

Suffield Veterinary Hospital October 2023 Patient of the Month

Meet little Lincoln, a 12-year-old Chihuahua, who recently entered the life of Robin Miller, friend and former staff member here at Suffield Veterinary Hospital. As long as we've known Robin she has shared her home and heart with several cats and a dog or three, most recently a succession of Chihuahuas. So when a client shared the sad story of her ill elderly mom in the hospital, and the Chihuahua that couldn't get along with the other dogs in the daughter's home, we immediately thought of Robin, and sent her a pleading text. Robin describes it this way:



"I didn't want or need another dog as I was down to a manageable number of pets for a single person with a part time job, but decided to take him so he didn't end up in a shelter. When I picked him up in March I noticed he was pretty much blind in one eye. The woman's daughter informed me that although her mom loved the dog, she wasn't really able to take the best care of him. He needed a bath first off. She also stated that there was a possibility that her mom may be able to take him back at some point, so he was actually a "foster" at that time.

"I asked if I could take him to the vet and she agreed. I found from that appointment that his teeth were really bad and yes, blind in one eye but otherwise healthy. I decided to be put on a list to have his teeth cleaned regardless of whether he would be a permanent member of my household or not. The appointment was 4 days after I had major foot surgery, so Dr. Laston was nice enough to pick him up and drop him off. I had been keeping in touch with the daughter and checking on his owner, she was out of the hospital and in rehab. I had put him on the list for teeth cleaning before I was asked to consider keeping him, but by the time the dental was done he was officially mine as his "mom" decided he had a better life with me.

"Lincoln gets along with the three cats and Rain, my other Chihuahua, although he's not afraid to voice his opinion if he doesn't agree with one of them. About a month or so ago he started refusing to go on walks (which he loved) and then it was like someone flipped a switch and it was obvious he couldn't see at all. I took him to see Dr. Rothbart who confirmed that he had both cataracts and glaucoma in both eyes and yes, it CAN happen that fast. From there it was Dr. Burke who told me to check out the "dog halo" (see photo) which prevents him from bumping into things. It works, but he's not really a total fan yet as he can't roll in the grass with it, but he's getting used to it.

"He's got a lot of spunk for a 12-year-old dog and has melted my heart. It was the right decision to take him. I still keep in touch with the daughter with occasional updates as I'm sure his "mom" still misses him. I did a DNA test on him (a Christmas gift) and he is 76% Chihuahua a few other things and 1% Rottweiler... so watch out! I may not have needed him, but I think he needed me."

For showing us all how adaptable, and adoptable, an old codger can be, we're honored to name Lincoln our October 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

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