

The Incredible Journey of Ranger

On March 11th, 2009 in walked a skinny yet handsome dog. He was found wandering with no identification and brought in by a concerned citizen. His face was graying and eyes a little droopy, as if to say, "I'm quite tired and ready for my bed and a sip of water if you please." Upon his arrival, it was obvious he was a retired hunting dog who had logged many



miles in the field. We decided to name him "Ranger". Then everyone's jaws dropped as the poor old dog turned around and a horrific discovery was made. He had a grapefruit sized tumor painfully dangling from his hind quarters. Multiple sets of hands quickly went to Ranger's soft head to comfort him. It was clear to the staff that this dog would take a lot of time, care, money, and love to get him ready for adoption. However, his loving demeanor, happy spirit, and adorable antics were more than worth it.

So Ranger's journey began. His initial exam proved his age to be ten to thirteen years old, badly in need of a dental, intact, and needing to put on some weight. First on the agenda was arranging to have his tumor removed, at the same time as his neuter. A generous veterinarian was set to perform his much needed surgeries on April 20th, just enough time to get him at a good weight. This wasn't too much of a challenge, as he ate his food with gusto and enjoyed his treats. His surgeries went well, and the tumor was sent out to test its status.

While waiting for the results from Ranger's biopsy, he recovered quickly at Northwoods. It was obvious he was feeling a huge relief from not having a heavy mass swaying with every move he made. He enjoyed a comfortable bed, playtime, treats, and an abundance of love from staff. He had quickly worked his way into everyone's heart with his upbeat attitude toward life, no matter what he was going through. Also during this waiting period, Ranger visited the doggie dentist, where he got his pearly whites back and could smile with pride.

The results finally arrived on Ranger's biopsy, and although the news wasn't good, it was what we sadly expected. However, as he was the sweetest dog we had seen in awhile, we knew the results wouldn't stop him from finding a wonderful home to retire in. Not long after the news, an excited volunteer came to ask more about Ranger and if she could take him home for a bit. Figuring there wouldn't be anyone who could resist loving Ranger and adopting him into their family, it came to no surprise to staff that the volunteer would be adopting him. This was great news, as we knew we would be able to stay updated on Ranger, with photos of him in his happy home. On May 22nd Ranger was officially a part of a wonderful family to pamper him in his old age. Ranger's new family consists of three other dogs that he fits right in with, and most importantly, a giant bed to curl up in with his loving owners. The pictures say it all to prove he is one happy and lucky dog.



The happy ending that Ranger received, is what we desire for all of our animals. Every time the staff and volunteers would look into Ranger's peaceful eyes, we were reminded of why we are here doing what we do to help so many animals we care for. Having animals like Ranger come through Northwoods is the fuel we need to be reminded of the difference that can be made by stopping and taking the time to simply love.

