

THE KODIAK TAILS

## SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

## DECEMBER 2021



## KodiakCare Rescues Picked-on Puppy from Jaws of Death

Like all puppies, three-month-old Stella loves to play, and the sight of another dog is reason enough for big excitement. Unfortunately, on a recent walk with her owners, Stella picked the wrong playmate and received devastating injuries that would have ended her life – if not for timely assistance from KodiakCare.

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The Calzarettas were taking their new family pup out for a stroll when they met a large dog. Almost as soon as the owner said it was "fine" for Stella to approach, the dog snapped its jaws onto Stella's, with gruesome results.

Both jaw joints were broken near Stella's eye sockets, with the right lower jaw broken so badly that the bone would have to be completely removed. Stella's lips were torn, blood was everywhere and her family, understandably, was traumatized.

"Within the blink of an eye, the dog attacked. It immediately snapped and got her jaw," said Kristen Calzaretta. Not knowing what to do, she and her husband, Tracy, panicked and ran.

They first took Stella to an animal emergency clinic, where the limited funds they had available were exhausted during Stella's five-day stay. At that point, the hospital offered only euthanasia.

The devastated family went for a second opinion at MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston. The doctors knew how to save her, but also knew her family could not afford the reconstructive surgery. KodiakCare came to the rescue with financial aid.

With funding secured, Stella underwent an extensive procedure to re-set her temporomandibular joints. Her jaw was clamped shut to promote healing and a feeding tube was put in place.

"You could tell she was in a lot of pain. But once she was given care with us, she quickly turned around," said Dr. Alice Ekerdt of MSPCA-Angell. "Even though she lost the whole right side of the jaw, she is comfortable and still able to do everything. KodiakCare was amazing. It literally saved her life. We are very grateful."

The Calzarettas were thrilled to get their pup back. "We were saved from complete heartache," Kristen said. "You were an absolute lifesaver!"

Stella is "doing wonderfully" today, playing happily with her family despite one obvious difference: Her tongue sticks out, permanently. Kristen says the unusual look is a small price to pay. "She just looks cuter!"



## Thank You for Your Support! There's Still Time to Save a Dog and Get a Gift!

Thank you to all our donors who have already championed KodiakCare this Giving Season! We had an amazing Giving Tuesday and we couldn't be more grateful for the support of our cause to save dogs and their families. Thank you!

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This is our busiest season at KodiakCare and your help matters to families like Stella's. If you haven't already given, we ask you to please consider joining us in our efforts to bring critical veterinary care to dogs in crisis.

From now until the New Year, we will be continuing to offer our special 2021 Holiday Gifts with your donation. We couldn't do this without you. Let's keep working together to bring a brighter future for pet families, veterinarians, and all of us who advocate for dogs.



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