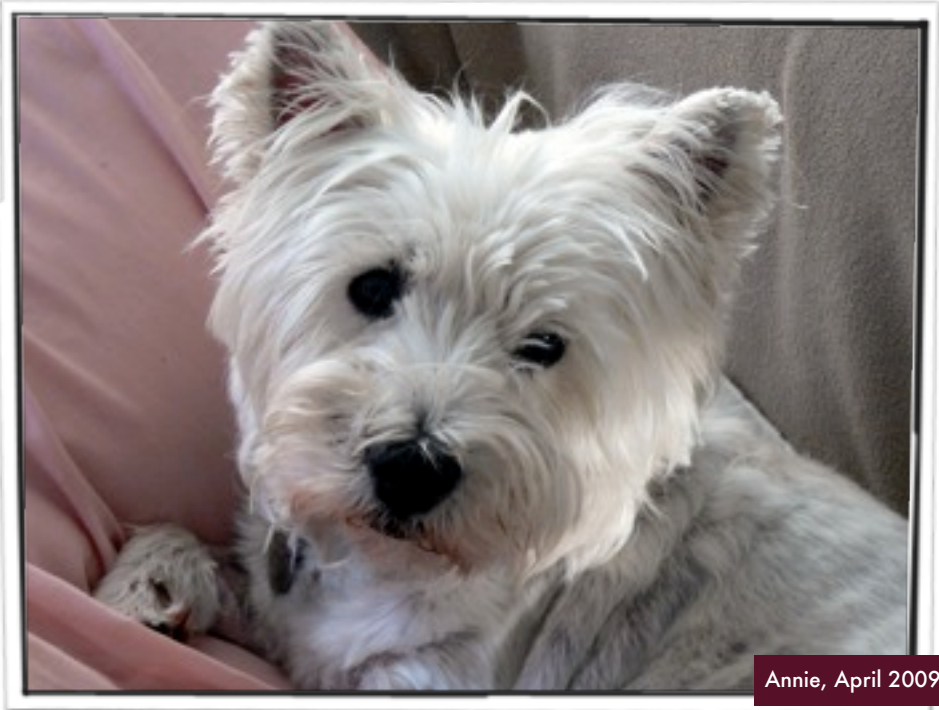


A WORLD WITH NO HOMELESS WESTIES. THAT'S WHAT WESTIEMED IS ALL ABOUT...

WestieMed News

Winter 2010



Annie, April 2009

20 Rescued Westies Helped in '09

From allergies to spinal surgeries, WestieMed was there to assist those in need

Their stories can break the hardest of hearts...

Allie, a tiny girl abandoned one night in a snowy park.

Hope, with bladder stones the size of hen's eggs.

Lucy, left to live alone in a mobile home for a year.

Ralph, a stray with loving eyes and a heart riddled with worms.

Buddy, a young Westie nobody wanted.

Linnie, whose feet bled from years in the wire cages of a puppy mill.

Bailey, whose infected left eye was almost completely sealed shut.

Harry, a throw-away dog who was nearly euthanized.

Taz, abused and neglected, suffering from a potentially fatal lung disease.

Scrappy, found injured and in shock near the side of a road.

Zero, sick with pneumonia and given away by a pet store.

Morgan, whose family didn't want to deal with a diabetic dog.

Webster, a tiny pup who barely got to glimpse the world before leaving it.

And there were others, with stories equally compelling for the cruelty and courage they reveal. Some of these you can read in this issue, or find them online at www.westiemed.org. Whatever you do, don't fail to read them. It's what WestieMed is all about.

inside:

Webster's story	2
Allie & Tavish McPeanut	3
Artists to the Rescue	4
Meet the Board of Directors	5

WestieMed Celebrates 10th Anniversary!

WestieMed is 10 years old this year, a milestone worth celebrating. In the years since it's founding, a lot has changed, but one thing that has remained constant is our dedication to leaving no Westie behind. We'll be celebrating the "Big 1-0" throughout the next 12 months, with new anniversary items in our Gift Shop, fun Westie Walks and raffles, and some surprises we have in store. So stay tuned to WestieMed and don't miss the party!

WestieMed Provides \$19,100 for Rescued Westies in 2009

In the 10 years since WestieMed was founded, nearly \$150,000 has been awarded to help rescued Westies get the care they need to recover and find their forever homes. Last year, the 20 Westies we helped received an average of \$955 each – \$19,100 in total.

“It was a difficult year and we saw the direct impact of the economy on so many families, fosters and rescue groups,” said WestieMed president Lucy Ryley. “It’s heartbreaking to hear some of the stories, and we try to help as many as we legitimately can, but sometimes we have to say no because the case fails to meet our giving guidelines.”

Ryley urged all applicants to carefully read the WestieMed guidelines, which are posted on the website.

“We want to help as many as we can,” she said.



In Memoriam

Webster: The Little Tyke That Tried



Webster

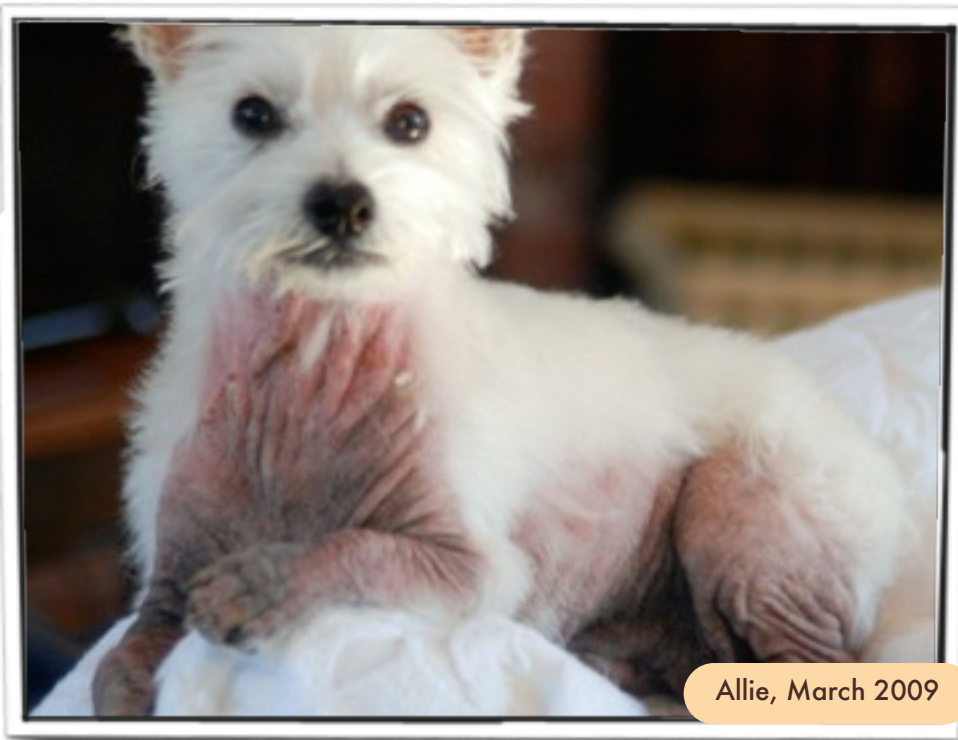
November 2008 - August 2009

Sitting in the front seat of the truck, weighing only 2 1/2 pounds, Webster was dwarfed by the world around him – a world that, at two months of age, he was seeing for the very first time.

The little tyke had been an after-thought, a last-minute addition to the rescue of 35 Westies from a Missouri puppy mill, and he had not been designated to a rescue group for fostering. The other dogs already were going to fosters -- some in the Kansas City area, some to St. Louis, and others to Chicago. A few were going to Happy Tails Animal Sanctuary in Columbia, MO, and Webster went there, along with all sorts of health issues. Most noticeable was a severe breathing issue, for which he was treated for several weeks without success.

A visit to the University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine determined that Webster had a congenital disorder called choanal atresia -- a blockage in the nasal passages that severely limits air intake. The condition is so rare that few vet schools are able to perform corrective surgery, and once there, it’s expensive. “Webster has been a fighter since he arrived, and we will not give up on him,” his rescuers wrote. WestieMed wasn’t about to give up on him either, and quickly approved funding for Webster’s surgery.

Sadly, it never took place. Webster ran into severe complications and, in August, he went to the Rainbow Bridge. It was a devastating loss for all involved, but as his foster mom wrote, “the hope is that the vets who worked with him gained knowledge that they can use on other dogs that come after him with this rare condition.”



Allie, March 2009

Allie: Left to die in the snow, she chose to live

It was the 10th of March, a snowy, below-freezing night in Framingham, MA. In the dark, someone brought a bundle in a blanket into a park. Whatever the motive or reasoning, in the cold, they left it there. Next morning, a police officer patrolling the park found the blanketed bundle. Inside was a shivering, nearly hairless little Westie, clinging to life.

She was about two years old, and aside from the blanket she had nothing else with her -- no tags, no identification. She was taken to the dog pound, and scheduled to be euthanized if no one claimed her in time. They called her Allie.

Six days later, a woman came to the shelter, saw Allie and took her to the vet, where skin scrapings showed yeast infections and allergies,

requiring treatment and ongoing medications, and a urinalysis revealed bladder stones, requiring immediate surgery.

Although the vet heavily discounted the bills, still costs were mounting and in the midst of the Great Recession, it was more than Allie's rescuer could handle. So she turned to WestieMed for help, and got it.

After surgery and weeks of recuperation that involved staples, antibiotics, allergy medications, special food, ear drops, excessive urination, diarrhea, and vomiting, Allie found herself in a new home living a wonderful new life. As reported by her new mom: "Allie is my heart! She talks a lot, and she's quite the conversationalist, with opinions on everything... but the best thing is her spirit. She is just so happy to be alive that it shows in her face every minute of every day."

Tavish McPeanut...

spent the first 18 months of his life in the cramped quarters of a cat carrier, which left him with two ruptured discs in his back and all four of his young legs permanently bowed at the knees. Despite all Tavish McPeanut had endured, everyone who met him – from the shelter worker who took him in, to Westie Rescue of North Texas, to the foster family whose hearts he immediately captured -- soon realized that this was a special little guy who deserved a second chance. But he had been through too much for quick fixes. Most serious was a painful eye infection that required months of expensive treatment and eventually the removal of his left eye. But even that didn't keep him down for long. "He is goofy and silly and always up for whatever is going on," says his foster mom, who decided early on that Tavish McPeanut had found his forever home.



Tavish, April 2009

Buddy, the Throw-away Dog ...

Buddy was a 3-year-old Westie who had been bounced from home to home. It seemed no one wanted him. When he finally found his forever home, his joy was unbounded. He loved to play, so much so that when a delivery truck came into his driveway, Buddy rolled right under the wheels. His pelvis was fractured and his bladder wall punctured. Eleven days at the emergency vet put this little Humpty Dumpty together again, but it took WestieMed to help with the bills. Today, Buddy is back to his old playful self – and little more careful, we hope!

Buddy, February 2009

Artists to the Rescue Proves Popular Means of Support

WestieMed is fortunate to have the support of a number of noted artists, whose talents are generously donated to help Westies in need. Many of these designs are exclusive to WestieMed, and offered in our Gift Shop.

Artist **Suzanne Renaud** has created a truly unique offering in memory of Felicity Akin, a long-time Westie lover who passed away in October of 2009. In her honor, artist Suzanne is offering a limited number of these "Schooner & Annie" garden flags to benefit Felicity's charity of choice, WestieMed. The original painting was done by Suzanne for Felicity and her husband, John. It depicts their Westies in front of the Marshall Point lighthouse on the coast of Maine.



Among WestieMed's other exclusive art offerings are original pieces by **Kirsten Fox**, whose magnetic designs are truly that -- magnetic! Her most popular die-cut design is

that of a Westie carrying the American flag, which is sold only by WestieMed and is available in the novelty and collectibles section of the Gift Shop.



Diane Orange's distinctive artwork is available in many designs that are exclusive to WestieMed, each capturing the Westie spirit and personality as few others can. Her note cards and holiday cards are always treasured.

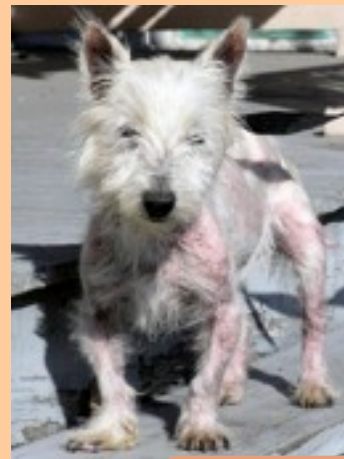


Artist **Carol Sanger**, a WestieMed board member, has done numerous paintings for the cause, and the Gift Shop offers her unique four-season garden flag collection, sold individually or as a set.



A Westie With No Past Fights for His Future

Shortly before Thanksgiving, an emaciated, matted little terrier showed up on a porch in Missouri. He could barely walk; he had no upper front teeth and his bottom teeth were worn down to loose nubs. His rescuers called him Ralph. He was about 10, and the vet said he might not make it -- he had a major bacterial infection, heart murmur, luxating patellas in both rear legs and cloudiness in both eyes. It was when the vet looked in Ralph's eyes and Ralph rested his chin in the vet's hand that it was resolved to do everything possible to get him healthy again. Ralph isn't there yet. He is being treated for heartworms, but with his indomitable Westie spirit, he just might make it after all!



Ralph, November 2009

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Bailey

Senior Westie No Longer Fit Family's Lifestyle

For most of his 11 years, Bailey lived with a family just outside of New York City. And for most of those years, Bailey had what the family called "skin issues" that with three small children, they just couldn't handle anymore. So they called Westie Rescue New York and asked them to take Bailey off their hands. After a 325-mile transport to Rochester, NY, he arrived with what the rescue coordinator there called "the worse skin condition I had ever seen." His left eye was almost completely sealed shut, a large sore broke through his hair just to the left of his mouth, and his underbelly was completely black with very tough skin. Despite all of this, Bailey remained a sweet, loving boy. A trip to the vet diagnosed an eye infection, chronic dry eye, a urinary tract infection, Malassezia dermatitis and skin lichenification. All highly treatable – and much of it avoidable – if during his 11 years someone had cared enough to try. In less than a

month, Bailey's eye infection was gone, the sore near his mouth had cleared up and his skin had greatly improved. Bailey was on the road to recovery, and to a home where he can live out his years with the love and quiet dignity he deserves.

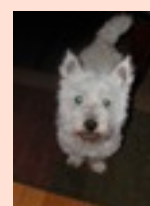


Bailey is not alone. Every year, hundreds of Westies are turned in to rescue because they no longer "fit." Pets aren't disposable, but in our society they too often are treated that way. If you know someone considering a Westie, tell them to first take the breed profiler test to see if a Westie is the right "fit" for them. It can be found at www.westieclubamerica.com

We Need Your Help to Continue Ours...

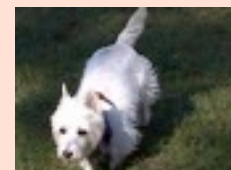
For WestieMed to keep helping Westies in need, the support of the entire Westie community is required.

We can't do it alone.



WestieMed is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt charity, so all contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law. And every penny

donated goes directly to help rescued Westies who are ill or injured, giving them a chance to get the medical help they need in order to go on to their new forever homes.



Won't you help us help them?

Giving is easy!

Just go to our website – www.westiemed.org and hit the donate button! Or you can send a check by mail to WestieMed, c/o Jen Hosler, treasurer, 2108 Fulton Avenue #3, Cincinnati, OH 45206.