

Suffield Veterinary Hospital September 2023 Patient of the Month

Meet Ahsoka (short haired) and Luna (longer haired), six-year-old sisters that were adopted as kittens by Melissa Phillips and family of West Springfield. They were just little peanuts then, each weighing in at a svelte and healthy four pounds of love. Melissa describes how they came to join the family:

"We adopted Ahsoka and Luna from an agency called Halfway Home Cat Rescue. I originally wanted to adopt only one kitten but then they told me about these bonded sisters. Once I saw a picture of the two I was sold. They are both cuddle bugs; Luna will crawl into your arms and loves to be held, while Ahsoka loves to just sit with you and give head bumps. One of the things we love so much about these girls is that they seem to know when you're having a bad day or just need some comforting as that's when they stay by our side the most."

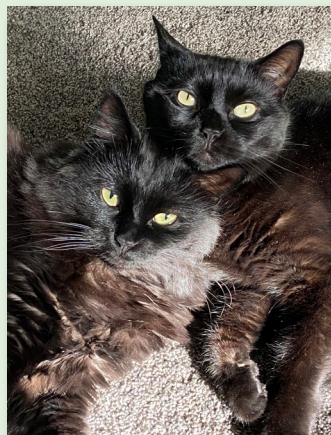
While they were doing really well at their one year check-up, the next year both girls were starting to get chubby. Dr. Burke recommended switching to more canned food and several smaller meals per day. This was easier said than done!

"They both LOVE food, especially treats. We used to give them half a can each of wet food a day and have a full dish of dry food available to them throughout the day. When we were first told about their weight gain we continued the same amount of wet food and tried to limit the dry food, but after their next annual visit they were still gaining weight."

From 2019 through 2022, despite their best efforts, both cats continued to put on weight, both reaching close to an unhealthy 14 lbs. At that time, Dr. Rothbart reminded them of the risk of diabetes and other health-related issues they could develop due to their weight. The family decided to work harder on getting them slimmed down.

"After some observations at home we realized that too many people were feeding the cats. We decided to try an automatic food dispenser for the dry food. Now Luna and Ahsoka receive 1/4 can of wet food in the morning and 1/4 can at night. In addition, the dry food dispenser is scheduled to split six grams of dry food every four hours in-between. Not only does it omit the extra feedings but when they hear it, Luna and Ahsoka run to their dishes which gives them little extra exercise. It was more of a challenge for us at home to not be tempted into giving them an extra feeding when they ran into the kitchen with us. We love our pets and sometimes try to show them our love with food — but they don't need extra food, they just need our petting, attention, and occasional treats."

For reminding all of us that it is indeed possible to successfully take weight off our pets, an almost universal struggle, we are proud to name Ahsoka and Luna our September 2023 Patients 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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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, www.suffieldvet.com