

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital October 2024 Patient of the Month

Meet Carlisle, a 3-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier owned by Suffield Vet Technician Molly Jacobs. Molly shares her story of Carlisle, their "beloved, genetic disaster":

*We purchased Carlisle when he was 16 weeks old from a breeder who neglected to perform proper health clearances or temperament testing on their dogs prior to breeding. These dogs were outwardly beautiful, UKC registered, and came with a large price, which implies quality, right? We fell in love with Carlisle blindly because of his cute face and sweet/shy personality.*

*When Carlisle came home, it was apparent he was terrified of the world. Noises made him pancake to the floor and it took him weeks to even try the stairs. We enrolled him in puppy classes immediately to help socialize and train him. He flunked out after 2 weeks because he refused to get out of the car and would bark at approaching people/dogs.*

*We then enlisted a phenomenal behavioral trainer, Elizabeth Ingalls, who had us implement and practice very helpful training and management protocols daily. We consulted a Veterinarian who specializes in canine behavior and behavior modification medications. Our own Dr. Emilie Laston has taken a special interest in canine behavior and has advanced her knowledge on the topic in order to help her patients even more. Dr. Laston now continues Carlisle's medication management and tailors his doses based on his needs.*

*On top of Carlisle's fear, he is also an orthopedic mess. In his 3 years of life he has had countless sedated exams, radiographs, lab testing, CT scans, and specialty veterinarian consults to address his congenital orthopedic issues. Carlisle has had a multitude of treatments (including surgery) to aid in his comfort and mobility including joint supplements, advanced nutraceuticals, prescription diets, strong pain medication, cold laser treatments (hence the goggles in this photo), etc.*

*We have invested tens of thousands of dollars and endless hours and energy to get Carlisle to the point he is at today – a cuddly, active 3-year-old dog. We love him greatly but I would be lying if I didn't say he is A LOT of work. In our family, when we commit to an animal, it is for life.*

*As much as we love Carlisle, I want his story to be a lesson for people who are eager to get a puppy without prior health clearances and temperament testing. Even more so the importance of early socialization, training, canine enrichment, household management, proper veterinary care, planning for the financial burden, and the commitment to the animals we acquire. My family is beyond grateful for all of my veterinary colleagues who have invested time and energy to make sure Carlisle has a wonderful life.*

*For being a prime example for not only making sure to have owners physically and socially pre-screen any pet they are considering purchasing or adopting, but for showing how dedication to the health and training of a genetically and psychologically disadvantaged pet can result in the best possible outcome, we are happy to name Carlisle our October 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](http://www.suffieldvet.com)