

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital November 2023 Patient of the Month

Meet Bella, a six-year-old spayed female mixed breed dog, owned by Angela Haughn and family of Enfield. While she looks and acts most like a Labrador retriever, we don't really know her exact lineage, just that the result is a very cute, very smart dog. As Angela describes her:

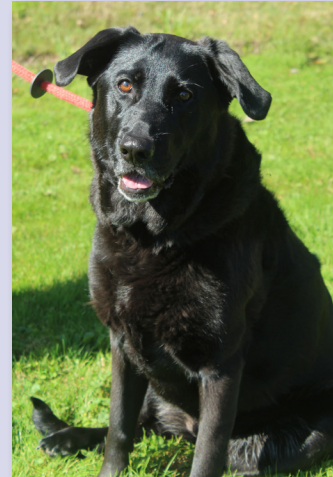
*"We've had Bella since she was about 12 weeks old. She's been our love from the beginning and an amazing addition to the family. She's intelligent and intuitive. You can tell her to get a ball and she will hunt one down for us to throw."*

Until about a year ago, Bella was a happy, healthy dog. But then the family started noticing some changes. She began putting on weight and was just lethargic. She wouldn't play as hard as she used to even with a new puppy in the family.

Angela adds, *"One day we noticed an odorous bare patch on her neck and some more irritation and bald spots on her belly. We tried giving her a bath, cleaning her up and keeping an eye on them. The problem wouldn't go away so we scheduled an appointment for her with Dr. Burke. After an examination and discussion of the reduced energy level, Dr. Burke ran bloodwork checking her overall health and her thyroid hormone levels. That's how we discovered that she is hypothyroid."*

Low thyroid function is the most common hormonal condition in dogs, and Bella's symptoms are classic. Fortunately, once the blood tests confirm the diagnosis, treatment is simply small tablets of thyroid hormone twice daily for life. The sluggishness, skin issues and weight problems typically clear over a few months.

Bella has responded beautifully to her treatment. The weight came off and her energy increased dramatically. Bella will now initiate play with her brother and race around the house with him. For letting us shed some light on hypothyroidism in dogs, we're happy to celebrate Bella as the November 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](http://www.suffieldvet.com)