was malignant Nickel would have to undergo a biopsy....a very painful procedure having to have 5 to 7 needles stuck into his stomach to collect cells from the mass. Holding vigil at the hospital I anxiously awaited the outcome....hoping in all my heart that the inevitable would not come to pass. NICKEL HAD EARLY STAGE 4 LYMPHOMA. Eyes swollen shut from crying and a heavy heart I left my baby at the hospital overnight for more testing and was told that I would be able to meet with the Oncologist that following day. After a night of no sleep and crocodile tears I gathered my strength to face whatever we had to deal with. DEATH or EUTHANASIA flashed through my mind every second in that 24 hour period. Finally, upon speaking with Dr. Skope my mind, body and eyes finally got the small reprieve they desperately needed. NICKEL WAS NOT SENTENCED TO DEATH!!!! Dr. Skope outlined a treatment program of Chemotherapy for Nickel and told me his odds, which were not exactly what I wanted to hear but it gave me hope, and hope is exactly what one needs when dealing with this disease. An outline of Nickel's treatment and the price it was going to cost deterred my spirit....BUT....as long as Nickel had a fighting chance I vowed then and there to not abandon my baby boy NO MATTER WHAT!!!! I have since been able to afford hospital bills and his first 3 chemo treatments but unfortunately I have come to a crossroads. Working 2 to 3 jobs has proven to help but not enough. I am currently in the process of trying to find a residence that will be more affordable and I can get on my feet and pay for his treatment. I am currently trying everything I can to keep him healthy and strong through the treatments. He is given kale, berries, fresh chicken, carrots, fish oil/salmon, broccoli and whatever else I can afford to keep his diet grain free and starve the cancer cells while affording his healthy cells the building blocks they need flourish. Nickel is doing relatively well considering the circumstances and I will NEVER give up the fight to help him beat this debilitating disease.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!!! Paws 4 A Cure and all the donors for your generosity, caring and compassion. Together Nickel and I will beat cancer and he will live to be a strong, healthy and energetic "bobble head" again. Thank you so very much for taking the time to read our story and please keep Nickel in your hearts and send him positive energy and prayers.

Thank You From The Bottom of our Hearts,
Derek and Nickel