

General observations

- Panting a lot less
- Walking around, still leaning and somewhat uncoordinated
- Far fewer alligator rolls
- Good appetite
- Gets in and out of dog bed
- Follows me to bathroom
- More alert and lively
- Briefly up on hind legs a couple of times
- Resting more comfortably
- Now (mid-April)
 - starting to climb up my legs; can stay on hind legs for extended periods
 - Coordination still a little off when she wakes up

Mar 13

- Approx 20:00 - arrived home, laid either on my chest or at my side on the couch. Ate most of a container of wet dog food, drank
- Approx 20:45 - taken outside and held to pee; unknown if she did; back to couch to lay
- Approx 23:00 - got really restless on the couch, tried to get down. Put her on the floor and she ran around the house. She was a little shaky to start, ran sort of sideways, and flopped a few times, but was definitely walking/running. Also pooped. Finally settled on a blanket on the floor.
- 00:00 - back on couch, panting not nearly as much

March 14

- 06:30 - took pill; we went upstairs and she walked around the bathroom, and peed
- 11:15ish - walked a little, drank. After we got downstairs, we swaddled her and put her in a dog bed on the floor. She still spins when we pick her up or put her down, but generally not as she's laying there.
- 18:00 - all day in dog bed on floor; moved around but no flopping. Fed and watered and pillled her; she wanted on the floor and is running around the first floor. She's unsteady and falls a bunch, but is making her way around (and pooping). Laid down on a blanket on the floor
- 18:30ish - moved her to couch. One sudden flop, but mostly laying quietly.

March 15

- 00:00 onward - mostly sleeping, occasional sudden rolls
- 06:00 - pill, walk around downstairs, upstairs to bed. Wandered around bed a bit then settled.
- 09:30 - downstairs, walked around, wanted to go out with other dogs. Got onto the dog bed on the floor herself, then went outside with Curtis. Came back in, walked a bit, laid on the floor then on the dog bed. Been on the bed most of the day.
- 13:30 - decided to walk, rolled a couple of times, returned to a different blanket on the floor.
- 14:30 - Cuddled in my arms, for the first time in a while laid "upright" to have tummy rubbed; back on dog bed
- 15:00 - barked at delivery person at front door (first time since she became ill!)
- 15:30 - up and about, walking around. Note that it sometimes takes her a couple of tries to get started, and she falls a lot, but does walk/run shakily. Followed me to the bathroom, but couldn't get over the chair base to come in.
- 17:30 - Hurried over to get treats, then followed me to the bathroom. Pillled and fed her; no rolling on pickup or put down. On dog bed for now.
- Quiet night, a little restless a couple of times and wanted (and was put) on the floor, but put back up and slept. Very few rolls, and some of them purposeful.

March 16

- 06:30 - Pillled and went upstairs, no squirming on transfers. Put on floor, did her business, took her to bed. Slept with no restlessness or flopping.

- 10:00 - she either jumped, fell or did a controlled slip off the bed and walked into the bathroom to get water. No flopping on transfers; when downstairs tried to go outside. UP ON HIND LEGS TWICE FOR TREATS!!!! Retired to dog bed.
- 12:15 - followed me to bathroom; this time squeezed between the wall and the chair base to get in. Up to hind legs to be picked up (unfortunately, couldn't stay up long enough). Walked back out either between or over chair base. Went to blanket by hearth.
- Walked around several times, otherwise stayed in dog bed or blanket by hearth. Went to water bowl after being fed.
- 20:00 - Ran outside with the other dogs.
- Overnight - slept except when she wanted off the couch for something. Uncontrolled rolls infrequent.

March 17

- Tried to go outside again in the morning
- Spent the day sleeping and walking around. Gets in and out of the dog bed herself. Follows me to the bathroom about half the time. Stood straight briefly while waiting for me to roll by.
- 16:00 - haven't seen any rolls today except one when I picked her up to bring her downstairs, and then only one. I've noticed that if she rolls, it's more likely to be in the evening.
- Also, yesterday and today she's barking when someone comes to the front door - something she hadn't done once she became ill. Just now, she started moving toward the door, too, at least a little.

March 18

- Sleeping most of the day (but then, so were the rest). Walked around in the afternoon and evening.
- Very few, if any rolls

March 19

- Walking better; can stay up longer and stand without falling over.
- Still leaning a bit, and still with head tilt
- Stood up on hind legs to beg for treats with front paws on couch - actually stood there for a noticeable amount of time
- When I went to pick her up, started to get up on hind legs
- No rolls

March 20

- Jumped / fell off bed (voluntarily)
- Getting up on hind legs to be picked up
- Actually *ran* (as opposed to walking really fast) in backyard
- Barked as normal outside and when someone came to the door
- Jumped down from couch to trot to the front door when the doorbell rang
- Head tilt seems less pronounced - closer to a 45 degree angle than a 90 degree angle

March 21

- Voluntarily ate dry dog food
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April 16

- Approx 21:45, had a short (less than 1 min) seizure - shaking, but not terribly stiff. The she went back to normal - panting, but no confusion, not dazed. I think it started at her rear end and then involved her whole body. After a few minutes of panting, she asked to get down and walked around the floor just fine.
 - The only difference from the normal routine was that she was given different wet food plus some dry food in the morning and at night. Also, she was outside for longer than usual.
 - Maybe a little dehydrated? Though she did drink earlier in the evening and there's always water available.
 - I called AMC immediately and talked to Charmaine; she advised monitoring her but not needing to take her in unless she has more and/or cluster seizures.

- At 22:48, she climbed up my leg!!! 😊

April 17

- Approx 14:56, had a short (less than 1 min) seizure - shaking, but not stiff. Again, went back to normal quickly, panting but no confusion, not dazed. Walked around normally afterward.
 - 5-10 min before the seizure, she'd been sleeping, then followed me to the bathroom, but was walking a little unsteadily. She laid back down, then had the seizure.
 - Called AMC and spoke with Dr Kern; he said to increase her Prednisone to a full pill twice a day, and if she has more seizures after 48 hours, or if they increase before then, call. We can wait for her Wednesday appt otherwise to take her in.
 - Gave her 1/2 pill at approx 15:10.
 - Put her on the floor and she walked around ok, then up on her back legs to ask to be picked up again. Jumped down from the couch and is walking around more steadily.
- Approx 16:31 brief seizure? Heard her panting heavily, and saw some saliva on the couch.
- Full pill at 21:00

April 21

- Full pills twice a day since the 17th.
- No more seizures
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April 22

- Mindy into AMC for 24-hour infusion, approx 9am

April 23

- Mindy home approx 15:30
- Walked around, ate, drank, did her business
- 18:27 - shaking episode, took video, emailed it and called AMC
- While holding her for an hour after, she had some almost- episodes - odd panting, head jerks
- On couch, more almost-episodes, got video
- Approx 21:00, call back from Charmaine; Dr. Swanson said to keep on with current plan, would call me in the morning
- Approx 22:30-22:45, another episode
- 23:58, another episode; lasted a liittle longer than others but still under a minute. Recovery took longer, though - heavy panting for 10 min approx
- Unsteady on her feet for a bit when she got off the couch after, then steadied. Can still balance on hind legs

April 24

- Episode just before 5am
- Episode just after 5am. Recovery about 10 min
- Short episode 7:10, recovery about 1 min.
- 10:45 longer episode - about 2 min, but short recovery. (Video)
- Spoke with Dr Swanson late afternoon
 - Added anti-seizure meds
 - Added another pill for her MUE
 - Watch her over the weekend
 - Talk next week
- Gave her all pills around 17:00, then fed her
 - She didn't eat all of her food (maybe 2/3?) but went to sleep
 - Slept heavily all night
- Gave her Keppra at about 22:00

April 25

- Gave her Keppra and Prednisone about 6:45
- Very unsteady, didn't really want to wake up but did walk around a little and went outside. Ran while she was out there.
- Took her upstairs, and she walked around a little, then put her on the bed
- 10:00 put her on the floor, she walked around a little but mostly slept while I did my morning routine
- Back downstairs around 11:14, she headed for the food bowls and was scrounging (only a little of hard food left from the other dogs).
- Fed her - she ate the whole bowl and looked for more.
- Walked around, did her business, now (12:00) sleeping.

April 26

- Mindy almost had a seizure just before her 22:00 anti-seizure pill - she "chomped", then shook her head a few times, but it was a purposeful shake, like she was trying to dislodge something. She never went into a full seizure.
- Other than that, no seizures since the one on April 24.
- However, she seems to have lost ground from her pre-seizure level. She's not jumping up on her hind legs; she did go down 3 stairs (but I didn't try more, even though she wanted to start down earlier in the day from the top). She's not following me to the bathroom, though she is walking around (though falling more than she had been). She's alert, perks up when you call her (but doesn't necessarily come close enough to be picked up), is eating well, and drinking, and eliminating.
- She's more lethargic than before, but not "sedated"

April 27

- Spoke with Dr. Swanson; let the pills work and touch base in a week
- No real change until about 20:00, when she had tremors, mostly on the left side. Later her legs moved seemingly involuntarily (left ones; right didn't move but weren't paralyzed). After about 2 hours and a lot of water, they stopped (she hadn't drunk much most of the day, but did eat).

April 28

- Tremors starting about 11:30 or so, and continued for a long while, but not so many leg movements.
- When I put her on the floor, she didn't want to move much.
- Later sometime after her 14:00 pill she did start moving a bit.
- Slept around 18:00; woke her for the 22:00 pill and she moved around and eliminated.
- Eating well, drinking.

April 29

- More alert, more movement - started down the hall immediately after being put down at the top of the stairs at 6:00
- We all went back to bed; she was less interested in getting up around 09:45, but did start moving around and was interested in going outside.
- Ate well, and has been either walking around or resting since (it's about 13:30 now)
- Her gait is more steady, and she's not falling over nearly as much.

May 13

- No seizures or tremors since April 28's tremors!
- Missed the May 12 22:00 anti-seizure pill (I thought she'd taken it, but she managed to spit it out and it stuck in her fur, as I discovered this morning)
- She's been less happy about taking pills - the pill pockets aren't working anymore. So, we do it the hard way. :-)
- She's also been less interested in her dog food, but more than happy to eat the others' food or people

food. So, I'm not really worried about her appetite. Drinking and eliminating are fine.

- She's going up and down stairs, jumping off the couch, getting up on her hind legs to be picked up, and even trying to jump on the recliner footrest when it's partially up. (She didn't always make it before, so I'm not concerned that she's not jumping up there now; I'm just happy she can try.)
- Note to me: Cytosine shots today and tomorrow.
- Not sure if she got all of her 14:00 anti-seizure pill; part of one was stuck in her fur, and I don't know if that was from that time. It probably was but I didn't give it to her since I didn't want to give her too much medicine.

May 17

- Approx 21:40 - short seizure, but panted for about 10 min after.
- Drank water, took 22:00 anti-seizure pill (reluctantly)
- Walked around ok after, eliminated

May 18

- Approx 5:57 - short seizure, panted for 5 min after.
- Walked around ok after, eliminated
- Took 06:30 anti-seizure and prednisone

May 19

- 7:05 - very short seizure, panted for 2-3 min after.
- Note that she usually takes her pills at 6:00-6:30. I'm late giving them to her closer to 7:30.

May 20

- Almost-seizures several times in the afternoon
- Two differences today
 - All of the other dogs and Curtis were gone most of the day; her problems started around 12:30 or 13:00. Curtis got back at 13:45, but left again an hour later to get the dogs from the groomers. She didn't really get comfortable again until between 18:00 and 20:00. Stress???
 - She didn't get fed until about 16:00, and then didn't eat much. But she finished the bowl of food at 20:00.
- She seemed to be better when held firmly - another indication of stress?
- By 20:15, she's still a little jumpy, but settling down and calming down

May 31

- Brief seizure 13:48; afterwards ate and walked around as normal.
- In general, she's been restless - walks around a lot

June 1

- Another brief seizure 6am; afterwards was normal

June 8

- Mindy's been alternating being restless and sleeping; she walks around a lot, then plunks down and sleeps on the floor, sometimes shivering, rather than on a dog bed. She's happy to sleep on the couch for a while, then decides to walk around again.
- The last couple of days she's been bumping into things more, and walking over stuff on the floor. Today I noticed her head tilting more again.
- She's refusing people food, but eating dog food (dry and wet) just fine. I think it's partly because I was putting her pills in bread or bread and peanut butter, but now she's refusing that and I have to put the pill down her throat.
- She's just not herself again

June 10-11

- Cytosporin injections

June 18

- (Approximate) She stayed a bit lethargic and not quite herself for about a week, then started picking up and being more alert.

July 7

- No seizures since the beginning of June!!!
- She still walks around quite a bit, and is not content to settle on the couch (mostly), but is more alert and more interested in things.
- About 2-3 weeks ago she started taking pills in pockets again, and eating treats and people food.
- She's much more herself personality-wise, though she still doesn't bark when people come in the house.
- Her motor skills are not back to even the best she was at. She can handle stairs, and controlled jumps from bed or couch to floor, but doesn't get up on her hind legs.

July 8

- Up on her hind legs! Not for long, but she was.
- Also, asking to get on the couch, and begging for treats. :-)

July 13

- Doing very well! Begging for treats, up on her hind legs, alert and eating lots.

July 14

- 5am - seizures, 5 of them in 45 minutes. Then tremors for about 15 min, and a partial seizure at 6. Then quiet, and another seizure at 6:20. Some tremors, but decreasing, over the next 2 hours. Mindy lay on my chest for all of that time, and was reluctant to move when we had to go upstairs. She did shake herself after each seizure.
- I did get her to take her pills at 6:30 without trouble.
- Two more, smaller (shorter) seizures between 9-9:15
- One almost-seizure around 10:10.
- Mindy doesn't want to get up and walk; she's happiest in someone's arms or wrapped in a blanket on the couch.
- Seizure - short, 11:30
- Seizure series from 12:45 to 14:00. Lots of drool - large globule (like vomit, but drool, not real vomit)
- Nothing to drink since before the 5am seizure
- No bathroom since before the 5am seizure
- Anti-seizure pill at 2pm
- Seizures and tremors calmed after pill was given
- Dr. Swanson recommended bringing Mindy to the ER to stay overnight to break the seizure cycle.
- Took her in about 3 in the afternoon
- They put her on Phenylbarbitol for the seizures, and said her temp had spiked to 106. Dr. Swanson is worried about additional brain damage.

July 15

- The original plan was to bring Mindy home after her infusion - around 7pm. Dr. Swanson left a message around 2pm, and Dr. Kerns called around 4pm to let us know that she was still having seizures, and that they put her on a stronger anti-seizure med. They recommended she stay another night, especially since she wasn't eating or drinking on her own.

July 16

- Spoke with Dr. Swanson around 8:30am. They think they have stopped the seizures, but can't be sure

until they take her off the stronger meds. There's an additional problem - her temperature keeps spiking to 104 and up. Dr. Swanson's now sure if that's because she's having seizures that aren't visible, because the original MUO has damaged the temp-regulating portion of her brain, or because she's caught aspiration pneumonia. She'd need chest x-rays to reliably diagnose the last. And, before she'd feel comfortable sending Mindy home, three things had to happen: (1) take her off the strongest anti-seizure meds and make sure the seizures have stopped, (2) figure out what's causing the temp increase and fix if possible, and (3) make sure she can eat and drink on her own. I asked what the likelihood of those three things happening were, and she said "Very unlikely". And, if it did happen, it was likely we'd be back next week, given her overall condition. She recommended putting her to sleep.

- We talked and decided, and went down to be with her. She died between noon and 13:00, in my arms.