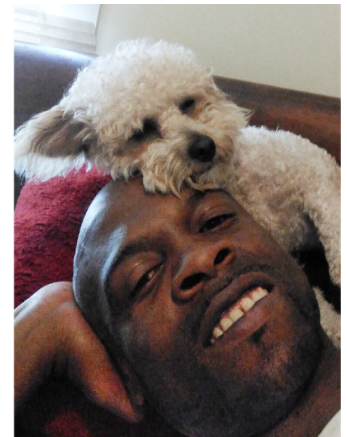




KODIAKCARE

THE KODIAK TAILS

OCTOBER 2020



A Tiny Dog, A Huge Truck, and Another Life Saved

It happened so fast that Antone Bufford had no time to react. As he stepped out of the car after his first day back at work during the pandemic, his nine-pound miniature poodle, Dutch, jumped out and ran right into the path of a pickup truck. Dutch was so small, and the vehicle so large, that Antone immediately thought the worst.

“I had my eyes off him for two seconds. He got by me so quick,” Bufford recalled. “My life was over. I lost my best friend. My heart was crushed. I was so hurt.”

Dutch is among the estimated 1.2 million dogs hit by cars in the U.S. every year. The injuries can be catastrophic, and time is of the essence to repair the damage. Dutch likely would have died had Bufford and his family delayed care, but Bufford took Dutch straight to Angell Animal Medical Center, Boston for emergency treatment. “If his owners had waited even a couple of hours to bring him to surgery, it could have turned out differently,” said Dr. Jami Becker of Angell, who supervised Dutch’s post-operative care.

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When they arrived at Angell, Dutch was in shock. He had a tear in his diaphragm, severe internal injuries, and a badly broken front leg. He needed immediate surgery, as well as a blood transfusion, supportive care, and an additional surgery to repair his leg once his condition stabilized. He faced amputation if funds were not available to properly repair his broken elbow. It was clear a large surgical bill loomed, and money was tight, as Bufford had just returned to his job at a health club after a long break when the club was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“No one is planning for a \$10,000 expense,” noted Dr. Becker. “As much as we’d like to do all this for free, it costs money on our end. The other option we’re looking at is euthanasia if we’re unable to get him into surgery right away.”

Fortunately for Bufford and his one-year-old dog, Angell and KodiakCare were there to help cover the finances and to put Dutch back in the arms of his loved ones. As the funds fell into place, so did the optimal treatment for Dutch. “KodiakCare gave us the freedom to be able to fix his elbow the correct way and give him the best chance to recover,” said Dr. Becker. “Young dogs have an amazing ability to recover. At this point, we can declare victory.”

After “a night of hell” waiting to hear what would happen to Dutch, Bufford received the good news he had prayed for. “I pray to God I don’t have to go through that again,” he said. “I didn’t care about anything but my dog. I couldn’t live without him.”

Now Dutch is back to walking, snuggling, running and playing, Bufford reports. “Best temperament ever. He is doing wonderfully. Getting back to his old self.”

Bufford is grateful to the donors of KodiakCare for helping at the crucial moment when a life hung in the balance. “I appreciate you all so much,” he said. “Ain’t nothing like coming home to Dutch!”



KodiakCare’s First Event, Bidding for Barks, a Huge Success

Thank you to all our donors, board members and friends who made KodiakCare’s first event so incredibly successful. We went well above our goal, and together we raised over \$17,000 for dogs and their families! Thank you!

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One hundred percent of the funds raised will go toward critical veterinary care for dogs who need life-saving services, but whose families lack financial means. Dogs like Dutch, above, who endured every pet owner's worst nightmare. For many families, especially now, the costs of the medical care required to survive injuries like Dutch's are insurmountable. Thanks to our donors, KodiakCare was able to give Dutch a second chance and give Antone his best friend back.

The generosity of our supporters is inspiring. We cannot wait to share the next event with you! Be on the lookout for Mutt Madness and a chance for your pet to be top dog! Coming March 2021.



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