

Smile, Duke, your medical expenses are paid

Generous donor picks up entire \$2,000 tab

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Photo



Thirty-seven-year-old quadriplegic Ken Quilici and his chocolate lab Duke breathed a sigh of relief today.

A generous Danville resident stopped by Bishop Ranch Veterinary Center this weekend to write a \$2,089 check covering the entire cost of the dog's rare and expensive surgery after reading about it in the Danville Weekly last week. The donator was a Bishop Ranch client and asked to remain anonymous.

"All she cared about was relieving Ken's worries," said Tracey Quartaroli, spokeswoman for the Vet Center.

Quilici, who was laid off from his job selling medical supplies three weeks ago, could not afford to correct the dog's Laryngeal Paralysis, which made breathing feel like sucking air through a small straw. Without corrective surgery, the two could not go on daily outings together, as getting excited meant risking getting overheated for the dog.

As of noon Monday, about \$2,230 had been raised for Duke by three contributors. The leftover money will be credited to Duke's account for additional veterinary services.

"Duke is doing awesome," said a grateful Quilici, adding that he plans to send thank you notes to people who donated money.

"I'm so impressed with the generosity of this community," Quartaroli said.