

Suffield Veterinary Hospital June 2024 Patient of the Month

Happy Spring! You may remember Miss Nani from a few years ago, when she became a member of Dr. Laston's family. Nani has slid into her place within the family without missing a beat!

This spring, Dr. Laston decided to take the plunge into poodle dyeing, so she purchased a pet-safe dye kit and sent it along with Nani to her fantastic groomer, Amber, for a fresh new spring look. The results were better than anyone could have imagined. Nani has been the talk of the town, and she attracts fans wherever she goes. She is a well-known favorite at Lowes in Manchester, CT, and everyone there was just as excited for her new colors as her mother was.



You may also remember that Nani has a history of a heart murmur, which is of genetic origin. We are pleased to announce that Nani passed her annual exam with flying colors, although she said the essay portion of the test was excessive and unnecessary. Heart murmurs in dogs can be caused by many different issues. Most commonly we see genetic heart murmurs diagnosed in young dogs, and age-related valvular changes in senior dogs with breed histories of heart issues. More recently, we have seen an increase in dietary-related dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). This issue was first brought to light over 10 years ago, and even with significant research, we still do not have a good explanation for the reason behind the disease. What we do know is that dogs that are fed commercial grain-free and/or boutique diets are the patients that are developing DCM. Until we know the causative agent(s), we feel most

comfortable recommending dogs be fed a grain-inclusive diet from a reputable feed company and avoid diets with soy/peas/legumes as they may be potential complicating ingredients.

Nani has been a wonderful addition to the Suffield Veterinary Hospital family, and for that, we are pleased to present her as our June 2024 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