

## All About Princess

Princess turned 9 on February 24, 2008 - a date that I learned when I researched her history, via an implanted chip, back to the vet who saw her as a puppy in Las Vegas. She will have many more years of healthy life. Her hips are good with no sign of dysplasia. She has a young dog's energy and zest for life.

In full body she is slim and trim, around 40 pounds, and she has a beautiful, thick, shining coat.

She is a wonderful dog and I love her a lot. She is a 'special needs' dog in that her liver is 25% of normal size. Her special needs are known and so are the remedies, and she can expect a normal length of life. Her condition, called 'microhepatica', has been diagnosed as congenital and it is not progressive or caused by illness. She is seen by excellent vets for routine care, presently at Tend Care Veterinary Clinic in San Rafael. All her shots are up to date and her most recent blood tests were satisfactory.

In a nutshell, she requires a minimum of protein and fat in her diet. There are no dry packaged dog foods that are both low protein and low fat, so I figured out a simple cooking routine. For breakfast, she has white rice and a half-can of *Natural Choice Lamb & Rice Light*. This is a canned dog food with low protein and low fat. For dinner she has white rice with vegetables, typically including cauliflower, carrots and broccoli and additional greens like brussel sprouts, stringbeans, dandelion greens, arugula and kale. I cook several dinners at once to save time. For snacks she has IVD Vegetarian Biscuits which are available from a vet.

Princess has followed this diet with great success for more than 6 years. She is only symptomatic when she accidentally gets into animal protein or fatty foods., the trash, or the occasional roll of toilet paper (which she will happily eat in full). When this happens, she will get loose stools or diarrhea, she may vomit, and will have to pee with great frequency, including at night. For this reason she will probably be better off as an only pet with no chance of getting into somebody else's food.

She does have one other special need, and that is that she cannot go for a full day without going out to pee. I have a dog-walker come at midday when I'm at work. She might be best off with someone who is home most of the time, possibly someone who works at home.

Princess is wonderful with people and children. She can vocalize and in fact she sometimes sings along to music, especially the blues. She has a high-pitched bark when she first meets a person or a fellow dog, but she quickly settles down and seldom if ever barks when she's home alone.

Princess has a Certificate of Completion from Patrick Canine Training in Petaluma, where she completed a 4 week Basic Obedience Foundation Program. She responds to instructions to sit and lie down. I will provide one session with a trainer there for Princess's new owner.

She is very intelligent and sometimes starts games, inviting me to play catch with her squeaky toy.... I always walk her on-leash except when we go to the dog park.... She has a penchant for eating paper as well as shoes and so I have to be careful to keep trash out of reach and closet doors closed.... She loves being in the car and will stay there happily for hours at a time.

Princess is a sensitive spirit who has experienced abandonment in the past. I want to make a careful transition to the right person or family. When she came under my care I treated her with flower essences for her emotional state and I will pass them along.

I would ideally like Princess to find a family in the Bay Area so that I can see her sometimes.