My 8+ year old male Black Labrador Retriever has been diagnosed with diabetes in January 2016. Jake is also battling Lyme's Disease for the past 3 years. Jake has been somewhat obese for his breed over the years, weighing in at 120+ lbs. Due to his weight Jake experiences difficulty with stairs. After a couple of weeks on insulin Jake had a petit mal seizure which routine blood work showed he needed his dosage adjusted.

It was about June when I discovered Jake was bumping into doors/walls and having a hard time focusing his eyes on treats or looking at you when calling his name. He was also increasingly using his nose to sense things around him. Jake was due for another blood test and the day before seeing his Vet he had a grand mal seizure that lasted about 5 minutes. At the Vet's the next day, while waiting for the diabetic blood test results the Vet recommended a full blood panel due to his recent seizure both tests were within normal range. At the visit I mentioned Jake's recent eyesight change. The Vet informed me that dogs with diabetes have a tendency of developing cataracts which eventually leads to blindness. An eye specialist/Opthalmologist was then recommended -- Daniel Binder, DVM, PhD of Eye Care for Animals.

I called Dr. Binder's office the end of August. Dr. Binder's staff person informed me of the office fees for the 3 different procedures for Jake's visit. The initial visit – a brief exam of Jake's eyes and then an indepth consultation of cataracts and how it impacts a dog's vision. Dr. also informed me - of all dog breeds - Labrador Retriever's are the most likely breed to develop cataracts as a result of diabetes. Findings of the initial visit – eye drops were recommended to treat Jake until his next visit. A couple of days later, Jake underwent preoperative testing with mild sedation. The Dr was able to check the health of the retina or nerve layer in the back of the eye via 2 special tests called ERG (electroretinogram) and ultrasound. The Dr verified that Jake was a good healthy candidate for cataract surgery of both eyes. A surgery date of Thursday, 9/22/16 had been scheduled. 3 days prior to the surgery date, I need to administer 2 other eye drop medications given to me by Dr. Binder, in addition to the 1 Jake is on now.

I've sent online applications to a couple of pet funding organizations referred to me – PAWS 4 A CURE was one of the organizations! Today, I received great news that PAWS 4 A CURE approved financial assistance for Jake's specialized veterinary services in the amount of $500.00! May I say that the Marcotte family sincerely appreciates the generous donation and also want to thank the donors for their contribution towards Jake's treatment in restoring his vision. More importantly -- for Jake's quality of life as he advances in age.