

To all this may concern:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your outstanding work. Four years ago my Rottweiler Jada got very sick. At the same time my father was dying. Needless to say it was an extremely traumatic time for our family. When we took Jada to VMCLI she was seen by Dr. Fondacaro who would have ultimately diagnosed her with immune mediated thrombocytopenia. She was literally on death's door and had withered down to a shell of herself. After much TLC and the proper medical treatment over the course of several months she started to make a turn around. Dr. Fondacaro was always kind and patient with us and made us feel comfortable in Jada's recovery even though apparently many dogs do not recover from episodes like that or suffer reoccurrences etc. Jada has clearly put back on the weight and actually maybe is a bit too chubby at this point. We didn't know if we would have ever seen her healthy again and it is truly due to the knowledge and support of Dr. Fondacaro that we have been able to have our amazing Rottie back.

Unfortunately, Jada's companion Bear recently fell ill. Having been through a lot with him over the years we knew in our hearts that this was probably the end of his road. Although he was an older dog, he still looked and acted like a puppy. He always bounced back and was quite the character around our home. We could literally write a book of all of his comical crazy episodes. When faced with the horrible decision to have to put him down we knew that since our regular veterinary office was closed, there was only one place that we wanted to take him. Over the years, we have unfortunately had the chance to visit several emergency pet hospitals on Long Island. Not one place could ever compare. From the moment you enter VMCLI it is evident that this facility is top notch. It is spotless and doesn't look, smell or feel like a typical animal hospital.

We wanted to express to staff how very grateful we are to have dealt with such warm and loving individuals. We are heartbroken over the decision we chose. We were afraid that we may have walked into a situation where we would be made to feel guilty for not pursuing diagnostic testing and possibly surgery. However, after evaluating his condition there was automatically an understanding of knowing what was the best decision for our Bear. The Bear that was carried into VMCLI had clearly started letting go and giving up the fight. Still, when his big brown eyes stared at us with such love it was difficult not to have moments of questioning our choice for him.

Dr. Howe thank you for making the last moments of Bear's life special. Thank you for telling him he was a good boy and how handsome he was. After the unexpected loss of our four year old lab Nugget, we decided to rescue a dog. Within two weeks we had Bear and our lives were never the same. He was a remarkable companion who was there for my husband and I over the loss of our parents, during my bedrest and the birth of our little boy born nearly 10 weeks early. Bear wasn't around many children and we were a little afraid of how he would react to the baby. Well from the moment our son came home from the NICU, Bear was by his side. They loved each other dearly. The moment he sensed that anyone in the house was upset he would run and sit by their side. He would instantly put his big block head on our laps and stay with until you were feeling better. The dignity and love you showed him as a stranger will never be forgotten. Thank you for showing your emotion and sharing in our pain. You are a remarkable doctor and we truly appreciate all of the empathy you showed us during those last moments.

Sincerely,

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