



Pequeño

The past nine months have been a roller coaster ride for Pequeño. His double knee surgery on April 9th went really well. He was able to come back to the Rescue that same afternoon. Once again, with determination, he figured out how to get into the litter box, even with such unstable legs.

I had to laugh when we were told to take the stitches out in 10 to 14 days. We figured Pequeño had his own ideas about that. This time, he did remove several of them, but left four or five for us.

Pequeño was restricted to a 2 x 4 foot area for the first six weeks. No jumping, climbing, or running. We were able to section off a part of his familiar living quarters. Mom and Grande continued to have the remaining space, so Pequeño didn't get lonely and they remained a (modified) family. It only took Grande a day to figure out how to slip into Pequeño's area, where we would find the two curled up together in his new bed.

Six weeks after surgery, Pequeño had a check-up and an x-ray. The bone still needed more healing. Activity was still restricted, although he was no longer limited to such a small space, except at night. This was mostly to keep Mom from stealing his bed.

Ten weeks after surgery, Dr Joe removed all restrictions. The bone had completely healed. However, it wasn't long before we noticed Pequeño changing how he used his rear legs.

He formed a tripod with three legs, and increasingly favored the right rear one.

Twelve weeks after surgery, another check-up and x-ray. Dr Joe said the pin had worked loose, which happens sometimes after the bones heal, and that was causing some discomfort. Also, the x-ray showed that right knee cap was starting to overcorrect. At that point it wasn't too bad, so we all did the professional thing - crossed our fingers.

At the end of June, Pequeño went in to have the uncomfortable pin removed and the right knee reassessed. As Pequeño's hips (February surgery) continued to heal and correct themselves, the right one brought the overall leg alignment further to the inside than Dr. Joe expected. Luckily, this didn't require a complete do-over of the knee, but he did have to do the ligaments again, in addition to removing the pin. Once again,



Grande

Pequeño had to be restricted to his small 2 x 4 foot space for two weeks, then limited activity again for another six weeks. He's been such an amazing little guy, he accepted this too.

In late August, Pequeño's restrictions were removed. Throughout the fall he has continued to heal and test his abilities. Tentative at first, but with determination, he's built both his strength and his confidence. His hips tend to roll a little more than other kitties, and we haven't seen him jumping onto the ledges yet, but that doesn't stop him from scrambling up onto them instead. Of course he has always accepted himself just as he is, perfectly Pequeño.

Once again, a special thanks to those of you who have helped fund Pequeño's medical needs. At this time, FCR's medical fund is \$287.00 in the red. If you would like to help us get 'back in the black', any amount is appreciated. Just write Pequeño in the memo on your check.

Pequeño, Grande and Mom have been in foster at our house since Pequeño and Grande were two weeks old. While the siblings were tiny, their quarters were a perfect environment. Now, 18 months later, and especially since Pequeño has healed, they have outgrown the space. They are ready for adoption into homes of their own. Each of them will require sensitivity while transitioning into a new home. Additionally, we think Pequeño needs an indoor-only home, where the possibility of future vet care is expected.



Mom

If you know of a happy stable home where Pequeño's future lies, please contact Feral Cat Rescue:

by phone - 406-381-6580

by email - director@feralcatrescuemt.org

Thank you all for continuing to keep 'Poqi' in your thoughts and hearts.