

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital December 2009 Patient of the Month

Chopper is an eight-year-old English bulldog belonging to Kathy and Don Leis of Suffield. Kathy and Don also own a home on Westport Island, ME, and Chopper divides his time between being a Connecticut dog and a Maine dog.

In September 2003, Chopper was rescued from an SPCA facility in Warrington, PA, by the Leis' daughter Meghan. Meghan and her husband Jacob took possession of the bulldog then named "Muffin Man." They rechristened him as "Chopper" after the U.S. Marine Corps aircraft for which Jacob was serving as crew chief. Thus, this macho-acting dog avoided the humiliation of going through life as "Muffin Man."

When Meghan and Jacob relocated to Okinawa, they were unable to take Chopper with them. He has since become fondly attached to his new adopted owners. Kathy is a department head at Avon Old Farms School, an all-boys prep school. She occasionally is called upon to give chapel talks to Avon students and Chopper, doling out sage advice to the boys, has been prominently featured in her chapel presentations. Chopper has had an article about him appear in the Avon Old Farms student newspaper.

Recently Chopper underwent a surgical procedure at Suffield Veterinary Hospital for the repair of a torn ACL (anterior cruciate ligament), and in honor of his bravery and outstanding personality, he has been named December's Pet of the Month by the SVH staff.

Kathy and Don are hopeful that Chopper, handsomely photographed here by the experts at Motophoto in Enfield, will not fully comprehend all of the press coverage that he has garnered — and that he will not allow his renown to inflate an already over-sized ego!



### *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](http://www.suffieldvet.com)