

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital November 2022 Patient of the Month

Meet Patches, an eighteen-year-old tortoiseshell kitty, lovingly cared for by Victoria Kania of Agawam. Most cats don't make it to this ripe old age, and those that do are often feeble. We're highlighting Patches because of how well she's beaten the odds, and how rewarding it can be to consider adding a senior pet to your home. Here's her story, as described by Victoria:

*Patches was adopted in June 2016 when she was already 12. We are her 3rd home. Her 1st home was for 10 years, the 2nd only for 2 before she was surrendered again. I was hesitant to even consider another kitty after having lost our other one suddenly 6 months prior. Then when we decided on Patches after a couple visits we were told she was already adopted. So disappointed, we looked around at others but then as we were leaving, I saw her picture on the door to the open area & she was huddled in a tunnel. They'd been mistaken about the adoption, and she was ours.*

*This is one of those "It was meant to be" stories! Her first night with us she got on the bed and lay against my head. Then she didn't come upstairs again for a couple years except to use her box. Figure that out. Now she happily enjoys sleeping on the bed. She likes to chew on plastic bags, jump in the refrigerator and is quite vocal. Patches is now very affectionate, in fact the most I've ever known, and she loves to stay close. She still has her play moments when she bats around her mouse, bird, or bottle cap ring. And she chatters eagerly at the outside birds!*

At 18, few cats are without health issues, and Patches is no exception. She has an overactive thyroid, aging changes to her kidneys and chronic GI disease, all of which are treated with medicines and special diets. She's had a growth removed and dental problems addressed. Drs. Burke, Rothbart and LaVigne have all had a hand in keeping Patches healthy. Through all this she's remained a happy, affectionate companion. Again, in Victoria's words:

*Patches has lost some muscle mass, which impacted her ability to jump on the table as she slipped off from the place mat. I now have a small bath rug, which has the non-skid back, on the table and she has not had any more slips and has regained confidence. Her very good nature helps with her medical care as she lets me give her B-12 shots, clean her ears, clip her nails, give her pills, and she is not fussy with food. I got her a waterfall fountain to encourage her to drink water, and she took to it right away. I tell her every day that "I am so lucky to be with Patches."*

We at SVH are honored to take care of this remarkable senior citizen. For reminding us that adopting a senior pet can bring great joy, and for demonstrating perfectly the saying, "age is just a number," we are pleased to name Patches our November 2022 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

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