



THE KODIAK TAILS

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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

MAY 2022



Combined Effort Saves Beloved American Bully

Cleo's loving family was preparing to cross a street when a too-long leash and a moment of distraction left their American Bully with double trouble: a painful body-wall hernia from a car accident, complicated by pyometra in her reproductive tract.

Unable to pay for all of the life saving treatments necessary to fix both afflictions, the Cacereses applied for additional aid. **KodiakCare immediately stepped in** to provide financial support, the vet was also moved by the story and applied Angell's financial-aid program and veterinary discretionary fund, of which a resident or intern is allocated \$1,000 annually.

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KodiakCare's partnership with veterinary clinics is special. The pet parent gives what they can, the clinic contributes where they can or reduces costs of services and KodiakCare makes up the rest. This means, Angell's partnership with KodiakCare makes funds go further, not simply saving more dogs but supporting vets. **"The impact on the doctors cannot be overstated. They don't have to talk about euthanizing a fix-able pet as often as in the past. That is huge for their well being ... KodiakCare is just amazing."**

Cleo's family members say they were amazed as well. "I'm so blessed and so thankful," said Valeria Caceres, Cleo's owner. When the phone call came from Angell letting her know a coalition had come together to save the dog, she recalled, **"I could finally breathe."**

While Cleo almost certainly would have died without receiving financial assistance, the surgeries were no problem for the vets at Angell. The internal hernia repair was relatively routine, and the pyometra was corrected by removing the uterus, which also protects Cleo from future health problems, according to Greenleaf. Both problems were "easily fix-able, and it's a permanent fix," she noted.

The Caceres family turned their living room into a hospital space for Cleo. With food and her bed close at hand, recovery came swiftly. "It took a few days, but then she started moving her tail more and wanting to get up to go to the bathroom," Caceres said. Within a few weeks, Cleo's incision had healed, her fur was growing back, and she was again able to play with the Cacereses' other dog. **"She's a great pet. She's very caring and loving," said Caceres. "She has a life to live."**



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