



**VCSG**

# Veterinary Care & Specialty Group

3201 Broad Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37408  
info@vcsgvets.com  
www.vcsgvets.com

*24/7/365*



**March 2021**

**423-591-0270**

In this edition.....

Meet Toby (pp. 1, 3)

Ask the Vet (p. 2)

Upcoming event - Journal Club (p. 1)

**Connect with us on  
social media!**



@VCSGvets



@vcsg\_24\_hour\_emergency\_vet

## MEET TOBY



It was love at first sight! When Toby, a 15-pound dachshund mix, came through the front doors of VCSG, he stole the hearts of everyone who met him. He was unable to walk without assistance, but his disability did not seem to bother him. Totally unaware of any limitations, Toby was the happiest little guy. His joy was contagious!

In October of 2020, Toby came to see us after being unable to walk for several days. After a neurological examination, he was scheduled for an MRI the next day. The results of the MRI revealed a herniated disc at T13-L1, which caused marked left ventral compression of the spinal cord. Toby also had swelling of the spinal cord due to the compression.

Severe damage to the spinal cord had resulted.

Toby was enrolled in the VCSG Veterinary Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Program under the direction of David Levine, PT, PhD, DPT, CCRP, and Ashley Wheeler, LVMT.

Through the therapies of underwater treadmill, laser treatment, land treadmill, and balance equipment, the goal was to restore as much mobility as possible. Dr. Levine and

Ashley worked on Toby's balance and proprioception (perception of awareness of the position and movement of the body), the strengthening of his core, and his mobility in general.

(Continued on page 3)

**Journal Club**

**Wednesday, April 7**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Dr. Stefanie Sullivan**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Details coming soon  
on our website.**



## Vader's Friends of the Month



Vader Pullen



## Ask the Vet: Electrophysiology for the diagnosis and management of neurological conditions

Christiane Massicotte, DVM, MS, PhD  
Diplomate, ACVIM (Neurology)

Electrophysiology studies are commonly used in humans and animals to acquire more information regarding the function of the central and peripheral nervous systems in the presence of disease processes and for monitoring these conditions overtime. Complete electrodiagnostic testing is now available at VCSG. Indications for each electrodiagnostic test are presented in the following table.

Electrodiagnostic tests	Indications
Electroencephalogram (EEG)	Seizures (or not?) Generalized or partial Clinical or subclinical Encephalitis Hydrocephalus Localization of seizure focus Seizure monitoring in-hospital/Complete
Brain auditory evoked response (BAER)	Hearing test - Air-click - Bone stimulation
Electromyogram (EMG)	Neurogenic or orthopedic muscle atrophy Focal or generalized Clinical or subclinical Abnormal electrical activity - Myositis - Myopathies - Neuropathies
Nerve studies (NCV)	Axonopathies or demyelination Focal or generalized Clinical so subclinical Proximal or distal
Single fiber EMG (Jitters)	Myasthenia Gravis - Congenital - Acquired
Repetitive nerve stimulation (RNS)	Myasthenia Gravis Botulism

If you have any questions regarding these procedures or their benefits in accurately evaluating the function of the nervous system, please contact the neurology department at VCSG.





# Veterinary Care & Specialty Group

423-591-0270

24/7/365

(Continued from page 1)

After spending several months in the Veterinary Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation program at VCSG, Toby slowly began to regain some degree of mobility. With the help of Ashley and a sling, Toby would run (yes, RUN!) up and down the halls of the hospital. Ashley struggled to keep up with him!

At this point, Dr. Levine and Ashley reached out to Walkin' Pets by HandicappedPets.com. This incredible company is located in New Hampshire and is committed to helping elderly, disabled, or injured pets improve their quality of life. The mission of Walkin' Pets by HandicappedPets.com is the following: We believe that pets are family and that elderly, disabled, and handicapped pets deserve to live a happy, healthy life.

Within a few minutes of seeing a video of Toby running down the hallway in his sling, Debbie Tylus, the Veterinary Sales Manager of Walkin' Pets, responded, "It is with pleasure that we help Toby and will donate a wheelchair for him."

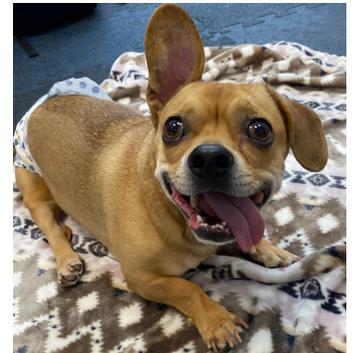
On February 2, Toby's new wheelchair arrived at VCSG. After Ashley strapped Toby into his wheelchair, she recalls her favorite memory --- when Toby looked up at her, realized she was not supporting him, and, as Ashley remembers, "off he took" running down the hall with his newfound freedom! Since then, Toby is recovering some of his general mobility. With Toby's "mom" working on his exercises at home, Ashley is continuing his rehabilitation program with laser, underwater treadmill, and land treadmill activities. Toby cannot support his own weight, but he is moving his legs for the first time in four months....and his tail has started wagging, too! The little guy truly does not realize that he has any physical challenges at all.

Walkin' Pets has opened up a new world for Toby. VCSG has given Toby a new quality of life in helping with his rehabilitation, but Toby is the one who has given all of us the biggest gift of all....and that gift is his joy of living.

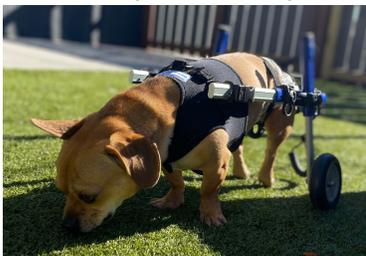


Toby and Ashley

THANK YOU TO  
**Walkin' Pets**  
by [handicappedpets.com](http://handicappedpets.com)



Scan for a glimpse of Toby's journey



Toby and Dr. Groman