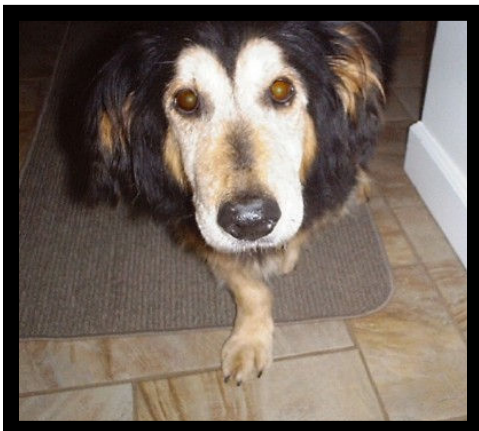




Nancy & Steve report that Brutus is doing fantastic! Nancy writes:

"Brutus is doing wonderfully, and we love having him here! He has adjusted well to life with his new packmates, as we expected. I've been especially impressed with how smart he is. I think he learned to use the dog door in less than two days. And he has already learned how to trick me into thinking he is not sleeping on the living room couch. Most evenings at bedtime he climbs up the bed steps into our bed, and will lie beside me for a while, sometimes several hours. But at some point during the night he gets up and migrates to the couch, where I usually find him in the morning (wagging his tail when he sees me) unless I happened to remember to lay the baby gate across the cushions before I went to bed. (In that case, he sleeps, instead, on the blue upholstered chair in the corner. I think I may need another baby gate.) It is just a joy to have him here. He's lying on the floor beside my chair as I write this.

Most of the time he is eating well. He has had several episodes of vomiting followed by 1 or 1 1/2 days without eating, so we've introduced into his diet a canned, bland diet that we get from the vet, and we make that the main part of each meal. I think you might be interested to know that as a result of his first visit with our regular vet, we learned that at some point Brutus had been shot! We had taken him to our vet the first time he went 1 1/2 days without eating. I had called Dr. Whalen, but she happened to be away on vacation for several days, so we thought it would be best if our vet examined him. They took some X-rays and saw that he has two small bits of shrapnel in his upper body (they appear to be in his chest cavity and not in any organs) and one in his abdomen. The vet isn't sure, but he thinks it's possible that some resulting scar tissue may be causing a stricture of some kind that is responsible for Brutus's digestive issues. But just as you observed, he does begin eating normally again soon after each of these episodes, so our vet recommends that we just monitor it.



I finally got around to taking some pictures last week and will try to send them to you over the weekend.

Thanks so much again for everything you did in making it possible for us to adopt Brutus, and especially for what you're doing to care for old dogs who deserve to be treated with respect and love, and appreciated for everything that makes them so special!