

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital July 2024 Patient of the Month

Meet this old fellow, Yoda, owned by our veterinary technician Kathy Loughman. Yoda was born to a stray cat 21 years ago, in February 2003, along with his four siblings in a back room right at Suffield Veterinary Hospital. The Loughman children were youngsters then and Kathy let them pick out and name two of them: Luke and Yoda. (We have many great patients named for movie characters, but that's another story.) Unfortunately, Luke died in 2015 at the age of 12 from pancreatic cancer, but Yoda lives on. As Kathy describes him:

*"Ever since Yoda was a kitten, he has favored my oldest son and my husband, seeking out their laps whenever and wherever available. About five years ago, Yoda started losing weight despite continuing to eat well. Routine blood tests showed that his thyroid gland was producing too much thyroid hormone, ramping up his metabolism and causing the weight loss."*

There are several ways we treat hyperthyroidism in cats, including radiation of the thyroid gland, a prescription diet that inhibits thyroid hormone production, surgery, or a medicine (pills, liquid or transdermal gels are available) that suppresses the gland. Kathy first tried the prescription diet, but Yoda absolutely wasn't a fan, so he was started on a low dose of the oral medicine, methimazole. Blood thyroid levels are monitored regularly, and the needed dose of methimazole often changes over the years. That was true for Yoda.

*"His thyroid was stable through 2020, when we needed to increase his dose. We then increased it again in 2021. But since then his thyroid and all his other blood work has been normal! Now he spends most of his time sleeping but is very vocal when he wants something. One of his favorite spots to sleep is on my husband's chest. He will also follow my son wherever he goes in the house. The Star Wars Jedi Master Yoda lived to be 900 years old. At 21 and counting, it seems our Yoda is living up to his namesake."*

For being a great example of successfully controlling hyperthyroidism in kitties, and for being one of our oldest current patients, we're proud to name Yoda our July 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)