

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital September 2022 Patient of the Month

Meet Bleu, a 1-1/2 year old Budgerigar owned by the family of Natalie Kyle. Natalie shares this about Bleu:

*Bleu became a part of our family in May of last year, but it seems as though it has been far longer. He is a free flyer in our home and we have chosen not to clip his wings. Bleu loves attention and hanging out with everyone he encounters, including the local birds whom he chats with through the screens.*

*He comes when called, but also joins us at will by sitting on our shoulders or perching on our eyeglasses. He speaks many phrases including "Hi," "Hi baby," "Pretty bird," "Love you," and variations of "Give kisses." Then he actually gives you kisses. Our feathered friend is like a dog with wings – he gets upset when we leave and greets us when we return, and often joins us for dinner trying to get a taste. And Bleu never passes up some screen time – I guess addiction to devices can come in all shapes and sizes!*

*Birds are very curious, social creatures who can bring a lot of joy to anyone's home. If you have the time and willingness to engage with them, you too can reap the rewards of their companionship.*

Dr. Sabellico adds that Budgerigars (colorful small parakeets commonly known as parakeets or budgies) originate from Australia. They are inquisitive, active little birds that love to play and show signs of affection, making them wonderful pets. Beware, however, that they also can be noisy and demand attention. They need to be housed in a safe, clean cage with toys for enrichment and perches to climb in order to stay mentally and physically fit. They enjoy time outside their cage too so finger taming and gentle handling is a must for their happiness. But these endearing little dynamos are fragile too and require quiet time to rest in a covered cage at night. They need protection from household chemicals and safety from life-threatening interaction with larger pets. If fed a varied diet of formulated pellets, good quality seeds, clean water, fresh vegetables and fruits they can live for 10 to 12 years.

For being a very cute example of how pet birds can be wonderful companion animals, we are happy to name Bleu our September 2022 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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