

# International Patient “Super Dog Bailey” Raises Awareness of Myasthenia Gravis on Social Media

## *MG Spokesdog Has Close to 500 Likes in One Month*

*“Do you know that animals with MG usually have the same ocular symptoms as humans? Thank goodness, cause my mommy says I have the most beautiful puppy eyes!” – MG Super Dog Bailey*

With a daily dose of humor and posted cartoon photos created by the app, “ComicBook!,” MG Super Dog Bailey, owned by Potchefstroom, South Africa residents Désirée van Heerden (mommy) and Jaco van Heerden (daddy), is raising awareness of Myasthenia Gravis on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/mgsuperdog/> - with close to 500 likes on the St. Bernard’s page.

Désirée said Bailey has been an inspiration to many MG patients battling the disease, and the humorous, but informative, posts on Facebook that started in early November have shown her followers that animals can also be diagnosed with MG and experience MG symptoms.

One example of a post by Bailey is a ComicBook! App cartoon photo of one dog asking Bailey to come outside and play. Bailey responds, “I can’t right now. I’m too tired.” Désirée proceeds to post under the photo: “This is something few people understand about those with MG. People and animals with MG can't always do everything they want to, doesn't matter how much they want to. Be patient with those who have MG, and understand that it's a very serious, life threatening condition. Just because you can't always see it with the naked eye, doesn't make it less invasive to those who live with it!!”

Désirée and Jaco got Bailey when she was only 4 weeks and 5 days old. Her mom, while still nursing her pups, was given poison by robbers trying to enter the property of her owners. This made her mom unable to nurse further, since she had to receive a blood transfusion and was very weak. So the pups were weaned off mom early and were eating on their own.

“So now we had this tiny little puppy, which had this white stripe down her back, all the way from her head to her bum,” said Désirée. “She was just adorable.”

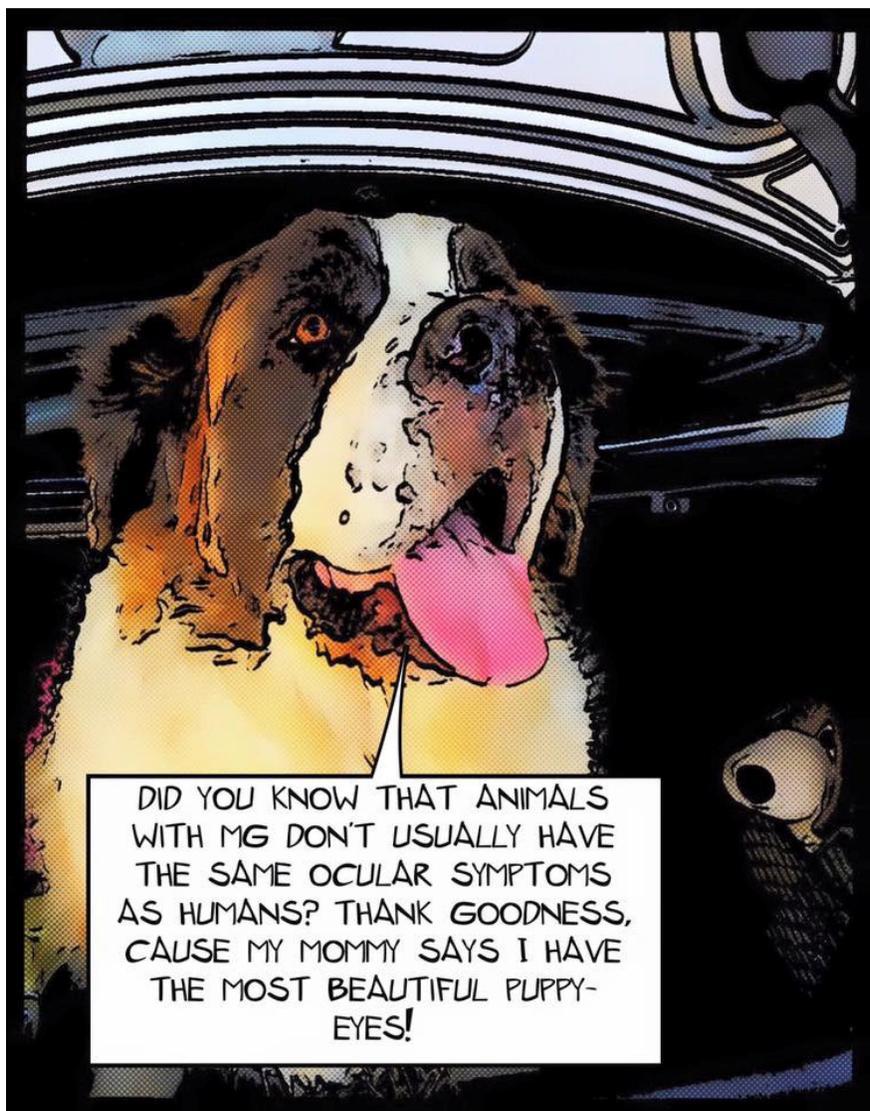
Bailey had an older brother Golden Spaniel, Jo-Jo (which now lives with Désirée’s mom since him and Bailey don't get along well). She also has a sister and brother St. Bernards (Bia, 3yrs, and Moose, 1yr old).

A couple of days after Bailey's spay (at about 8 months of age), Jaco got home after lunch and found Bailey unable to move her hind legs. They took her to the Vet, and they thought it might be her hips. Within a few days her entire body went paralyzed. They couldn't give a diagnosis in the South African town, so they took her to a specialist, who diagnosed her with MG (he had only seen it once before in a Great Dane).

The vet put Bailey on Mestinon and she started to improve within a day. Diagnosis was confirmed. She was still very weak. The first time she really seriously struggled with her breathing and esophagus, was a little while after diagnosis when she went into Myasthenic Crisis.

“We took her to the emergency vet, who was the only vet in our area who actually knew what Myasthenia Gravis was,” said Désirée. “With lots of cortisone and TLC, she recovered well. She doesn't get a crisis too often thankfully.”

Désirée added: “Like most MG sufferers, her biggest symptom is weakness. Whenever she starts to keep her legs straight and locked while walking (she probably does it to keep herself from collapsing), I know she is starting to get weak. She is doing very well at the moment - such a strong puppy. She is now almost 5 years old now.”



DID YOU KNOW THAT ANIMALS WITH MG DON'T USUALLY HAVE THE SAME OCULAR SYMPTOMS AS HUMANS? THANK GOODNESS, CAUSE MY MOMMY SAYS I HAVE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PUPPY-EYES!