

Suffield Veterinary Hospital December 2013 Patient of the Month

Meet Morgan, a Doberman Pinscher owned by one of our veterinarians, Dr Griffin O'Connor, and her husband Dr. Jason Haviar. This beautiful picture of Morgan was taken by photographer Lori Radke of Enfield. Dr. O'Connor writes:

Morgan was picked by my husband Jason as he knew he always wanted a Doberman. When he met with the breeder, Morgan was the runt of the litter and was in a pen with two larger males. When the puppies were fed, Morgan pushed the larger dogs out of the way to eat her share of the meal and that's how he knew she was the one. They have been inseparable ever since. Before I met my husband, she would go to work with him every day, but now I get the pleasure of keeping her at home. Morgan is a very gentle doberman and loves everyone and every other animal she meets!



Recently, a mass was found in Morgan's mouth during a routine dentistry. A biopsy was taken and the report confirmed our worst fear of melanoma. Morgan underwent surgery to remove some front teeth and a portion of her hard palate to remove all of the cancer.

Oral tumors are much more likely to be aggressive and malignant than tumors in other surface areas, but are usually not diagnosed until fairly late. Skin tumors are usually noticed by owners and brought to our attention. With tumors in the mouth, it is usually the opposite — we find them on routine exams and bring them to the owner's attention. There are treatments such as a new vaccine which is very effective (but expensive), radiation and chemotherapy. Luckily for Morgan, the oncologist stated that since the margins were clear she didn't need further treatment.

Please look in your pets' mouths monthly as it could save their lives! Fortunately, Dr. O'Connor had a routine dentistry performed on Morgan and the mass was caught early...she admits to being just as guilty as anyone else for not looking in her pets' mouths often!

In honor of Morgan being a "spokes-dog" for encouraging pet owners to keep an eye on the oral health of their furry friends, we are proud to name her our December 2013 Patient of the Month.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Ann Huntington ❖ Dr. Anita Sabellico ❖ Dr. Dawn Burke ❖ Dr. Griffin O'Connor
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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com