

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2022 Patient of the Month

Meet Brighten, a charming and silly wiggle-butt of a chihuahua/terrier rescue belonging to Stella O'Brien of Enfield. Stella tells of Brighten's story here:

Brighten is a 7 lb. adoptee out of an Arkansas rescue where his mom finally was spayed after 5 litters. He immediately won the heart and soul of his family with his playful and curious nature; except for maybe the two Persians cats who just couldn't understand why he would bring fluffy toys back over and over again!

Last year at his six-year Wellness Visit at Suffield Veterinary Hospital with Dr. Burke he got flying colors in health and happiness. Dr. Burke strongly suggested a leptospirosis vaccination as she warned of the wet and warmer weather and iterated a story of a suburban-living Boston terrier who's "feet never left the sidewalk" (I listened to her sincere story every year) and suffered a terrible and needless death from this invisible spirochete. My earth crunchy self didn't want to expose my little nugget to "potential side effects" and my yard is totally fenced, so I again declined the offer.

Then over Halloween weekend, my Brighten stopped eating and drinking, became so lethargic he could hardly stand and then became jaundiced. He vomited yellow foam and with the first wheeze I heard I scooped him up and rushed him to the Emergency Hospital while he was dying in my arms. No one would give me much hope as his kidneys were shutting down. He spent a week in the ICU with IV fluids, antibiotics ultrasounds, x-rays and labs. Then the diagnosis - leptospirosis. NEVCCC went full steam ahead; my friends, family and co-workers sent love, light, and prayers.

After that week, my precious boy was gently handed over to the marvelous staff, techs and doctors at SVH for 2 months of continued eradication of the spirochete and salvation of his kidneys. Dr. Burke spearheaded the aggressive course and Brighten and I owe her a forever debt. Brighten is 85% recovered. He has scars on his kidneys and I have scars on my heart. He is chasing those fluffy toys all over the house again and I think even the cats like to watch him, again and again.

Thank you ALL at SVH. And please tell Brighten's story, along with the Boston terrier's, to encourage everyone to vaccinate their doggos. There is no fun in having this story to tell, only gratefulness.

For being such a brave survivor of this often fatal disease, and as a reminder of the importance of leptospirosis vaccinations, we are happy to name Brighten our Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2022 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)