Two-Legged Chihuahua Saves Owner's Life by Detecting Heart Attack

A two-legged Chihuahua named Champ detected a potentially fatal heart attack before his owner even felt symptoms, saving his life in the process.

63-year-old Andrew Kuzyk says Champ's unusual behavior— hugging his chest and whining —prompted lifesaving medical attention.

It made Kuzyk take the "chest tightening" feeling seriously, and his wife called for help.

He had emergency surgery during which his heart stopped beating twice, but survived to make a steady recovery.

"I was just watching TV when Champ came up to me," Kuzyk, from Locust Grove, Georgia, recounted to the English news outlet SWNS. "He hugged my chest right about where my heart is and made a whine I've never heard him utter before. Shortly after that, I started having chest pains."

Champ, who was born missing two legs, is one of six rescue Chihuahuas that share Kuzyk's mobile home with him and his wife, Pamela.

He had had a minor heart attack once before, which caused him to take symptoms like the chest pain more seriously.

Moved by Champ's persistent whimpering, Kuzyk's wife dialed 911 for an ambulance and he was rushed about 30 miles to a hospital in Atlanta, where doctors performed emergency surgery.

"The doctor showed me this giant thing blocking my heart right after surgery," he said. "He said in his career, he's never seen anything like it."

"I know for sure that without Champ I wouldn't be here."

Kuzyk sees profound meaning in his survival through Champ's remarkable abilities.

"I love him with all my heart. He's just incredible. Whenever people see him, they immediately fall in love with him."