

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2014 Patient of the Month



Our April Patient of the month is a Golden Retriever puppy named Copper, owned by the Kanios family of Windsor, CT. This adorable photo was taken by Lorilee's Photography of Enfield. His family writes:

*"We brought Copper home just before Christmas 2013. What a great present for all of us – the latest addition to "the circus" as we sometimes call our family! We choose to have Golden Retrievers because of their eagerness to play, learn, comfort and just be a perfect companion for children. Copper is a lot of fun to train, and is learning basic commands quickly. He loves to cuddle with us on the couch and thinks he is a lap dog – but from the size of his paws he will not be a lap dog much longer! Chasing his tail until he rolls over remains one of Copper's many favorite activities.*

When Copper was 12 weeks old, Jim came home one morning to discover that he had thrown up in his crate. Copper seemed okay, so Jim fed him his lunch and he had a good afternoon playing – but shortly after eating his dinner that night, Copper threw it all up. This time Copper looked like he was in discomfort. Since it was after dinner, Jim took him to the 24 hour veterinary hospital in Windsor. After being examined, it was discovered that Copper had swallowed something. We were told that they could admit him and remove whatever it was or see if it passed overnight. We chose to have Copper come home to see if whatever it was passed.

The next morning nothing had passed, so we went to Suffield Vet. They told us that Copper needed to have surgery to remove the object. We were relieved to hear when Copper was out of surgery, doing fine and acting alert. It turns out that Copper had swallowed a plastic squeaker from one of his squeaker toys. The next day, Copper came home and began his recovery. It was a daily chore to prevent Copper at 12 weeks from being active, especially when we went outside! When it was time to have his wound area checked, he was treated like a celebrity at Suffield Vet. He was taken into the back for all to see and congratulate him on a successful surgery and recovery. We have now removed all of the soft squeaker toys from the house and only buy the harder Kong toys and Nylabones. We are very grateful to the staff at Suffield Veterinary Hospital for their professionalism and caring throughout this most recent experience and since our initial appointments in 2006."

**A message from all of us at Suffield Vet:** Many dogs will tear at soft stuffed squeaky toys until the plastic squeaker is removed. Most don't swallow them, but a surprising number of them do, and because of their size they may lodge in the intestine requiring surgery. Squeakers and squeaky toys are in the Top Five of items surgically removed from dogs' intestines, eclipsed only by towels, socks and underwear. When diagnosed and removed quickly, the surgery is relatively simple. When allowed to sit undiagnosed for even just a couple of days, we often have to remove a section of damaged intestine along with the blockage. Copper was in the lucky first category.

For offering a perfect lesson about "why you have to always watch your young puppy," and because he is so stinkin' cute, we are pleased to name Copper Suffield Veterinary Hospital's Patient of the Month.

### *Suffield Veterinary Hospital*

Dr. Ann Huntington ♦ Dr. Anita Sabellico ♦ Dr. Dawn Burke ♦ Dr. Griffin O'Connor ♦ Dr. Christine Mullen

577 East Street South (Route 159), Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-4041

View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, [www.suffieldvet.com](http://www.suffieldvet.com)