

For Immediate Release

Animal Medical Center Presents 12th Annual Living Legends Awards With Virtual Celebration

Honoring Companion Animals Who Overcame Major Health Challenges

(New York, N.Y. – September 16, 2020) The Animal Medical Center (AMC) presented its 12th Annual Living Legends Awards today, honoring pets who overcame overwhelming health challenges as a result of the care they received at AMC, along with their owner’s love and commitment. In lieu of the in-person luncheon, guests logged on for a virtual video tribute to this year’s legends. Click here to view the video: <https://youtu.be/7-592YSV0ro>

The 2020 Benefit Co-Chairs are: Donna Acquavella, Tina Santi Flaherty, Michael Heaner, Emilia S. Krimendahl, Elaine Langone, Robert Liberman, Marianne Mebane, Elizabeth Moore, Katharine Rayner, Lisa Schiff, Ann Tisch, and Janet York.

“We are all living in a virtual age because of the pandemic, but it presents us with an opportunity to do things differently,” said Kathryn Coyne, President and Chief Executive Officer of AMC. “Though we cannot come together in person, we have reimagined our event to recognize AMC’s 2020 Living Legends, and to celebrate the unbreakable bond between people and their pets.”

The 2020 Living Legends honorees are:

LOLA, an 11-year-old long-haired Chihuahua, was examined by doctors in AMC's Cancer Institute and diagnosed with a bone tumor on her skull. Dr. Katie Kennedy, AMC's Surgical Oncologist, and the only board certified veterinary surgical oncologist practicing in New York City, and her team removed the top half of Lola's skull and used a titanium mesh to recreate the skull and protect the brain. This is an incredibly rare surgery, which very few veterinary institutions have the capability to perform. Lola is now cancer free 10 months later.

OLIVE, a 9-year-old cat, came to AMC's Emilia Saint-Amand Krimendahl Institute for Trauma Care with a fever, rapid heartbeat, and in shock. Diagnostic tests revealed she had a bacterial infection within her heart sac (septic pericarditis), caused by a foreign body, a condition never previously reported in cats. The foreign body (a piece of grass) and most of the heart sac were removed through minimally invasive surgery in the Katharine and William Rayner Interventional Radiology and Endoscopy Suite. Treated collaboratively by AMC's Trauma Center, Cardiology, and Interventional Radiology and Endoscopy services, Olive spent a week in the hospital and upon final recheck was found to be completely back to normal.

The Jackie Santi Flaherty Award for Courage

DUDLEY, an 8-year-old Miniature Toy Poodle, is the recipient of the third *Jackie Santi Flaherty Award for Courage*. Dudley was hit by a truck in Central Park, rendering him completely paralyzed in his back legs and unlikely to ever walk again. Initially hospitalized elsewhere, Dudley immediately required blood and plasma transfusions and two surgeries to help save his life. While Dudley was hospitalized, he

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received daily intensive rehabilitation therapy at the Tina Santi Flaherty Rehabilitation and Fitness Center. AMC's Surgery, Interventional Radiology, and Neurology services also cared for him during his stay. Discharged after four weeks with a supportive cart (wheelchair) and starting to show some return of function in his hindlimbs, Dudley continued to come for regular rehabilitation and acupuncture sessions. He has since recovered full function of his right hindlimb (he no longer requires a cart to walk) and has recently been able to use the left hind leg to support weight and take occasional steps, walking again on his own after such traumatic injuries and so much hard work.

About Animal Medical Center

The Animal Medical Center (AMC) is the world's largest non-profit animal hospital with 100+ veterinarians providing the highest quality medical care across more than 20 specialties and services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our mission to provide the best in care, research, and education has been the foundation of our work for over a century. As we mark our 110th anniversary, we are launching the Gift of Love campaign to ensure we are here for our pets for the next century, and beyond. Learn more at www.amcny.org/giftoflove.

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