



## Dog caught in trap getting laser therapy, needs foster home

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GRAND RAPIDS, MI -- It's been a wild month for a 2-year-old Staffordshire terrier who now goes by the name Chuck.

After the dog was found wandering a neighborhood with a trap biting into his front leg, a Southwest Grand Rapids resident contacted Kent County Animal Control.

Initially afraid they'd have to amputate the injured leg, veterinarians were able to treat the wound and keep Chuck on all fours, Kent County Communications Director Lisa LaPlante said.

### **Related: Family describes finding dog with trap on its leg, says it raises safety concerns.**

A month after being discovered, Chuck - named after the street where he was found - is now undergoing therapy for his injured leg at **Kelley's Animal Clinic** in Walker.

Through a battery of treatments, including cold laser and water-assisted therapies, clinic staff say the young terrier is well on his way toward a full recovery.

Utilizing specific light wavelengths, cold laser therapy is used to help stimulate cell recovery through the absorption of light energy. Veterinarians are hopeful the therapy will help normalize damaged tissue as well as reduce pain and inflammation at the injured area.

While some surface damage and a pronounced limp remain, officials are confident they'll be able to get Chuck into a foster home in the near future.

Veterinary technician Michelle Falbe carries Chuck, a 2-year-old Staffordshire Terrier, during treatment for his wound caused by an animal trap. Photo taken at Kelley's Animal Clinic in Walker, Mich. Friday, February 27, 2015. (Chris Clark | MLive.com)

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The dog was found without any identification. Given that no one has come forward to claim him, clinic staff say they are currently looking for someone to foster Chuck as he works toward eventual adoption.

Still, questions remain as to who set the trap, where it was set, and what their motivations were.

After finding Chuck with the body-grip trap clasped to his leg, Daisy Harwood expressed concerns about neighbors setting out potentially-harmful devices.

Another concern is the fact that the trap had no identification attached, meaning no one knows who set it.

Douglas Reeves, assistant chief of the Wildlife Division of the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources**, said experienced trappers should pose no concerns for residents.

He said any traps set are required to have both the name and address of the person who set it out, or a valid driver's license number. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor infraction which could result in a hefty fine, Reeves noted.

During trapping season, which varies depending on the animal, Reeves said trappers don't need any special permits aside from their fur hunter license.

**More information on trapping zones and animals can be found through the DNR's Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest.**

When asked to recall the number of instances in which dogs have been caught in hunter traps, Reeves said it is an exceedingly rare occurrence.

"I can think of three times I've heard of similar situations in my 25 years with the department, Reeves stated.

Due to Michigan's restrictions on trapping to prevent these sorts of incidents, Reeves said the vast majority of trappers never place their tools in harm's way of non-targeted species.

Citing an increased need for education on proper trapping practices, Reeves encouraged anyone interested in learning more about fur harvesting to contact the **Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association**. To prevent further injuries to dogs or non-targeted species, Reeves said experienced trappers are more than willing to help any new trappers learn.

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