

Suffield Veterinary Hospital June 2023 Patient of the Month

Meet Sterling, a handsome 4-year-old, neutered pit bull terrier, owned and loved by Julianna Jaciow and family of Enfield, CT. Julianna describes her life with Sterling this way:

My husband and I adopted Sterling in Fall of 2020 through pefinder.com. He is originally from TX and took a train to CT where we picked him up. Sterling is special because he is not just my pet, but he is my service dog. Sterling is trained to recognize when my blood pressure is high, provide comfort and support, as well as deep pressure therapy in order to lower it. This works wonders!



Sterling helps alongside me as an occupational therapist/occupational doggo team, assisting with interventions and motivating the residents receiving therapy services. After all, people are more likely to participate in therapy if they see a handsome dog smiling at them along the way. Sterling loves everyone and anyone and will gladly let you rub his belly or give you a kiss.

Sterling was diagnosed with skin cancer last year, which was luckily removed, and he has recovered well. But recently he tested heartworm positive. This was devastating because he has gone through so much and we had been giving him what we thought was heartworm preventative through an online retailer. Turns out when searching for "heartworm" preventative you need to be really careful to make sure that you are buying what you expect. The product we gave him faithfully each month as heartworm preventative actually only treated intestinal worms, not heartworm. Effective heartworm preventatives are prescription only, whether purchased through your veterinarian or through other reputable sources with your veterinarian's prescription.

I love Sterling not only because he is one of the best dogs in the world but because I rely on him to get through my day. He is a very important part of our lives. We cannot thank the wonderful staff at Suffield Veterinary hospital enough for taking such great care of him and making sure his heartworm treatment runs smoothly so he can go back to being the healthy, happy-go-lucky Sterling that we know and love.

Sterling is a staff favorite at Suffield Veterinary Hospital, as he always seems joyful, is very easy to work with, and is cute as a button. Today he provides two valuable lessons about heartworm disease, a mosquito borne parasite, fatal if not treated, but readily prevented with appropriately selected and administered medicine, generally given monthly. The first lesson is to read labels carefully on any product you're putting on or in your pet, and ask us if you're unsure about what to choose. The second lesson is that heartworm disease is not isolated to swampy southern states, but is absolutely a risk for dogs in Connecticut as well. Sterling had tested negative for the past couple of years, hadn't spent time out of our area, and yet was a strong positive this spring.

For letting us remind everyone about the dangers of heartworms, and the risks of being misled by internet advertisers, we gratefully name Sterling our June 2023 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

577 East Street South (Route 159), Suffield, CT 06078 (860) 668-4041

View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com