

Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2011 Patient of the Month

Mazie, shown in this delightful photo courtesy of Enfield Moto Photo, is a border collie owned by 17-year-old Marla Phelps and her West Suffield family. Named after the TV show *Mazie the Mouse*, Mazie was a birthday present for Marla in 2001. In picking Mazie out from her litter, Marla remembers, "I slowly looked at each puppy, knowing that I had to pick wisely because I would have this dog for a long time. Finally, I found the one I wanted — lively, playful, and cute as can be, with a strip of white down her face and a white tip on her tail."

Mazie was a very smart puppy, and quickly learned basic commands. Her favorite activity was to watch Marla's horse named Cosmo. She would always come near when called, but you could not catch her anywhere except for around the outside of Cosmo's fence.

Years ago, Mazie was diagnosed with epilepsy and she was prescribed medication to prevent seizures. Marla was relieved to find out that despite her seizures and medication, Mazie is still the lively dog she has grown to love. This past year, however, Mazie was diagnosed with heartworm. Canine heartworm disease is caused by a 3-7 inch parasitic worm that resides in a dog's heart. It spreads from dog to dog by a mosquito, which picks up heartworm larva from the blood of an infected dog, then deposits it into the next dog the mosquito bites. When caught early and treated properly, as in Mazie's case, the disease usually can be cured. But it is far safer and less expensive to prevent heartworm in the first place, which can be effectively done by giving monthly heartworm preventive medicine.

Having heartworm affected Mazie's life greatly as she was unable to be active for at least a month because of the treatment. She still wanted to be outside with the horse, playing catch, and playing with the other dogs. It was hard to keep her inside and have her sit around, but Marla knew it had to be done.

Mazie has been through a lot in her 10 years, but she always gets through the worst and maintains being healthy and strong. Marla says, "I will never regret my choice in getting such an amazing dog and having the great friend that I have."

For showing how, with lots of love and a little help from the veterinarian, neither epilepsy nor heartworm can keep a good dog down, we are delighted to name Mazie the Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2011 Patient of the Month.



Suffield Veterinary Hospital

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