

Suffield Veterinary Hospital October 2020 Patient of the Month

Meet a tiny bundle of cuteness owned by Jessica Davis and family of Enfield. We'll let her family tell the story of an unusual pet with an unusual name:



In our lease agreement we are unable to have the traditional pets like a dog or cat, but can have caged or tanked animals. We began to look for an animal that would be suited well for apartment life and one that would fit into our family. We have a 6-year-old son and we wanted a new family member that would interact well with him. We thought about the usual hamster or guinea pig but we wanted something a bit more exotic. The idea to get a hedgehog actually came due to a subtle obsession with them. We have a stuffed hedgehog plushy named Hegheg that we all adore and our son likes to pretend to drink "heggnog" and refill it with tickles. So we decided to look into getting a hedgehog for our family.

After researching hedgehogs we learned they are exotic animals that are illegal in many states, but luckily we found that we were in the clear for CT, so we started to research different breeders as you don't just go to your local large chain pet store and pick one up. We decided on a breeder in Southeastern CT who is USDA licensed and a member of the International Hedgehog Association. We fell in love with our hedgehog on first sight!

At first we just called her Potato because when she would get startled she would push all her spines up and look like a potato. We got Priscilla from calling her Miss Priss while waiting for her official name, and Pricklepants was decided on by our son. Thus leading to the glorious name: Priscilla Potato Pricklepants. She is just over 2 months old, but already loves to burrow. She will burrow and climb under the weighted blanket on the back of our couch. We have to be cautious when she is out roaming so we don't smash the potato. We often mark her location with the stuffed Hegheg to let everyone know there is a hedgehog near. She is so loving and loves to burrow under a small blanket and sleep on our chest as we relax and she has the cutest grumpy face when we have to move her.

Considering adding a hedgehog to your family? The International Hedgehog Association website (hedgehogclub.com) is a great place to start, with reliable advice on feeding, housing and caring for a hedgehog. Priscilla Potato Pricklepants is a great ambassador for the species. When examined by Dr. Sabellico for a wellness check, she was relaxed and curious, apparently unbothered when every member of our staff had their turn giving her a pat or a cuddle or took her picture. She became instantly an unanimous choice for 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 ❖ Dr. Emma LaVigne

577 East Street South (Route 159), Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-4041

View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com