

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2023 Patient of the Month

Meet Riley (at right), a 12-year-old neutered male cat, cared for and loved by Pat Roark of Sunnyview Drive in Suffield.



Meet Sandy (at left), a 12-year-old neutered male cat, sheltered and loved by Jean Irwin of Pleasantview Drive in Suffield.

Confusing? Just a bit! For this homage to a true neighborhood kitty, we'll stick to calling him Riley, as that's the name we at Suffield Veterinary Hospital have known him most recently.

He was first seen by the Irwins on their deck during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. He was brought inside, but he was pretty ornery and would not tolerate a transition to indoor life. Over the past decade he has been invited into several homes in the neighborhood. Sometimes he'd eat and run, sometimes he'd shelter for a night or two before getting restless. One neighbor arranged to have him neutered. Riley has been effective at keeping the neighborhood mouse population under control. As the years have gone by we are told he'd

sometimes stay in one home for a week or two, other homes for a few hours, and seems to have had fans throughout the "views" neighborhood. In an area where many outdoor cats have fallen prey to coyotes, Riley has beat the odds.

For the past few years Pat Roark has made it a point to take care of Riley's health needs, getting him micro-chipped, vaccinated, teeth cared for and, most recently, consulted with a veterinary ophthalmologist for cataracts. This last diagnosis is the reason Riley is finally going to be a true house cat. The Irwin family is now going to enforce house arrest for Riley, or Sandy, out of concern that his age and reduced vision would make him less competitive out in the big bad real world.

Out of gratitude for all the neighbors who have cared and looked out for this handsome kitty for all these years, we are pleased to name Riley the Suffield Veterinary Hospital April 2023 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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