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## Bob Dole, Surgery Bound.

Wed, 2010-12-15 17:42 — Robin Olson

Anxiety plays out in my stomach most of the time, but today I could feel it in my chest as my heart beat hard and fast—"thump, thump, thump!" It was time to pack Bob into his cat carrier and drive to Cheshire, the town name I find rather ironic and/or amusing. There we would meet [Dr. Weisman](#) <sup>[1]</sup> at the VCA Cheshire Vet Hospital. As much as I needed to get this meeting to happen, I struggled with wanting to go to bed and stick my head under the covers. I didn't want to know how she felt about Bob's prognosis or whether or not he'd make a good candidate for surgery.



©2010 Robin A.F. Olson. Bob circa 2008. This is why we love Orange cats!

I was pretty sure, after talking many times to Dr. Larry, that I'd hear: "Well, Bob is a senior with FIV+ and the mass is large and, you know, he probably wouldn't even survive the surgery and maybe it would be best to just send him home to be loved and let him go to *The Bridge*."

Dr. Weisman was surprising. She was upbeat and listened, she is quick to understand a situation and she explained things clearly. Bob **IS** a good candidate for surgery! Yes, he has a liver mass, but his other organs, including his heart and lungs are working normally. His blood test is really quite **GOOD**, if you don't count the glaringly sky-high ALT value.

She didn't want to do the surgery to prove anything. In fact she said she's not a "hero." She's not going to go in and try to remove the biggest liver mass ever seen. If it's dangerous, she's not going to do it. She said a few times, she is there to do what is **BEST FOR BOB-NOT what is BEST FOR ME, HER, ANYONE**. I really admired her for saying that and appreciated it. That's all I want.

She told me she'd open him up, take a look. **If he was a mess, full of cancer, she would close him up, send him home to spend his last hours or days or weeks with us.** If he wasn't full of cancer, if the mass is on the part of the right lobe (there are **THREE** lobes on the right of the liver!) she thinks it's on, it would be something she could remove. If it's **NOT** and too risky to remove she may biopsy it to find out if it's benign.

**As it has been since we found out Bob had a liver mass a week ago, there are no firm answers, only the okay to go to the next step.** We've reached the place to decide and in the end, there really was no decision to be made. Bob will have a better life without the mass. If it can be removed, we will have that done. If not, we'll at least know what we're dealing with and Bob will have the best, most comfortable end-of-life we can provide for him.

**If we did nothing, Bob would slowly decline further and further and die. If we do something, Bob can have quality of life. We did not talk about how much MORE life, but it will be more...**

And it's going to cost. It's going to cost a lot of money. Between \$3500-4500. Sam and I aren't having Christmas this year due to our lack of finances, but we will find the resources we need to make this happen for Bob. It's not foolishness. It's not "just a cat." It's a living creature who is in pain. If we have the ability to do this for Bob, then we will. Money will never be something that is more important than LIFE. That is just wrong.

At the end of my own life I never want to look back and feel like I didn't do right by my cats because of fear and because of a buck. If I have to go without some things, that's fine. I will still have a roof over my head and food in the pantry. It will be okay. It will suck to have to spend this money, but so be it.

Sunday, the foster cats arrive from Georgia. My house is going to be full up with craziness. Monday Bob has surgery and hopefully by Wednesday he will be coming home to recover. It may mean Christmas Eve at the ER Vet. It may mean a sleepless Holiday, but hopefully it may end up meaning, that what I really wanted for Christmas, I have a chance at getting. **I just want Bob to be well and to stay with us for as long as he can manage.** We're not ready to say goodbye and I think he still has a lot of life left.

Bob Dole proved it to me as we were about to leave the Hospital. We walked past another client who was bringing his Golden Retriever into the waiting room. Bob took one look at the dog and **HISSED LOUD!**

**THAT'S MY BOY!**

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## Comments

Wed, 2010-12-15 18:00 — Kat (not verified)

**[Way to go Bob! Guess he let](#)** <sup>[11]</sup>

Way to go Bob! Guess he let you know it's "a go" loud and clear! There will be so many prayers headed that way on Monday that doctor and Bob will be flooded in golden light.

Wed, 2010-12-15 19:52 — [Bernadette \(not verified\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

**[I hope that a successful](#)** <sup>[13]</sup>

I hope that a successful surgery and the very best outcome from all the possibilities is the best Christmas gift you ever had!

Wed, 2010-12-15 20:01 — [Janiss \(not verified\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

**[Robin, you never get any](#)** <sup>[15]</sup>

Robin, you never get any breathing room, do you? Next week is going to be insane. I hope it is mostly insane in a good way! Dr. Weisman sounds totally awesome - you could not ask for a better surgeon!

You are doing what is best for Bob, and giving him the gift of quality of life is the greatest Christmas gift you could possibly give him - or yourself. Consider it an investment of the heart.

Wed, 2010-12-15 22:16 — Debby (not verified)

**[Kat is right](#)** <sup>[16]</sup>

Golden light, and special guardian angels in that operating room. And in the waiting room/home with you. Hugs.

Wed, 2010-12-15 23:34 — Ingrid (not verified)

**[I love the hiss at the golden](#)** <sup>[17]</sup>

I love the hiss at the golden - sounds like Bob has a lot of life left in him. I hope that the surgery goes well. There will be a lot of prayers and good thoughts/energy in the Universe Monday as Bob has his surgery. Bob is lucky to have such good cat parents and Dr. Weisman sounds like the right doctor for him. Thank you posting his picture too - what a handsome cat.

Wed, 2010-12-15 23:44 — Pam (not verified)

### **Good News** <sup>[18]</sup>

I am happy & relieved for you, I am happy for Bob, I am happy for the fosters ... such good news!

Thu, 2010-12-16 11:20 — Jane (not verified)

### **We are purraving extra hard** <sup>[19]</sup>

We are purraving extra hard for Bob!!! Keep our paws crossed for the best outcome...

Fri, 2010-12-17 22:18 — Shelli <sup>[20]</sup>

### **Like I said, Bob would tell** <sup>[21]</sup>

Like I said, Bob would tell you. ;)

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Robin @ [Google+](#)

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