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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

THE KODIAK TAILS

FEBRUARY 2022



Pet Taxi Takes Jack on Ride of his Life

When Brenda Abayomi's brindle-coated pit bull developed a life-threatening case of bladder stones, the Chicago resident feared the worst.

After her local vet estimated the cost of Jack's surgery at \$4,000, Abayomi reluctantly called an animal shelter to place her beloved pet with an owner who could afford to save him. "All I could think was that my poor dog was going to die, what could I do?" she recalled. "I was just thinking the worst."

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Instead, the animal shelter alerted her to programs available to help with Jack's care and, to Abayomi's relief, KodiakCare and CRISP [Chicagoland Rescue Intervention and Support Program] teamed up to fund the surgery. There was just one hitch: The 82-pound pup had to be transported to the veterinarians in suburban Countryside, Illinois, who were standing by to care for him. Abayomi, who has no vehicle herself or means to get to hospital, was pointed to help through a pet-taxi service. Soon Jack was on his way, arriving promptly after a 30- to 40-minute ride.

Jack pulled up in the pet taxi not a minute too soon, as his condition had left him in severe distress, according to Dr. Monica Capolongo, one of his caregivers at Countryside Veterinary Center. "He was blocked, dribbling a little, but not urinating normally," she said. "X-rays showed his bladder was just full of stones and he also had a few stones in his urethra. He needed surgery right away."

The surgical team worked fast, inserting a catheter, opening the bladder, clearing it of pebble-sized stones and flushing it multiple times to ensure no future blockages. The surgeons also neutered him, as intact dogs are more prone to re-occurrences.

In recovery, Jack developed a fluid-filled scrotal sac that required an additional pet-taxi ride to the hospital for several days of medication and laser therapy. "We deal with clients who only have enough money for certain things, to be able to make it reasonable enough for them to afford it," Dr. Capolongo said. "It's great when we can do the work."

"Doing what you do is super-helpful," Capolongo said of KodiakCare. "I'm grateful. It keeps me from making difficult decisions."

As of January, Jack was thriving, his owner said. "He's definitely doing much better," Abayomi said. "He's a big baby."



Mutt Madness is Back! Is Your Dog the Next Champion?

The one-of-a-kind fundraiser, Mutt Madness, is back for March 2022! With more prizes, contests and chances to win, you will not want to miss this event. Starting March 10, you can enter your pup in our 7-round canine version of March Madness for a chance to win big and be voted Top Dog!

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Entering is easy and free! Post a picture of your dog and invite friends and family to cast their votes for your pup. Every vote for your dog gets them closer to the top spot and raises \$1 for a KodiakCare dog and family in need! All proceeds from Mutt Madness fund life-saving care for dogs.

Last year's winner, Josie, took home the 2021 Mutt Madness Championship. Josie's own story is remarkable, having been rescued from cruelty that left her blind. Her adopter, veterinarian Dr. Colleen McCarthy, was drawn to the Mutt Madness tournament because of KodiakCare's work funding life-saving care for dogs. Through her own work, Dr. McCarthy has seen just how much funding can be needed in emergency situations and has followed KodiakCare's saved dog stories. "It's wonderful to see dogs that are really sick get better and get to go home."

Mutt Madness 2022 runs from March 10 through March 29. Stay tuned for more information!



KodiakCare is grateful for Embrace Pet Insurance, The Presenting Sponsor of Mutt Madness. Thank you to Embrace Pet Insurance for the Support of this event and dedication to KodiakCare's mission of saving lives, one dog at a time.

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New Happenings at KodiakCare!

KodiakCare dogs and their families had a great 2021. To date, KodiakCare has saved 133 dogs and improved the lives of owners, veterinarians, and all those who champion these pups. We are looking to the future and developing new partnerships with animal hospitals across the country.

KodiakCare is excited to announce that we have hired a new Executive Director, Adam Bendtsen, to grow and lead the organization to new achievements and success. Along with over fifteen years of experience, including founding and growing a successful company, Adam brings a deep understanding of the importance of

KodiakCare's mission. Adam and his wife, Cheryl, have a 6-year-old golden retriever, Olive. While she is 6, Olive has the energy of a puppy and keeps everything spicy on a daily basis. Prior to Olive, they had another beautiful golden retriever, Bennie Sue. Bennie lived a great life and in her later years spent time at one of our partner hospitals, MSPCA-Angell Animal Medical Centers, often after hours in the emergency room. Having seen firsthand the continual need for life-saving funding, Adam brings a passion for our mission of saving lives, one dog at a time.

KodiakCare thanks Margaret Shapiro for her exemplary service to the organization. She has established a high standard of quality, excellence, and care illustrated in our stories of saved dogs and reunited families. Margaret will continue her work with KodiakCare as a member of the Board of Directors. She is very much looking forward to spending more time with her human and fur family, while also staying involved with the incredible mission of KodiakCare. She can't wait to show you what the events team has put together for Mutt Madness 2022!



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