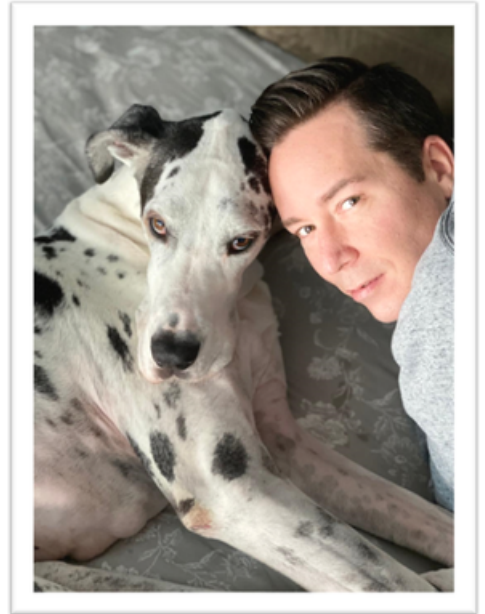


‘Mr. Moose Caboose’ Author Donates Portion of Proceeds to PEF

Johnathan Worden’s children’s book, “The Great Dane Chronicles: Mr. Moose Caboose Finds his Way,” has sold close to 2,000 books this year – a total that’s especially impressive considering it’s self-published. Ten percent of the proceeds are being donated by the Town of Tonawanda resident to benefit the Pet Emergency Fund at Sheridan Animal Hospital.



Worden made the decision to help the PEF after Moose, his 11-year-old Great Dane and the subject of the book, died three weeks after a sudden limp led to an x-ray that revealed an aggressive bone tumor in his leg. Moose’s death came on March 7, one week after the book was published.

“There was all this excitement about the book and the heart-wrenching knowledge that we were going to lose him any day, and then we did,” Worden said. “As quickly as that happened, I thought I really need to give back for this one. The vets at Sheridan Animal Hospital were always great. I wanted to give it to the Pet Emergency Fund because, although we could afford the care, I thought about what it would have been like if we couldn’t.”

The book, with illustrations by Ayan Mansoori, sells for \$11.98 and is available online from Amazon and at the Book Worm, 34 Elm St., East Aurora, Daisy’s Doghouse, 448 Hertel Ave., Totally Buffalo Store, 3328 Sheridan Dr., Amherst, and Revolution Indoor Cycling, 1716 Main St.

The 45-year-old Syracuse native, who moved to Buffalo at age 18 to attend Buffalo State College, said writing the book was on his “bucket list.” “It started with me being obsessed with my Great Dane, and really paying attention to everything around us,” Worden said. “When going on walks with Moose I’d see how people reacted to his size, including pulling their dogs away from him. I started to think it was an issue I could probably make a story about – about Moose finding his identity.”

The book’s target age is 4-7, though kids a little older may also enjoy it, Worden said. The first sentence reads, “I used to be so confused about who I was and who I was supposed to be. I realized from the time I was a little boy that I was very different.” “That tells people what the book is going to be about, but it doesn’t necessarily tell the child that, because they’ve never had that thought,” Worden said.

A sequel is due out in January 2022 that will be called “Mister Moose Caboose and the Lavender Goose.” Worden said that with Mr. Moose Caboose now “comfortable in his own fur,” he recognizes others that are struggling with who they are. He coaches them to understand they don’t have to change but need to like themselves. Worden is also at work on a third book about Duke, a second Great Dane owned by Worden and husband Nicholas Boucounis.

In the meantime, Worden continues to find ways to honor Moose’s memory. A plaque now adorns the rock garden outside Sheridan Animal Hospital established for people whose pets have died. It’s named “Moose Caboose Memorial Garden.”