

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital September 2010 Patient of the Month

**M**meet Rudy, a sweet mixed-breed dog newly adopted from Suffield Veterinary Hospital by the Breen family of Suffield. He was picked up by the Suffield Police a few weeks ago and brought to SVH for emergency care. Instead of sending him to the pound when he was back to health, our staff lobbied for permission to keep him here until a forever home could be found. In Liz Breen's own words, here is what happened then:

*Rudy picked a very bad time to run away from his owner, the writer of this article, in that he bolted out of the open front door and gallivanted around the neighborhood not an hour ago. However, his owner must write this article tonight, so must go on with it no matter how hot or out of breath or mad at the dog she is.*

*One can't really blame Rudy for his...excitement, though. It is only his second week at the Breen household, and he is still exploring his new neighborhood. And his owners are still adjusting to life with a 63-pound German shepherd mix. You see, less than 24 hours before Rudy was in the home, the Breen's had no intention of getting a dog whatsoever. To be clear, by "the Breen's" here, I mean Mama Breen. Her husband and daughter have been hounding her (get it?) for a dog since moving to Suffield more than 15 years ago. However, they have remained strictly "cat people" all this time. Until, that is, Liz was surfing Facebook (all hail social media) and saw an album called "Really nice, 7-year-old neutered male who needs a good home" posted by her friend Bill Schnepf, an intern at Suffield Veterinary Hospital, with pictures of a very scared looking dog. Being an only child, Liz did what she does best; she begged her parents to at least meet the dog. The rest, as they say, is history.*

*Since being with the Breens, Rudy has become a real workaholic, loving to spend his mornings in the (air conditioned) office. He does get his exercise time (such a Yuppie) in the afternoons, though, when Liz takes him for a nice long walk through the woods or plays tug-o-war with a chew toy. Mama Breen has even taken to him, although she won't admit it openly. Unfortunately, Rudy did have to be taken back to SVH last weekend with a bad case of hives. He doesn't mind his prescribed medicine, as the pills always come with a nice hunk of meat. And, thanks to his (general) good behavior and charming smile, SVH awarded him with pet of the month. He awarded them back by agreeing to pose in this picture, taken by the professionals at Motophoto.*

If you want to read more about Rudy, check out Liz's very entertaining blog at <http://toinherit.wordpress.com/2010/07/29/the-love-of-my-life-2/>. For becoming a poster child for the joys of adopting a rescue dog, we are pleased to name Rudy the September 2010 Suffield Veterinary Hospital Patient of the Month.



### *Suffield Veterinary Hospital*

Dr. Ann Huntington ♦ Dr. Anita Sabellico ♦ Dr. Dawn Burke ♦ Dr. Jean Herrman ♦ Dr. Griffin O'Connor  
577 East Street South (Route 159), Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-4041 ♦ [www.suffieldvet.com](http://www.suffieldvet.com)