

Oliver came to me from somewhere in rural Alabama. A rescue group was kind enough to bring him to the local Humane Society. Once I saw Oliver in person, it was love at first sight. He weighed 3 lbs and 2 oz and was the cutest thing I had ever seen. He kissed me all over my face and so home with me he went. Oliver is a small dog with a big heart and a spunky personality.

I remember seeing him play as a puppy and out of nowhere something would spook him. I remember joking about it and he would resume his play. When Oliver was about ten months old something spooked him bad. He was clearly terrified; he had no balance, and just wanted to be held. He kept snapping his head to the left as if he was seeing something fly by (seizure). My heart sank. That episode lasted 10 terrifying minutes. The next morning I took him to the Humane Society Wellness Clinic where he receives his routine care and they ran a few tests. I ended up being referred out because they could not treat him and as they accurately suspected, little Oliver needed surgery for a liver shunt (A vein takes Oliver's blood away from his liver instead of through it, so the majority of Oliver's blood does not get cleaned through the liver and becomes toxic). Around the same time my financial situation changed. I have a sick puppy and just fell into a bad financial situation from one day to the next. Getting Oliver properly diagnosed and medically managed has quickly eaten through my rainy day fund. Surgery is the only thing that can give Oliver a normal life. A life where I don't have to worry about the brain damage being caused when these episodes occur; a life where Oliver can eat normal portions of food and play outside till he tires; a life where toxins don't build up in his blood stream to the point of neurological damage. I would give anything for my baby to be rid of his condition. He is my heart and brightens my day everyday. There is no worse feeling than to feel like you cannot fulfill the obligation you have to your baby, all the while seeing them suffer. I am ever so grateful to Paws 4 A Cure, and to Keri, for being so selfless and dedicating so much time and effort to such an important cause. We thank you for your consideration of Oliver's surgery.

Sincerely,
Erika and Oliver