

Suffield Veterinary Hospital March 2020 Patient of the Month

Meet Arazi, a 9-year-old Belgian Shepherd owned by Krystyne Barberi of West Springfield. Arazi was born on Sunday June 20, 2010 at Suffield Veterinary Hospital. He was one of three and very small but healthy. Belgian Shepherds are a lovely solid black breed of dog.

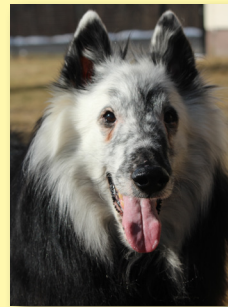


Arazi earned his AKC Grand Championship, UKC Championship and a Best In Regional Specialty Show win. The photo on the left shows his winning form. Prior to his diagnosis of vitiligo he sired three litters. He has nineteen offspring. Three of his sons are service dogs.

When Arazi was seven, he started to get a white ring around his right eye. This progressed to speckles on his muzzle. He was diagnosed with a condition called vitiligo. In humans vitiligo lightens the pigmentation of their skin. In animals, it changes the color of their fur. It also turns the black pigment around their eyes and gums pink. Over the past two years more and more of his coat has turned white. Photographer Jen Haire's picture on the right was taken this year.

Arazi's condition has allowed Krystyne to bring awareness to vitiligo. Many people have never heard of it and others have, but were unaware that animals can have this condition as well. In the nearly three years since Arazi's diagnosis, they have met hundreds of people while out and about at farmers markets, parks etc. They have met people who have vitiligo and they open up and talk about their condition and their experience with it. They are interested to hear Arazi's story as well.

Krystyne is often asked if he will eventually be all white. Her honest reply is, "I am not sure. Time will tell. All I know for sure is that he will be 10 in June and we have had an incredible journey thus far and I look forward to our future adventures."



For being a striking example of an interesting dermatologic condition, we're happy to name Arazi the March 2020 Suffield Veterinary Hospital Patient of the Month.

Suffield Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Ann Huntington ❖ Dr. Anita Sabellico

Dr. Dawn Burke ❖ Dr. Daniel Rothbart ❖ Dr. Emilie Laston

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