



Flat Frank's Story

Flat Frank literally fell into our life! My grandson found a baby squirrel on the ground. It had fallen out of a tree and was unable to climb back up. My grandson, his brother and my daughter brought the squirrel over in a shoe box. It was alert, but obviously injured. It's back legs and tail were limp. I assumed he had a broken back so I took him to my veterinarian ...he assured me that he did. I took him home, put him in a box and fell in love with him. He became "Flat Frank" for obvious reasons. He lived in my art studio for a few weeks. He could not be let loose because of his paralysis so the whole family went to the feed store to get Flat Frank a proper home. It soon became an outdoor squirrel estate complete with feeders on the outside for bird and squirrel friends who visit daily (we go through 30# of outdoor food a week). He has a heatlamp for cool nights and a fan for hot weather.

One day Flat Frank developed a pressure sore on one of his bad legs. It was caused from dragging it. I doctored and medicated his leg, but all things considered, it was not an easy process. He hated it and everyone that participated! I took him back and forth to the "exotic pet vet"...he was unpleasant, growling and mad at all of us! The surgeon suggested removing the leg. He couldn't use it and we couldn't seem to get it to heal. So Flat Frank went into surgery. They said he would be there two or three days, but four hours after surgery...an enraged squirrel in their midst...he was sent home to recuperate. I outfitted a large clear storage tub with vents and all the accoutrements of squirrel life. When my youngest granddaughter saw him after his surgery she asked me if Flat Frank's leg was in heaven! His wound healed beautifully, he adapted to three legs well and his fur grew back. Our five cats and three dogs all became pals with him. The fur dog Loretta (at 80#) was by his side constantly and the English Mastiffs Stella and Tessie (at 200# each) tended to him as well. We redid his outdoor abode with soft rugs and smooth surfaces. He scurries around in his large home greeting friends all day! He dines on the best of foods (organic of course) and has the full squirrel experience. He has small stuffed toys he carries around, a box of dirt to bury things and he sleeps with a big wool sock. He is a most special and loved creature!



told by Gloria Becker, 2006