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SAVING LIVES, ONE DOG AT A TIME

THE KODIAK TAILS

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Big Brutus Gets Life-Saving Surgery

KodiakCare provides life-saving medical services to dogs of all shapes and sizes, but the organization takes its name from a big guy: Kodiak was a Bernese Mountain Dog, a breed that can tip the scale at over 100 pounds.

Now along comes Brutus, a 110-pounder who, like Kodiak, retained his good nature throughout medical treatment that saved his life and confirmed his positive character.

Owner Julie Wisheart of Monticello, Illinois, came home last month from her job as a hair stylist and noticed Brutus struggling to urinate. A bladder stone had blocked his urethra, and a visit to her local vet failed to resolve the problem.

Brutus arrived later that day at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in severe pain. His bladder was filling, and time was against him. He needed emergency surgery to create a permanent opening in the urethra, at a cost of as much as \$3,000.

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“They had to do the surgery and they want their funds up front,” Wisheart recalled. “We just don't have that kind of money sitting around in our savings. We're in a pandemic after all, and I'm just a poor little hairdresser.” Wisheart contributed \$600 from a debit card and promised to try and find more in the following days, but Brutus couldn't wait.

Fortunately, KodiakCare came to the rescue, making up part of the difference between what the clinic had to charge and what Wisheart could afford. In the end, Wisheart paid \$600 and KodiakCare, along with the University of Illinois, paid the remaining \$2,330.

“As much as we'd love to do everything for the dogs, we have to make sure the owners can afford it,” said Dr. Jennifer Kuzminsky, who helped supervise Brutus' care. “Unfortunately, that's almost commonplace in veterinary practice. A lot of times euthanasia has to be the option to give the animal relief from pain and suffering. We were very thankful we had the funds available for Brutus.”

With the surgery, the six-year-old Mastiff mix faces a painful, weeks-long recovery, but a “very good” long-term prognosis, said Dr. Kuzminsky. “Most dogs do well and have a long life ahead of them.”

As of mid-September, Brutus was feeling better, working his way back to giving horse rides to the young nieces and nephews who he adores, Wisheart said. “He's a big dog but he is so good. He loves kids. We just love rushing home to him.”

Kuzminsky agreed that Brutus packs a large load of canine love. “He's quite a lot of dog,” she noted. “He was a big boy but, luckily, he was the sweetest dog to work with.”



Thank You for Making Bidding for Barks a Great Success!

KodiakCare's second annual online auction, Bidding for Barks, was incredibly successful thanks to all of the participants who donated, bid and spread the word for our cause. Thank you!

With an exciting flurry of activity right up to the end and some post-auction donations, the auction surpassed our goal and raised over \$20,000! All of the proceeds go to fund life-saving care for dogs of families with financial need.

KodiakCare recently saved its 95th dog! The grateful owner emailed her thanks, saying, “without your help, we don't know what we would have done.” KodiakCare has been able to give families and their beloved pets a future thanks to our supporters. Thank you!



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