

Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2021 Patient of the Month

Meet Reno, a handsome 10-year-old golden retriever owned by Michael and Tracy Templeton of Windsor Locks. He has been a favorite of our staff since his first visit, weighing in at 13# of cuteness back in 2011. Until last year Reno's worst medical problem was an itchy bottom.



Owner Michael describes Reno this way: *This is our sweet Golden Reno. He loves his off-lead walks around the neighborhood. He plays with his toys (duck is one of his favorites). Reno is very smart, and he learns quickly. Happy always, eager to please, that's our sweet boy Reno!*

But a few months ago Reno presented to Suffield Veterinary Hospital for not eating and had vomited once. For the most part he was acting normal but at times seemed not to be feeling well. Despite being treated for his GI signs he continued not to feel and was getting worse so he was transferred for intensive care and further diagnostics where he was diagnosed with Addison's disease (Hypoadrenocorticism).

Addison's disease is known as "the great pretender" because it can look like so many other diseases. There is a genetic predisposition for it in Standard Poodles and Bearded Collies, but in other dogs the cause is not usually determined.

Addison's disease happens because the dog's adrenal glands cannot produce the corticosteroids and mineralocorticoids that are necessary in times of stress. Without these hormones, even small amounts of stress can lead to a health disaster. Dogs may present like Reno or in what is known as an Addison crisis where they have collapsed due to the inability to respond to stressful situations.

Treatment for Addison's disease is to replace these missing hormones which can either be done by daily oral medication or injections usually given every 28 days. Treatment for Addison's is for life.

Reno is now back to normal, roughhousing with the other dog in the family and carrying around his stuffed duckie. He is back to doing his favorite trick: when his owners are done with a Coke he carries the bottle to a box set aside for recycling. For doing his part for the environment, as well as giving us a chance to talk about Addison's disease, we are proud to name Reno the Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2021 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

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