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DOVER, JAMAICA PLAIN

Dog recuperating after falling 40 feet from Dover cliff

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 23, 2012 01:28 PM

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(Angell Animal Medical Center)

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A dog is recuperating after surviving a 40-foot fall from a cliff in Dover that left him with life-threatening injuries, officials said.

The dog was hoisted from the bottom of a ravine in Noanet Woodlands by town police. Emergency surgery at a Boston animal hospital last week saved his life, according to a statement from veterinarians there.

The canine, 5-year-old "Sammy," went on a morning hike last Sunday with Paul Finnegan, the brother-in-law of Chelmsford resident Mike Bowser who, along with his wife Moira, owns the dog, officials said.

Finnegan noticed Sammy was missing, began searching and then heard the dog's cries from the bottom of a 40-foot cliff, according to veterinarians. The cliff was too steep for Finnegan to scale down himself. He called police.

Dover police secured Sammy to a rescue sled. Using a cable, they pulled him to safety officials at the animal hospital said.

Finnegan and the Bowsers rushed the dog to the MSPCA Angell Animal Medical Center in Jamaica Plain.

There, animal hospital staff said they discovered Sammy had a ruptured lung and parts of his intestines had been forced into his chest cavity.

"Sammy's injuries are of the type we normally see when dogs are struck by fast-moving cars," veterinarian Megan Davis said in a statement. "They are very serious and could easily have killed him."

Through a delicate surgery, the medical staff was able to "repair all of the damage brought on by the fall," said a statement from veterinarian Russell Kalis, who performed the procedure said.

The dog was scheduled to head home on Friday and expected to make a full recovery, officials said.

"This ordeal has been so frightening and I'm so relieved to know Sammy is through the worst of it," Moira Bowser said, according to the animal hospital.

"I'm very confident that we can nurse him back to full health once he is

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I'm very confident that we can nurse him back to full health once he is discharged from the hospital.”

For more information about the animal medical facility's emergency and critical care services, [click here](#).

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