



[www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
\*Hi Res Photos available!

Media Contact: Jessica Gercke  
858-756-4117, ext. 335 [JessicaG@animalcenter.org](mailto:JessicaG@animalcenter.org)

# DWAYNE'S MODERN MIRACLE MEDICAL TREATMENT

## *Orphan Pup Treated to Cutting-Edge Stem Cell Therapy by Vet Stem*



*(Dwayne has nothing but love to offer to Center staff members devoted to changing his life for good.)*

**Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. (June 7, 2017)** – Since his arrival at Helen Woodward Animal Center in early May, Dwayne, an orphan pup who had been horribly disfigured by abuse, has been living a true Cinderella story. Thanks to the media, Dwayne's tragic early life (subjected to kicking, beatings, and a crude wire muzzle), and his Tijuana rescue have become news throughout the world, leading to well-wishes and donations from as far away as Brunstatt, France. With over \$40,000 donated towards medical needs, Dwayne began the first of many life-changing surgeries two weeks ago. Now a renowned stem therapy institute – Vet Stem – has stepped up to the plate to offer cutting-edge treatment to help Dwayne's healing and put him on an even quicker path to his forever home. **The Media is invited to meet Dr. Jeffery Schaffer from Vet Stem, and celeb pup Dwayne, TOMORROW MORNING as he begins his new state-of-the-art healing therapy. Please join us at 9am at the Companion Animal Hospital, before Dwayne's 10am treatment.**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Helen Woodward Animal Center Chief Veterinarian Dr. Patricia Carter performed the first of Dwayne's medical procedures. One of many required lip surgeries, the facial reconstruction was necessary to repair the extreme mutilation of his nose and mouth, prevent loss of teeth, and to help him drink, eat and breathe more normally. Yesterday, Dr. Carter performed Dwayne's second surgery, removing the ball of his right disjuncted hip, in an attempt to even out his legs and help him develop a more normal gait. Many additional surgeries will



[www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org)

follow including further facial reconstruction, removal of scar tissue, and attempts to realign a severely malformed front elbow. But the healing time between each surgery can be extensive and the immune system can be compromised from so much surgery and downtime.

Fortunately, Dr. Jeffery Schaffer, Vet Stem veterinarian and head of professional services, was made aware of Dwayne's situation by a colleague who had utilized the Center's Companion Animal Hospital for her own pet and heard Dwayne's story. Vet Stem, the Poway-based organization founded in 2002 by owner and CEO Dr. Robert Harman, performed its early life-saving work almost exclusively on horses. Its technology, which harvests tissue from an injured animal and delivers the animal's own healing stem cells back to the site of the injury and throughout the body by IV, is nothing short of a modern miracle. Over the last several years, the treatment has been expanded to domestic dogs and cats. The procedure is quite costly, however, and thus normally reserved for truly extreme cases. Moved by Dwayne's story, Dr. Schaffer and the organization have offered to help the orphan dog at their own expense.

"His story is heartbreaking," stated Schaffer, "and we all have such a passion and a love for animals. We know the capabilities of this treatment and how it can help with his healing and really change his life."

Yesterday, during Dwayne's hip surgery, Dr. Carter removed tissue from his abdomen and Vet Stem went to work creating the healing stem cells. Dwayne will receive his first stem cell therapy tomorrow morning at 10am.

"This is truly amazing medicine, explained Schaffer. "Because it is created from his own cells, there is no worry that his body will reject it. The treatment is truly one of the most innovative forms of therapy out there."

Those wishing to follow his story can find updates here:

<https://animalcenter.org/news/dwaynes-journey>.

**If you would like to interview Dr. Jeffery Schaffer tomorrow morning at 9am, please contact Communications Assistant Manager Mindy Wright at (619) 376-5505.**

For more information on Vet Stem, click on <http://www.vet-stem.com/>.

If you would like to help Dwayne or for more information, please contact Helen Woodward Animal Center Adoption Department at: 858-756-4117 ext. 313, visit [www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org) or stop by at 6461 El Apajo Road in Rancho Santa Fe.

\*\*\*



[www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org)

**About Helen Woodward Animal Center**

Helen Woodward Animal Center is a private, non-profit organization where “people help animals and animals help people.” Founded in 1972 in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., the Center provides services for more than 57,000 people and thousands of animals annually through adoptions, educational and therapeutic programs both onsite and throughout the community. Helen Woodward Animal Center is also the creator of the international Blue Buffalo Home 4 the Holidays pet adoption drive, the International Remember Me Thursday® campaign and The Business of Saving Lives Workshops, teaching the business of saving lives to animal welfare leaders from around the world. For more information go to: [www.animalcenter.org](http://www.animalcenter.org).