

Mandy has chosen this as Willows Song: The Perishers Let There Be Morning (Omitting the first verse)

Let the sun rise
Let the birds sing
Let there be light
Let there be morning
I dont know how
I made it till now
Let there be light
Let there be morning

Hello future goodbye past
Now each breath can be my last
Will I see another dawn?
Will I be reborn?

I have been keeping a diary on Willow.

Christine

Thursday, February 5th (#1):

Our latest house guest came to us last night. Briefly, she was "surrendered" to the Napanee SPCA because the fellow couldn't afford to put her down! Story goes, she disappeared "some time ago" for 10 days and hasn't been the same since.

The Napanee SPCA took her to L & A where Mandy was working. By all accounts, she is a yellow lab, spayed, approximately 7 years old and weighs **27 lbs!!!** To put that in perspective, she is the same height as Auden and True who weigh 67 lbs. Spirit, who is much shorter and we still consider skinny weighs 40 lbs. She drools continually and has almost no interest in eating. We got her to eat a little scrambled egg and salmon last night. She even turned down green tripe! She can barely stand she is so weak but when she does she wags her tail. She is extremely sweet and has beautiful

brown eyes.

Blood work was done and her kidneys, liver and pancreas are all surprisingly well within normal ranges. She had chest and abdomen xrays done and they are unremarkable, so no signs of cancer. She was sedated today to check her throat for a mass or foreign body and nothing was found. She is a puzzle to be sure. Tomorrow she will probably have a barium series done and no doubt they will put in a nasoesophageal tube to feed her (which will be passed through her nose straight into her oesophagus and glued or sutured to the top of her head). The vets are determined to give her a chance and we are planning to adopt her, at least while she gains the weight she needs as she can travel with Mandy back and forth to work so that she can be fed. The shelter will no doubt not have the money she will require for her medical bills so she really has few options.

Once we have the go ahead, I will send you some photos but be warned, they are hard to look at! So when you are lighting a candle and saying a prayer for Mark tonight please include her in your thoughts.

We are in the process of deciding on a name that befits her.

Thursday, February 5th (#2):

She ours. We had to act quickly as the Shelter wouldn't be able to justify the daily expenses and tomorrow she will need more.

Photos are attached. They are graphic. Doesn't she have a beautiful face though!

Friday, February 6th:

Found out through the little medical records there are (from another vet clinic), that this lady is going to be 10 years old on April 28th. This "other clinic" saw her in October and they were told that she had been missing for 6 weeks (not 10 days) and came back emaciated!

However, last night, she spent the evening curled up in a blanket on the couch beside, of all dogs, Eliot! She has eaten small amounts of salmon and is having a barium series done this morning. We actually hope something

shows up so that we know what we are dealing with. (Dr.) Mark deWolde said she is the worst case of neglect he has ever had come into his clinic. The vets seem committed to finding out what is wrong with her and she has quickly stolen the hearts of all the girls at all three clinics. Mark decided to hold off on the naso feeding tube until the barium series has been read by the radiologist in California.

We are considering calling her **Willow**.

Saturday, February 7th:

The results of the barium series **Willow** (officially her name now) had done on Friday show something that resembles an apple core lodged in her stomach and something "lateral" in her intestines. Surgery, is her only hope. I believe there is a reason that she wound up where Mandy works when she was working! The old girl obviously has a strong will to live and if she can just make it through the surgery, I think we may be celebrating a very special 10th birthday on April 28th.

The exploratory surgery that was to have been done today has been rescheduled for Monday; Mark feeling it in Willows best interests to do the surgery when there are more hands and fresher hands available because she is such a high risk for surgery.

Sunday, February 8th:

Tomorrow, **Willow** will have exploratory surgery. She follows Mandy around the house like Mary had a little Lamb. She is starting to show an interest in eating and as well as the salmon, and scrambled eggs, Mandy has managed to get her to eat small amounts of ground beef & rice and yoghurt over the last few days. If she drinks too much water at one time, she brings it all back so Mandy is going to give her some subcutaneous fluids tonight to try to make sure she is hydrated for her surgery tomorrow.

Monday, February 9th:

Willow is scheduled for her exploratory surgery at 12:00 today. Mark will be performing the surgery and Mandy will assist. She is in good hands and

all we can do now is hope that she has the strength to survive. Its amazing that shes made it this far so lets hope and pray that she is truly a miracle dog.

Sadly, there won't be another dawn for Willow.
When they opened Willow up, they discovered that 1/2 her stomach was a tumour. Unfortunately, it didnt show up on the abdominal x-rays from last Wednesday. She's now free of pain. I wish I could say the same for the rest of us.

Thanks for caring and listening.

Christine & Mandy


