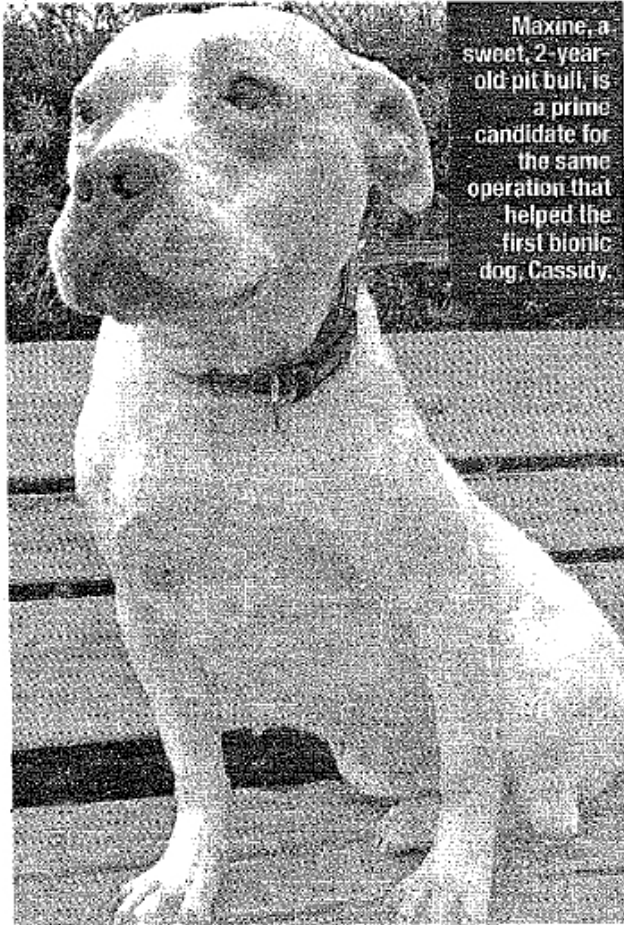


Pup needs a leg up

Successful bionic procedure could help adoptee

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Maxine, a sweet, 2-year-old pit bull, is a prime candidate for the same operation that helped the first bionic dog, Cassidy.

AS REPORTED Tuesday, Cassidy, an amputee mutt adopted from New York City's own municipal shelter, Animal Care & Control, has become a medical pioneer as the first American dog with a bionic hind leg.

Cassidy previously had only three legs, but now gets around just like any other four-footed dog on an "osseointegrated" artificial limb that's fused directly to his bone. This high-tech procedure is performed at only one place in the United States: the veterinary teaching hospital at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

With the success of Cassidy's procedure, now there's high-tech hope for another tripod shelter dog: Maxine, a 2-year-old pit bull awaiting a home at New Jersey's Camden County Animal shelter. Maxine walked in on three and a half legs, and quickly won over the shelter staff with her gentle, affectionate nature. In fact, Maxine is used as the "helper" dog to temperament-test all other incoming strays to see how well they play with others.



Julia Szabo

Sadly, potential adopters routinely overlook Maxine, but that could change if she were to become bionic like Cassidy. Betting that Maxine's chances of adoption would increase dramatically with an artificial leg, the shelter is launching a drive to raise \$6,000, the cost of Cassidy's operation. To make a donation toward Maxine's new leg, e-mail info@ccasnj.org.

Meanwhile, back in Raleigh, NCSU isn't resting on its bionic laurels. The hospital is also the only one in the world to perform canine bone-marrow transplants, which offer an effective alternative to chemotherapy for patients with lymphoma. The procedure is still in the experimental phase, but already the hospital has a waiting list of 15 dog patients.

To learn more about the trailblazing procedures performed by NCSU vets, visit cvm.ncsu.edu.

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