

Suffield Veterinary Hospital December 2014 Patient of the Month

Meet "Baby," a year-old neutered male cat owned by Denise Choquette of Holyoke. The handsome photo below was taken by Lorilee Photography of Enfield. Baby is wearing that fashionable collar to protect his stitches!

In the summer of 2013, a stray cat showed up on the Choquette doorstep pregnant with two kittens. Because of her sweet nature, "Mom" stayed and has become a treasured family pet, and one of the kittens, Baby, rounded out the family. The other kitten found a wonderful home, too. Happy ending?

Baby had wanderlust, and was difficult to keep indoors from the beginning. He preferred to hang out around the yard and neighborhood, venturing onto the porch to be fed. A week before Halloween he came limping in dragging his tail and not using his right hind leg. While there was no known trauma, most likely Baby tangled with an automobile and lost. Our Xrays showed a dislocated hip and a fractured spine near the base of the tail.

Many cats with similar injuries are put to sleep, sometimes because the injuries can cause incontinence, sometimes for financial reasons. Baby was a lucky exception. If the tail fracture had been one vertebra higher on the tail, he would have been unable to empty his bladder or colon. Instead he functions normally, and we got the green light to repair his injuries.

Until Dr. Dan Rothbart joined our staff in August, none of the staff veterinarians at Suffield Veterinary Hospital performed any orthopedic surgery. But the procedures required for Baby were not new to him, and Baby did extremely well. He now rests comfortably at home — forever indoors! We predict a full recovery.

For giving us a chance to highlight Dr. Rothbart's orthopedic skills, and to remind people that even experienced outdoor cats occupy a dangerous world and live longer healthier lives snug inside, we are happy to name Baby Suffield Veterinary Hospital's Patient of the Month.



Suffield Veterinary Hospital

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❖ Dr. Griffin O'Connor ❖ Dr. Christine Mullen ❖ Dr. Daniel Rothbart
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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com