

Suffield Veterinary Hospital November 2009 Patient of the Month

Harley B (the B is for Barbara), a Black Lab mix, was adopted in 2000 from a rescue in Woodbury, CT. Harley B had been a stray, found on the streets of Harlem, and was just one day away from being put down when the Kulina family of Suffield brought her home.

Harley is usually a well-behaved dog who stays in her own yard; however, several years ago, while sitting on the front porch, she spotted a cat running across the street. Being a dog with lots of spirit, she was not about to miss out on a good cat chase, so she bolted across the street. The cat made it, but Harley did not. The car struck her first in the head, chipping a few teeth, and then dragged her across the pavement, tearing her leg open.

Harley was immediately rushed to Suffield Veterinary Hospital and then to the MSPCA in Springfield. Harley's injuries required a two-week stay in intensive care as her pinned bones and sutured leg healed. Next came weeks of rehabilitation, including aqua therapy, where Harley swam in a large pool made for horses. This was followed up with physical therapy and dog massage to get her back on her feet.

Now nine years old, Harley B is captured here by the talented portrait photographers of Motophoto in Enfield. These days Harley spends her time romping through the hay fields with her best dog friend and sister, Zoe. In the summer, whenever snack time strikes, you can always find them both raiding the family garden for pickles and tomatoes.

Five years have passed since the accident; and it has been a long road to recovery. Harley B is epileptic due to the head trauma, and her seizures have been somewhat difficult to control, but she is currently managed with a combination of anticonvulsant drugs and amazing patience and TLC from her owners. Despite her epilepsy, if you see her running and playing, you just know she is one very happy dog. She truly is a "Miracle Dog!"



In spite of all of her difficulties, Harley continues to maintain her sweet, loving disposition and her love of life. And that's why she has been chosen Suffield Veterinary Hospital's Pet 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