



*Please Help Hutch!*



Hutch is a beautiful and well-behaved 10 month old St. Bernard who entered the SMVHS adoption program on June 4. After only a short time in our shelter, he was adopted and we were thrilled for him. Unfortunately, very soon after going home with his new family, he developed a severe limp. His new family took him to the veterinarian for an assessment. The exam revealed he has a very common, although painful and complicated, disorder called Osteochondritis dessicans. His new adoptive family could not take on the financial burden of this disorder and sadly, had to return Hutch to our facility.

We call upon all of you now to help us raise the funds necessary to reverse Hutch's orthopedic problems, relieve him of the pain he is enduring, and make him the healthiest he can be for the family who ultimately can offer him a "forever" home. After consultation with our contract veterinarians, we approached Dr. Sikes, who is a specialist in veterinary orthopedic surgery and he is confident that the surgery usually offered for this disorder will benefit Hutch and will resolve his pain. OCD (Osteochondritis dessicans) is an elbow dysplasia that causes lameness in young, large breed dogs. The St. Bernard is listed as one of the most commonly affected breeds. It is caused by a malformation or unequal growth of the cartilage in the elbow joint. The malformation produces loose piece(s) of cartilage and/or bone that create inflammation and pain. Left untreated this condition produces pain initially and then arthritis as a chronic condition. The best chance for a functional joint includes early surgery to remove the cartilage and/or bone via arthroscopic or open joint surgery. Now is an ideal time to do this corrective surgery on Hutch and with your help we can make this happen. Dr. Sikes is offering to do this procedure at a greatly reduced cost but this expense is unexpected and will be costly.

As many of you know, the SMVHS has a number of specialty funds where donors can make donations for specific purposes. The Wynter Fund, established by long time supporter and donor, David Wynter, provides financial assistance to pay for veterinary care needed for animals in our adoption program. Hutch is one such dog and contributing to the Wynter Fund will immediately impact our ability to proceed with this much needed surgery.

Please visit our website at [www.smvhs.org](http://www.smvhs.org) and go to the "donations" button. You can make an immediate, secure, online donation using a credit card and can trust that your donation will benefit Hutch today! Follow the steps to make the donation and in the "notes" field put in Wynter Fund so we can apply, and acknowledge your generosity accordingly.

Please don't hesitate to send me an email if you would like any additional information. On behalf of Hutch, thank you for your time and any amount you can give will mean the world to him.

Kind regards,  
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Executive director  
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