

Adios amigo Fritz

Juana reports ...

I really didn't want to report all this, but I know that everybody is very concerned and wants to hear all about what is happening here in our precious shelter during this time of crisis. Fritz was the only dog we lost to this melamine contamination, which Fritz had to have ingested by eating either his kennel mate Misty's vomit (as she was fed the contaminated food both Sunday morning and Sunday evening and didn't go into kidney failure) or excrement from either Misty or one or more of the others while in the park (as Fritz was both a vomit and a poop eater).

Next doggie to get sick was Fritz, the 10th dog to go into kidney failure

Back at Straydog during our 11 a.m hospital walks, I was taking Fritz and Misty to the park first, and as George was filling their water bowl and straightening their beds, he found some vomit in their hospital kennel. We figured it had to be Fritz because he would have eaten Misty's vomit (as he was a poop and vomit eater), and because he didn't seem like he was feeling very well, and he didn't really want to walk even to the park. Also overnight guy Tony G. had reported to me that during morning hospital feeding Fritz hadn't eaten all his food. I called Dr. Terry right away and told her what had happened just now. I checked Fritz's temperature, and it was high at 103, I told this to the doctor, and she said that the clinic staff was having a meeting and the clinic was going to be closed until 1:30 p.m. but to bring Fritz right at 1:30 p.m. so she could check him out. I went back out to the park with Fritz and Misty, while Jorge continued changing bedding and waters in the hospital kennels. When I got back to the park, Fritz was lying down not looking good. I talked to him and petted him, but he really wasn't interested in anything. After we walked back to their inside hospital kennel, Fritz did take a cookie from me, which was a good sign. Fritz and Misty lay back down in their kennel, and we continued to walk the rest of our hospital babies. We checked everybody's water levels as we are doing outside. We are even removing some of the swimming pools from the kennels in order to keep a closer eye on the amount of water they are drinking.

Around 12:30 Fritz vomited again, and while we cleaned up the kennel, we took him and Misty to the outside temporary kennel right by the hospital trailer. Fritz didn't seem very well at all now. While Jorge took care of cleaning and changing the bedding in Fritz and Misty's kennel, I called the clinic one more time, and again they told me the same thing, to bring Fritz at 1:30. We needed to do blood work. So we had 30 minutes left before leaving with Fritz. I checked everybody else who had been eating (or lived with a kennel mate who had been eating) *Natural Balance Venison and Brown Rice Dry Dog Formula*, and again I checked the water levels, and everybody else so far was doing fine.

We arrived at the clinic with Fritz (who went in right away) along with Susie and Jilly (who waited in the van)

As soon as we arrived at the clinic, Fritz didn't want to even get up or move for us, so we had to pull him out of the crate, and I carried him in, and as soon as we brought him in the room, Fritz's breathing became even more labored, and Bill and I got really scared. While I was hugging Fritz and talking to him, telling him to hang on, I told Bill to please go find Dr. Terry and tell her to hurry in to see Fritz. Fritz didn't look good at all and his breathing problem was getting worse and worse. The doctor came right away, and they drew blood, and while it was "spinning," we took him to do some x-rays. On the x-ray table Fritz's breathing was getting worse all the time. He really was having a lot of trouble getting air, so the doctor ran to bring in a tank of oxygen for him, and I never stopped talking to our little Fritz, hugging him and telling him that everything was going to be okay. In the bottom of my heart I kind of knew that this wasn't going to be okay, but I didn't want to and wouldn't let myself believe that. These were the worse moments of suffering of my life seeing our little Fritz in that condition. Dr. Terry showed Bill the x-rays and right away told us that Fritz had aspirated some of the vomit, and his lungs were full of liquids and right then the blood work test results came back with we had even worse news: Fritz's BUN and CREA were also elevated, meaning that Fritz also had kidney failure, along with his pneumonia-like problem. "What do we do next to help Fritz?" I asked the doctor. We have to keep Fritz on oxygen for his breathing and IV's fluids somehow for his kidneys, but we can't do too much of it or we will flood his lungs even more.

Vet tech Laura made a nice floor bed in the surgery room for Fritz and me, and I sat on the floor holding him and keeping the oxygen mask on him. The doctor and Laura put the IV setup on Fritz's forearm, and we never stopped sweet talking to him. The doctor also gave him a shot of Lasix trying to get the fluids out of him. He wasn't well at all, and his breathing problem was still getting worse and worse. I saw everybody there with very sad looks on their faces,