

Suffield Veterinary Hospital December 2017 Patient of the Month

Meet Clancy, a 1-year-old Labrador retriever owned by a national not-for-profit organization called America's VetDogs that places specially trained service dogs with veterans who have a disability.

Clancy was born in their breeding center in Smithtown, NY. As a small pup, he and his littermates interacted with some fun toys and lots of people, a process called temperament testing, to help determine if they had the right stuff to be assistance dogs. Some of his littermates are being raised to become guide dogs for the blind, but Clancy got selected to be part of the America's VetDogs program and hopefully he will one day partner with one of our nation's true heroes, a disabled veteran!

In order to learn the skills needed to help a person with a disability, Clancy now lives and trains at the Enfield Correctional Institution with a specially selected group of inmates. On the weekends, Clancy leaves the prison to live with a volunteer family in order to get used to the sights and sounds of a typical household and other social environments. These families are called "weekend puppy raisers" and they might be a lot like you. Some of them are really busy during the week and just don't have time for dog (to learn more or become a weekend puppy raiser visit www.VetDogs.org).



Clancy wears a special coat that lets people know he's a service dog-in-training and allows him to enter places not usually welcoming to pet dogs. Eventually, when Clancy is older, he will return to the VetDogs training center to get further training that will meet the needs of the veteran he'll be matched and placed with.

Many wonderful people are involved in supporting America's VetDog program. Suffield Veterinary Hospital donates services to keep Clancy and the other dogs he lives with healthy.

For his great potential to someday change a disabled veteran's life for the better and help that person live without boundaries again, Suffield Vet Hospital is proud to name Clancy our December patient of the month.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Ann Huntington ❖ Dr. Anita Sabellico ❖ Dr. Dawn Burke

❖ Dr. Griffin O'Connor ❖ Dr. Daniel Rothbart

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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com