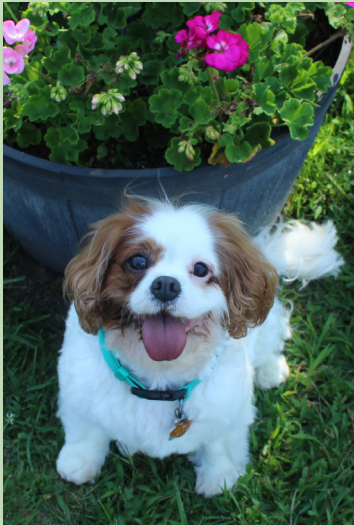


## Suffield Veterinary Hospital September 2021 Patient of the Month

Meet Molly, a 5-year-old Cavalier King Charles spaniel owned by Judi Silva and her family of Enfield. Judi described how they got Molly this way: *"Molly came into our family five years ago after a very long search. We had just lost one of our two dogs and wanted to find a playmate for our sweet Penny. Molly immediately fit in because of her sweet disposition and gentle nature. She's fun-loving, a constant joy for us, Penny, and all the people she meets."*

After the first couple of years, our examinations started to show that, while overall she was healthy, Molly was getting fat. This wasn't just a cosmetic problem as Judi explains: *"She started to slow down and lose some of her exuberance due to her weight gain over the years. None of this was Molly's fault. It was ours alone as we controlled the food portions and it took a long time for us to realize our role."*



Like many small breed dogs with short noses (pugs, French bulldogs, Boston terriers, Pekingese are other victims), Cavaliers are plagued by a reduced ability to breathe normally. Over the years, humans have selectively bred dogs for broad heads and shortened noses, resulting in a cramped airway and a soft palate that barely fits in the throat. Adding just a little bit of excessive weight can be disastrous for these sweet breeds! Molly was having difficulty breathing, coughed and gagged very frequently, and couldn't tolerate exercise.

Some frank talk with Dr. Huntington last winter convinced the Silvas to stop giving in to these beautiful begging brown eyes. Again from Judi, *"Since then Molly has lost four pounds (from 22 to 18 pounds), is no longer sick, has a new pep in her step, and plays more frequently. Nothing warms our hearts more and encourages us to stay on this healthy path for our sweet girl. We love her so much!"*

For helping us remind everyone that it is indeed possible to succeed in reducing your pet's weight, and that it is completely worth it, we are pleased to name Molly Silva our August 2021 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

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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, [www.suffieldvet.com](http://www.suffieldvet.com)