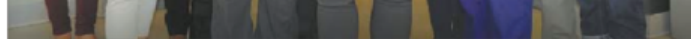


"I guess Dad loves Opie best, then you, then us kids..."

Recently, when returning from lunch with Opie, I noticed that he was doing his best not to put weight on his right back leg. Needless 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 Veterinary Medical Center.

I knew the UT Veterinary Medical Center was a wonderful place from past experience, but I will confess I was still both nervous

and worried.

Opie had his knee surgery and it was very successful. I quickly established a regular pattern of visiting times. I was astonished 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 immediately 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 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 payment. It's out of repayment and pure old-fashioned gratitude.

Opie and I and our entire family thank you UT Veterinary Medical Center!

Hardy Johnson 'keeps going' on 89th birthday

By Steve Williams

Hardy Johnson, longtime shoe cobbler in Fountain City, only stopped working



Council to consider short-term rental ordinance

By Mike Steely
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The ordinance to regulate signs in the city was debated passionately for

term rental homes open their doors to temporary visitors, especially during major festivals, UT home football games and holi-