

Suffield Veterinary Hospital July 2009 Patient and Owner of the Month

Meet Ginny Hooper of Suffield and her cocker spaniel Sandy. We usually don't include the pet owner's picture in this column, but Ginny herself is the main reason Sandy was selected as Patient of the Month. Sandy is a remarkably robust old fellow and is completely devoted to Ginny. What makes this pair so special to us is that — at an age when most people and animals are limited — these two tackle whatever comes their way with gusto.

Though you might not know it from this lovely portrait taken at Motophoto in Enfield, Ginny Hooper will turn 95 this July. Sandy turned 14 in April. In "dog years" that is 98! All but the first 8 weeks were spent with Ginny. As a puppy he went to obedience classes and learned a few tricks as well as how to behave around people. He also learned that there is no place he'd rather be than at Ginny's side.

It is tough to keep pace with Ginny as she travels to visit friends and relatives and play bridge wherever she goes. Sandy is ready to join her at a moment's notice, personalized backpack and all. Last year they spent time in New York at a horse show where Ginny's daughter was showing her beautiful horse "Dutch." Sandy loved it because he and Ginny got to ride around in a golf cart all day and watch the other dogs and horses — all the new smells!

Most days Ginny and Sandy keep to their routines. Sandy's dinner is served at 4:00 and when Sandy is ready to turn in for the night, he jumps on the bed and cries for Ginny to come join him. Sandy is selective about whom he will allow to take him for a walk — he does not want to be very far from Ginny. A favorite local destination is the bank. Say that word and he runs for the car, knowing that when the drive thru window tray opens up there will be a treat in it for him.

This pair comes to Suffield Veterinary Hospital frequently, but fortunately Sandy's aches and pains, and his lumps and bumps have never been serious or life threatening. Dr. Dawn Burke is Sandy's regular veterinarian, and has done an excellent job of keeping Sandy healthy and comfortable.

Pets have proven health benefits for people, from lowering blood pressure and reducing stress to helping cope with a myriad of emotional difficulties. We believe that Ginny and Sandy are so well matched, such great companions for each other, that both their lives have been enriched and extended. They continue to take on life with anticipation and joy. For showing us with each visit that age is just a state of mind, we are proud to name Ginny and Sandy Hooper our July 2009 Suffield Veterinary Hospital Owner and Patient of the Month.



Suffield Veterinary Hospital

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