



Kent Dean Smith DVM

September 16, 1972 - June 26, 2024

Kent had two dreams in his life: raising a child and opening his own veterinary practice. He was a success at both.

Kent had a great love of veterinary medicine. As he said, “Ever since I can remember, I wanted to be a veterinarian. I found comfort and happiness in helping animals. I was the neighborhood kid that looked after all the strays. At the age of 11 years old, I was determined to be a veterinarian. My Dad stressed that if I wanted to be a veterinarian then I should prove it. I sought out a volunteer job with a local veterinary clinic in Manassas, Virginia...I faithfully rode my bike to the clinic, rain or shine, every Saturday and would work all day. I would clean the hospital and care for the animals. Then was hired... at the age of 13 years, my first real job. I made \$3.35 per hour and I was rich. I was getting paid to do what I loved.”

Kent was born in Mt. Vernon, Illinois on September 16, 1972. He was raised in Manassas, Virginia by his parents, Billy Lee and Barbara Kay Smith. He has a twin brother, Kevin Smith, and an older brother, Kirk Smith. He attended Manassas Park Elementary and Middle School, then the family moved to the City of Manassas and he attended Osbourn City High School. He obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Economics at Virginia Tech in 1994. He worked on his masters in Genetics from 1996 – 1998. He graduated with his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 2002.

Over the years, he climbed the ladder from a kennel assistant to a veterinary technician, then learned about surgery from Dr. Bradley and became a business manager for Dr. Anne Chiapella, an internal medicine specialist. He served as Dr. Chiapella's full-time business manager for 27 years, even through veterinary school. After veterinary school he worked at Angels of Assisi in Roanoke, Virginia where he traveled to impoverished areas on a medical motorhome unit and would do at least 50 surgeries a day with minimal resources. He worked at Prince William Emergency Clinic, Mapleshade Animal Hospital, and VetMed but always with an eventual goal of opening his own veterinary clinic. In 2022, he achieved his dream and opened Willow Animal Hospital. He loved his clients, staff, and the work of veterinary medicine.

He was an enormously proud single father of a beautiful daughter, Averi, born in January 2015. He and Averi would sing together, cook together, and play spelling bee games in the car together. He was a dedicated father. He felt blessed to have had hard working role models that helped shape the person he became. When reflecting on his life's path he once wrote, "I cannot ever thank my parents, Drs. Bradley and Chiapella, my friends and clients enough."

He is survived by his daughter Averi, his parents, his brothers and their families.

Funding Dr. Smith's Dream for Willow Animal Hospital: <https://gofund.me/dcf80f19>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Celebration of Life

JUL 6. 1:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Pierce Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM*



Pierce Funeral Home - July 01, 2024 at 03:03 PM

CT

Kent had his people and his pets. Once he adopted you you were in. The best vet I know and a truly caring and compassionate human. Such a tremendous loss. I haven't stopped thinking about him and his family (all of you) since I found out. God bless brother!

Christopher Thompson - July 01, 2024 at 06:30 PM

WR

I went to high school with Kent and his brother. I had Kent in my English and Chemistry class. We sat next to each other and if it wasn't for Kent and him helping me daily and me making him laugh I would of failed both classes. He was always a joy to be around. Sorry to hear he passed.

Wendy Raymond

Wendy Raymond - July 02, 2024 at 03:16 PM

DM

Oh Kent... My dearest friend.. You have left us too soon. I'm heartbroken, for you, for your family, for the animals, for the staff, for Chris, for the vet community, for our pets and the community where we live, and for sweet Averi. You were an angel and your work standards and ethics are unmatched! You were more than a friend to me, someone i deeply admired, your compassion for animals and people were so inspiring... I'll miss you forever my brother from a another mother ... You have made a huge impact and a difference in the many lives you touched. You have taught me so much. Thank you for the many memories over the years that i now get to cherish. Rest in peace my beautiful friend. Love you forever, Danielle Manko

Danielle Manko - July 03, 2024 at 10:19 PM

MC

10 years ago on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving I had to rush our mini-dachshund to the emergency vet clinic in Manassas when she unwittingly got entangled in the couch when the footrest was lowered. I was hysterical and thought I'd caused internal injuries to the pup as I saw she had blood coming from her backside . Dr. Smith was there when I rushed thru the door and took her back to the ER. After a thorough examination/x-rays etc, it turned out she had nothing worse than bruised ribs/kidneys. But why all the blood? Well the dog had bitten me several times while we literally tore the couch mechanism apart to free her (there were two metal bars clamped around her lower half)...and while holding the dog I thought it was her blood. It was mine. Doc Smith insisted that I should go to the hospital to get my injuries treated. I said I'd go the next day (as it was 11pm by that time) so he literally led me back to the ER and cleaned me up with Betadine and bandages before I left. I will NEVER forget his kindness and his calming manner. I didn't make the connection to Dr. Smith when I initially went to Willow for and issue with our terminally ill corgi. It was after he had to help her cross the rainbow bridge that I realized he was the same doc who had treated our dachshund all of those years age. Again he was nothing but compassionate and patient with us as we were grieving thru the process. I'm sad for his family, his staff, and the community as we obviously lost a great man. RIP Dr. Smith.

Marti Cameron - July 09, 2024 at 04:27 PM

SM

“ Sharon And Dan Miles lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM

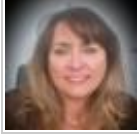


Sharon and Dan Miles - April 26 at 01:19 PM

KK

“ To this day, I will never forget Dr. Kent Smith and how compassionate he was to me and my family when we put our dog Daisy down back in 2015. The way he cared for my family and our beloved Daisy in such a heartbreaking moment is truly what influenced me to pursue becoming a veterinarian myself so I could do the same for others. Thank you Dr. Smith for all that you did for your community, I am positive I am not alone in how you I remember you. I wish I had reached out sooner to tell you the impact you had on me!

Kate Karlen - August 01, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ I am beyond shocked. I'm in disbelief!!! I literally just found out Monday 7/8/2024 (Monday)!!! I haven't been the same since. At first, I thought what a horrible horrible joke someone is playing on me. Then I googled it as he always liked to tell me. And it is true. And insult to injury I had just texted him Monday morning (7/8/2024) telling him & Averi to stay hydrated it was going to be another scorcher and I missed his funeral of all things.



Now I know why I have been dreaming of you a lot this past week and a half. Usually when that happens, I'll text and/or call you and ask you "You have been in my dreams! So what do you want to tell me?? " LOL I can hear you now "Ms Coe, if you would read your emails more often!?" and me replying "Kent, we had a break thru! You called me Tonia recently. You can continue calling me, Tonia. Plus, if it was really important I know you would call me!" <then we would both break into laughter> LOL If there was anything he liked to do to me is irritate me by calling me Ms Coe. So he continued to call me Ms Coe OR 'Crazy Coe'.

How could this happen??? I just saw you!! My heart is 'literally' broken in two. NO, its 'literally' worse than that!! No, you know what? You got me.....I am truly at a loss for words and I'm sure you are loving that!! I can hear your laughter now. I truly don't know how I'm going to go on without you!? You are and will always be my best friend! How could you leave me here with these ungrateful golden retrievers of ours?? LOL

You will truly be missed by so so many! Your family, me. friends, me, coworkers, me, The State of Virginia and Willow Animal Hospital has lost one of the most caring Veterinarian's on the East Coast and I have literally lost my best friend! I cant even wrap my head around all of this! I hope you are happy you have me crying nonstop and its an ugly cry. LOL

Kent thoughts of you will always and forever bring a smile to my face. Thank you for all the hugs and kisses, always being you, forever making me laugh, teaching me how to care for all my crazy animals, the warm hugs, your knowledge and most of all sharing your beautiful daughter Averì with me. I know I tell you all the time but thank you, thank you for having her for me!

I will truly miss you and will never forget our talks, texts, hugs, the silly pictures you would send me, Averì school pictures, her first day's of school picture's, your snail mail letters (I will cherish all of these forever and ever), your home, the birthdays, your livestock...especially your horses, and who's going to continue telling me I'm cleaning Howie's ears incorrectly (LOL), and teach me the proper way to care for my ungrateful golden retrievers, pool games, your bossiness, the great sales and cheap places to find items, and the list goes on and on and on.....

What about our Christmas train ride you promised? All of Averì's Birthday parties, how can I forget the Christmas Caroling you were going to drag me out to do with you two, all the zoo trips we planned? Especially with the new panda bears that are coming to DC? Who am I going to go with? The horse riding we were going to start to doing??? We just talked about the horses!? You told me I was stupid for wanting to buy a horse because you have 3 and you would give them all to me.LOL The list is countless.....

I will finally get no argument out of you this time. I finally 'win' at something. I do love you two more than y'all love me. Always and forever..

When my time comes, and you come for me you know where I'll be? Always and forever waiting for you by the infamous stupid mailbox. LOL

As my Chickasaw Nation ancestors say "Chi Pisa La Cho" its 'never goodbye' it's 'See You Later'!

Love you forever and ever and always! 😭😭😭😭💔💔💔 Your “Crazy Coe” family aka Tonia (Ms Coe), Lilly (the Boss), Charlie, Howie (your favorite aka Howie Mandell. thank you for renaming him. LOL) and Paisley Mae.

Tonia Coe - July 11, 2024 at 11:31 AM



“ 9 files added to the album Dr. Smith's Furry Friends



Tonia Coe - July 11, 2024 at 10:56 AM

TI

“ I knew Kent from his long time partner Chris .They had many happy years together as a couple . Prayers go out to Chris and Kent's family . The Obituary did not say anything about Chris . He should not be forgotten .

Timothy - July 09, 2024 at 08:32 AM

AR

“ Anne Roudabush lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM



Anne Roudabush - July 07, 2024 at 04:20 PM

CP

“ Dr. Smith took such amazing care of our pups Leif, Emma & Corduroy - who turned 16 in June. On your first day back from vacation, we didn't have an appointment but reached out with an urgent request to bring him in to see you. We knew you would welcome our boy with open arms ... and you did. We will never forget you, Dr. Smith - and are so thankful for your life, your legacy, and your love.



Candie & Patrick - July 06, 2024 at 05:05 PM

CP

“ Dr. Smith took such amazing care of our pups Leif, Emma & Corduroy - who turned 16 in June. On your first day back from vacation, we didn't have an appointment but reached out with an urgent request to bring him in to see you. We knew you would welcome our boy with open arms ... and you did. We will never forget you, Dr. Smith - and are so thankful for your life, your legacy, and your love.



Candie & Patrick - July 06, 2024 at 04:56 PM

 Nancy
Morrow

“ *Dr. Smith thank you for caring for our sweet boy Mack. He gave our sweet boy an extra 7 months to enjoy his life as a cat should. We know he was forever grateful that his new best friend Dr. Smith was by his side when he crossed the Rainbow Bridge. We know Mack along with all of his other friends were waiting when their beloved vet and best friend to all animals made his own crossing over the Rainbow Bridge.*



Nancy Morrow - July 06, 2024 at 04:34 PM

DO

“ *Donna lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM*



Donna - July 06, 2024 at 02:06 PM

AF

“ *Dr Smith was great with Sam, my white Golden Retriever.....He was an excellent veterinarian and warm person, we will miss you so much Dr Smith.*
Andrea Fellenz



Andrea Fellenz - July 06, 2024 at 01:01 PM

LS

“ I met Dr. Smith at Mapleshade Animal Hospital. I brought my beagle Bucky in. Dr. Kent made quite an impression on both me and Bucky. He came in, looked at Bucky and said, “Hello gorgeous!” Dr. Kent was so enthusiastic and kind I left feeling like I met a very special person. He saw my dog Bella during Covid. I forgot to mention Bella’s severe anxiety before they took her into Mapleshade. I saw Dr. Kent sit on the floor in the lobby and gently interact with Bella. I knew he saw her and he got her. I was touched. What a beautiful memory of a truly amazing human being. ❤️ I will always remember him. To make such an impression on someone he met twice, that is truly special.

Linda Stephens - July 06, 2024 at 12:26 PM

TW

“ Teresa Woodard lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM

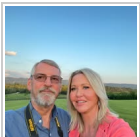


Teresa Woodard - July 06, 2024 at 12:24 PM

TW

My mom and I send our deepest sympathies to Dr. Smith's home and work families. He was my favorite vet I ever had, and my mom was so happy to find such a nice caring vet for me. We will miss him very much. Chrasy Christa Chat

Teresa Woodard - July 06, 2024 at 12:36 PM



“ The animal world has lost a true Hero!!

Hilda Berry - July 06, 2024 at 11:54 AM

ST

“ Many moons ago (2003-2006?) I rushed my cat MTO to the emergency clinic in Manassas for a wound I had created while trying to get a knotted fur piece from his body. I knew there was something special about Kent when he comforted this hysterical "cat mother", took care of MTO right away and even groomed him of all knots (told me gently "put the scissors away). "MTO recovered beautifully and lived to 19 years when he passed. My animals always had great vet care but when covid hit it was impossible for me to get an appointment with my regular vet to see my dog Bentley whose back legs just gave out. I did understand because this was a practice with only one full time vet at the time and simply did not have hours in the day to treat him. Maple Shade was recommended to me. I saw that Kent Smith was one of the vets on staff. Dr. Smith made such an impression on me so long ago I knew that Bentley (14 yrs old) would get the best care at Maple Shade. Dr. Kent saw him right away and Bentley was started on holistic medicine along with other supplements and within a few weeks his back legs got stronger and stronger. The staff at Maple Shade were wonderful. Bentley saw Dr Kent on a regular basis until Dr. Smith opened Willow. Bentley passed May 2023 with Dr. Smith by his side. Rest in peace dear Kent. You left this world too early. You will be truly missed but Bentley, MTO and all the other wonderful animals you have treated will lovingly greet you in heaven.

Shirley Thomas

shirley thomas - July 06, 2024 at 11:20 AM

LP

“ Lynn Pletch lit a candle in memory of Kent
Dean Smith DVM



Lynn Pletch - July 06, 2024 at 09:21 AM

DM

“ I went to veterinary school with Kent and he was a part of our study group. Needless to say the group spent a lot of time together studying through those years. He was a good friend to us all. I had not seen him in years so reading all the tributes broke and warmed my heart all at the same time. Kent, you will be dearly missed by all who knew you. My heart felt condolences go out to Kent's family and especially his daughter Averì.

Dee Miller, DVM

Dee Miller - July 06, 2024 at 05:52 AM

AC

“ These are pictures of a memorial altar my mother set up this evening for Kent... photos of just a few of the many of our beloved animals that came from Kent. During the years I worked as his technician, he would always rescue the unwanted, the unloved, the pets on “death row” at the shelters and save them by placing them in forever homes (often with us, his techs). When I think of Kent, I think of unconditional love. He gave his life to helping others - human and animal alike. He went to any lengths to save animals and support the families that loved them.

Our world has lost the most remarkable, unique, kindest man I have ever known.

He will be missed by so many...

Our family is sending so much love and prayers of healing to Kent's daughter and family and the veterinary community.

We love you, Kent.

Your legacy will live on forever.

Love,
Allyson and the Kirk family



Allyson Clapp - July 05, 2024 at 08:45 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



July 05, 2024 at 08:08 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



July 05, 2024 at 06:48 PM



“ *Paws Awhile Pet Motel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Paws Awhile Pet Motel - July 05, 2024 at 06:48 PM



“ *Linda M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Linda M. - July 05, 2024 at 06:39 PM



“ *Paws A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Paws A. - July 05, 2024 at 05:47 PM

TT

“ *The Lazar Veterinary Surgery team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



The Lazar Veterinary Surgery team - July 05, 2024 at 05:46 PM

MD

“ I first met Dr. Smith back in 2017 at the Med Vet ER clinic. Our beloved 19 year old calico had just been diagnosed with terminal cancer and needed emergency care. Despite the difficult situation, he was an excellent vet who got us through it. He told us about "Lap of Love" and helped to give her time so she could pass away comfortably at home.



Our regular veterinarian of 25 years retired soon afterward. So in 2022, I was delighted when Dr. Smith opened Willow Animal Hospital right down the street from us. Our cats all got great care there. He was such an incredible person - very professional, knowledgeable, and personable - and we (both cats and humans) were always comfortable around him and his staff. You could tell he enjoyed his work, cared about the animals, and wanted to make the experience positive for both pets and people.

Our little gray tortie was his favorite among our cats. She was a former stray we adopted a few years ago. He always joked that she "had street cred".

When I heard the news that he had passed away, it was devastating. My heart goes out to his family, his daughter, his staff, and all who knew him. He will be missed.

MDHL - July 05, 2024 at 05:20 PM

EM

“ Evelyn M. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Evelyn M. - July 05, 2024 at 04:34 PM

T(

“ Dr. Smith was and is a one-in-a-million person and vet. Kind. Compassionate. Funny. Dedicated. He was literally Superman not only for his precious daughter Averi but for the clients that trusted him with the lives of their pets. I first met Dr. Smith at Mapleshade and followed him over to his new practice The Willow in 2022. I knew there was something very different about him when, on one of our first appointments with him during the pandemic, he bounced out to the car and asked, "Did you know your sideview mirror has come loose?" Dr. Smith proceeded to cut loose the mirror and put it in the floorboard of my car. This was just who he was: invested in people and the pets they love.

He lovingly helped a number of our “kitty crew” pass to heaven after long fights with cancer and kidney disease. He worked so hard with all our cats and in particular our sweet boy Little Brother, who valiantly battled stage 4 kidney disease with a creatinine of over 8 for nearly a year. Little Brother was in and out of the clinic multiple times per month during that year getting recheck bloodwork, urinalyses, ultrasounds, and xrays. Dr. Smith also regularly consulted with his mentor and Internal Medicine specialist Dr. Chiapella about Little Brother. When our boy needed a blood transfusion, Dr. Smith brought in one of his own cats as the donor. He always went above and beyond what other vets would ever even consider doing for their patients.

Our kitty Grey Grey and I went in for an appointment on the morning of Wednesday, June 26; and our boy was one of the last patients Dr. Smith saw before he passed that same day. I feel incredibly blessed to have known Dr. Smith for those 4 years and so grateful our kitties were under his amazing care. Our prayers go out to Averi and the rest of his family, as well as the wonderful Willow staff that were like family to him.

I like to think he's now running through heaven with all the animals whose lives he'd touched. What a massive reunion that had to be!

The Garnett Family (Lindy)



The Garnett Family (Lindy) - July 05, 2024 at 01:54 PM

TL

“ *Tony and Shelley Lunders purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



Tony and Shelley Lunders - July 05, 2024 at 12:36 PM

TL

“ *Tony and Shelley Lunders planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Tony and Shelley Lunders - July 05, 2024 at 12:36 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



July 05, 2024 at 11:30 AM

AB

“ *Annemarie Barron sent a virtual gift in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM*



Annemarie Barron - July 05, 2024 at 11:07 AM

AB

I am so sad for the family and co-workers of Dr. Smith. He was such an amazing person and Vet. He made me feel like my cats and I were special ! Like we were the only ones he cared for. He had incredible knowledge and compassion, which was so wonderful. He was wonderful. God bless you Dr. Smith. Thank you for being part of our lives.

Annemarie Barron - July 05, 2024 at 09:04 PM

AB

“ *Annemarie Barron lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM*



Annemarie Barron - July 04, 2024 at 09:34 PM

AB

“ *My very best wishes, condolences and prayers for Dr. Kent's Family, and especially for Averì.*

I was so grateful that he opened Willow. I first knew him from the Manassas Emergency Vets, going back to 2011, when he saved my 2 cats. At Willow he helped my cat Merlin pass over the Rainbow Bridge in a most beautiful way. I will always remember him for that, and the care and attention he gave to my other pets and me. God bless you Dr. Smith. Please say hi to Merlin for me. Annemarie Barron

Annemarie Barron - July 04, 2024 at 09:12 PM

“ Dear Kent,

I deeply regret not being there to bid you farewell. Saturday marks my daughter's 4th birthday. It's unbelievable, isn't it? But I know you would have understood.

When we first met, I was a struggling young man. You handed me a mop and said, "You work for me now!" Throughout the years, we've shared laughter, arguments, and countless hours in the "crybrary", but always emerged as friends, despite our differences.

I must admit, I've always admired how you had two distinct families – your biological family and your work family. It wasn't until one late night when SHE yelled, "Hey you with the mop! Come hold this dog!" that I realized the significance of it.

Since our first meeting, you've aided and supported me in numerous ways. But what I'm most thankful for is MY second family - the one you gave me.

You provided me with an incredible, strong big sister who guided me through life and established an unbreakable bond. Despite our disagreements, my younger sister remains an integral part of my life and we still speak almost daily. I have watched her children grow, as now she watches mine.

I greatly admire my aunt, who, despite never bringing me a lobster from Maine, is the coolest aunt one could ask for. And let's not forget the absolutely rad surfing uncle who can name any bird on the planet.

But I also cherish the presence of another, younger, but intelligent sister who actually knew what mofongo was, and countless cousins along the way.

Lastly, the woman who is both a grandmother and a second mother

to me and you continues to be my steadfast support.

In a way, if Dr. C was a second mom for both of us, that makes us brothers. I am truly and proudly calling you my brother. Your absence will be felt deeply.

*Love you, brother,
Charles*

Charles Simon Bryant - July 04, 2024 at 07:45 PM

MM

“ Miss Kibbles - Claudia Montoya purchased the *Enchanted Cottage* for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Miss Kibbles - Claudia Montoya - July 04, 2024 at 03:42 PM

MM

“ Miss Kibbles - Claudia Montoya planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Miss Kibbles - Claudia Montoya - July 04, 2024 at 03:42 PM

CL

“ Christina L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Christina L. - July 04, 2024 at 11:26 AM

AB

“ An B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

An B. - July 03, 2024 at 08:58 PM

AB

“ My dear friend- words cannot describe how I felt when I heard the news. My heart broke- it broke for you, for Averi, for your family, for every person and animal whose life that you've touched. I am thankful that our paths crossed because of our daughters and that our friendship grew from our love of animals. Although I have only known you for a short season of my life, I hope you knew that you were one of my favorite people in this world. You had a gentle and kind soul, yet so witty and fiery at the same time. You were a once in a lifetime person and I am so proud to have been able to call you my friend. I will forever cherish the memories of our Snowshoe trips together. Thank you, Kent. Thank you for your friendship, for everything that you've done for me, my family, and my pets. I hope you knew what a difference you've made in this world and that you've always felt all the love and support that is pouring out for you now. And may Averi feel and take comfort in all that love and support that surrounds her. Until we meet again... rest easy, my friend.



An Bohman - July 03, 2024 at 08:56 PM

KG

“ We are forever grateful to Dr. Smith for saving our Jakey’s life after he stole a breakfast muffin and gobbled it down. Dr. Smith was able to see us immediately late on a Saturday afternoon and got Jake to throw up 18 raisins. Dr. Smith educated us on how lethal raisins are to pups. We carry on his spirit by educating other pup parents about the lethality of raisins and the critical need to get them to the vet immediately after eating any.



Kara Given - July 03, 2024 at 06:48 PM

HD

“ Dr. Smith was the most amazing doctor. He was a force of nature when he walked into a room. His energy was a site to behold. You can tell he truly loved what he did and had a great passion for life and those in it. We were one of his first patients at Willow. He was caring for our little girl before he even had a lot of his equipment. It was our second visit to Willow when we got to meet his beautiful daughter Averi. She was so excited to show us the special room her father made just for her. That showed how thoughtful and loving he was with Averi. Before he even had all his equipment, he made sure Averi had her own special place at Willow, just like she had in his heart. He made everyone feel special, that was just his way.

He always said our little girl was his favorite heart patient. I am sure he told all his patients that they were his favorite. Our little girl is not the healthiest and we have had many visits to Willow. So many apparently, that Dr. Smith sent us a thank you note for helping to build Willow. He had quite the sense of humor.

He was a truly wonderful man. Kent will be sorely missed. We knew him as our doctor, and I must say the loss feels like that of a really good friend. To Averi, his family, friends, and his Willow family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. We are so sorry for your tremendous loss. Kent shined so brightly on earth, that God realized how much he missed and needed him in heaven.

Heidi & Pete Davies - July 03, 2024 at 12:04 PM

ZE

“ Dr, Smith thank you for taking care of my Jake. You will be missed.



Zeydy - July 03, 2024 at 11:14 AM

CB

“Gone far too soon 🤍
Dr. Smith - Thank you for all the care and kindness you gave to us and to Zeus.
Our hearts are heavy. 😞
I hope your family and friends can find solace knowing how loved and appreciated you were.



Cathy Beaulieu - July 03, 2024 at 11:08 AM

KM

“*Karen, Danny and Frank McDonald purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



Karen, Danny and Frank McDonald - July 03, 2024 at 10:43 AM

JC

“*Judy & Terry Lunders, Kemberly Hicks & Brad Shreve, Tony & Shelley Lunders, Jody & David Cuff. purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



Judy & Terry Lunders, Kemberly Hicks & Brad Shreve, Tony & Shelley Lunders, Jody & David Cuff. - July 03, 2024 at 10:27 AM

DK

“ Dr. Bader Zraibi, Shadia & Kids purchased the *Treasured Lilies Spray* for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Dr. Bader Zraibi, Shadia & Kids - July 03, 2024 at 10:15 AM

DK

“ Dr. Bader Zraibi, Shadia & Kids planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Dr. Bader Zraibi, Shadia & Kids - July 03, 2024 at 10:15 AM

DV

“ DR. KELLEY CORCORAN, VET VISION purchased the *America the Beautiful* for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



DR. KELLEY CORCORAN, VET VISION - July 03, 2024 at 09:09 AM

DV

“ DR. KELLEY CORCORAN, VET VISION planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

DR. KELLEY CORCORAN, VET VISION - July 03, 2024 at 09:09 AM

DC

“ DR. SMITH WAS TRULY ONE OF THE MOST QUALIFIED, INTELLIGENT, HARD-WORKING AND CARING VETERINARIANS I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED IN MY 30+ YEARS OF PRACTICE. I KNOW HE WAS ALSO A VERY DEDICATED AND LOVING FATHER!

DR. KELLEY CORCORAN - July 03, 2024 at 09:06 AM

LS

“ Love, GSD Chloe & Rebecca Schwartz purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Love, GSD Chloe & Rebecca Schwartz - July 03, 2024 at 09:00 AM



“ Dear Dr. Smith,

Your passing brings deep sadness to me. Not only were you my wonderful vet, you were an amazing friend to me and a very positive and awesome person to be around. I didn't feel like I was ever at "the vet" when I came to Willow. I felt like I was coming to visit my friend, Dr. Smith, at his home. I actually had fun going to Willow to see you and was always excited to go and talk with you and learn from your intriguing conversations we would have together.

I'll never forget the day I met you on January 21st, 2023. I was googling vets near me and Willow was the closest, right down the road and had excellent reviews. I had just gotten my first German Shepherd puppy and was a very anxious/crazy new dog mom. I called to make an appointment with you and you fit me in that day, two hours later and at 7:30 at night! I was like "Wow, this is awesome! What vet lets you come in same day and sees patients this late!" It was you, Dr. Smith. The most dedicated, compassionate, and caring veterinarian I will ever have the pleasure of meeting. You came into the room and spent two hours with 7 week old Chloe. You even clipped her nails, cleaned her ears, and combed away her puppy vaginitis YOURSELF! (Sorry, I know that's gross but you weren't grossed out and didn't have anyone else do it) Your office was beautiful, new and still undergoing minor construction. I still remember the feeling of being honored to be in your presence and to have found a gem like you. You calmed my anxiety, added things to the Amazon cart (one being my favorite tiny flea comb that cleans dirt and grime the best), sat on the ground with her, held her with so much love, and educated me on so many things. I learned so much from you at every single visit and you always calmed my anxiety and made me smile and laugh.

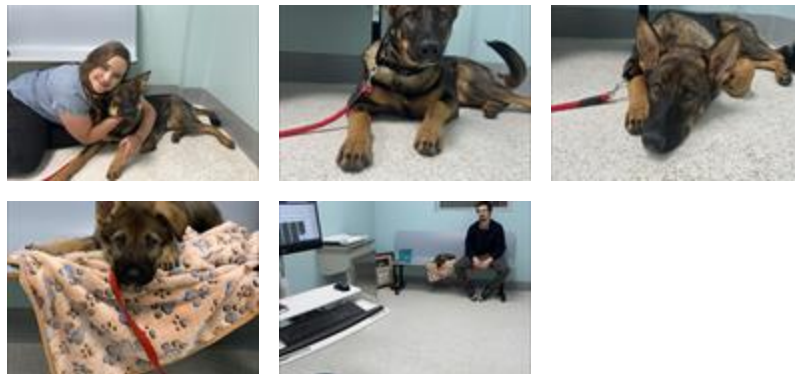
I have to admit, I would selfishly hesitate to broadcast that you were my vet, because I wanted you all to myself. But, within a month, your office flourished like I knew it would and you were the busiest vet in the area (obviously, because you were perfect). I remember

being able to come into see you same day and everyone found out how amazing you were and you became booked up for weeks and weeks, except for emergencies, which you were always there. Knowing I was a registered nurse, you gave me a tour of your prestigious facility, showing me the ICU, the operating areas, Averi's beautiful room, and everything. It was so fascinating to me! You even called me at 11pm when I was freaking out because Chloe ripped her tooth out from a bar under the couch. You took out her tooth the next day and gave it to me in a baggy :). You told me to get rid of that couch because it would happen again and I sure did the next day. I'll never forget when I brought Chloe in for vomiting and diarrhea, you took care of her all day and said "bring her over" without hesitation. I was so worried. You let me come into the room and watch you stitch up a huge white dog, you were so good at what you did and I was thrilled to watch because I love human medicine and you really did make me question my career and want to switch over to veterinarian medicine. LOL. I remember being so amazed at how some things with animals in medicine are similar to human medicine.

Your love for animals was inspiring and passionate and still is. It's beautiful. I will never find anyone else with that beautiful burning passion and love that you had for animals and healing them back to health or compassionately euthanizing animals to take them out of pain with dignity. You promoted dignity which I thought was so beautiful. You worked your butt off every single day and night and would stay so late to help animals. You really saw how animals have souls and are better than most people. You touched the lives of so many dogs and cats and people, Dr. Smith. I will never forget you. I hugged Chloe so tight when I found the news out and threw the ball with her even longer, just like you would want me to. Your passing makes me so sad and I'm so sad for Averi as well. You raised her so beautifully. I remember when you were so busy at the office while I was waiting, I was invited back by gorgeous Averi in the kitchen and was doing multiplication problems with her. She did all of them and is soooo smart. I love being around her and she is so bright and gives off such radiant energy. It made me tear up

because you raised the most beautiful daughter and you were the best father in the world. She was so lucky to have you in her life and around wonderful dogs and cats. You both would joke around so much in the office and laugh and you had to tell both of us to quiet down because we were having so much fun going around the back of Willow, while she was showing me some kittens and was having a blast rolling around on her little scooter thing. She was making me laugh so much. She has the same humor and positivity and brilliance as you. I know your love for her was so strong that words will never be able to describe it.

Thank you for always being a text or phone call away and thank you for always being there for me for emergencies. Chloe loved you so much and so did I. Thank you for always sitting on the floor when you came in and letting her lick and give you so many kisses. She obviously sensed how amazing of a person you were. Your whole staff is amazing and I especially love Auntie Karen. Everyone always made me feel so welcomed and I got so excited to always see the famous Dr. Smith every time I went to Willow. It was a pleasure and an absolute honor to meet you Dr. Smith. You were taken way too soon. I know you are up there in heaven with all the beautiful dogs and cats having a glorious time. We all love you and I will miss you forever. I will never and I say never find another vet like you in my life and I am ok with that because you will always be the best, most favorite vet in the entire universe. You texted me this photo last year of Chloe and I and I love it. I also have pictures of the first day I met you at Willow. Chloe and I love you Dr. Smith. Fly high, you will be very missed. 🐾🐾🐾❤️❤️



Rebecca Schwartz - July 03, 2024 at 08:41 AM

KZ

“ *I always felt like I was special and I always referred to him as family because of it. I wasn't unique I'm finding out. It is a true beautiful person who can make people feel that way.*

We will all miss you! I love you, Dr. Smith. Thank you for saving our baby and helping our other ones pass over the rainbow bridge with peace in our hearts. We will never ever forget you ☀️



Kim Zimmer - July 03, 2024 at 08:31 AM

JB

“ *Dr. Smith, thank you for all the knowledge shared with me at MSAH. I enjoyed working with you for those 4 years and watching Averi grow up! I still can't believe you're gone. Rest in Paradise Doctor.*

Johnna Boswell - July 03, 2024 at 08:13 AM

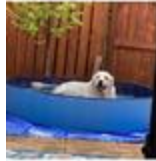
SC

“ *Dr. Smith, Dear Friend and the BEST at all he did. You will be sorely missed. I'm guessing GOD wanted only the BEST to help with all the animals in heaven. I'm truly sad at your passing but then I have a smile envisioning all the animals you've taken care of running up to meet you at the gates, to include my Duke, Smokey and Guinness, especially Smokey your Love Bug. You always told me if you died you would want to come back as one of my dogs and out of the blue on the day you passed, I had a small kitten show up at my door. I have named him DOC in your honor. Thoughts and prayers to all of your family.*

Sandra Callison - July 03, 2024 at 07:04 AM

SC

“ *6 files added to the album Dr. Smith's Furry Friends*



Sandra Callison - July 03, 2024 at 06:55 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



July 03, 2024 at 06:32 AM

ZE

“ Zeydy lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM



Zeydy - July 03, 2024 at 12:24 AM

MS

“ Thank you for helping me help the homeless cats that I so love! I will greatly miss you! God bless you for helping the fur babies and my Rescue ! Love Myra Seay

myra Seay - July 02, 2024 at 11:22 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



July 02, 2024 at 10:16 PM

SM

“ Steve and Kathy Milley planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Steve and Kathy Milley - July 02, 2024 at 10:16 PM

JF

“ Dr. Smith was a one-of-kind talented veterinarian who took such good care of our two German Shepherds, Bia and Scarlett. He was especially patient, kind, and gentle with our Scarlett who was so anxious during vet visits. “Make sure she is the first or last appointment of the day”, he would say. “Can you sing to her so she won’t be so focused on me”, he would suggest; so embarrassingly, I complied and would sing silly songs to distract her. Oftentimes, he would come out to the parking lot to see her - out the front door of the hospital he would bound, always with a smile on his face, sitting down on the parking lot pavement in both hot and cold weather. The last time Dr. Smith saw Scarlett on 6 June, was the first time she didn’t bark at him but simply wagged her tail - he had finally won her over. How I wish that friendship of mutual trust and respect could have continued to flourish.
You will be sorely missed Dr. Smith - gone too soon. 💔
With deepest sympathy,
John, Janet, Bia and Scarlett Fisher

Janet Fisher - July 02, 2024 at 08:51 PM

MS

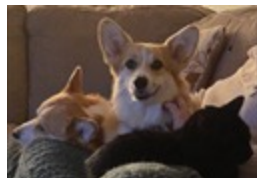
“ Dr. Smith, you will always have a place in my heart. ❤️ I followed you wherever you move because I trusted you and your expertise in your profession can NEVER be marginalized. It is my heartfelt SORROW and undying RESPECT on all your endeavors.

Maria Shabrawi-Bedoya - July 02, 2024 at 07:42 PM

TS

“ Dr. Smith was the perfect example of what someone who follows their passion can achieve. He saved my corgis' lives more than once and helped give our elderly cat the passing he deserved. One night, while Dr. Smith was at Mapleshade, he took my urgent call as he was getting ready to leave for the night. One of the corgis had nudged their way into a closed drawer and ate 200 g of hot chili chocolate from Cambodia. I was panicked because I wasn't sure at first which of our dogs ate it. Dr. Smith waited at the office and spent an hour tending to her. When he carried her back out to the car, he grinned and said that he was pretty sure she didn't leave any chocolate for the other dog! His quick wit, keen intellect and boundless humanity will forever be remembered and celebrated. Rest well, Dr. Smith. May your family be comforted, knowing that an entire animal kingdom greeted you with wagging tails and wet kisses.

*With gratitude,
Theresa Segovia
Lali, Tallulah and Apollo*



Theresa Segovia - July 02, 2024 at 06:09 PM

DS

“ Jackie and I (Kobe and Laila) want to send our heartfelt condolences to the Smith Family. Dr. Smith was such a sincere man and had a passion for his fur babies. Jackie and I honestly believe he saved Laila's life a few years ago. We were so touched. We will miss Dr. Smith.
Denmark and Jackie Slay

Denmark Slay - July 02, 2024 at 05:32 PM

SB

“ *Most thoughtful person and vet, always put our fur babies care first and took time to explain everything to us even after we moved from Virginia I emailed updates and he always replied. Rest easy and know you have shared many great memories with us all.*



Sue Brus - July 02, 2024 at 05:10 PM

DW

“ *Kent was a one of a kind. We had a long friendship, I knew him since he started as a kennel assistant, watched him grow up, graduated from high school, on to college and vet school. Always showed up with highest and best intentions for his work ethic and care of the animals. He taught me how to cook pasta successfully every time without fail. I had no idea what he meant...as he picked out a spaghetti noodle with a fork and proceeded to fling it onto the wall!! He said if it sticks to the wall it is ready. And so it did and he proceeded to serve me up a plate of pasta and sauce. We shared many conversations and ideas. We were sure to be good friends as our birthdays were only 2 days apart. Most heart felt moment shared was when he came to my house, to help me say good bye to my dear friend and companion of 15 years, Noel. My heart aches for this huge loss in our community, but most for his sweet Averì whom I know he adored with all his heart and would never want to leave.*



Donna Wentz - July 02, 2024 at 05:05 PM

BH

“ 1 file added to the album *Dr. Smith's Furry Friends*



Brenda Holliday - July 02, 2024 at 01:28 PM

BH

This is my Cooki Bella, AKA WONDERDOG! He saved her many times and always said she was one of his favorite patients . He also helped me with my Cocker Spaniels years ago and I fully saw the wonder, loving man he was ! Tell Maggi Mae, Goldie Lou, Kelly Marie, Dollie Madison, I still miss them, but now they can play with him! RIP Dr. Smith!

Brenda Holliday - July 03, 2024 at 08:38 AM

KS

“ *Dr. Smith had to be the best vet I've ever known. He took such great care of my fur baby! You could tell he had an enormous heart when it came to animals! I am so grateful to have gotten to know him and the team. He is truly irreplaceable and will be missed! Thank you for everything!*



Keena S - July 02, 2024 at 12:51 PM

AC

“ Andrew & Caroline Coyne lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM



Andrew & Caroline Coyne - July 02, 2024 at 12:45 PM

BH

“ Thoughts and prayers to his family! I followed Dr Smith to 3 different locations to be with the BEST DOCTOR for my furbabies! He saved my Cooki 3 times, and other doctors would've given up BUT NOT HIM!! My fear now is for my Cooki! She LOVED him and he had genuine love for her! I always took him my "famous" peanut butter fudge, and I had him a plate of it, and cream cheese brownies I'd promised him. The staff at HIS hospital will enjoy this I'm sure! REST EASY DR. SMITH! Sadly missed already my Cooki and myself!

Brenda Holliday - July 02, 2024 at 11:30 AM

DA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diane Arnold - July 02, 2024 at 11:28 AM

DA

“ *Diane Arnold lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM*



Diane Arnold - July 02, 2024 at 11:24 AM



“ *Kent, we had a bond like no other, you were such a bright star that burned out way too soon. I miss the sound of your voice and your positivity to any situation. I remember you told me that Jeremy and I would eventually get married one day, look at us now. I loved your love, for love and your faith in everything, I sure am going to miss you. Always connected- Steph, your surrogate.*



Stephanie Young-Smith - July 02, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



July 02, 2024 at 11:03 AM

PF

“ *Paul Tenney & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Paul Tenney & Family - July 02, 2024 at 11:03 AM

EK

“ I didnt know Dr. Smith long, but I will miss him nonetheless. He was the perfect vet for us and always did what was right for our furry kids. Our CH kitty is doing great because of his care and advice. Praying for his family and all of his CH kittys.



Erika Krause - July 02, 2024 at 09:35 AM



“ I have worked in veterinary medicine since 1983, I worked for many veterinarians but Dr. Smith was truly a wonderful person. I started working with him at the Prince William Emergency Veterinary Clinic in 2008 and was heartbroken when he left there. I only lasted 6 more months and I left the clinic but did not leave Dr. Smith. I was there as he started Willow, I helped him plan and design the clinic. I will never let his dream die, Willow will go on in his honor. He was truly a veterinarian that the animals came first, if money was a problem he found a way to solve the problem. His compassion was seen everyday at the clinic. Yes he got upset with the staff but it was to make us better people. He always praised and encouraged all of us at the clinic.

I am sure I will be at Willow helping for as long as I can to keep his dream come true.

Averi I am glad your father let so many people into your life and I am glad I am one of them. Please remember how special your father was and I know you are going to be a special person just like him.

Barb and Chris I am so sorry for your loss, but just think of all the pets that meet him at the bridge. The happy tails are wagging Please take comfort in all the notes of love you are receiving from all the people in his life he touched. I know my life is better because of him.

All my love to your whole family, Alice

Alice Judah - July 02, 2024 at 01:35 AM

OA

“ We are utterly heartbroken. He was our Tucker's veterinarian. When Tucker was first diagnosed with diabetes, his former vet didn't know how to treat him. I took him to a secondary veterinary hospital, where I met Dr Smith for the first time. He knew exactly what Tucker needed and within 4 weeks, Tucker's blood sugar was regulated. Dr Smith's dream was to open up his own veterinary hospital, and he did just that. He ran a very successful practice because he was a compassionate, charismatic and phenomenal human being. He was devoted to his family and career. He was passionate about treating and healing animals. He had a great bedside manner with my Tucker. Whenever we would go back for a visit, Tucker was actually excited to see him! There was no other like Dr Smith and he will be sorely missed. May your memory be eternal..

Olympia Asselanis - July 01, 2024 at 09:43 PM

BA

“ Brian A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Brian A. - July 01, 2024 at 08:45 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album Dr. Smith's Furry Friends



Johnathan Magerkorth - July 01, 2024 at 06:57 PM

SJ

“ *Dr Smith was an extraordinary veterinarian. We started seeing him at Mapleshade Animal Hospital and followed him to his new clinic. I drove an hour just for his services for my dog, Chance. My dog is fear aggressive and Dr Smith was the only doctor who had patience and compassion for him. He went above and beyond to help Chance and we will be forever grateful. He will truly be missed. Still heart broken by the news. Thank you Dr Smith. Chancey and I will miss you! - Sarah J*



Sarah E Johnson - July 01, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ *Our hearts are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Kent Smith. We met him at the emergency clinic in Manassas where he saved our Isabella's life. We are forever indebted to him for that and for the love and care he gave to our other dogs, Cierra, Finley, Gabriella, Riley, Earl, and Chili. He was the most charismatic person we have ever met. He truly cared and was available in person, by telephone, or by text 24-hours a day. He made us feel as though we were his only patients on this planet. We just loved and adored this man immensely. We followed him to Mapleshade and then patiently waited for him to open Willow Animal Hospital -- which was absolutely marvelous. You could tell when you walked in that he designed every aspect of it. It was the most perfect animal hospital! He was so proud, and we could not have been happier for him. Our hearts go out to his family and his beautiful daughter, Averi, all whom he loved dearly. You all will remain in our hearts and prayers forever.*

Tammy McChain - July 01, 2024 at 01:21 PM

RF

“ Robin and Richard Fischer purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Robin and Richard Fischer - July 01, 2024 at 01:06 PM

RF

“ We are deeply saddened by this news. Dr. Smith was our vet until we moved a year ago. We are returning to Virginia and we could not wait to have our dogs return to Dr. Smith. He was an exceptional human being who could understand and relate to how important our dogs are to us. He treated our dogs and all of his fur patients with compassion. Our hearts break for Averí. He was an amazing father, and he loved his daughter so much. He will be missed by so many. Dr. Smith, we love you and Averí is in our prayers.

*Robin and Richard Fischer
Abbey and Ellie*

Robin Fischer - July 01, 2024 at 12:58 PM

SJ

I have been seeing Dr Smith since he was at Mapleshade. I have a dog who is fear aggressive and Dr Smith was the only doctor who had patience and didn't give up on him. He went above and beyond to help Chancey (as he called him) and we couldn't have asked for a better veterinarian. I followed him to Willow and drove almost an hour to see him at his new clinic. He's one of the nicest men I have ever met and we will always be extremely grateful for his kindness and services. He will be missed. Sarah Johnson (Chancey Johnson)

Sarah E Johnson - July 01, 2024 at 02:41 PM

TH

“ Teresa H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Teresa H. - July 01, 2024 at 12:57 PM

JW

“ Jim & Jane Schneider, & Joan Wojtala planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Jim & Jane Schneider, & Joan Wojtala - July 01, 2024 at 12:02 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



July 01, 2024 at 11:56 AM

MT

“ I am so sad to read this! Two of our dogs had a lot of health issues (IBD and a number of surgeries) I was very familiar with MedVet for quite a long time. I remember Dr Smith well. He was acting as an ER vet for many of the occasions I brought my dogs in during the middle of the night. He never made me feel dumb or like I was overreacting (but a decade on I can say i probably was overreacting lol). What a kind man. Prayers and thoughts for his family, especially his daughter.

Mary Thompson - July 01, 2024 at 11:27 AM

SH

“ *Dr. Kent Smith was just an amazing, brilliant, kind, giving soul. I've never met anyone like him. He gave 150 % of himself to every single one of us. I'm deeply saddened by the loss of such a good man who I considered a friend. He loved my girls as much as I did. I will miss you my dear friend....until we see each other again. My thoughts and prayers are with your sweet daughter and your family.*

Sherrie - July 01, 2024 at 10:30 AM

TM

“ *Tim and Tammy McChain purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



Tim and Tammy McChain - July 01, 2024 at 09:31 AM

TM

“ *From: Tim and Tammy McChain planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Tim and Tammy McChain - July 01, 2024 at 09:31 AM

DE

“ Kent Dean Smith, DVM

September 16, 1972 – June 26, 2024

He Is Already There within You and In Our Beloved Willow Tree

A story based on the writings of Thich Nhat Hanh

I asked the leaf whether it was frightened because it was autumn and other leaves were falling.

The leaf told me, “No. During the whole spring and summer, I was completely alive. I was working hard to help nourish the tree, and now much of me is in the tree.

I am not limited by this form. I am also the whole tree, and when I go back to the soil, I will continue to nourish the tree. So, I don’t worry at all. As I leave this branch and float to the ground, I will wave to the tree and tell her, ‘I will see you again very soon.’”

That day, there was a wind blowing and, after a while, I saw the leaf leave the branch and float down to the soil, dancing and twirling, because as it floated, it was itself already there in the tree. The leaf was so happy. It helped grow the tree year after year. I bowed my head in silence, knowing that I still have so much to learn from the leaf.

As I look back, I see that “our beloved leaf” has worked for many years to nourish us, our animals and our community. As I move forward, I join others who know that we will be strengthened by our leaf’s determination for continued growth and contributions. When I look at surrounding clouds and rolling waves, I recognize our intertwined nature of wind and water and know we will be freed from sadness and fear as time goes by. As I look more deeply and listen more carefully to the messages of the leaf, I know we will transcend birth and death with the peace of greater understanding. This will come with time.

Our beloved leaf tells us that by giving love and support freely, by always being mindful and attentive to the needs of others, we will be able to see and feel new meaning and purpose of being – each time our leaf takes on nourishing new shapes and forms, perhaps being present as a flower or a new branch that continues to make our tree strong, or perhaps by joining the clouds above, the wind at our back, a nearby stream or a wave of water that enables our chosen pathways and caring journeys to be robust and full.

It is comforting to know that as we move forward, we can say hello to our beloved leaf any time we seek purposeful connections and deeply felt conversations. During these quiet times, we are reminded that our beloved leaf will always be with us – whenever needed, for as long as we live and beyond -- for we have already shared and taught each other so much during our brief but cherished time together.

Spiritual togetherness and transitions will allow us to hold each other in new ways, in unbeknownst places, where time can and will move us in unexpected directions. As we look at familiar streams, our vast sky and oceans, and autumn leaves showing off their beauty as they remain on the tree, we will be challenged to see each other in new ways as we ready ourselves to take on new forms in the cycle of life – ones that are dedicated to ongoing nourishment and growth, even under the most difficult of circumstances.

So, go ahead. Join those who love you. Take their hands. Close your eyes with theirs. Seek to understand the power and grace of today's transition. Breathe deeply. Reach out and touch our beloved leaf as it floats joyfully nearby. Feel its powerful messages. And gain strength by remembering that today's beloved leaf is "already within you and in our beloved Willow Tree."

We love you, Dr. Smith, more than you will every know.

Dr. Randy Eltringham

TurningPt Dachshunds

Dr Randy Eltringham - July 01, 2024 at 08:39 AM

JU

Absolutely beautiful.

Joan Urban - July 01, 2024 at 04:54 PM

LN

“ Lynn N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Lynn N. - July 01, 2024 at 08:21 AM

KS

“ Kent kept our male Maltese alive during the weekend of our daughters funeral after our old vet misdiagnosed it. After Cheyene over the phone, Kent knew exactly what was wrong and insisted on staying with him that whole weekend. From that moment on, Kent was our vet and I don't believe a more humane person ever lived.



Kathie Smith - July 01, 2024 at 08:13 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



July 01, 2024 at 07:58 AM

TG

“ Teri Sullivan & Jerry Goebel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Teri Sullivan & Jerry Goebel - July 01, 2024 at 07:58 AM

LD

“ Linda L Daniels lit a candle in memory of Kent Dean Smith DVM



linda l daniels - July 01, 2024 at 06:56 AM

LD

“ to the family and staff of this wonderful vet and person, we send our deepest condolences love and prayers. i adored his personality and loving care he provided my furr babies. my favorite saying of his was ok just for shits and giggles! he helped us with our need of help with my feral colony which i call porchies. you can tell when staff are happy in their work, i can tell you the techs want to be dr. smith!! it is sad knowing so many animals will not know the loving care he would have provided.... i know RAINBOW BRIDGE is supposedly for animals but i also believe it is for the veterinarianians who have given their hearts to care for gods creatures... AVERI i hope you cary on your dads legacy sweetheart.. be as strong as possible. THE DANIELS CLOUDER and mom and dad

linda l daniels - July 01, 2024 at 06:56 AM

AV

“ Dr Smith was a awesome soul,
My fiancée and I got to be a patient of his during an serious
situation with a pup we purchased. Dr Smith gave us his best
Advice and tried several different things and he would not give up
until we were fully healed up. I really am grateful for Kent and you
touched many more lives! Rest up Big Man! God Speed!



Aaron & Victoria - July 01, 2024 at 12:46 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



June 30, 2024 at 10:20 PM

ST

“ Sandra L Thompson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith
DVM.

Sandra L Thompson - June 30, 2024 at 10:20 PM

JS

“ Sincere heartfelt condolences to Averi, the Smith family, and staff at Willow Animal Hospital. Dr. Smith saved our golden retriever 4 months ago & we are forever grateful. What a tremendous loss of an excellent, caring & compassionate doctor, father, son, brother, friend.

Joan Shiban - June 30, 2024 at 10:01 PM

YM

“ We met Dr. Smith back in October, 2022 at MedVet when one of our dogs tore his ACL and we went in for an emergency. Dr. Smith sat on the floor with our boy, who was so anxious and did everything he could to calm his anxiety. He showed true compassion that night and (always) as if this was one of his dogs. We found out that night he is opening Willow and didn't think twice before switching clinics and began taking our pets to Willow ever since, and recommended Willow to neighbors and family who also take their fur babies there. Dr. Smith helped our other boy cross the rainbow bridge 3 months ago. While I was beside myself as our boys' illness came out of nowhere, Dr. Smith did everything he could do as a human to show that he truly cares, not only about the four legged fur baby but about their human who is enduring the pain when the heart stops beating. RIP Dr. Smith, you were one of a kind, a blessing for all who knew you.

If you see Chubbs somewhere in heaven - tell him what you always told him when we brought him in "it's the Turner and Hootch dog". Sending lots of love to everyone who was lucky enough to have had Dr. Smith make an impact in their life and their fur babies life.

Yana Martin - June 30, 2024 at 09:50 PM

OA

We are utterly heartbroken. He was our Tucker's veterinarian. When Tucker was first diagnosed with diabetes, his former vet didn't know how to treat him. I took him to a secondary veterinary hospital, where I met Dr Smith for the first time. He knew exactly what Tucker needed and within 4 weeks, Tucker's blood sugar was regulated. Dr Smith's dream was to open up his own veterinary hospital, and he did just that. He ran a very successful practice because he was a compassionate, charismatic and phenomenal human being. He was devoted to his family and career. He was passionate about treating and healing animals. He had a great bedside manner with my Tucker. Whenever we would go back for a visit, Tucker was actually excited to see him! There was no other like Dr Smith and he will be sorely missed. May your memory be eternal..

Olympia Asselanis - June 30, 2024 at 10:33 PM

LK

“ Love, Kelly Wise and Amy Kader purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Love, Kelly Wise and Amy Kader - June 30, 2024 at 09:44 PM

KW

“ Kelly W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Kelly W. - June 30, 2024 at 09:37 PM

ST

“ To know Dr. Smith was to love him. We met him on an emergency basis at MedVet and knew we had found "our vet" from that day forward. His compassion and understanding for both animals and humans was second to none. We were so thrilled to hear that he was opening his dream practice - Willow Animal Hospital. We followed him there, and in just the past few years we got to know him well. He treated our family like family and our animals like his own. My oldest daughter had many conversations with him about her future as a veterinarian, and their plan for her to begin her journey by working with him at Willow once old enough. She's only 6 but she has held onto that and if she enters the veterinary field one day, I believe we have him to thank. I've never met another vet, or another person for that matter, quite like him. He will be sorely missed by so many. Our hearts go out to his daughter, Averi.

Stephanie Tudor - June 30, 2024 at 09:34 PM

JR

“ I was extremely fortunate to meet Dr. Smith while he was at MapleShade. His care and compassion for his patients and their family members immediately convinced me I had finally found the ONLY vet I wanted to care for our furbabies. When we had an emergency arise on a Sunday, we went to the emergency clinic, and I was amazed, delighted and relieved to find out he was also there to care for my baby. We of course followed him to Willow, and loved sharing his enthusiasm as he watched his dream come true. Willow exemplifies the very finest veterinary facility providing the highest standard of first class care. Dr. Smith was truly an angel walking among us and was the very best mankind has to offer. His loss leaves a huge void for us all, and for the community as well. Our heartfelt prayers go out especially for his family and friends, as well as for his Willow family, patients and families. Rest in peace, dear soul.

Judy Rockwell - June 30, 2024 at 09:23 PM

NS

“ Here is a memory from many years ago outside Veterinary Internal Medicine Practice. I remember it like it was yesterday . I’m so very thankful that my life crossed paths with Kent and he made us all better people



nichole south - June 30, 2024 at 09:20 PM

TF

“ The Birnbaum- South family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



The Birnbaum- South family - June 30, 2024 at 08:58 PM

TF

“ The Birnbaum- South family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

The Birnbaum- South family - June 30, 2024 at 08:58 PM

 Nancy
Morrow

“ Dr. Smith was truly the most caring and compassionate person we have ever met. The day he came into our lives to care for our babies was one we will remember always. We have been raising these incredible babies for almost 18 years and until we met Dr. Kent Smith these babies were missing out on what it was to get the most incredible care and also love from this sweet precious man. The two things that will always stand out are the love and support he showed to our sweet 15yr old boy when he passed the day after Christmas last year, he asked after our baby had gone home across the Rainbow Bridge if he could give him a kiss on the head. We had never been witness to someone who has such incredible love and understanding of these precious babies and we are incredibly blessed to have known him and will miss him terribly. There is a spot for this wonderful man in heaven but those who new him here the next days will require great strength. May you rest in peace Dr. Kent Smith you will be missed terribly by all who were blessed to be in your presence, humans and fufbabies alike. We also thank him for blessing us with 4 new babies that we brought into our home all rescued by Willow and staff. Our condolences and support the sweet Averii and the Smith family.

Scott & Nancy Morrow

Nancy Morrow - June 30, 2024 at 08:56 PM

SM

“ Scott w M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Scott w M. - June 30, 2024 at 08:40 PM

AG

“ He was the more compassionate and loving person I have ever met. He helped one of my lovely furry pets cross the rainbow bridge Sunday after Easter , God, that week was one of the worse for me and my husband , and he was there for us giving us eternal love . Our heart is broken and we can not imagine what the suffering must be for his close family and friends . I am happy that God gave him the chance to fulfill everything he wanted in life. God has taken one of the best home . Rest in peace you were the best !

adele geris - June 30, 2024 at 08:23 PM

WH

“ Willow Animal Hospital purchased the Rainbow O f Remembrance Spray for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Willow Animal Hospital - June 30, 2024 at 07:59 PM

WH

“ Willow Animal Hospital planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Willow Animal Hospital - June 30, 2024 at 07:59 PM

EP

“ I worked with Dr Smith at VSRP and he was always really kind to me and my animals. After VSRP closed, he came to my house to euthanise one of my pets. He was so kind and caring. The world is a lesser place without him in it. You will be greatly missed.
Lizzie de Chanval Pellier

Elizabeth de Chanval Pellier - June 30, 2024 at 07:57 PM

AA

“ Ada A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Ada A. - June 30, 2024 at 07:47 PM

AA

“ I have known Dr. Kent Smith since his daughter Avery attended Grace Children's Learning center, he was an amazing Veterinarian and friend , I am still in shock that he was taken from us to soon. He was compassionate, caring, funny, qualities rarely seen these days, I have the honor of cleaning his establishment and will do my very best to keep it up to his standards. He will be missed tremendously. Rest in peace Doctor Kent Smith

Ada ayala - June 30, 2024 at 07:44 PM

NS

“ Words cannot portray the sadness I feel. I have known Kent since 2016. Most recently, with his opening of Willow. When my GSP sliced open her pad Kent performed his magic. He told me stitching a dog pad is not easy. He taught me how to clean and bandage the wound. For three months he guided me in her recovery. Of course, he fell in love with her. Told me if she ever had puppies one was his. And he always wanted pictures of her dock diving and hunting adventures. He was a selfless person who brought positivity to the world. He radiated kindness, patience, selflessness, empathy. His heart was so full of compassion to humans and pets. He made the world a better place. I wish I had a picture of him as he sat on the floor with Raven a month ago! Such joy in him and the pup! His contagious smile lifted one up.

To the family and especially his daughter I offer my deepest sympathy. I will keep you in my thoughts in the months ahead. To the staff at Willow also I offer my condolences. Continue making it the warm comforting place. May we learn from the great qualities DVM Kent Smith had. He was the best vet ever and close to the best person I have ever met.

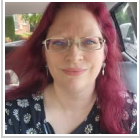


Nancy Say - June 30, 2024 at 06:08 PM

KB

“ *My sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Smith. This sudden loss is just devastating and heartbreaking. He was more than just a vet and it shows in the loving memories posted of him. He was a special human being and I hope he knew how much we all loved and appreciated his unwavering dedication, kindness and care.*

Karen Busby - June 30, 2024 at 06:02 PM



“ *The shock of hearing of you leaving this world. Has broken my heart. Not only were you such a wonderful veterinarian and a beautiful soul. You turned into family. Thank you for taking the time to listen to me, when it wasn't just about the kitties.*

You understood those Torties attitudes. And made my girls feels safe. And loving all my kitties as they were your own.

Your rainbow bridge came way to soon. But knowing all the pets you have loved and taken care were waiting to greet you. You will always be in this family's heart. You will be so missed.



Karin Meyer - June 30, 2024 at 05:59 PM

TA

“ I cannot express or capture in words what a special person and human Dr. Smith was. Just as I cannot express how much he loved his daughter, his mother for helping him to be the best dad and continue his work and all of his support staff that made his business a success. He helped us through two losses and saved one of our kitties three times. He never pretended to know everything but he did know a lot for his age and was always eager to share his knowledge with his patients’ parents and his support staff alike. My heart breaks for his family, both personal and work, and those that will never get to know this beautiful human being. He was so proud of his new facility and the future it holds. His legacy lives through Willow Animal Hospital and his beautiful little girl.

Tammie Andersen - June 30, 2024 at 05:20 PM



“ I met Dr. Smith when our border collie was found to have an inoperable mass and then a few weeks later when her quality of life became affected and it was time to let her go. He took us to the little garden area and just sat and played with her and until the end. He was absolutely wonderful and we could tell what a special person he was. Later my daughter discovered his new practice and was excited to tell me about it and take her animals there. We are both so sad. I hope all these tributes bring comfort to his family.

Caroline Chipman - June 30, 2024 at 05:19 PM

NM

“ We only met Dr Smith 4 months ago but totally adored him. He loved my little Shih Tzu puppy girls and even took them to his home over a long weekend! He said his daughter and his Parents loved the puppies and that Avari asked if she could keep them! So endearing to hear him talk about the girls and the great time his family had with them.

The first time he met my puppies he held each close to his chest and said “their heartbeats are very strong”. Instantly I knew he was an angel. Curt and I both felt total confidence in Dr Smith & his wonderful staff at Willow. He will deeply missed. God takes the good men too soon from this who love them. Rest in peace, Kent.

Natalie McArtor - June 30, 2024 at 05:08 PM

NM

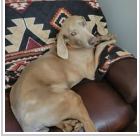
Dr Kent Smith, the most fabulous vet in the world.

Natalie McArtor - June 30, 2024 at 05:12 PM

CG

“ Cheryl G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Cheryl G. - June 30, 2024 at 04:59 PM



“ Our Molly who was a weimaraner had a mae got jor stroke in the middle of the night. She couldn't walk so we went straight to Prince William Animal Hospital where Dr. Smith worked at the time. We were lucky enough for Molly to see him. He told us she had a stroke and they were keeping her and we would talk in more detail the next day. We went to see Molly and she still couldn't walk. I thought we were going to have to say goodbye but Dr. Smith told us Molly wasn't ready to give up. He carried her in his arms outside so she could go to the bathroom and he did this numerous times. He got her where we could put a harness on her and help her walk. Eventually she was able to walk and run. Dr. Smith gave us another year with our beautiful girl. He never gave up on her and we are so very thankful that we got to meet and see the wonderful man he was and the great work he did,

Cheryl Gorham - June 30, 2024 at 04:49 PM

LN

“ Those of you who know us know what an important role Dr. Smith had in our lives. He believed in supporting young adults with unique needs, and twelve plus years ago hired my son, TJ, who only wanted to work with animals. TJ worked for him for six and a half years until Dr. Smith left the hospital. Dr. Smith helped TJ get his next job by writing a detailed one-page recommendation about him. When he opened Willow, Dr. Smith brought TJ back and welcomed him as part of the Willow team. He was patient, praised his efforts, and showed him unconditional love and acceptance. He made sure that TJ knew he was valued as much as the other employees. He told him that he would always have a place at Willow. Dr. Smith was not only an amazingly gifted veterinarian; he was a role model and father figure to TJ. As a widow trying to be both mom and dad, having Dr. Smith in my son's life was truly a gift from God. TJ and I loved him so much. We want Dr. Smith's family- Chris, Averl, his parents, and brothers to know how much Dr. Smith meant to us and that it went way beyond what a wonderful veterinarian he was. TJ hopes to continue honoring Dr. Smith by doing his best at Willow and we will be thinking of his kind heart every day. Rest gently, Dr. Smith. ❤️Lynn and TJ Nocera

LYNN M, NOCERA - June 30, 2024 at 04:45 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



June 30, 2024 at 04:33 PM

LT

“ Love, Trina & Tyler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Love, Trina & Tyler - June 30, 2024 at 04:33 PM

MC

“ My Bently was sick, I found Willow less than two miles from my house. I took my Yorke and this first visit was with Dr. Smith. He was so a happy man, and love animal, always took the time to explain the process on how he was going to do for my Bently/Ferrari. I took my Ferrari yesterday to see Dr. K, it was so hard to keep my emotions under control. May you RIP, Dr. Smith, you will be miss. Maty, Bently and Ferrari Carter

Maty Carter - June 30, 2024 at 04:23 PM

BK

“ Bev, Ken, Joe and Sandy, Jeff and Kim purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Bev, Ken, Joe and Sandy, Jeff and Kim - June 30, 2024 at 04:05 PM

JU

“ The tremendous outpouring of shock, grief, sorrow, and profound sadness expressed at the news of Dr. Smith's passing -- 540 posts so far on Willow Animal Hospital's Facebook pages since the awful announcement -- reflects the enormous love, respect, and gratitude the community feels for this remarkable man. A very fitting tribute to a splendid veterinarian and human being.

Joan Urban - June 30, 2024 at 03:58 PM

JU

Gifts in memory of Dr. Smith have been made to several rural shelters.

Joan Urban - June 30, 2024 at 04:18 PM

CH

“ We had discovered Dr Smith and the Willow practice only six months ago. We had never experienced a Vet (and very few other people of any kind) who exuded so much enthusiasm, kindness, humor, and love. We fell in love with him as a Vet but, more importantly, as a wonderful human being. We were also fortunate to meet Averı and it was clear what a wonderful father he was. Our hearts go out to his parents, brothers, and his beautiful little daughter. He is gone much too soon. Carol & Ken Hawker

Carol Hawker - June 30, 2024 at 03:33 PM

CH

“ Carol H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Carol H. - June 30, 2024 at 03:19 PM

SB

“ Stacey B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Stacey B. - June 30, 2024 at 03:01 PM

RB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



rene brown - June 30, 2024 at 02:57 PM

CC

“ Dr. Smith was the kindest person I have ever met. He was the most compassionate and loving human being, we first met him at Maple Shade Animal Hospital when we start taking our german shepherd Todi for his health check-ups, we immediately knew he was the best Vet in the world so we followed him when he opened his hospital. How I am going to miss him!! He did so many things for us, for Todi, for my son Jose, and helped us in everyway, we love you Dr. Smith, always will!



Carolina Cartagena - June 30, 2024 at 02:43 PM

DW

Kent was an amazing human being who just happened to also be an amazing Vet too. All of our dogs loved him and personally I have never met a more patient and loving doctor in any medical setting. He will be greatly missed by our family and our dogs as well. Sending big huge hugs and prayers to his family, loved ones and friends. Rest in peace my friend. ❤️🙏

Daryl Williams - June 30, 2024 at 02:49 PM

PC

Unfortunately i have only known DrSmith for a short time as i was a new patient just this year. I have to say, I never met a vet with more loving enthusiasm for animals. He got on the floor and played with my dog and loved my dog like it was the first time he ever seen a little toy poodle. He was so excited that he called his daughter in to see Beau as well. She just happen to be there that day. I never met anybody like him and I'm so sad that he's no longer with us. RIP

Peg Casciano - June 30, 2024 at 03:19 PM

KA

“ Dr. Smith was my first vet experience after moving here with my puppy almost exactly a year ago, puppy got himself in a pickle and messed up a tooth pretty good. Dr. Smith said "Don't worry we'll take care of him", maybe 30 seconds later he brings my baby back to me minus a tooth and happy as can be. I will never forget that day and how kind you were. It was then that I decided that you would be my puppy's vet and also my cats vet. Thank you for being one of the rare ones that actually cares about the animals and their owners and not the dollar more. Rest easy, we have the watch.

Katie - June 30, 2024 at 02:31 PM

CS

“ Carolina Cartagena, Jose, Miguel, Stella purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.



Carolina Cartagena, Jose, Miguel, Stella - June 30, 2024 at 02:31 PM

CS

“ *Carolina Cartagena, Jose, Miguel, Stella planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Carolina Cartagena, Jose, Miguel, Stella - June 30, 2024 at 02:31 PM

MM

“ *We were so grateful to have gained Dr. Smith as our family veterinarian last year. We knew immediately he was our vet going forward, as he showed so much care and compassion towards our dogs, Layla & Tito and recently our new kitten Jack. We are absolutely heartbroken about this news and we will miss him dearly. We also want to send our love and condolences to his family and friends, and praying for strength and healing during this difficult time.*

Margaret Miskovich - June 30, 2024 at 11:46 AM

SC

“ *When Great Trees Fall*
Maya Angelou

*When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.*

*When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.*

*When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.*

*Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their
nurture,*

*now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance, fall away.
We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance of
dark, cold
caves.*

*And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.*

Kent-

*Thank you for being that great tree. For letting us into your heart,
your home, your clinic. For all of the quick witted jokes, eye rolls and
your gigantic heart. Thank you for your friendship, for trusting us
with Averi, and letting us be a part of your village. We will miss you
forever.*

Shealyn, Shawn, Jacklyn and Joie



Shealyn Clinger - June 30, 2024 at 10:45 AM

TH

“ *My daughter and I met Dr. Smith during Covid at MapleShade Animal Hospital. We randomly saw him for one of our pets' appointments and after that one encounter we requested him for all our appointments. When we had to make a decision about our very loved baby, Nowhel, he helped us through. He suggested we move to a grassy area outside the clinic to say goodbye. He was so tender and kind and trustworthy. It was bittersweet when he left but he was so very excited to fulfill his dream of his own clinic. I can't imagine how much sorrow the family, friends and co-workers are having at this time. My heart feels this loss and I only spent a season with Dr. Smith. Our thoughts, prayers and sympathies are with you during this time of sorrow.*

Terrie Harner - June 30, 2024 at 10:25 AM

GL

“ *For the last 20 years we have had the pleasure of knowing you. One amazing vet, father, and friend. Thank you for your wonderful compassionate care, your friendship and your mentoring for KT. You will be greatly missed by all. 💔*
Fondly, The LaClair Family.

Gina LaClair - June 30, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *Sweet Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



June 30, 2024 at 08:29 AM

AW

“ Annie Andrews & the Mystic Run Whippets planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Annie Andrews & the Mystic Run Whippets - June 30, 2024 at 08:29 AM

ST

“ Sherry T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Sherry T. - June 29, 2024 at 10:50 PM

AR

“ Kent you will truly be missed. You were a talented colleague and a wonderful friend. You left us way too soon. I hope you are resting in peace and I am sending prayers to your family.

Alissa Rexo - June 29, 2024 at 08:58 PM

TF

“ 1 file added to the album Dr. Smith's Furry Friends



The Blosil Family - June 29, 2024 at 08:55 PM

TF

Dr. (Kent) Smith, our family is heartsick, and we are filled with sorrow on so many levels. We had only corresponded with you days previously via text sharing images of our adventures in Denmark and you jokingly (or not - wink) suggested we bring back for Willow the stained-glass window from the Frederiksborg Castle in Hillerød, DE! Your sudden departure is a tragic loss that reminds us of the fragility of life and the importance of cherishing every moment.

You opened your practice late 2022, with Teague, our Golden Retriever being one of your earliest patients. When we found you, we knew you would be the one who would be with Teague in good times and bad, and up to that final moment when crossing the rainbow bridge. Never did it occur to any of us that your bridge crossing would come first :(.

You understood the bond between pets and their owners. During Teague's annual check-up in May, you expressed how special Teague is. This is the kind of person you were, always complimentary and squeezing joy out of every moment. It was during this visit that we made plans for you and your sweet daughter who shares the name of our son (we'll call her "A") to visit our home this coming Halloween and see Teague in costume, having lived across the lake from us in your former neighborhood.

You were not only a highly respected member of our community, but also possessed a special talent for connecting with animals – a gift which not all veterinarians possess. We can only imagine the sadness of "A", your mother, "B" and how your family, Willow Animal Hospital team and the families of all your furry friends are feeling. We are forever mournful the Lord took you at the height of your career and fatherhood. Your love and kindness and your knowledge and skill of animal's well-being is a tragic loss for our community at large.

Some may think it odd to mourn the loss of your vet (who became our friend). Not for our family. Kent (Dr. Smith), you truly loved Teague, and we loved you for that! #DrSmithLovedByAll

The Blosil Family, Bristow, Virginia

The Blosil Family - June 29, 2024 at 08:57 PM

Maria
Organt

“ *The GREATEST loss to all of us personally and professionally! You were the very best inside and out! I pray for Momma & Poppa Smith, Chris and Averì.*

Maria Organt - June 29, 2024 at 08:50 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



June 29, 2024 at 08:42 PM

K&

“ *Karen, Colin, Stella, Oreo, Parker, &... planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*

Karen, Colin, Stella, Oreo, Parker, &... - June 29, 2024 at 08:42 PM

CL

“ *Chris & Denise Lebel purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



Chris & Denise Lebel - June 29, 2024 at 07:50 PM

CL

“ Chris & Denise Lebel planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Chris & Denise Lebel - June 29, 2024 at 07:50 PM

RT

“ It was an honor to have known you as my friend and vet. You were the most wonderful vet I ever found! There will never be another like you ---- you set the bar very high! I hope you are with all the pets at the Rainbow Bridge, but knowing that you are missed very much here. We will never forget you. My heart goes out to Averi and the Smith family..

*With love and deepest sympathy,
Rosalie Taccino and pets*

Rosalie Taccino - June 29, 2024 at 07:45 PM

LE

“ I'm proud to have started my career in the same clinic he did. The women who gave him his first job in veterinary medicine also gave me mine. But most of all he took care of 1 of my own personal pets and I was truly grateful for everything he did for them. He made sure they received the best care and that I was kept in the loop as well her PCP Aka my boss. He will truly be missed in the veterinary community.

Leslie - June 29, 2024 at 07:08 PM

CS

“ Our lives have been immeasurably enriched by knowing Dr. Kent Smith. He found and gave us two of our darling cats, Heather and Tweed. While we lost Tweed, he was with her and us every step of way, kind and caring, helping us move through grief. But I remember so many small stories, his deep love and pride for his beautiful daughter, laughter, joy, hearing about this dream of Willow Animal Hospital, helping a few days with preparing the hospital before opening. Always positive, always realistic, always kind. Our hearts extend to his family and little girl. We share their loss, and we will try to remember the courage that taught us. He was, as said here, a treasure, and his tremendous influence and impact will live on forever. Claudia & Jim Strock

Claudia and Jim Strock - June 29, 2024 at 06:32 PM



“ Cannot say enough about Dr. Smith. What an amazing Vet but an even better human. Hugs and prayers to all who knew and loved him. RIP Dr. Smith.

Shannon Sepulveda - June 29, 2024 at 05:36 PM

AM

“ Dr. Smith was truly one of a kind. The world will be a little less bright without him in it for sure. My heart and prayers are with his family, especially his daughter, as well as his chosen family in the world of veterinary medicine. He saved so many lives, human and animal alike, and his legacy will always live on through those who loved him.



Amber - June 29, 2024 at 05:27 PM



“ *In December Dr. Smith removed a cancerous tumor from my dog, Fiona. He was so kind and called me that evening to tell me everything about the surgery. We have loved him since hid days at the Emergency vet in Manassas. We will love and miss Dr. Smith for ever and will keep his family and work family in our prayers. Thank you, Dr. Smith. You were a treasure. 💔*

Karen McGirk - June 29, 2024 at 05:24 PM



“ *Dr Kent was one of a kind. His love and care for the animals and their humans. He took such good care of our girl and had such an exciting vision for his practice. He will definitely be missed and this is such a loss for our community. I have no doubts he was greeted by many critters who welcomed him with gratitude. Thank you, Dr. Smith!*

Lori McInnis - June 29, 2024 at 04:51 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Kent Dean Smith DVM.*



June 29, 2024 at 04:32 PM

SR

“ You a were a one-of-a-kind vet and human being that toched thousands of lives for pets and their parents. Words cannot express the sadness and gratitude many share as we learn you are no longer with us. Bet you are now with all the pets who welcomed you. Take good care of them and ones to come your way as they will certainly recognize you again. Peace, my friend. Stephanie Richardson

Stephanie Richardson - June 29, 2024 at 04:08 PM

LL

“ Linh L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kent Dean Smith DVM.

Linh L. - June 29, 2024 at 02:36 PM

LL

“ We love and miss you so much doctor. You took me in under your wing when I was a senior in high school and gave me my first job. You not only taught me so much in veterinary medicine, but also how to be a kind human being. You taught me to be patient, to be kind, and to be the better version of me everyday. You loved me as your daughter, and I am so proud and honored to have you as my American father. Thank you for being a very important part in my life. Until we meet again doctor.
Linh Linh



Linh Luong - June 29, 2024 at 02:32 PM

LS

I only got to meet Dr. Smith twice. He had such a great personality and he interacted so naturally with my pets, he really made an impression on me. I remember him sitting on the floor to comfort my anxious dog Bella. An amazing man. I imagine he is at the Rainbow Bridge getting wags and kisses ❤️

Linda Stephens - June 29, 2024 at 04:16 PM

SP

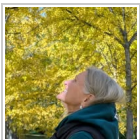
“ *Such heartbreaking and devastating news to hear of Dr. Smith’s passing. My husband and I and our dog, Bailey, just loved him and so appreciated his kindness, compassion, expertise and sense of humor. May God wrap his loving arms around the Smith family and friends and all the staff at Willow Animal Hospital.*

Susan Payne - June 29, 2024 at 12:36 PM

LW

“ *Gone too soon! 💔 This is heartwrenching! My heart aches for his Precious Averi and his family (immediate and work). We have been friends since he was 17, he was so Loving and Funny. We worked at VSRP under Dr Rich Bradley. We snuck into the Ultrasound room and he verified my dream that I was having a BOY (32 yrs ago) and the next day gifted me with a newborn jogging outfit from GMU. Sooo many Precious Memories with him...33 years later, my friend, Dr Kent Smith helped me, help my Sweet COPEY, cross the rainbow❤️ Kent was and will ALWAYS be a Saint in my heart.*

Lisa Wheeler - June 29, 2024 at 09:48 AM



“ *We are so very saddened to hear of Dr. Smith's passing. He saved our lovely Leah when she was very ill. He called her his miracle dog. He was so compassionate, kind and caring. They are few quite like him. Sheryle, Ken and Leah Moore*

Sheryle Moore - June 28, 2024 at 09:56 PM

JB

“ We are so sorry that you're no longer with us. You've been the most loving, caring vet we've ever had. We'll miss you dearly, John & Donna Beere and pups Maxwell and Samantha.

John A Beere - June 28, 2024 at 09:21 PM

RR

“ We love you more than words can express. Your impact on our lives will never be forgotten. Thank you choosing to be apart of our lives; it was truly a pleasure to be in yours.
Rachel, Nathan, Sidney, and Uncle David



Rachel R. - June 28, 2024 at 08:57 PM