

VOL 14, ISSUE 12



PAWSITIVE PRESS

Caring for Pets with Love & Kindness Since 1977



Vader the Labrador

Vader's Story

BY SANDRA WALKER, AHOD CLIENT

Back in September 2019 our lab, Vader, was diagnosed with liver cancer and we were told by Blue Pearl in Tampa that he had 4 years to live if they were able to successfully retrieve the tumor with surgery. We attempted an expensive surgery; however, due to the tumor being in the back of the liver the surgeon was not able to remove the tumor and gave us options about trying chemo. We were devastated to say the least – Vader is part of our family and we couldn't fathom losing him at 9 years old. Money was no object – we were determined to do everything in our power to keep him alive as long as he was in good spirits.

Continued on page 2...

Bringing your pet in for a nail trim?

Pick up your *Peticure club* punch card and when you buy 9 nail trims the 10th one is free!



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

In addition to seeing your adorable cats and dogs, Dr. Sandra and Dr. Fazio are seeing your exotic pets too! Call now to schedule appointments for:

- Guinea Pigs
- Hedgehogs
- Ferrets
- Hamsters
- Rats
- Mice
- Gerbils
- Tortoises
- Turtles
- Bearded Dragons
- Non-Venomous Snakes

Visit ahofd.com for a full list of our services for exotic pets.



1

FEATURED

Vader's Story

2

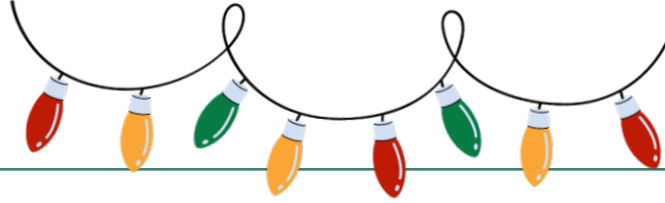
DID YOU KNOW?

Heartworm Disease

3

NOV. COUPONS

- > \$40 off Labwork
- > 10% off Prescriptions
- > Dental Cleaning



...Vader's Story from Page 1

Anyhow, we met with the oncologist and she told us he would get chemo for 6 months and the life expectancy with chemo treatments would be 1.5 years...but he wouldn't be able to lick us and we'd have to wear gloves when he went to the bathroom as it wouldn't be safe. Our Vader constantly licks us and gives kisses to our little girl and our entire family — this would be punishment for him and us, so we decided to turn down the option as this wouldn't work for our family. So Blue Pearl recommended a holistic vet in Dunedin, Dr. Bartholomew. We live in Wesley Chapel, so 90 minutes to Dunedin was a bit long but we'll do anything for our pooch so we made an appointment and met with Dr. B and his staff. Dr. B is great and he provided an arsenal of holistic solutions: from Chinese herbs that Vader takes daily, to monthly acupuncture, to quarterly high doses of Vitamin C treatments via IV as this helps fight cancer, etc. Then Dr. B introduced us to Dr. Caputo – she's a traveling vet but she does work out of Animal Hospital of Dunedin (AHOD) once a week. Dr. Caputo is a well rounded vet and she performs a special ozone/oxygen treatment that Vader gets monthly (basically a 10-minute therapy that's used to help kill cancer cells as cancer doesn't thrive well with oxygen).



Vader and his favorite pal, Bella

Both vets are great...initially we went there weekly for the first 3 months, then biweekly and now monthly. Vader also had some bad arthritis in his back legs and Dr. Caputo recommended what we call our miracle drug *Grapiprant*. The medicine is safe for the liver and helped with the leg inflammation and arthritis – at first it gave Vader terrible diarrhea and after a few months of adjusting the dose combined with prescription dog food that Dr. B recommended for gastrointestinal to help maintain normal stool, we finally found the right combination for Vader (1/3 a pill every 3 days) and he's no longer limping and doing great. You can't even tell he has cancer – he's a happy boy and I owe many, many thanks to the AHOD and these 2 miracle vets Dr. B and Dr. Caputo! To any pet owner who's thinking about trying holistic solutions...I hope our story helps you make the decision that's right for your family – if we did the chemo route we were looking at 1.5 years life expectancy and

I'm extremely happy to say Vader is currently doing well and he has surpassed 4 years with his holistic treatments.

Did You Know? — By Michael Bartholomew, DVM, MSTCVM

Heartworm Disease can affect a number of animals including dogs, cats, ferrets, coyotes and foxes among others and is a serious disease. A mosquito will bite a heartworm infected animal and ingest the larvae which develop to an infective stage which can then be transmitted to your dog or cat. If a pet is not on heartworm prevention, these larvae can develop into adult worms over 4-5 months in dogs and 4-6 months in cats. In dogs, these worms living in the heart and lungs can cause respiratory disease, cardiac disease, and cause damage to other organs in the body. Damage caused by heartworm disease can last even if treatment is successful. While cats usually carry a lower worm burden than dogs, cats can also suffer organ damage with a disease called Heartworm Associated Respiratory Disease. For this reason, we recommend your pet be on heartworm preventatives year-round in Florida.



DECEMBER COUPONS

Present these coupons during any qualified appointment scheduled during the month of December!



\$40 Off
COMPLETE CANINE & FELINE
WELLNESS SCREEN PANELS

Call for your appointment today 727-733-9351

Wellness screen includes the following: Chemistry, CBC, Thyroid Level, Urinalysis, and Microalbuminuria (for cats, a Leukemia and FIV test are also included). Pet must be an established patient. May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts.
Coupon must be presented at the time of service.

EXPIRES 12/31/23



Christmas Special
10% Off
ANY PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS
PURCHASED DURING APPOINTMENT

Call for your appointment today! 727-733-9351

This coupon is good for 10% off prescriptions purchased during your pet's doctor appointment in December. Includes Heartworm & Flea/Tick Prevention.
May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts.
Coupon must be presented at the time of service.

EXPIRES 12/31/23



10% Off
DENTAL CLEANING

Call for your appointment today 727-733-9351

Discount applies to anesthesia, prophylaxis, and any other dental radiographs or extractions that might be needed. Offer excludes required pre-dental lab work.
May not be combined with any other coupons or discounts.
Coupon must be presented at the time of service.

EXPIRES 12/31/23