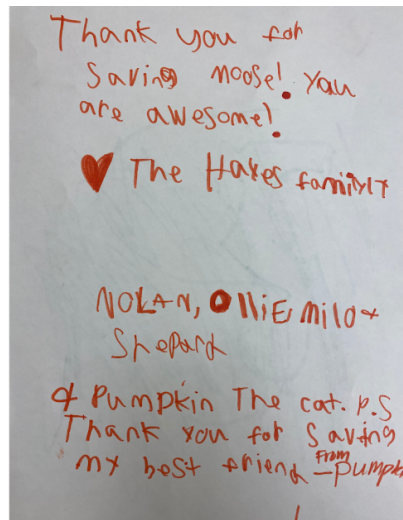




THE KODIAK TAILS

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SAVING LIVES. ONE DOG AT A TIME

DECEMBER 2020



The Hayes Family Delivers a Heartfelt Thank-You for Saving Moose

Dr. Saki Kadotani, a veterinary cardiologist at the University of Illinois, knew Moose would be a special case when she heard who was waiting at home for the critically ill young dog.

The Goldendoodle's loving family includes four boys, ages eight and under. "When we heard that, we said there has got to be a way to save this puppy," Dr. Kadotani recalled.

Fortunately, KodiakCare was available to provide the necessary funds for Moose's emergency heart surgery. Just one day after the procedure, Moose and the four Hayes boys were reunited. "He's playful and full of life, like a puppy should be," said Dannielle Hayes, mother to Moose and the boys. "They told us he has a long life ahead."

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Hayes had been bracing for the worst. “How would I tell my kids if we had to put our puppy down?” she said. “Then my husband called and said the U of I had nominated Moose for this funding with KodiakCare. I could not believe he was going to be saved. It was such a blessing to have KodiakCare.”

Moose’s congenital heart defect (known as Patent Ductus Arteriosus) is not unusual for his breed, Dr. Kadotani said. Shortly after bringing him home, the Hayes family were alarmed when he became lethargic, vomited and labored for breath. After a consultation with a family vet, then a middle-of-the-night visit to an emergency vet who diagnosed heart failure, Hayes’ husband, Jason, drove the pup two hours from the family home outside Peoria to the specialists at U of I in Champaign, Ill. The urgently needed, life-saving surgery would cost as much as \$4,000.

“We just looked at each other and our hearts sank,” Hayes said. “We had already figured first-year costs of getting him fixed, vaccinated and food, all new to our budget. Heart surgery was not on our radar. We were not seeing how it would be possible.”

U of I had done everything possible to reduce the cost of the sophisticated procedure. “We really got close to them deciding to put Moose down,” Dr. Kadotani said. “For the kids to not know why Moose wasn’t coming home, that conversation would have been heartbreaking.”

Instead, with KodiakCare’s help, Moose received surgery and is now considered cured, Dr. Kadotani said. When a hand-made thank-you note arrived from the boys to the veterinarians, she said, “We all cried!

“When owners love their pets so much, but they just can’t afford it, I wish I could provide everything for free,” she said. “These are the moments where we love what we do and we’re so thankful for KodiakCare. Having that support gives us comfort that we will be able to provide the best care for our patient.”



The 2021 KodiakCare Calendar: Good Dogs All Year Long!



The 2021 KodiakCare Calendars are here! The calendar features the pups of the winning bidders from our 2020 Bidding for Barks Auction, as well as some of the many dogs saved by KodiakCare.

This year has brought challenges to many families — challenges which continue into the new year. Many of the dog owners we helped were unable to afford the critical care their dogs needed due to job loss or reduction as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. KodiakCare never wants finances to stand in the way of a dog’s health. We are proud of the work we have done thus far and are ready to be there for even more families in 2021.

We hope you’ll join us in our mission, and as a sign of our appreciation during this season of giving, donors who give \$35 or more will receive a KodiakCare 2021 calendar (while supplies last). Quantities are limited, so donate early! <https://www.kodiakcare.org/donations>

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