

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital September 2011 Patient of the Month

Meet "Lady Belle," owned by Rachael Little and family of Suffield, pictured in this adorable photo taken by Lori Radke:

*Hi, my name is Lady Belle, or Big Mama, as my family sometimes calls me. I am a Bloodhound and I have lived here in Suffield with my family and my "little sister" Georgia, a Bassett hound, for almost 7 years. I love to lay in the sunshine on my porch, go for walks at Sunrise park, bark at my neighbors' chickens when they visit, and play with my family.*

*For a long time, my family had another dog, Bailey, and we were real great buddies. When Bailey died suddenly in 2008, we were all so sad. I didn't feel much like playing or running around anymore, and over the winter I gained a lot of weight. At my next visit with Dr. Burke, I weighed 110 pounds! She told my mom that I really needed to go on a diet, get some exercise and get back to a healthy weight. As much as I didn't want to be on a diet, I was having trouble moving around and getting up and down from my mom's bed.*

*So we got started: no more doggy treats — only veggies for snacks, a good walk most every day, and a visit the vet's office every week to be weighed (just like weight watchers for humans!)*

*I found out that I love carrots, cucumbers and green beans — maybe even more than cookies! And walks with my Mom were so much fun that I really looked forward to them every day! But the weighing in every week...that's another story. We would go to the office and I would get so nervous. Everyone was watching me as I got on that scale. Sometimes people would even laugh at me as my Mom struggled to get all my paws on the pad of the scale. But she kept taking me, even though I fought her every time.*

*After a few months, I was feeling terrific! I could run and play and go for rides in Mom's van without sore hips and shoulders! At my last weigh-in, I was 75 pounds! I'd lost 35 pounds and I hopped on the scale proudly to show off my hard work and slim figure!*

*These days, my family has added a new little sister, Georgia (as I mentioned earlier), and we love to wrestle and play together. I am almost 9 years old and I've kept my weight under control. Not so tough when you're keeping up with a puppy!*

For being such a good sport when coming in for her weigh-ins (when she was fat she wouldn't get on the scale, and now that she's svelte she hops right on!), we are pleased to name Lady Belle the Suffield Veterinary Hospital September 2011 Patient of the Month.



### *Suffield Veterinary Hospital*

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