

...stopped and sat
over. "I guess Dad loves
Opie best, then you, then
us kids..."

Recently, when return-
ing from lunch with Opie, I
noticed that he was doing
his best not to put weight
on his right back leg. Need-
less to say, I was concerned
and I picked him up and we
were off to Tazewell Pike
Animal Clinic. Opie's regular
vets Dr. Joanne Hibbs, Dr.
Lori Smith and Dr. Meghan
Zeise did a great job in their
initial examinations. Their
preliminary diagnosis was
a torn cruciate ligament in



Pictured at the UT Veterinary Medical Center are (Front row, left to right): Dr. Diane Hendrix, Carol Tuft, Lauren Webb (with Opie), Dawn Hickey, Jamie Stuffle, (back row) Tonya Foster, Dr. Hannah McLean, Ashley Colantoni, Jordan Neely and Dr. Marti Drum. Not pictured are orthopedic surgeons Dr. Kyle Snowdon and Dr. Whitney DeGroot.

his right rear knee and he
would need surgery.

At that point his regular
vets recommended that I
take Opie to the UT Veteri-
nary Medical Center.

I knew the UT Veteri-
nary Medical Center was a
wonderful place from past
experience, but I will con-
fess I was still both nervous

and worried.

Opie had his knee sur-
gery and it was very suc-
cessful. I quickly estab-
lished a regular pattern of
visiting times. I was aston-
ished by two things: how
quickly he recovered and
the care he was receiving.
Opie's incision healed very
quickly, he was watched

carefully for any sign of
infection and immedi-
ately began to go through the
doggie equivalent of rehab.
There are quite a few steps
in our house and I wanted
to be certain Opie would
have no difficulty going
anywhere in his house he
wanted to go.

The staff at the UT

Veterinary Medical Center
is very invested in their
animal patients. Over the
next six weeks, it became
absolutely obvious that
everyone there truly cares
about each and every one
of the animals in their safe-
keeping.

Opie's staff cuddled
with him and gave him

I've told my wife Kim that
I have to go to the hospital,
I want to be taken to the UT
Veterinary Medical Center.
If your pet needs some very
special treatment, I would
tell you without hesitation
to try the UT Veterinary
Medical Center.

You may well think this
column is an advertorial,
and perhaps it is, but I can
assure you, it's not for pay-
ment. It's out of repayment
and pure old-fashioned
gratitude.

Opie and I and our entire
family thank you UT Veteri-
nary Medical Center!

Hardy Johnson 'keeps going' on 89th birthday

By Steve Williams

Hardy Johnson, longtime
shoe cobbler in Fountain
City, only stopped working
for short periods of time



Council to consider short-term rental ordinance

By Mike Steely
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The ordinance to regu-
late signs in the city was
debated passionately for
years before a final ver-

term rental homes open
their doors to temporary
visitors, especially during
major festivals, UT home
football games and holi-
days. Some of the unpop-