

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital February 2015 Patient of the Month

Meet fabulous Freddy the Maltese, owned by the Rueli family of Suffield. This adorable picture of six-year-old Freddy was taken by Lori Lee Photography of Enfield. Donna Rueli says: "Freddy was purchased in Palm Beach Gardens, FL and after a year and a half, he moved up to Connecticut with our son Brian. While on a vacation, Brian asked if we would dog sit for Freddy. We fell in love with Freddy and when our son returned from vacation he agreed to let Freddy move in with us. Freddy is the most sweet, lovable, happy and cuddly dog you will ever meet. He excels at walking on his hind legs to get a treat. He will often snuggle up to you on a couch or easy chair for hours at a time. Although he is small in stature, while on a walk he will stare down any dog in his path. At 8 pounds, he is a bundle of joy. People of all ages, even those that are not fond of dogs, take a liking to Freddy and end up loving him."



At his annual examination last summer, Dr. O'Connor found him to be well cared for and in good health, except for his horrendous breath and infected teeth. Unfortunately this is a common finding, especially in smaller dogs. Most people recognize that there is halitosis, but not that this means there is dental disease, nor that infected teeth always mean mouth pain. Dogs mask it well, but infected loose teeth just plain hurt!

Freddy was scheduled to spend a day with us in August and have his mouth problems addressed. After cleaning, polishing, and dental Xrays to evaluate the health of the tooth roots and bone structure, Freddy had all the loose and infected teeth removed — eighteen in all!

The prospect of multiple extractions, such as Freddy had, is daunting to many people, who wonder how their pet will do with so many missing teeth. But in fact the result is virtually always a much happier, livelier pet. In Joe's words:

"We definitely did see a noticeable improvement in his well-being after the dental surgery. In addition, we have noticed that his eyes do not 'run' as much and do not turn the hair around his eyes as brown as before the surgery. We brush Freddy's teeth on a regular basis now and use 'healthy mouth' additive in his drinking water at the suggestion of Dr. O'Connor."

February has been named Dental Month by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and we offer a 15% discount on all dental services performed or booked during February. If we have suggested dental procedures for your pet in the past, now is the time to do them. Or, if a sniff and look at your pet's mouth warns you that it might be starting with dental problems, come in and let us check it out.

For being a great example of the benefits of a healthy mouth, we are happy to name Freddy our February 2015 Patient of the Month.

### *Suffield Veterinary Hospital*

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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, [www.suffieldvet.com](http://www.suffieldvet.com)