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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

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Freak Accident Gives Way to Miraculous Recovery for Yara

Dogs love to play, especially the nearly 2 year old pup, Yara. Owner Christopher Keyes was swinging a rope when the burly Staffordshire Bull Terrier made a jump for it and landed badly. Keyes rushed the wounded young dog to an emergency veterinary clinic, which exhausted the retail clerk's cash-on-hand for X-rays and initial treatment.

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The emergency doctors recommended surgery to fuse the damaged bones in Yara's front leg, but the cost was unaffordable for Keyes. Desperate to relieve the wounded pup's suffering, Keyes agreed to euthanasia – until he was told that financial help could be available **through KodiakCare**.

An unusual odyssey followed, with Yara first going to a local municipal shelter, and Keyes agreeing to give up his ownership, if necessary, so the dog could receive care. "As long as she was OK and going to a really good home, I couldn't let her not live," Keyes explained.

Yara's life-saving intervention via KodiakCare and [Seattle Humane](#), then took another fortunate turn. As weeks passed, another plan emerged to amputate the front leg at Canyon Road Veterinary Clinic, which works with the local shelter and Seattle Humane Humane. When Yara bulldozed her way into the clinic for the amputation, Dr. Mary Fitzpatrick, the surgeon-on-call, immediately adapted the plan.

At a glance, Fitzpatrick knew the surgery could be safely scrapped, and Yara kept her leg. "She was using that leg to drag the technician!" Fitzpatrick exclaimed.

She removed a splint that was digging painfully into the dog's leg and performed a thorough examination. Yara had broken the human equivalent of her pinkie, ring and middle fingers and damaged the wrist joint as well. Happily, in the weeks when her future was in limbo, the broken bones had started healing and a "lovely callous" had formed.

"There is a saying in medicine called, 'The Tincture of Time,'" Fitzpatrick said. "Mother Nature, we don't give her enough credit." Sure enough, Yara has returned home with Keyes and, despite a slight limp, appears to be well enough to run and play as usual. "Back to normal," as Keyes said.

Unexpectedly reunited with his four-legged friend, Keyes was "ecstatic" and grateful to KodiakCare. "I cried a lot. I'm still appreciative and overwhelmed and everything in-between," he said. "I'm glad this program is out there. If I'm ever in my life fortunate with a sum of money, that is going to be my charitable cause. Even if I don't win the lottery, it's going to be my charitable cause."



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