

## Suffield Veterinary Hospital February 2026 Patient of the Month

Meet Aria, a sweet, patient Coton De Tulear owned and adored by our veterinary technician Crystal. Here's her story in Crystal's own words:

*"I found Aria's puppy picture while researching Coton de Tulears online. I immediately fell in love with her and knew she was my heart-dog. When she came home with me, she climbed right into my lap, and hasn't stopped since. Like all Cotons, she is quite the clown and very talkative. She also loves dressing up and gives the best hugs.*

*"It was always apparent that she was a sensitive girl and finding food Ari would eat was quite the challenge. She often turned her nose up to kibble and some foods gave her an upset stomach. Even after finding something she liked, she would randomly skip meals or, after a while, decide she no longer liked that food. As she grew up, she began having bouts of diarrhea, vomiting, inappetence, and lethargy. These became more frequent and progressed in severity each time. Over the course of the last 5 years, she had nine documented cases of these symptoms, often paired with high fevers and abdominal pain. At first, she was intermittently diagnosed with gastroenteritis; then pancreatitis. Sometimes we were able to discern what caused it, but other times we could not trace it back to anything specific.*

*"With the wonderful care of Dr. Laston, Dr. Rothbart, and the rest of the SVH staff, she was well taken care of whenever these instances would occur. Since there is no specific cure, we have to support her symptomatically. Aria would be placed on I.V. fluids or given subcutaneous fluids to help with her fever and dehydration, given Provable Forte to help her gut health and diarrhea, Cerenia and Pepcid to help her nausea and acid reflux, Meloxicam to help with her inflammation and pain, and Panoquel to prevent necrosis of the pancreas. While this protocol worked to get her well again, the process would take a couple weeks before she was back to herself as her symptoms would wax and wane. And each time, I worried she may not recover.*

*"After yet another episode came following her annual vaccines this past summer, Dr. Laston and I began to suspect this may be some sort of immune issue. We ran a lot of bloodwork that came back with no clear answers. Aria was referred to an Internal Medicine specialist at Integrity Vet who agreed that her immune system has been responding inappropriately with a hyperactive inflammatory response. It was decided that we should do our best to limit potential triggers, keep her on a strict prescription diet of Hill's i/d low fat, daily probiotics, and long-term low-dose steroids. It is our hope that these steps will prevent flare ups or at least minimize them.*

*"I think many people may worry that special diets and daily medications will limit their dog's lives but I want to assure them it does not. Aria loves her new food and she can still have some treats. She happily takes her meds and actually looks forward to the routine of it. Overall, it's a much better, longer life for her and she's still able to do the things most important to her: being silly and snuggling with me.*

For reminding us that symptoms as common as vomiting and diarrhea can sometimes be caused by rare, difficult to diagnose conditions, we are happy to name Aria our February 2026 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 ❖ Dr. Shannon Moran

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View all of our Patients of the Month on our web site, [www.suffieldvet.com](http://www.suffieldvet.com)