

Suffield Veterinary Hospital May 2016 Patients of the Month

Meet the 9 purebred golden retriever puppies we saw a few weeks ago in our office. They are owned by respected breeders Giselle and John Graham of Newtown, CT, and were in Suffield for their first physical examinations.



There is a major rescue movement in our country now, with many thousands of dogs being transported to New England from our southern states every year. We see lots of these dogs at Suffield Veterinary Hospital, and most of them work out extremely well. The adoption fee is usually lower than for purebred dogs, and there is an undeniable good feeling of offering a dog with a sad past a fresh chance at a loving home. But we have also seen some rescue dogs with life-long behavior issues from their difficult past, and others with a variety of illnesses and conditions (heart diseases, parasites including heartworm, orthopedic issues like hip dysplasia, etc) that are difficult to treat.

For those who want to reduce the uncertainty of what they are bringing into their family, purebred dogs from careful breeders like the Grahams (and many others) are a good option. The parents of these puppies have been through multiple health screens (Xrays to rule out orthopedic problems, examination by ophthalmologists and cardiologists, DNA tests for known inherited disorders of goldens) and the temperaments have been carefully evaluated for soundness. By researching the temperaments and attributes of the various breeds of dog, most people can select one that fits their family and lifestyle.

This particular litter has an additional claim to fame: they have twice been featured on *The Tonight Show* with Jimmy Fallon, first as prizes in a "Pup Quiz" with Jimmy and Ben Affleck, then a week later they were the "Puppy Prediction" stars, who predicted (wrongly) that North Carolina would win the NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship.

For being a great example of some of the reasons to consider reputable breeders of purebred dogs, and because they are so darn cute, we are happy to have these puppies as our patients of the month.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

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