

OWDEN:

I, Maureen Cattieu, director and founder of Cartagena Paws Animal Rescue have never seen a case like Owden's in my many years of rescuing animals. I have seen horrific sights, violence and pure evil taken out on animals, but I have never had a rescue like Owden. Owden has literally been through just about everything a street dog can suffer from: violence, abuse, neglect, abandonment, cancer, heartworm, and distemper. Yet, he remains one of the most loyal, loving, and playful dogs.

For those who don't know Owden, here is a quick overview of his story: Owden is a young Beagle Mix born in Cartagena. He was quickly abandoned in the streets as a young puppy. Without an owner, vet care, or daily nutrients, Owden soon fell sick with a deadly virus (distemper). Owden is clearly a fighter and managed to survive distemper on his own, a very rare and unusual occurrence. Despite his amazing survival from distemper, Owden did suffer significant neurological damage to both his spine and brain as a result of the virus. The damage will permanently affect how Owden walks (sideways and a bit off balance).

Despite a weakened immune system from distemper, Owden managed to make it to his first birthday. Soon after reaching a year old, Owden, who was never neutered, began pursuing young female dogs in heat. Unfortunately, he contacted TVT, a vicious venereal disease commonly found in stray dog populations who are not neutered or spayed. Over time, Owden's infection grew into large, painful, and cancerous tumors, which consistently dripped blood from his genitals. Being the fighter that he is, Owden continued to fight to survive in the unfriendly streets of Cartagena, where stray dogs are seen as filthy nuisances undeserving of even the most basic show of compassion.

Just when Owden thought the worst was behind him, he became infected with another deadly disease (heartworm). Most animals in Owden's condition would not survive this without expensive injectable medication. Shortly after contracting heartworm, Owden was out one night looking for food scraps. He ran into the wrong person, and was viciously attacked with a machete across his face. The machete had severed through Owden's eye and cheek. The pain was horrific, yet no one stopped to help poor Owden. Owden ran off and looked for coverage. We do not know how long Owden laid outside in a corner of the street, but we do know it was several days as his wounds were filled with maggots. The infection from this vicious attack spread; Owden was in desperate need of help. This time, he was not in a position to recover on his own. Just when all hope seemed lost, Owden was found one morning by a woman named Blanca in front of a clinic in town. She took him to the vet for his eye. The vet immediately performed surgery on his eye and cheek in an attempt to save the eye.

Unfortunately, Owden only has 10% vision in the injured eye. Shortly after his rescue by Blanca, Cartagena Paws learned of Owden's story and knew it had to help give Owden a second chance at life. Cartagena Paws arranged a number of treatments to save his life, i.e. treat his eye, heartworm, TVT and parasite infection. There is no denying that Owden is a very special dog. He was transported to Medellin, Colombia to get the care and attention he needs during his recovery. He is currently in foster care where he displays an undying loyalty and love to everyone that he comes across, despite the horrific interactions he previously had with humans.

Owden has responded positively to all but one of these treatments, TVT. Unfortunately, the tumors caused by TVT showed no response to the chemotherapy, i.e. Vincristine. After 6 chemotherapy sessions, Owden's tumors continue to grow rather than shrink. Owden needed surgery to remove the large and painful cancerous cells, and then a new form of chemotherapy was performed. After 8 sessions, and lab tests sent out to pathologists, Owden was no longer positive for TVT and his tumors were gone. He has been in recovery for over a year now and has a lovely family waiting for him in Buffalo, NY.

Please help us get him to safety!

