



THE KODIAK TAILS

saving lives, one dog at a time



Lunar Neara survives a gruesome injury and a rough stint on the streets of Ohio

If not for a Good Samaritan, good veterinarians and the good people behind KodiakCare, Neara never would have stood a chance.

The young-ish pit bull was found wandering with a severe and potentially fatal injury on the road “near a” park in Columbus, Ohio, which is how she got her name. One

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of her back paws had been badly mangled and the skin violently stripped off to expose the bones in her toes, suggesting she may have had a close encounter with a car. Dogs routinely survive “degloving” injuries, as they’re called, but immediate care is needed, and Neara had no one to help.

An anonymous Good Samaritan managed to corral the wary, limping pup and deliver her to the Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center, where a surgical team swung into action. The surgeons decided the wound was so severe that amputating the leg was the best option.

At first, the malnourished Neara was understandably standoffish, recalls Dr. Jake Aiello, one of the OSU vets who treated her. “She was a street dog, timid of people at first. She was pretty sore, and a little bit reactive with resource guarding, which is not surprising for a dog on the streets.”

After the surgery, however, “There was a change in her demeanor overnight,” he said. “Getting her out of her cage, she just wanted to bounce around outside. She was loving all the attention she was getting.”

While amputation is a drastic step, it’s not uncommon for trauma, cancer or other ailments, Aiello said, and most dogs take it in stride, so to speak. “Whether it’s a two-pound dog or a big Great Dane, they do well. It’s a fairly quick recovery.” A rear-leg amputation imposes less of an ongoing burden than a front leg, which carries more weight, Aiello noted.

With no owner and a severe injury, Neara was a potential candidate for euthanasia. Saving her life marked the first collaboration between KodiakCare and new partner OSU. “Our goal with the funds we are given,” Aiello said, “is to try to allocate them appropriately for a good long-term prognosis.”

Aiello was grateful for KodiakCare’s support, he said. Like many vets, he dreads when owners are forced to choose between necessary medical treatments and taking on an unaffordable financial burden. Up-front discussions about money are “something we do pretty much every single day,” Aiello said. “It sucks to have those conversations. Thank you for putting this together so we have the funds.”

After her recovery, Neara went to the Franklin County dog shelter to be adopted. The shelter does not disclose when or who adopts its dogs, but within a few weeks of her arrival, Neara was not listed on the shelter’s website as available for adoption, and Aiello said he was confident that the right family would find her: “She will be a good dog and make somebody a good pet in the future.”

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Mutt Madness voting starts
Today!**

KodiakCare's Fourth Annual Mutt Madness, sponsored by Embrace Pet Insurance, voting starts today!

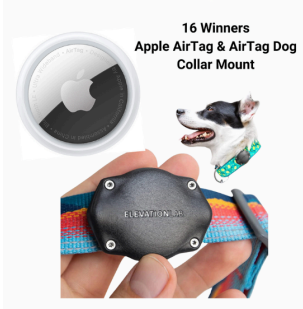
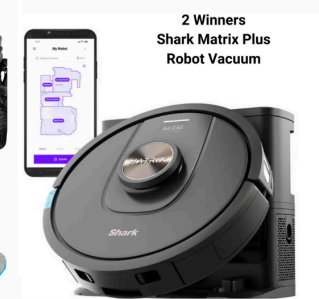
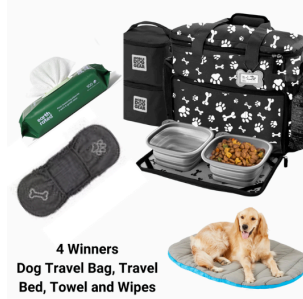
Enter your pup for a chance to win prizes and be voted the Mutt Madness Champion, all while raising money for life-saving veterinary care for dogs and families in need.

How to Enter and Compete

Go to the [Mutt Madness 2024 site](#) and create a free account. Then upload a photo of your canine companion, along with a brief description of why you think they should win.

Invite friends, family, and all your fur baby's fans to cast their votes for your critter. Limited time, donate \$5 at sign up, get 10 additional votes for free!

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