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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

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KodiakCare Helps Save Pittie from a Peach Pit

When Minnie arrived for treatment at Cobb & Co. Veterinary Clinic in Elgin, Ill., her vomiting and loss of appetite could have indicated any number of ailments. A routine check of her abdomen, however, made it obvious: The handsome young pit-bull mix had gotten into the garbage and wolfed down a dangerous snack.

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Pressing against the dog's tender tummy, "You could feel the peach pit," recalled Dr. Jacqueline Cobb, who said she sees abdominal obstructions in her practice at least once a month. The key is to remove the object as soon as possible to avoid complications, and that costs money.

Minnie's loving owner, Frederrick Myles, already had paid hundreds of dollars for blood work and X-rays when the bad news came: his dog needed immediate surgery at a cost of over \$3,000. The only other option was euthanasia.

"When they gave me the price I was really stunned. I had just made a car payment and I was helping my parents pay for the house," said Myles, who started his first full-time job out of school just last year. "I asked for a few days and they're like, 'This is very serious. She needs major abdominal surgery now.' I felt trapped."

As a teenager, Myles had lost a beloved dog in a similar circumstance. "I had a dog that needed immediate surgery and I had to put him down," he said. "That broke my heart."

Myles set up a GoFundMe page and scraped together as much as he could but was falling short when he finally got good news: KodiakCare stepped in at the crucial moment, providing \$2,000 to clear the way for Minnie's surgery.

Dr. Cobb and her team got to work that same night, concluding the surgery around 11:30 p.m. The procedure went so well that Minnie's appetite returned the next morning and she went home later that day, an accelerated timetable that helped to reduce the final bill. "Ever since I picked her up, she's been back to her old self," Myles said.

The team at Cobb & Co. were thrilled. Giving owners the choice between unaffordable expenses and euthanizing their dogs is "one of the hardest things we have to do," said Dr. Cobb. "We're so grateful. This was so heartwarming. This is why we do what we do as vets."



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