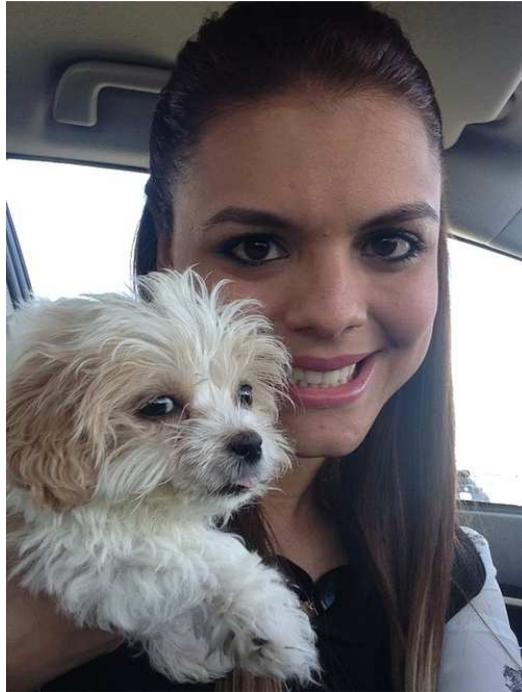


Penelope is this adorable 14-week-old Maltese/Poodle puppy with a severe heart defect called a PDA, or Patent Ductus Arteriosus: a shunt in the heart that did not close at birth. It is so severe that Penelope has already entered a state of Congestive Heart Failure, or CHF. She wheezes and coughs as fluid backs up into her lungs. She needs occasional oxygen to help her breathe.



Penelope's mom works hard to support herself and her disabled mother, but this is not enough to afford the \$8,000 surgery that Penelope needs in order to live.

"Penelope is an adorable puppy who catches everyone's eye anywhere she goes. Her name was given because she is so charming and lovely that I couldn't think of another name that can describe these qualities better than 'Penelope.' She has a signature, which is sleeping with her tongue sticking outside her mouth, and that is the cutest thing ever," says Penelope's mom.



One day, when Penelope's mom came home from work, she found Penelope lying on the floor, pale, and coughing like she was choking. She rushed her to the nearest emergency vet, where they were able to administer medications that

saved Penelope's life and ultimately bought her some time. But her defect is so severe that she won't live long with just medication management – she needs surgery in order to save her life.



Penelope needs surgery within two weeks to increase her chances of living more than a few months. The surgery is very expensive (around \$8000), but if she receives it, she will live.

