

PEF Donations Honor Devoted Owner

When Kevin Williams' partner of 14 years died in August, he encouraged donations to go to the Pet Emergency Fund in lieu of flowers. In the two months since then, \$1,500 has been received in Michael Krueger's honor to help families with their animals' emergency medical needs.

"When Michael passed away, I was trying to think of something people could donate to, and I thought of pets," Williams said. "I contacted Nickel City Animal Hospital to ask them if they had some sort of fund. They told me about the Pet Emergency Fund and how it works, so I checked out their website and got their information. We are lucky we have never had a situation where we had to not do some treatment for our dog Cobie because we couldn't afford it. But knowing some people do end up in that situation, it's nice that these donations can help out."



Williams was both surprised and grateful by the generosity shown. "The donations are so overwhelming," he said.

The Allentown couple got Cobie, a West Highland White Terrier, also known as a Westie, 11 years ago when he was a puppy. It was Krueger's idea and both quickly developed a close bond with their dog. Cobie occasionally got into trouble, like when he swallowed an upholstery staple and had to undergo an operation to remove it. He also was treated at the West Side clinic for an eye problem and occasional skin allergies.

"The veterinarians at Nickel City have always been really great; I'm sure all vets are," Williams said. "They would ask how Cobie was doing and say they missed him and got us into appointments when they weren't open. They've always extended themselves. They've gone above and beyond what you would expect, and it's always greatly appreciated."

Williams wanted to do something to help animals and honor his partner's affection for Cobie. "Michael loved taking Cobie for walks and playing with him," he said. "It would be funny because anytime we would see a Westie, he'd have to talk to the other people. We were in Barcelona and there was a woman with two Westies, and we stopped and petted her dogs, and showed her a picture of ours."