

## Abbotsford went the extra mile for Jake and his ?mom?

I have been writing this letter in my head for the past month or so.

I just cannot find the words, but I will give it a try.

Sixteen years ago, my sweet little boy Jake, my beagle, walked in to my life and healed my very broken heart. From there on we were a duo. Jake got me through a crappy marriage, and divorce. I got him through a serious back condition that caused him great pain throughout his entire life, and stomach poisoning.

He stood strong beside me while I floundered to find a new career, new homes, and a new wonderful life for both him and me.

Through all that, the team at Abbotsford Animal Hospital made us part of their family. The care at this facility is so remarkable, and so special that they kept my lovely boy, happy and healthy, despite the setbacks mentioned above for 16 years!

Through the years, the doctors became like big brothers to me and Jake. Dr. Bockneck even gave me his personal cell phone to call him anytime, anywhere if we ever needed him. I always knew if I had to leave Jake with the Abbotsford crew, that he was safe, and very loved.

So, you can well imagine, when I called Dr. Bockneck on March 30, while he was up north, to let him know that it was ?time?, I was devastated. To tell the truth I still am, Jake and I were a solid team for 16 years, and my world is now so very different without him.

Dr. Bockneck had been monitoring him for several weeks as he declined, and agreed that it was time let Jake go. And so, with a gesture that was so incredibly thoughtful, and respectful, Dr. B and Cass, came to our house, where Jake and I were able to sit on the couch, while Jake laid in my arms, and they put my sweet boy into a very peaceful sleep.

As I said goodbye, Dr. B said the best thing that he could have said to me. I kissed Jake and told him he was the best thing to ever happen to me. Dr. B looked up at me and said ?You were the best thing to ever happen to him.?

So, as you can tell, I credit this absolutely wonderful facility and staff for supporting, and loving Jake and I for the best 16 years of my life. Not only did they keep Jake happy and healthy, they helped Jake's ?mommy? experience a very special kind of love, one that will never be matched.

With all my heart. Thank you.

Kelli M. Collins  
Aurora