



THE KODIAK TAILS

saving lives, one dog at a time

A New York Pittie Keeps His Sweet Disposition While Beating Parvovirus



Smokey was a very sick dog when he arrived at the Schwarzman Animal Medical Center in New York, unable to stop vomiting and at risk of death. Yet despite facing terrible adversity, the four-year-old pit bull kept his sweet disposition.

“The brightness clearly inside him never left him,” recalled Dr. Richa Dheendsa, a Schwarzman vet who treated Smokey for what turned out to be a serious case of canine parvovirus -- and remembers him being “such a sweetie” throughout his ordeal.

Today, Smokey is back in the pink again, after life-saving treatment at Schwarzman, funded in part by KodiakCare. Restoring this loving pup to health was the first big success for a newly formed partnership between the two pro-dog organizations.

“KodiakCare partners with dog owners and hospitals like Schwarzman to provide funding for life-saving pet care,” said Glenn Shapiro, KodiakCare co-founder. “The families we serve turn to KodiakCare for help when they lack the financial means to pay for critical veterinary services.”

Smokey’s illness came as a shock to owner Felix Concepcion, who was frightened when his otherwise healthy dog suddenly developed severe symptoms. “He was not wanting to eat, looking sad and miserable. All he wanted to do was lay down and then he started vomiting. It really scared me.”

Concepcion had to borrow funds from an aunt to cover an initial vet visit in his hometown of Albany, N.Y. When Smokey made it to Schwarzman, the cost of the extensive care he needed also came as a shock, Concepcion said, “I was willing to sell my car and everything. It’s hard when you love something and you can help it, but you don’t have the money for it. I gave them everything I had, and I just hoped for the best.”

- “I was willing to sell my car and everything. It’s hard when you love something and you can help it, but you don’t have the money for it.” - Felix Concepcion

Schwarzman was up front about the costs. “We try to offer funds when we can,” said Dheendsa. “We consider prognosis and age when we talk to the owners and try to be brutally honest. We try to be the guiding light, bring wisdom, and say, ‘Here is what we can do.’ We are not trying to make owners feel guilty.”

Fortunately, KodiakCare and Schwarzman rallied behind the stricken dog, who was young and strong enough to withstand treatment, but who had such a severe sore throat from vomiting that it was too painful for him to eat or take oral medication.

Schwarzman placed a feeding tube in the dog’s neck and showed Concepcion how to deliver medicine and liquid food through the tube. After a hospital stay, Smokey came home with the tube still inserted, sleepy from the medicine and skinnier from the liquid diet, but already on the mend.

“I’m so grateful,” Concepcion said. “I thought I was going to lose him. I would have been so miserable!”

Dheendsa said she also is appreciative. “This is a great hospital because it is supported by donors,” she said. “We have opportunities to learn and have access to great technology that we can offer our clients. We are able to do our jobs at the next level. We are so grateful!”

Mutt Madness is Back and Bigger for 2023!



Mutt Madness has started with a bark and a wag! Over 300 dogs are in on the fun and you can be too!

Don't have a dog in the contest? [Vote](#) for your favorite pup — All donations, up to \$250, made through 7:45 pm on March 22nd will be matched, doubling your votes and your impact for dogs in need. All of the proceeds go towards critical veterinary care.

Mutt Madness ends March 28th at 8:00pm. There is still plenty of time to win big with multiple rounds and extra challenges to double down on your votes!

Check out this year's [prizes](#) and [sign up](#) today! There is no elimination! Any underdog can become a top dog!

KodiakCare thanks it's Presenting Sponsor, Embrace Pet Insurance for their support of this event and dedication to KodiakCare's mission of Saving Lives, One Dog at a Time.

Thank You! KodiakCare Pupdate

KodiakCare donors have saved more than 350 dogs in our first two years of existence.



[DONATE](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

Our Contact Information

KodiakCare
32 Michael Road
Simsbury, CT 06070
4132650772

<https://www.kodiakcare.org/>

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)

