

## Tango, a good boy, checks off items on bucket list

By Adam Krebs  
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MONROE — It was a sunny close to a dark week for Tango, a 7-year-old boxer. Days after finding out he had lymphoma, the pup's family put up a spontaneous meet-and-greet event on Facebook. The response was heartwarming.

Over 150 people followed updates online, and dozens of strangers, family and friends showed up on July 17 to pet and play with Tango in the afternoon.

Among those that stopped by were a couple of "strangers" that saw the Facebook post and traveled 80 miles on their motorcycle. Another visitor brought a Bark Box originally intended for her own pups. The box included several squeaky toys, like a rainbow unicorn pool floaty replica and a pretend water gun. Other visitors

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— Theresa Robertson

brought treats and balls.

"I lost track of how many visitors Tango had, how many balls were brought, how many treats were eaten, and how many times I heard what a handsome, sweet boy he is," said Theresa Robertson, Tango's human mother. "His tail was wagging for a solid two hours — at varying speeds, of course."

Days before the meet and greet at his home, Tango met a room full of kids at Monroe's Parks and Rec office.

Tango is an energetic and loving black and brown boxer that lives on Monroe's south side — across from Abe Lincoln school — with his five human family members: Cody and Theresa Robertson and their three children, Merric, Beckett and Everett.

They also have two other dogs: Dory, a 9-month-old Olde English Bulldog, and Pickles, a 15-year-old Miniature Pinscher.

Theresa said when kids walk by their house on the way to or from school, Tango's bark comes off as scary, but he doesn't have a mean bone in his body. He simply wants to lick faces and have his neck rubbed.

"Tango loves people. Maybe you've seen him barking insanely and pogo-sticking his way down our fence line across from Abe. He sounds fierce, but he's just asking you to love him," Theresa said on the event's Facebook post.

It was a neck rub that found the cancer in the first place. While petting Tango one night in June, they noticed some new bumps on his neck. After a couple of weeks of the bumps growing, instead of receding, Cody took him in to the veterinarian. The prognosis was devastating.



Times photos: Adam Krebs

Tango, a 7-year-old boxer owned by Cody and Theresa Robertson of Monroe, was recently diagnosed with lymphoma and was given weeks to months to live. On July 17 the Robertsons held a meet and greet event at their home where Tango was showered with love from family, friends and strangers.

Theresa said the options were chemotherapy, steroids, or to do nothing at all — which could have meant Tango had just a week or so to live. The decision was unanimous to not go the chemotherapy route, which would have included injections. Instead, Theresa said they decided to follow the steroids path. Days later, Tango was energetic and looking for loving hugs again.

"We aren't sure how much time we have with him," Theresa said. "It could be weeks, but it could be months. What we do know, is that right now Tango is feeling good and is happy."



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### Survivor

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ered how to reach out to people for help to heal and process in a safe manner."

As a worship leader at the Albany United Methodist Church, Amy said she recalled hearing this from a pastor, "The storm is not there to punish you, it's there to make you aware there is a problem."

Looking back, Amy learned there were some areas where growth and heal-

ing would be required. She would not have embarked on a healing journey had it not been for her cancer and adenoma diagnoses.

Amy added that being surrounded by friends and family certainly made the journey easier. She appreciated that her parents had health insurance so everything was covered and she didn't have financial worries.

Family and friends cooked meals and were available to talk whenever needed.

These days, Amy is busy. She has her massage business; is a substitute teacher for the Monroe School

District; works at Kwik Trip; and is a worship leader and plays piano at church. Her constant companions are her six-year-old Labrador retriever mix, Java, and her one-year-old hedgehog, Gus.

As a talented artist, she dabbles in acrylics and watercolors and the art of pysanka or Ukrainian eggs that she sells at local art shows. In previous years, she sold eggs at the Monroe Farmers' Market, New Glarus Farmers' Market, and Christkindlmarkt in Monroe.

As Amy continues to navigate as a cancer survivor, she said that it's important for people to be curious about cancer and the causes behind it.

"There is a purpose for everything that happens and



Photo supplied

As Amy Whitehead continues to navigate as a cancer survivor, she said that it's important for people to be curious about cancer and the causes behind it. "There is a purpose for everything that happens and it's in that search to find out why is when we find our true self," said Amy. "Things happen for us to learn from."

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### Ways to Get Involved

- Join the Relay For Life of Green County — Sign up to join an existing team or start a new team at relayforlife.org/greencountywi or by calling Jo Ann at 608.728.2980.

- Donate — If you can't participate in this year's event, you can still help save lives by making a donation. Every dollar helps the American Cancer Society's fight against cancer. Visit RelayForLife.org/Donate to make a donation today.

"It's never been easier to raise money for Relay For Life," said Jo Ann Steuri, Relay For Life of Green County organizer.

The event is supported by many local businesses and organizations including: Ruda Chevrolet-Toyota, New Glarus Brewing Co., New Glarus Culver's, Bank of Brodhead, RM Concrete, Woodford State Bank, Brodhead Chevrolet, and Jeremy Pinnow and Associates.

To learn more about Relay For Life in Green County, visit relayforlife.org/greencountywi or Facebook page, Relay For Life of Green County Wisconsin.

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