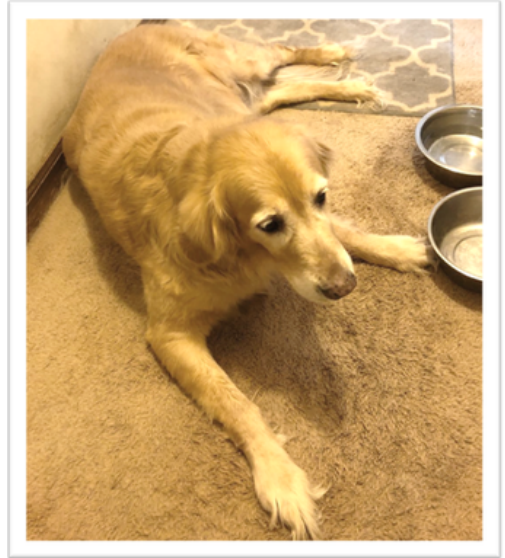


Helping Maggie

Carolyn Ferrini had her hands full when Molly, her golden retriever, needed expensive surgery to have her spleen removed. She was still paying off the \$7,000 hospital cost after Maggie, Molly's sister, came down with an acute and life-threatening uterine infection.

Maggie had pyometra, which can affect older dogs that weren't spayed. Ferrini moved forward to get the necessary surgery, while worried about her ability to afford it. "Money was bad at that point," Ferrini said. "Maggie's surgery was less expensive than Molly's was, but I was worse off financially than when Molly had her surgery."

The bill to remove Maggie's uterus, along with associated costs, was around \$2,000, and her credit card couldn't cover it. Nor could she afford the oral and injectable antibiotics needed later. But Ferrini knew she had no choice but to find a way to do all she could for Molly, who was a puppy when she got her.



"I said this has to be done, but I don't know what I can do," Ferrini recalled telling her veterinarian. That's when the vet told her about the Pet Emergency Fund. "I had an amount to pay, but the Pet Emergency Fund paid the rest," Ferrini said. "Oh my gosh, it eased my mind and took that part of the stress away. I was grateful, very grateful. Because otherwise I might have lost Maggie, and she's my little love."

They are very close. Ferrini likes to tell how her dog gets her attention in the morning. "She puts her paw up and slaps my leg like, 'Hello, I'm here, aren't you going to pet me?'" adding that Maggie barks at her like she's talking, too.

Maggie had the surgery and came home that night in December 2019, where she recovered. Now, at age 13, time and other health maladies suggest Maggie's life span is drawing near. Molly, sadly, died last year. "I have to pay close attention to Maggie because I want to know when the time is right not for her to be here anymore," Ferrini said.

Ferrini said she's grateful Maggie has continued to be in her life since the surgery, and remains deeply appreciative for the financial help she received from the Pet Emergency Fund to help make that possible.