

Suffield Veterinary Hospital October 2016 Patient of the Month

Meet Toby, an 11-year-old Yorkshire terrier owned by Donna Dubuc and family of Feeding Hills, MA. As shown in this sweet photo taken by Lil' Blue Farm Photography of Monson, MA, Toby is bright, alert, a little bit feisty and cute as a button.

We have enjoyed caring for Toby, but became concerned last year when he developed a severe persistent cough. When evaluated by our Dr. Dawn Burke he was found to have a collapsing trachea, common to toy breeds of dogs, and somewhat resistant to treatment. Complicating this in Toby's case, was obesity. He was a 12+ pound pup in a body designed to be about 8 pounds. We knew that if they would only work hard at getting the weight off Toby, he would do much better.



Here is Toby's story, written by Donna: *Toby came in into our lives 10 years ago after a year of contemplating and children begging for a dog. He has been such a joy. Some of his favorite things to do are to chase birds and squirrels outside — with no luck catching yet, thank goodness! Toby also loves to play catch me if you can and tug of war with his toys. His favorite toys are the ones that squeak the loudest.*

We knew for quite a while he was a little overweight but couldn't resist that cute face whenever he wanted a treat or a little something of what we were making to eat. When we found out about his condition with the trachea, knowing that it can be life threatening, we knew we had to get serious about his weight loss. By cutting back and replacing his treats with healthier ones such as carrots (as opposed to dog treats), lower calorie meals, and daily longer walks for more exercise, we were able to get his weight down.

It definitely has helped with his coughing — he looks younger and has more stamina with his walks. We hope to have him with us for many years to come!

In the spring of 2015 Toby coughed in on our scale at 12.1 lbs. This past June he was a healthier, happier 8.1 lbs. For embodying the health benefits of maintaining good body weight, we are delighted to name Toby our October 2016 Patient of the Month.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Ann Huntington ❖ Dr. Anita Sabellico ❖ Dr. Dawn Burke
❖ Dr. Griffin O'Connor ❖ Dr. Daniel Rothbart

577 East Street South (Route 159), Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-4041

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