Dear Paws 4 A Cure,

I would like to thank you all for your compassion to the animals that we consider our family, and for the gracious donations that allow struggling pet owners to be able to keep these furry companions with us. Words cannot describe how thankful and blessed I feel to have found this organization.

Napoleon has been an anchor in our family since we got him. We had adopted him from an old farm in Texas where he had been in poor health and condition for most of his puppyhood. He was known as the "low man on the totem pole" there and was constantly attacked by the other dogs on the property due to his submissive and quiet nature. Once we brought him home to Colorado, he finally came out of his shell, learned to trust people and other animals, and has been loving life ever since! He loves to spend his days lounging in the living room and barking at people walking their dogs. He was made quite a name for himself in our neighborhood.

In September 2012, our beloved Napoleon was diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer). I was utterly heartbroken and in despair when I was told he had a few months to live. I felt completely helpless because I knew I would not be able to afford the extensive pain medication, let alone the treatment, he deserved. He has always been there for me and would do anything to make me happy, and I felt horrible that I did not have the means to do the same.

Luckily, Napoleon was eligible to participate in a research study for dogs with Osteosarcoma. This allowed us the ability to get him treated soon after we had discovered the cancer. In October 2012, Napoleon received a front leg amputation and his first dose of chemotherapy. After one week, he was already gaining his strength back. My partner and I had been sleeping on the floor with him at night to better accommodate him, but one night he climbed the stairs on his own and was ready to get back to his old routine. Over the next few months, he had received another dose of chemotherapy and seemed to heal and gain his health back in a very big way.

Unfortunately, just before the Christmas holiday, we had noticed his incision was tender to the touch and he seemed to be in a great deal of pain. We were initially told he had possibly hurt his neck and that was why he was randomly crying out when he pet him. On Sunday, December 16th, only days after being seen last, we rushed his to urgent care. We knew something was gravely wrong as he was unresponsive and his incision had swelled tremendously overnight. After much despair and stress, we found out that he had been harboring an infection since his leg amputation. Luckily, our vets at CSU were wonderful and were able to bring Napoleon back from the brink of death. He had to recently have surgery to remove dead tissue that was damaged from the infection. However, over the last three weeks, he has made a huge recovery.

We were very fortunate to find CSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. They not only gave us treatment options, but suggested that we research grants to help us afford the treatment he would quickly need. I am truly blessed that I was able to locate this organization and be able to quality for the grant. With all your help from Paws 4 A Cure, Napoleon is now able to get the treatment he needs, and he is even surprising the vets at CSU with how great he is healing. It has only been three weeks, but he is making leaps and bounds and is exceeding my own expectations every day. I owe this all to you guys; I know that his (and my) quality of life completely changed for the better because of all the compassion and help we have received from this organization.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart