

Suffield Veterinary Hospital October 2010 Patient of the Month

Meet sweet little "Fli" (pronounced "fly"), a seven year old female Papillon owned by Richard Kurtz of Suffield. Here, in his words, is how Fli — shown here in a portrait taken by Motophoto of Enfield — entered his life.

Joan, my wife of 56 years, passed away this past April, leaving me with my son Steven and a 17-year-old Chihuahua named Bonny. Bonny passed 30 days later from a stroke, but I'm sure also with a broken heart. Dr. Burke at Suffield Veterinary Hospital said I should find another dog but I said "no, I'm too old to have another puppy." With that in mind, I searched through a rescue agency for an adult dog, and applied for an 8-year-old Chihuahua that caught my eye. After filling out the required paper work and waiting hopefully for an adoption approval, I was told that I was too old (I'm 77) to rescue a dog.

I told Dr. Burke about being turned down. A few days later I received a call from Suffield Veterinary Hospital asking me to come in and see if I would like a dog they had for adoption. Janet Taylor, who works on the SVH staff, also trains and rescues dogs and was looking for the right home for a dog she was rescuing. My son and I met Fli, and the rest was history. Fli sure likes us and the feeling is mutual!

The little that I know about Fli is that her pedigree name is Filiary and someone took out the three letters FLL as her nickname. Apparently she has had a lot of litters of puppies, but would not accept the last litter. Someone thought enough of her to have her spayed and put her up for adoption.

Fli catches flies! She studies the flight of a fly, and then at the right time she leaps up and usually catches the fly, adding it to her protein reserve. Perhaps that contributed to her nickname, too. Fli likes to take long walks in the morning. She especially likes to walk along the Enfield Canal, and she often inspects her home boundary line to smell for any wild animals that may have come by.

My wife can never be replaced, but by the Grace of God Bonny has made room for a new best friend forever named Fli, and I'm sure Joan would approve.

We at Suffield Veterinary Hospital certainly approve, and are pleased to name Fli our October 2010 Patient of the Month.



Suffield Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Ann Huntington ♦ Dr. Anita Sabellico ♦ Dr. Dawn Burke ♦ Dr. Jean Herrman ♦ Dr. Griffin O'Connor
577 East Street South (Route 159), Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-4041 ♦ www.suffieldvet.com