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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

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Tiny Puppy Pulls Through, With Help from KodiakCare

Just like human babies, puppies are delicate creatures that need help right away when something goes wrong. In the case of Nya, a Chihuahua mix, the trouble began with digestive problems and could have ended badly if not for prompt action from her loving owners, expert care from Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston – and financial help from KodiakCare.

Nya began suffering from vomiting, diarrhea and listlessness barely a week after the tiny pup completed an epic journey from the Dominican Republic to her new home in Dorchester, Mass. When the symptoms continued, owner Nardys Troncoso sought vet care. But after nearly \$1,000 in tests and treatment, the family couldn't afford an overnight stay and took the two-pound puppy home again.

The next day, the symptoms continued, and the Troncosos realized time was running out. As the diagnosis was still uncertain, the estimate for additional vet care covered a wide range, potentially

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leaving the Troncosos on the hook for more than their finances could bear. The family wanted “to go above and beyond” to save the fragile pup, but faced a heartbreaking decision, said Cindy Jimenez, the owner’s daughter.

Dr. Alison Allukian of Angell recognized that Nya could be saved with additional treatment and helped to connect the owners with KodiakCare. “These young dogs, you want to give them a chance,” said Allukian. “People come to the Emergency Room not expecting such a large bill and not expecting to have to pay it right then and there. It’s a big chunk of change.”

With the bills covered, Angell immediately began providing IV fluids and a feeding tube. “Puppies can quickly become dehydrated and not survive during this time,” Allukian noted. Over five days, Angell vets determined that Nya suffered from Coccidiosis, a dangerous parasitic disease, and nursed her back to health with a combination of powerful drugs.

Nya’s loving owners watched anxiously from afar, using a camera to Facetime with the pup during her treatment. “When my mom talked to her, her eyes would open up,” Jimenez recalled. “A dog is like a companion ... a friend ... a child.”

After treatment, Nya was back to her old self again, said Jimenez. “She’s happy and running around. Her little barks are loud but she’s cute.” The family is very grateful for KodiakCare, and after Nya’s close call has decided to invest in pet insurance, she said.

Dr. Allukian appreciated the happy ending. “It was heartwarming to see the grin on their faces when they got to take Nya home,” she said. “My experience with the KodiakCare fund, it’s a godsend. It makes all the world of difference for these owners.”



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