

Suffield Veterinary Hospital June 2014 Patient of the Month

Meet Tuck, a neutered male Jack Russell terrier owned by our receptionist Courtney Walker of Suffield. This adorable photo was taken by Lori Lee Photography of Enfield. Here is Tuck's story, told by Courtney:

"I received a phone call one afternoon from a friend. She knew I had recently started a job at Suffield Veterinary Hospital and had called to get a little information. She proceeded to ask me what I knew about Jack Russell terriers. I chuckled and said that I had noticed that they were an "active" breed and that I'm not sure I would ever want to own one. As it turned out, she had a little Jack Russell that was in desperate need of a home. After one meeting, I knew I couldn't turn him away. He was the perfect puppy. Then Tuck met my Dad, and that's when the trouble began. We have discovered that Tuck is very...durable. He survived getting hit by a car in the winter of 2012 while being watched by my parents (he badly fractured his pelvis and lost a few teeth). Thankfully he recovered well, and after five months of cage rest, he was back to being a boisterous, barking terrier again.



It seems Tuck can't make it a year without something detrimental happening to him. Last summer, I noticed he was not his spirited self. He didn't want to move, he didn't want to eat, and he didn't even want to chase squirrels! Something was not right. He started to vomit about a day later, and I noticed bits of corn. That's when I started to question my Dad. He finally fessed up that he had fed Tuck an entire ear of corn on the cob. He had no idea how hazardous they are to a dog. I immediately went into panic mode, bringing him to work for a barium series and

multiple x-rays. The tests confirmed that there were many large pieces of corn cob still in his stomach, and the only way these could be removed was surgically. An exploratory surgery was performed by Dr. Huntington, during which she found seven large walnut-sized pieces of the cob. Thankfully they were in his stomach and nothing had reached his intestines.

The hard road to recovery began again. With only teaspoons of food and water multiple times a day along with near constant supervision, he is once again perfect. Best part, my Father still feels guilty and very upset over the matter. He BARELY feeds Tuck table food anymore — and at least when he does, it's no longer ears of corn!"

We have chosen cute and spirited Tuck as our June Patient of the Month because it will soon be corn on the cob season, and we want to remind people that pieces of corn cob are one of the most common things causing intestinal blockages in dogs. Keep your pets safe and have a wonderful summer!

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

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