



THE KODIAK TAILS

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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

AUGUST 2021



Veterinarians Provide Options for Needy Dog Owners

When a loving dog owner with limited means is faced with a big bill for life-saving pet care, much depends on the veterinarian.

Dr. Monica Capolongo of Countryside Veterinary Center just outside of Chicago' has learned to present options, from the least costly to the "gold standard." She then works with families to provide

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affordable treatment. In cases where affordable treatment proves still too costly, Dr. Capolongo and her hospital are lucky enough to partner with groups like KodiakCare, which help owners in need.

“The way to do my job best is to work with the owners,” she said. “Least option, middle option, gold standard. Always put your dog’s quality of life first.”

So when Lola, a sweet-natured pit bull mix, arrived at the Illinois clinic vomiting and refusing food and water, Capolongo started small.

She recommended an ultrasound, but the owners’ finances limited her to less-costly X-rays, blood work and educated guessing to make a diagnosis. After a couple of days on palliative medication, it became clear that Lola had a life-threatening blockage somewhere in her stomach or intestines. Without surgery, there was a risk of organ damage or slow, painful loss of nutrition for Lola. The owners would either need financial aid or be forced to choose euthanasia.

“We tried to go forward but it was too expensive,” said John Carrillo, who adopted Lola from a shelter in 2016 and already had borrowed much of the initial \$1,500 vet bill “just to know what was wrong.”

The family was distraught over Lola’s plight, he said. “We were going to lose her. Mom was crying. It was tough.”

Fortunately, KodiakCare was able to step in and fill \$1,600 of the funding gap. With an additional \$1,000 from the Chicagoland Rescue Intervention and Support Program (CRISP), the \$2,600 surgery was covered. “We were at our limit,” said Carrillo. “We’re so glad and happy you could help us out.”

With the funding, Dr. Capolongo was able to conduct an ultrasound to pinpoint the location of the blockage and perform surgery to remove the wad of plastic, grass and other junk that was obstructing Lola’s bowels. The surgery saved her, and now she is home with her family, “good as new,” as Capolongo put it. “She’s a completely different dog” from the sick, lethargic pet that first came into the clinic. After a harrowing week, Lola is back to her happy sweet disposition the Carrillo family knows so well.

Carrillo said he is grateful for the aid and plans to donate when he’s able to afford it. “I didn’t know there are people out there that actually help people with this. It is a big relief.”



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PET ROCK FESTIVAL

THEY CAN'T TALK SO WE WILL

Pet Rock Festival

KodiakCare will be at the 23rd annual Pet Rock Festival in North Grafton, MA, on Sunday, September 12!

The event includes live music, vendors, food, contests, and, most importantly, more than 200 animal organizations promoting their causes. KodiakCare is proud to have been selected as one of the New England animal welfare organizations spotlighted for their work! The Pet Rock Festival will be held from noon to 5 p.m. on the grounds of the Wyman-Gordon plant, 244 Worcester Street, North Grafton, MA.

Updates on the Pet Rock Festival, including the event schedule, attractions, vendors and sponsors can be found on their website by clicking [here](#).



Bidding For Barks

The excitement is growing for KodiakCare's virtual auction, Bidding for Barks! Get ready to bid on some *paws*-itively irresistible items, such as Cape Air flight vouchers; tickets to the Joffrey Ballet's world famous Nutcracker performance; Tree House Brewery gift cards and swag; Bark Box; box seat tickets to an Andrea Bocelli concert, and much, much more!

All proceeds from the event go to fund critical veterinary care for dogs of families with financial need.

Bidding for Barks runs Monday, September 20 through Sunday, September 26. Click [here](#) to see some more of our donors and supporters. Keep checking back as there is much more to come!



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