



THE KODIAK TAILS

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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

NOVEMBER 2022



Bronx Survives Facial Abscess with Help from KodiakCare

The problem started with a little lump that didn't raise an alarm when it appeared on the side of Bronx's face. Owner Benson Valery figured it was an allergic reaction and, after some sleuthing on the Internet, gave his 11-year-old pit-bull mix a dose of Benadryl and hoped for the best.

Instead, the worst occurred. Overnight, an aggressive bacteria took over the entire right side of Bronx' head. Valery's usual veterinarian took one look and sent him to a canine Emergency Room for urgent treatment. "I was worried because I literally had no cash, maybe 40 bucks to my name," said Valery, a Boston resident who said he works as a concierge on weekends and takes gig jobs to make ends meet.

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Despite the financial concerns, Valery rushed his longtime pet to Angell Animal Medical Center, where Bronx' condition continued to deteriorate. The Angell vets first tried to drain the abscess – a standard procedure that usually does the trick. But, as Dr. Rose Feldman noted, “The infection was just much, much more severe than it seemed at first.”

With the good-natured dog's face swollen, his right eye sealed shut and his tail no longer wagging as the illness spread through his system, Angell called on KodiakCare for funds to investigate further. A CT scan showed an infection had spread from the top of his head all through the side of his face and surgery was needed to remove the affected tissue. Aggressive IV antibiotics and round-the-clock nursing care followed and, happily, Bronx brightened up again.

Without funding from KodiakCare, Feldman said, Bronx probably would not have made it. “He was too sick. We could have not done the CT scan, but that was only a fraction of the treatment he needed. The imaging was the only thing that wasn't strictly necessary.”

For Valery, the financial aid was a godsend. “I was an emotional wreck knowing that Bronx was going through that, and not being sure I could help him. I kept thinking, ‘Why couldn't I have been rich or in a position to at least pay for this?’ ” Valery said. “He is such a good dog. It killed me even thinking about how I might have to put him down just because I couldn't afford it.”

Instead, Valery took Bronx home from Angell with a “manageable” remaining balance, and a dog who is “his old self again,” always expecting a treat, he said. “I was really appreciative that I could qualify for that funding. Truly, truly appreciate it.”

Feldman said she, too, felt relieved. “There are plenty of situations that we are not always able to help when it's theoretically a treatable condition,” she said. “We're lucky to have financial aid and KodiakCare. I'm super-grateful for it.”



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Bidding for Barks 2022

Bidding for Barks was incredibly successful thanks to all of the participants who donated, bid and spread the word for our cause. The auction surpassed our goal and raised over \$21,000!



All of the proceeds go to fund life-saving care for dogs of families with financial need. KodiakCare has been able to give families and their beloved pets a future thanks to our supporters. Thank you!

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