

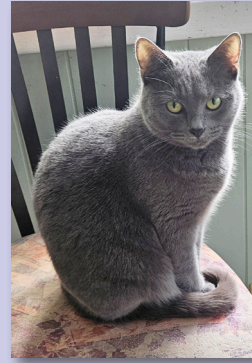
Suffield Veterinary Hospital June 2025 Patient of the Month

Meet Luna, owned by Simon Elsinger. Luna is a four-year-old Russian Blue kitty who was adopted in June 2023. Upon picking Luna up, she immediately won the hearts of Simon and his son Eric by her friendliness. Even though they were complete strangers, she was playful, purring and licking her new family, while allowing them to pet her. She then let them hold her with her full trust the same day. Luna would be their only pet, perfect for the Russian Blue breed which thrives in calmer environments and being left alone. With a bed and area set up for Luna, she instead chose to sleep with her owners nightly right away. But here, Mr. Elsinger describes the scary events that soon followed:

"Luna came to us with a clean bill of health from her veterinary hospital in New York, but things quickly changed. Only 8 days after adopting her and spending quality time with Eric, she started gasping for breath without any explanation. Worried, Eric immediately contacted me for advice. I rushed home to see what could be done to save Luna. Her struggling to breathe was not improving. It first appeared that she had something, like a rubber band, caught in her throat. That didn't make sense because the house had been thoroughly cat proofed. Nothing was in her throat, so Luna was rushed to the emergency service at New England Veterinary Center and Cancer Care in Windsor. On a midnight visit, Luna required an overnight stay and was diagnosed with severe asthma. That morning Luna was back to normal again — it was amazing! Luna would need prednisolone until her follow up. Luna at first resisted the vital oral medication, but within a short period of time, and knowing she'd get cat treats after, did stop her resistance. We had cautious optimism, but a few weeks later a second asthma attack happened which required emergency care once more. Luna thankfully was soon again back to normal. She was prescribed a life-long Flovent inhaler of fluticasone, using an Aerokat chamber device, 7-10 puffs every 12 hours. This treatment is mandatory for her survival.

"We imagined that getting Luna to use her inhaler through a feline aerosol chamber and expecting her cooperation would be quite a task. Instead, right from the beginning Luna was totally working with us! Now every morning and evening she runs and hops on the kitchen table, lifting her adorable little chin, ready for her inhaler. She fully cooperates and incredibly knows when she gets to her ten puffs, after which she gets her praise and treats. We believe that she understands that she needs it. Since her inhaler treatments began nearly two years ago, she has lived a normal and healthy life."

Asthma in cats is quite common, and in severe cases is life threatening. Excellent resources on feline asthma treatments can be found at www.aerokat.com and www.FritzTheBrave.com. Successful control requires both cat and owner to demonstrate true commitment and patience. Fortunately, Luna and the Elsingers are well supplied with both. For exemplifying how well cats (and their owners) can adapt to inhaler treatments, and for being a sweet ambassador for Russian Blues, we are tickled to name Luna our June 2025 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