

## MAX IS HANGING IN THERE WITH HIS USUAL GUSTO

Yes, Kate is indeed eloquent. I wrote to her and told her I will read her kind words every day and appreciate her efforts to raise funds for Max through her Wrapped in Kindness charity.

How sweet of you to say you would lend Max and I your cabin if you had one.

I spent my Mother's Day weekend enjoying my time with my beautiful daughter and my Max and his siblings. Sunday was a most beautiful day and I took Max outside to breathe the fresh air.

The oncologists at AMC have sent Max's biopsy out for "special stains." They say this will tell them in more detail the exact cancers invading Max's beautiful body. Then, possibly, there may be a different chemotherapy or other kind of treatment that could prolong Max's life. They asked my permission to do this. It is an additional expense. We're grasping at straws, but I don't want to leave any stone unturned. If there's any hope whatsoever, I will not give up.

I don't believe Max is ready to give up either. He is, once again, doing well after surgery and has even tried to tempt me into a game of tug. I told him "no, not yet." Mommy has to follow doctor's orders, and it's only been 9 days since a very serious surgery. I have him lie on his bed and I throw tennis balls directly into his mouth. He seems happy with that for now.

I heard your show on Saturday. Once again, you provided important information to pet owners. Lyme disease is a beastly disease. Many years ago I adopted a dog who just showed up on our front porch covered in fleas and ticks. She suffered her whole life with pain and lameness from Lyme, though we treated her best we could. All of my dogs are vaccinated for Lyme and treated with Frontline. But I am going to look into the new treatment you mentioned. I hope your listeners took the information you provided to them very seriously. Lyme is not something you fool around with. I am so sorry to hear about your dog. Lyme is a terrible disease, much worse than people think. Hopefully, you caught it early enough that antibiotics can quickly make your baby well.

My daughter Julie has been battling the effects of Lyme for almost 3 years. There are days when her legs hurt so bad she can't get out of bed. Oral and IV antibiotics have not helped. She saw no tick and had no rash, so she was not treated until symptoms were severe and then she was misdiagnosed. I am much more educated about Lyme now, as I am about cancer. You educate yourself quickly when you're in it.

I'll be taking Max to AMC in about a week for suture removal and to discuss what, if anything, is next. For now, he is comfortable. Of course, I'll keep you updated.

Max's Mom, Pam