



Dr. Andrew J. Breslin VMD

August 16, 1946 - October 29, 2023

Andrew Jesse Breslin, VMD, died in Albany on Sunday, October 29, after complications following surgery. He was seventy-seven years old.

Andy was raised in the legendary Mount Carmel, a small town in the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. He was the son of Lois Perrin Breslin and John Regis Breslin, and older brother to Michael John Breslin.

Andy knew he wanted to be a veterinarian since his first job as a kennel boy when he was fourteen, often hitchhiking forty-five minutes to work. He also delivered newspapers, developing a life-long love for reading the news while using extra copies as insulation under his winter coat.

Andy attended St. Vincent College for three years before being accepted early to the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1971. He moved to Lee to join Bern Collins's practice, becoming a de facto member of that family. It was during an office call in 1975 that he met Pamela Conroy Breslin. They soon married and shared forty-eight happy years together. Andy opened his own practice in their home shortly after moving to Lenox; several years later he established South Street Veterinary Services in Pittsfield. Andy loved working at small dairy farms and with the High Lawn Farm herd, and chasing after the buffalos at Eastover.

Beginning in the early 1990's, Andy and his family traveled frequently to Vieques, Puerto Rico, working to improve the health of dogs and wild horses as well as to support and expand the island's volunteer humane society. Back in the Berkshires, he loved the challenges of a small animal practice. He

specialized in surgery, dermatology and orthopedics: many a retriever ran again after Doc's healing touch. Andy deeply cared about every pet and their owners, and thrived on each minute of his fifty-two year career until this June, when he became suddenly ill.

Andy took pride in becoming an almost-local resident of Lenox. For many years he served on the Lenox Board of Health and then the Kennedy Park Committee, with earlier stints on the boards of the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and the Berkshire Humane Society.

Over decades he mountain biked every inch of Kennedy Park, always stopping at the overlook, "his church," for a few moments of reflection. Cycling was Andy's favorite sport, and including a ride while traveling was a special goal. He and Pam spent time at more than thirty international destinations, from Australia to Zanzibar, often renting bikes to explore less-visited corners of countries on their own. In the last several years they almost completed the 400-mile Erie Canal bike trail, twice. Andy treasured hiking, skiing, camping and kayaking on trips with his dear friends, and enjoyed traveling to India and Asia with Susie and Tim Williams.

No one was a more involved or devoted father than Andy. He was beyond proud of his sons Luke Conroy Breslin of Monterey, MA, and Samuel Conroy Breslin of Voorheesville, NY, who had the good sense to fall in love with Molly Adams Breslin. His enthusiasm for parenting extended to the next generation of Breslins: being "Pop" to Madeline (Liddy) and Emma was a role he cherished. His granddaughters delighted him, engaged him, and brought him enormous joy with their imaginations, love of cycling, and (according to Andy) their inherited intelligence and humor.

In the late 1980s Andy bought a red and white Dodge Ram van, his first-ever new vehicle, to set off on a six-week cross country adventure from Massachusetts to Mexico. A few years later the family and van headed out again, this time north to the Pacific, camping, biking and adding to their family stock of stories.

The adventures continued as the Breslin PALS, and later PALMS, explored

Europe, South America and Africa. Returning to the Berkshires held its own great pleasures. Andy loved his home, the view from the kitchen, his spot on the porch. He loved his old Cub tractor, his poorly-tended, high-yielding potato patch, the tea house, the birds at the feeders and the goats in the barn. His friends and neighbors. And, of course, all the family dogs that came home with him from the clinic.

Few storytellers could match Andy's ability to capture the essence of growing up in the coal region in the fifties. His tales of mischief and the inevitable punishments that followed were legendary, as was his love for his roots. Were Mt. Carmel a sovereign nation, Andy would be its ambassador.

Among those he cherished are his many nieces, nephews, inlaws and outlaws. Andy leaves a legacy of generosity, wry humor, and selfless dedication. Despite his success in veterinary medicine, and in life in general, Andy remained bewilderingly modest, as reflected by his insistence on driving a cranky old pickup truck and sporting a vintage L.L. Bean wardrobe. Andy was a loving, funny, gifted human being, and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him will be forever better for it.

The family is deeply grateful for the kindness and support of friends and neighbors, Dr. Amy Campion, the hyperbaric group at BMC, the Berkshire Visiting Nurses Association, and Andy's extraordinary medical team at the Albany Medical Center.

A service in his memory will be held at the Church on the Hill in Lenox at 11:00 on Friday, November 17. Parking and a shuttle will be available from the St. Ann's parking lot. Before the service, the family invites friends to join them for a walk from the church to the overlook in Kennedy Park, leaving the church at 9:30. We welcome you to a reception after the service at the Mount.

Donations in Andy's honor may be made to the Berkshire Visiting Nurses Association or the Vieques Humane Society and Animal Rescue.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 17. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

Church on the Hill
Main Street
Lenox, MA 01240

Tribute Wall

AB

“ Pam and family. its been two years already but I just wanted you to know Andy will never be forgotten. The world lost a wonderful human being a true Christian doing Gods work. Treating not only animals but their human companions. His heart and dedication to animals went above and beyond what was called for. He was a true friend and will never be forgotten by me. My heart goes out to you not only at Christmas but all the time. I know how much he loved you all. God Bless you and God had blessed me with Andy as a friend. With much love Annie Bennett

Annie Bennett - December 24, 2025 at 02:52 AM

CP

“ I’m so deeply saddened to hear of the loss of one of kindest, warmest people I’ve had the privilege of knowing. Dr Breslin was my trusted vet for over 30 years, having an animal sanctuary and rescue- he saw me often. When my son was gravely injured he discounted my vet care without ever saying a word or looking for thanks. In his own words which he said to me every time I had to help an animal pass over “ Say hi to Odie for me”. My deepest heartfelt condolences to all those feeling the loss. Andy’s with Odie now.

Cara Petricca - December 07, 2023 at 03:47 PM

DF

“ Dr. Breslin was s figure of great comfort, stability and joy for those of us who knew him. You could be in a crowd, at the Josh, at the boat ramp, on the lawn at Tanglewood, and someone would say "oh, there's Dr. Breslin," and everything would feel just a little bit better, more fun. My sincere condolences to his loved ones.

David Fromm - November 19, 2023 at 11:09 AM

DM

“ How very sad our community is to lose such a compassionate and talented man as Dr. Breslin. His gift was not only to care for our families pets, but also for our community’s people.
May his beautiful family that he and Pam so tenderly raised find comfort in the many memories of his life so richly led.
Larry and Donna Moore

Donna Moore - November 18, 2023 at 08:07 PM

BS

“ Always looked forward to seeing Dr. Breslin on annual trips to the vet. Could tell he truly cared about animals and people.

Brian Shepardson - November 18, 2023 at 08:33 AM

AL

“ Andy has been our family's vet for our dogs since 2001. And Pam was my Spanish teacher in high school. As soon as my family and them made that connection; my parents and Pam and Andy became great friends. I will always remember the kayaking parties on the lake, and Andy's big laugh. He always cared and asked how I was - and meant it, not just the perfunctory ask of how someone was doing. As I got older, I came to really treasure my vet visits, as it guaranteed me time to connect with Andy and ask how he and Pam were doing and he asked the same about me. Andy was a treasure, and I will miss him greatly, I already do as there's no vet better than him. His caring, thoughtful, adventurous, mischief making, and kind heart, and big laughter has created such a missing hole.

-Adrienne L

Adrienne L - November 17, 2023 at 12:38 PM

CW

“ Dear Pam, We feel terrible because we thought the funeral was at 1:30 today, but when we drove past the church at about noon we saw people leaving and realized we missed it. We have wonderful memories of visiting you and Andy and your goats at your beautiful home and at social events with our many mutual friends. Needless to say, Andy also provided compassionate care for our Burmese cats. Andy had that rare combination of kindness, empathy, and high intelligence. For us, the world is poorer now that he has left us. The memories will live on.
Love,
Alba & Charles

Charles Wohl - November 17, 2023 at 12:03 PM

LB

“ To all of Dr Breslin's Family and Colleagues,
My deepest and sincerest sympathies to each of you. Dr Breslin was quite simply, one of the best humans on our planet. I enjoyed comparing snow reports for our ski teams, the various beautiful places to hike and paddle in the Berkshires, and his ever present calm and reassuring manner in each and every interaction with every one of our dogs. From our family cocker spaniels (three of them all named Poppins over 40 years) to each of my four golden retrievers over the past 27 years, Andy led his incredible team at South Street in the best practices in vet care. I adored him, and he will be tremendously missed. I am sure he was greeted with thousands of wagging tails and excited licks as he made his way to the heavens. Louise Stover Brogan

Louise Brogan - November 17, 2023 at 11:50 AM

LP

“ *The world has lost a truly humane being. We join Andy's family in mourning his passing, but will always find great comfort in his memory. I'm sure the rainbow bridge was beyond crowded in love when he arrived.*

In loving sadness, Lynne & Jerry Posner

Lynne Posner - November 17, 2023 at 09:25 AM

CG

“ *A dear man and a benign and comforting presence for all our pets.*
Joan and Charlie Gross

charles gross - November 16, 2023 at 10:36 AM

KN

“ *I am so saddened by Andy's passing. My deepest condolences to his family. He was my vet for almost 35 years and provided such wonderful and loving care to all my cats and dogs. More than that, he was a wonderful friend, and we had so many great conversations through the years! Andy will be missed by so many; I hope knowing this will help his family in the days ahead.*

Kathy Naventi-Brown

Kathy Naventi-Brown - November 15, 2023 at 08:03 PM

AF

I am truly heartbroken to learn of Andy's passing. He was a deeply kind and caring person and vet. As you know, Pam, I knew 3 of the 4 family members from Different Drummer's Kitchen. One day asked Andy about a really good breeder to find a sweet Yorkie from. Andy recommended a wonderful person and I found my little Lola there. Andy was her amazingly kind vet from beginning to end and the horrific day that Lola needed to be euthanized, Andy was so kind and compassionate and I am forever grateful for the wonderful, deeply caring person he was. Lola just loved him too. I think of his kindness at least twice a day when I pass South Street Veterinary Clinic. ❤️ My heart is with all of you.

Annie Ferris - November 18, 2023 at 08:47 AM

BS

“ *Dr Breslin was the vet I used since 1974. His love of animals was unrivaled. He will be missed.*

Barbara seddon - November 15, 2023 at 07:28 PM

TT

“ *Thank you to the Families of Dr. Breslin. As the doctor to our family over many years and to all that comes with the many different stages of our 4 legged children no one could have been nicer, kinder and certainly no one could have been funnier. Answering both our serious and silly questions with whole lot of love. We will miss Dr Breslin as we are sure many others will to. The Tarjick family.*

The Tarjicks - November 15, 2023 at 07:20 PM

JS

“ *I'm so sad to be hearing this news -- and belatedly. Andy has been our vet for the last 13 years. From the first time we met with Andy, I felt like he was inviting us into his family. Andy was always kind, charming, thoughtful, down-to-earth. We will all miss him terribly.*

Jurian Hughes, David Wallace, and Smitty - November 15, 2023 at 06:26 PM

PM

“ That recent anonymous tree was from Dr. Paul Haidak and Mai Haidak. Had so many memories with Pam and Andy that I don't know where to begin . My oldest son , Michael , practically lived at the Breslin Household. Besides being a wonderful Vet, Andy was a wonderful human being and he will be missed by all.

Paul M. Haidak, MD - November 13, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Andrew J. Breslin VMD.

November 13, 2023 at 12:39 PM

PW

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Keeping you in our thoughts. Pamela & Jeremy

Pamela Woolfrey - November 12, 2023 at 06:37 PM

LF

“ Andy was one the kindest, compassionate, selfless human beings on the planet. To use the parlance of my (and His and Pam's) generation: Andy was truly a beautiful person inside and out. Allan and I (and Clayton) always felt blessed just to know the Breslin family. Luke and Sam: We are so sorry you lost your father in an untimely way. Going forward, not having Andy is a collective immeasurable loss for all who treasured him so much.

Linda Forman - November 12, 2023 at 05:34 PM

AS

“ *My pets and I have known Dr. Breslin for over forty years and were very sad to hear of his passing.
He was such a thoughtful person and cared as much about his patient's owners as much as his patients.
A more caring person there never was. He will be missed by all whose lives he touched.*

Amy Sternlieb - November 12, 2023 at 12:39 PM

BF

“ *Dr. Breslin had the heart of a lion, deep soul of God, and spirit of an intrepid explorer. His extraordinary essence endures and is reflected in his beautiful family, Pam, Sam, Luke and all the Breslin kin. We are so sorry for your loss.*

Bobby Lahart & Family - November 11, 2023 at 09:23 AM

HE

“ *The greatest doc my pets have ever had. He cared for my animals as if they were his own. And was extremely eloquent in detail of their care. Our James Herriot.*

helenward - November 09, 2023 at 09:43 PM

DO

“ *A kind man with a generous and loving heart for our furry friends*❤️

Donna - November 09, 2023 at 06:27 PM

MS

“ Andy was our vet for 50 years. We followed him from Lee to his office at his home and to South Street. He was the best. We trusted him with our dogs down through the years and always had complete faith in his care. My horse got sick just after Andy had stopped doing large animals and he taught me how to give her the injections. We were truly beyond sad to hear of his passing. Our hearts go out to his wife and family.

Maureen Sternlieb - November 09, 2023 at 05:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Andrew J. Breslin VMD.

November 08, 2023 at 05:56 PM

NB

“ We were deeply saddened to hear of Dr. Breslin's passing. We met him over 40 years ago as we looked for a vet in Lenox for our pets. His obvious caring, dry wit and patient support for anxious pet parents was always greatly appreciated. He will be missed. Our thoughts are with his family, friends, staff and colleagues. May he rest in peace after a life well lived.

Noel and Paula Blagg - November 08, 2023 at 04:02 PM

LC

Back in the day, when most everyone had cats that were indoor/outdoor cats, Dr. Breslin became my hero! Our beloved calico, Autumn, had been missing for 2 or 3 days when she came back home severely injured about 1am. According to Dr. Breslin, she had been kicked in the face and suffered a badly broken jaw. My parents called Dr. Breslin and he met them at the office and fixed Autumn's jaw. She was paralyzed on one side of her face but healed nicely. Autumn lived for many years after that. Dr. Breslin had a way of making you feel like you and your pet(s) were his family. His calming demeanor always made you feel like everything was going to be okay. He will forever be my hero!

My sincerest and most heartfelt condolences to the family of Dr. Breslin.

Lynn Comalli - November 08, 2023 at 04:41 PM

DH

“ *I was a volunteer with Dr Breslin 35 years ago, when I was 15. I wanted to be a vet and he let me volunteer in the original veterinary services. He gave me my first pay check, as I happily stayed there from 7 in the morning until 7 at night, enjoying the company of everyone there and loving working with the animals. Not that I was any good. I remember nearly flooding the waiting room — I had no idea how to use a mop! I never expected to get paid (and to learn how to mop)! I had the pleasure of meeting Pam and remember thinking how beautiful she was — inside and out. I even babysat Luke and Sam once and met their three-legged dog. I didn't become a vet, although Dr Breslin always said I could do. He was such a kind and compassionate person. Such an extraordinary individual. I feel blessed to have known him.*

Denise Maynard Heal - November 08, 2023 at 12:49 PM

DO

I have dealt with Dr Breslin since 1988. I brought the many many cats I had over the years to him and he never disappointed me in his diagnosis and treatments to them until their end. He always treated with them with loving kindness and his such humane treatment until they're ends. Even until last year when I lost my 17 year old Lucy and told him I didn't think I could have any more cats I ended up rescuing two new abandoned kittens. He welcomed me in with open arms and thanked me for taking them in. He wasn't surprised he knew how much I loved cats. I will miss my visits to him. He was truly a great man and a friend to our Furry Friends ❤️

Donna - November 08, 2023 at 04:36 PM

EP


“ *I am so sorry to hear of Dr. Breslin's passing. Sending prayers and condolences to the family. He was a great man with a great sense of humor who always exhibited kindness and sincerity. May he rest in peace.*

Erin Evans Pollard - November 08, 2023 at 11:35 AM

CJ

“ *Our sincerest and heartfelt condolences to the entire Breslin family and friends near and far. We will certainly miss his presence in our community. ❤️*

Andy was kind and caring and devoted to his veterinary practice. I don't think I know anyone who hadn't visited his South St office at one time or another over the years. Always welcoming and helpfulalways.

The Rainbow  Bridge is opening its gates, the widest, Andy being welcomed by all of the animals friends he'd loved and treated , over his 50+ years of veterinary practice.

Rest in Peace Friend.

Christine and George Jordan - November 08, 2023 at 11:29 AM

BK

“ Dear Pam, Sam, Luke and family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. How deeply
he was loved by the community of people
who had him as their vet! What a remarkable
human being!

I remember the time he came into my 3rd grade classroom (Sam
was my student) with his animal skeletons and gave a wonderful
presentation when we were studying the Human Body. Obviously
we were studying the Skeletal System at that point. He added a
delightful touch to a dry topic.

My deepest condolences. Sending prayers for peace and comfort in
the days ahead.

Sincerely,
BeckyKnox



Becky Knox - November 08, 2023 at 11:13 AM

HM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. He has been my animals doctor since
the beginning of his practice. He was a compassionate caring
doctor. He had a great sense of humor. One example: I had a
German Shepard that was anxious. I was always so concerned for
my dog. He recommended Prozac for the dog and me. We both
laughed. I will miss him so much. We grew old together.

Helen Majchrowski - November 08, 2023 at 11:03 AM

LB

“ *Dr Breslin (Andy) was my pups first Vet 23 yrs ago!! His love of animals and passion for caring for them was an absolute gift. I also knew Andy outside of the clinic as he often took my spin classes at BWAC. He was so engaging, we often had lengthy conversations after class about this and that. I was then introduced to Pam, who was the light of Andy’s life!! I recall noticing the spark in his eyes when her name came up and when she was present. Andy will be missed dearly by an entire community of humans and four legged companions. I am so honored to have known him. RIP Dr Breslin.*
Lexie Bullard

Lexie Bullard - November 08, 2023 at 07:35 AM

JW

“ *Dr Breslin shepherded all of our dogs and showed such gentleness in his touch and voice. Also I loved his no nonsense approach to the care of our companions... don’t feed them too much and exercise exercise exercise.*

You will be missed Dr Breslin. You were one of the universe’s brightest lights.

jackie ling wong - November 08, 2023 at 07:13 AM

JS

“ I write this with profound sadness.
When I called Dr Collins in the summer of 1971 for our first dog, I was told he was not taking on new patients but would I like to try his new associate, Dr Breslin?
Countless dogs and cats later we used to joke that our menagerie put his kids through college.
He was the kindest, most sincere man. He never failed to inquire about my husband and wish him the best. I last saw Dr Andy this summer and that is the memory I will always cherish as he gently administered to my old senior pooch.
He was just the best.

JoAnne Soules - November 08, 2023 at 07:03 AM

SL

“ Dear Breslin Family,
Dr. Breslin, known as Uncle Andy when we were talking to the dogs, was beloved and revered by all who were lucky enough to have him as their vet. I have no doubt that all the love and compassion he bestowed on his patients and their families is coming back to him now tenfold. Bravo to Andy for a life well-lived. Much love to you all.

Susan Lyman and Larry Lane - November 07, 2023 at 08:36 PM

MC

“ I am so very saddened to hear about Dr. Breslins passing..He has been my vet for many of my cats for well over 25 years and recently, brought my present cat, Austin for his yearly checkup back in August...Dr. Breslin lived Austin just like he did with every other animal..He was a very caring and kindhearted individual with a heart of gold ..We will miss him so very much..From, my family to yours, our deepest and sincere sympathy..May he rest in peace..God bless..🥺💔🙏🐱

Michael Anthony Castegnaro - November 07, 2023 at 07:29 PM

AB

“ Pam and family my heart is broken, he was such a kind loving person and helped me so much with my animals, above and beyond just being a vet. he was a true friend. My prayers and thoughts are with you at this very sad time. He had such a full life and loved you all beyond words. God Bless all of you.

Annie Bennett - November 07, 2023 at 07:19 PM

LP

“ My condolences to Dr. Breslin's family. He was a kind gentle man and loved his work and animals.

Laurie Petell - November 07, 2023 at 07:03 PM

PC

“ I will forever be indebted to Dr. Breslin for being the only vet in the area who welcomed our little dog rescue into the fold of the South Street family some 13 years ago. Without his caring for our jack russell waifs, we would never have been able to accomplish the record setting adoptions we had year after year. In his and SSVet's care so many a jack was saved, healed and cared for. A kind man, gentle and ever so giving, thank you for being a light in the world of rescue. Pauline of Jacks Galore rescue

Pauline Clark - November 07, 2023 at 06:31 PM

MS

“ I have been bringing my furry family members to South St Vet for years. In 2018 my house burned down and I lost 1 baby and 2 were rescued. My Oliver was badly burned and needed his tail amputated. Dr. Breslin did the surgery and didn't charge me a thing. It might have been a small thing for him, but it was the world to me. I'm so deeply saddened that this world has lost his remarkable soul!



Melissa Soldato - November 07, 2023 at 05:55 PM

ML

“ Andy will be incredibly missed- both as a friend and as our vet. His wry sense of humor, his enjoyment of life and his kindness are indelible in every memory we have of him. His good-natured sharing of athletic endeavors (including the long uphill run in North Adams into which he lured Pete once, as well as the Josh Billings team-ups), his amazing kindness toward our dogs- he personally buried our dog Mocha here years ago- his incredibly generous help in installing the stall mats in our barn (without electricity to cut them down to size!!) and his love of good beer and good companionship will be always with us. It seems impossible that he is not here. Marie and Pete

Marie Rudden and Pete Lazes - November 07, 2023 at 11:16 AM

BK

What an amazing man. He was our Vet for over forty years and knew every dog we ever had, seeing them through their young years and helping us through losing them. Kind and attentive to every creature's needs. He touched our lives in ways we can't even describe. See you on the other side, Andy.
Bob and Jess Krupski

Bob and Jess Krupski - November 08, 2023 at 08:30 AM

PS

So heartbreaking to hear of Andy's passing. He was part of my life and all my corgi's for over 38 years. Caring and compassionate in good times and bad. He will always have a place in my heart for all he had done over the years. Truly will be missed. My condolences to such a caring and loving family.

Pamela Shugrue - November 08, 2023 at 09:31 PM

TD

*My sincere condolences to the Breslin Family. I was blessed with Andy being my vet for 25 years. He was not only my vet he was my friend. My labs KC, Buster, Bear, Rudy, Murphy and Clyde had the best of care and Andy never failed to give them a treat during a visit. He was always a phone call away if I was in need of help. He cried with me when it was time to send my labs to "Doggie Heaven". He was the best. May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.
Tom and Lori Donaldson*

Tom Donaldson - November 09, 2023 at 08:46 AM