

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital November 2025 Patient of the Month

Meet JR, a beloved member of the Jeffrey family of Suffield. Seven years ago, when Amy and John's kids were young, they begged for a pet. The family agreed to adopt a baby rabbit named Twix. A few months after welcoming Twix to their home, they were contacted because Twix's brother, JR, needed to be re-homed. They happily agreed, and JR came to live with his sister. A fun fact about his name: JR is short for Jolly Rancher. He and his littermates were all named after candies.

Twix unfortunately passed a few years ago, but JR still enjoys life. He is very well cared for by the Jeffreys, with water, hay and pellets always available and a "salad" of vegetables and fruits twice daily. He has a fully-finished basement to run around in, with a two-level hutch, tubes, and cardboard boxes to hide in.

JR has a favorite game with the Jeffrey's goldendoodle, Penny. He runs back and forth in his long tube and makes Penny chase him. Penny cannot fit in the tube, and when JR pops his head out of one end, Penny runs over. JR then hops down to the other end and looks out. "I'm over here now!" Penny then dutifully runs to the other side.

Recently JR came in to see Dr. Sabellico because his back legs appeared weak, and he was far less playful than usual. He was chewing the toenails and fur of his hind feet as well as the tip of his tail. Radiographs revealed several areas of arthritic changes involving his lower spine, hips and knees. We assumed that he was experiencing pain similar to sciatic pain in people, a reason for his chewing and discomfort in his hind end.

He was prescribed a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory commonly given to dogs called Meloxicam. The Jeffreys were advised to make his living area "handicapped accessible" by keeping him on level, padded or non-slip floors and provide a large shallow litter box to use. Since his diagnosis and start of treatment JR has become more comfortable, mobile and back to his happy self.

As Amy describes him: *"JR's appearance is an interesting mix. His mother was a Flemish Giant and his father was a Velveteen Lop. JR's signature look is one ear up and the other ear flopped down. It could be because of his mixed breeding, or it could just be that he's super cool."* Because he is SO super cool, we're delighted to name JR our November 2025 Suffield Veterinary Hospital Patient of the Month.



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