

Suffield Veterinary Hospital November 2017 Patient of the Month

Meet Ben, a mixed-breed rescue dog, at least 12 years old, owned by Art and Karen Enderle of Enfield. The staff at Suffield Veterinary Hospital is amazed at how much love and kindness the Enderles have given this old dog. SVH technician Jen Haire took this charming photo.

Here's Ben's story from the Enderles: *Ben joined our household in September of 2016. He had been advertised in the local newspaper, having been found emaciated. The East Windsor Animal Control staff took him in and were doing a great job of caring for him. We saw the article describing Ben and felt very badly for him, but at the time we didn't think we could take on any more furry friends, having recently adopted a three-legged dog from the East Windsor Animal Control.*

Art stopped by occasionally to check in on the old fella, and would report back that he was still there. We agreed that if the dog were still up for adoption by the time we returned from our daughter's wedding in September, we would adopt him. Upon our return, Art discovered that the dog was still awaiting his forever home.



While we knew he had a skin condition and was severely malnourished, we were not prepared for what was to come. As soon as we adopted Ben we took him to Suffield Veterinary Hospital, and we were advised that Ben needed to have a series of biopsies to determine what the problem was. The biopsies revealed he had a condition known as Pemphigus Foliaceus. This is a very difficult disease to treat and may be one of the reasons he was abandoned.

We were referred to Veterinary Specialists of CT, and Ben was put on a regimen of steroids, which cleared up the skin condition. But Ben had to be weaned off the steroids as his liver and kidneys were being affected. Other medications were tried in an attempt to get the Pemphigus under control. Baths were required three times weekly, and Ben does not like to be bathed. He is kind of a grumpy old man.

Ben then began to lose control of his rear legs, and has recently been fitted with a special cart from Eddies Wheels in Shelburne Falls, MA. This has allowed Ben to regain mobility and he can now roll around with his furry buddies.

It has been a great team effort between Dr. Ann Huntington, Dr. Diedre Galbo, the Enderles and of course Ben. Now he is a happy dog, even with his at times grumpy personality!

Suffield Veterinary is proud to name Ben our November Patient of the Month because it's wonderful to see an old dog finally have a good quality of life thanks to his wonderful new owners.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

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

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

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