



# THE KODIAK TAILS

**KODIAKCARE.ORG**  
SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

FEBRUARY 2021



## **The Dog Ate WHAT? KodiakCare to the Rescue**

Every dog lover, it seems, has a story about the incredible things their pets have swallowed over the years: Socks, underwear, coins, acorns, birdseed -- and the list goes on. While most of those objects pass without incident, anything lodged in the digestive system can be fatal without surgery, and that's where KodiakCare comes in.

Clearing these obstructions is among the most common medical emergencies resolved with KodiakCare funds. Since its first days, the organization has supported pet owners confronted with the difficult choice between a costly procedure or euthanasia for otherwise healthy dogs.

[kodiakcare.org](http://kodiakcare.org)



The good news is that with KodiakCare's help, the problems can be resolved with no lingering issues, said Dr. Kiko Bracker, Co-Director of Emergency and Critical Care at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston, who has removed everything from sticks and stones to a rubber ducky. "We take things out of the intestines every day or every other day, it seems. It's a totally fixable problem," he said.

Just ask Grace, a three-year-old Labrador Retriever who underwent successful surgery to remove a rock in her small intestine. "I didn't know that dogs can smile," said owner Dennis Rogers. "Grace has been smiling ever since she has been home because of KodiakCare."

Like many dogs with obstructions, Grace's symptoms developed over a period of weeks. When she first began vomiting and lost her appetite, Rogers took her for an initial vet visit that set him back \$700, a difficult financial burden for the disabled veteran. Partly because of the financial limitations, everyone involved hoped the rock would pass on its own. After several weeks, Grace's lab work showed alarming signs, and only surgery would save her. "At some point, the bowel would have died off," Bracker noted.

Pet owners need to be vigilant. Some breeds, including Labs like Grace, are naturally mouthy and more likely to consume foreign objects, according to Bracker. Some objects are more dangerous and harder to spot with medical imaging. A stringy wad of carpet, for instance, can wreak havoc where a toy dinosaur (yes, he removed one of those, too!) is simpler to identify and extract.

Dogs can go a long time without symptoms, or with symptoms that could point to many diseases, such as the vomiting and loss of appetite Grace experienced. Apart from the extreme measure of using a muzzle to stop a dog from eating objects, Bracker said, "It's hard to totally prevent it. You can't talk them out of it."

In the case of Grace, Dennis could not afford the surgery his dog needed to survive. Dennis faced a bill over \$3,500 and an impossible choice. Thankfully, KodiakCare and KodiakCare's hospital partners came together to save Grace and Dennis. KodiakCare funded \$2,000 and Angell Animal Medical Center's Pet Care Assistance Fund provided another \$1,000 in financial aid. Rogers is beyond grateful to have his dog back, good as new: "I would have been lost without her," he said. "When I'm back on my feet, first thing I'll do is give back to the foundation."



## Are You Ready for Mutt Madness?!

Enter your pup in a 6-round canine version of March Madness for a chance to win prizes and be voted Top Dog!

It's easy: 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! Mutt Madness runs March 19 through April 6 and is free to enter. Stay tuned for more information!

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