

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital May 2010 Patients of the Month

Meet Dianne Stevens' "Three Musketeers" — Mollie, Mindie and Maddie. Mollie (at left in this wonderful family portrait taken at MotoPhoto in Enfield), the latest in a long line of black cockers she has owned, is a purebred cocker from a line of champions, purchased through a breeder. Dianne had never considered any rescue or shelter animals primarily due to the abundance of bad publicity surrounding these animals... "they're nothing but trouble," "you're getting someone else's headache," etc...

In April 2008 she decided to get another dog. It had to be a cocker spaniel —preferably black. Her search led to Pefinders.com (a website for rescue animals). Once she saw the hundreds of animals needing a home, she immediately decided that her next addition would be a rescue dog. Thus, Mindie (tan & white) was added to the family. She had previously been rescued twice in New York City. Her first rescue resulted in her being placed with a "forever family" who, shortly after they adopted her, abandoned her at a busy intersection in the city. Mindie had been micro-chipped, so the animal shelter called the family of record to be told that the family "doesn't want her anymore." Mindie is the sweetest, most loving, cuddly shadow anyone could have ask for. She easily and quickly found her spot in the family order.

Because of Dianne's experience with Mindie, she decided to adopt another dog through Pefinder.com and found Maddie (at right). Maddie (the rescuer in Tennessee named her "Mattie" because she was so matted when they rescued her) came from Mississippi on a pet transport. The pet transport is a converted horse trailer that makes the trip from the southern U.S. to the northeastern U.S. every single Saturday with over 100 animals who have been adopted by families in the northeast...think about that! Dianne met Maddie on a Saturday morning at the Glastonbury Commuter Lot, along with 35-40 other families meeting the transport to pick up their adoptees! Maddie has fit into the family even more smoothly than did Mindie.

Finding Mindie and Maddie has convinced Dianne that all the negative stories about shelter/rescue animals just are not true. Shelter/rescue dogs just want to be loved in a "forever home"...they don't ask for anything, but what you receive from them is more than unconditional love — it's the pride and satisfaction that come from knowing that you've rescued a dog from a life of abuse. When there were just Mollie and Mindie, the girls were nicknamed "the M&M girls." Now, with Maddie, they are the Three Musketeers!

For being extremely cute, and for giving rescue dogs such a good name, we are proud to name Mollie, Mindie and Maddie our May 2010 Patients of the Month!



### *Suffield Veterinary Hospital*

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