

Dear Tracie -

Julie just showed me everything written here. I am sorry I did not write sooner. But Max did not go into surgery until almost 3:00 (after leaving him at AMC at 8:20 a.m.) and the surgeon did not call me until almost 6:00. I have been on the phone with friends and family and other doctors from AMC - but I HAVE THE MOST AMAZING NEWS!!!!!!! MAX IS ALIVE!!!!!!!!!!

His tumor was the size of a softball and very fragile. It actually disintegrated in the surgeon's hands as she attempted to remove it. There came a point where there were one or two cells left and she had to make a decision - try to remove them and risk damaging major vessels and possibly killing Max, or leave them there. She chose to leave them. I trust her judgment.

So 99% of the tumor was removed - I still can't believe it but seeing it written in front of me in black and white I know it is really true. The E.R. doctor told me there was no choice but to euthanize Max. The AMC surgeons removed the tumor and they say tonight he is alert and doing as well as expected. One of the doctors that we have seen since January and who has taken a great liking to Max called me about an hour ago and said he was with Max giving him hugs and kisses from me and Julie. He wanted to know if I wanted to be put on speaker phone so I could say some comforting words to Max. I chose not to - I know my boy and he would be so stressed searching for me. He needs his rest. He's been through so much - once again.

After Max comes home (probably Thursday) I am going to write to the ER doctor and tell him about the surgery. He gave my Max a death sentence when there was hope. I almost ended my beloved pet's life based on his deadly prognosis. I have to let him know that he shouldn't have done that, and that he should be more careful in the future with other suffering pets and owners.

I am exhausted. I know I will sleep well tonight. My boy is coming home again and, after he gets strong enough, he will enjoy swimming and chasing sticks on the beach. It will happen. Can you believe it, Tracie? Max is going to get his summer at the beach after all. My Miracle Golden Max. He was not ready to give up the summer. He fought for it. And he's going to get it.

So, to those of you who lit candles - what you did for us - well, it was not in vain. Your prayers were answered. And I cannot put into words my appreciation for strangers who do not know me or Julie or our handsome Golden Boy. In this difficult time in the world, where people are out of work and struggling with their own personal problems - for them to include Max in their prayers - well, all I can say is - your love and kindness has moved mountains tonight. Max is coming home.

I will write again after I have Max back in my arms. For now, I say thank you once again and good night - and it IS A VERY GOOD NIGHT... Love and Thanks,

Max's Mom, Pam