



WestieMed News

Spring 2013

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

Some may wonder why WestieMed exists...why is this assistance needed? Here is just one example of what we do.

Pixie was turned over to Westie Rescue of Orange County and Beyond in March, 2011 by the son of her owner, who had dementia. When Pixie came to us, she was in severe distress from multiple infections and the most severe case of atopic dermatitis we have ever seen. She had a sweet demeanor and her big eyes looked into ours with a pleading cry of "please, help me." So, began the journey down her road to recovery.



Antibiotics, medicated baths, ear drops, and a special diet all contributed to Pixie's recovery. But, the biggest and most dramatic improvements were seen when she started taking Atopica. We have worked with two different veterinarians and spent many months of trial adjusting the dosage.

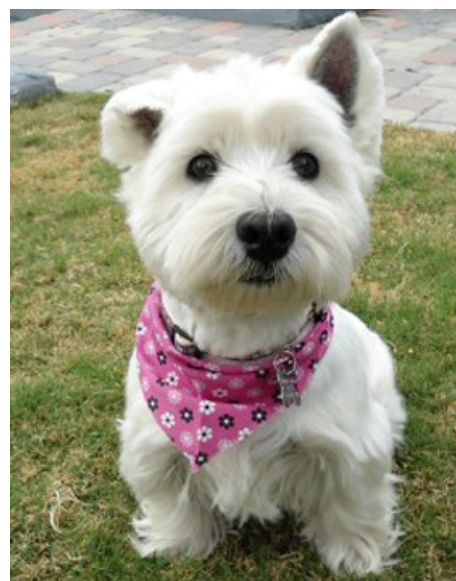
We here at Westie Rescue are ecstatic about the turn around this dog has made and thrilled that she is healthy again.

It has been a very long journey for Pixie and we are very hopeful that she may finally find her perfect home. We will keep you updated.

Update February 6, 2013:

As you might imagine, it has been difficult placing Pixie in a permanent home due to the ongoing cost of the Atopica she needs to live a comfortable life. Pixie spent 297 days with WROC and travelled a very long road to recovery. She emerged a beautiful Westie. She was adopted by a wonderful new Mom, Marge. Marge says that she took one look at Pixie and knew that it was meant to be.

Pixie continues to thrive but will need to take Atopica for the rest of her life. WROC set up a program for Marge, who is a senior, to purchase Atopica at half price. Thanks to the generosity of WestieMed, we were able to restore Pixie's health and place her in a loving home.



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Gus

Gus is a very lucky boy that had a lot of people rooting for him. He was picked up by Animal Control as a stray and taken to a high-kill shelter. Gus sat in the shelter for several days, sharing a kennel with 13 other dogs, while injuries went undiagnosed. S.A.F.E. Animal Rescue took him home, fed him, and drove him to Westie Rescue of Orange County and Beyond (WROC) the next day. He was immediately taken to our vet where x-rays indicated a ruptured abdominal wall, most likely from being hit by a car.

Gus underwent emergency surgery but his blood pressure dropped and the surgical team had to close him up quickly to save him. He needed time to get stronger and a week later a second surgery completed the repairs of his injuries. Throughout his ordeal, one would have never known Gus was hurting. This brave little dog will make a full recovery.

Read the full story and an update on our website:

<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2013/gus/>



Emerson

Emerson came to Westie Rescue of New England (WRNE) in January. Upon arrival his foster mom noticed he had a cough and trouble breathing; he was weak and unable to eat. He was taken to the emergency vet where he was diagnosed with a collapsed trachea. WRNE was told his ONLY chance for survival was surgery, estimated at \$5,000. That was a lot of money but WRNE felt they had to give him a chance. It was a success; he was more active and eating well, a new dog!

After surgery he started coughing again and was diagnosed with pneumonia...more time in ICU. Before he was released, an old injury on his face filled with infection and burst, requiring surgery to implant a drain. The infection was found to be antibiotic resistant. Special treatment was needed, another \$3400.

He has been through so much but kept fighting. He is truly a special Westie, described by his foster Mom as the sweetest little boy ever!

Read Emerson's full story on our website:

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/emerson/>

**Read about the dogs helped January - June 2012
on the WestieMed website:**

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2012/>



Maisey/Faith

Maisey, now renamed Faith, was rescued when she was only two weeks old. She weighed less than two pounds, was lethargic, had a terrible case of diarrhea, and erratic breathing patterns, not only during waking hours but when she was asleep. The first priority was to get Faith to the vet who did a thorough exam and ran tests. He reported that Faith had a heart murmur, was dangerously underweight and dehydrated, and probably had intestinal parasite. He referred the rescuers to a 24-hour emergency and critical care specialty clinic 3 hours away, and said to get Faith there as quickly as possible.

The first vet at the clinic was a canine cardiologist. Faith was so weak by this time that she could hardly stand up. She was given oxygen and examined by the cardiologist. When he finally came out he said he wanted to do an echocardiogram and chest x-ray right away, and that Faith was critically ill.

After these tests, the cardiologist reported that Faith did indeed have a heart murmur, a ventricular septal defect, a hole in her heart. What concerned him most was the chest x-ray.

Faith's lungs were "over-inflated" from continuous prolonged heavy breathing. There was a consultation with an internist who concluded that the over-inflated lungs were likely caused from bronchopneumonia, a condition that would require monitoring around the clock. Faith was admitted to the ICU, hooked up to two IV catheters with two different antibiotics, and placed in an oxygen cage 24 hours a day which included nebulizer treatments. Numerous lab tests were run while they worked on resolving her severe diarrhea and dehydration. They hand-fed her one tablespoon of food at a time, every four hours.

Finally, Faith was able to come home to her new family. When they released her they stated that she should be on "bed-rest", if there is such a thing in the life of a Westie girl. While the doctors consider her condition greatly improved, they will need to monitor her with additional x-rays and review her clinical status over period of time.

You can read Faith's full story and get an update on our website:
<http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/faith/>

Louie

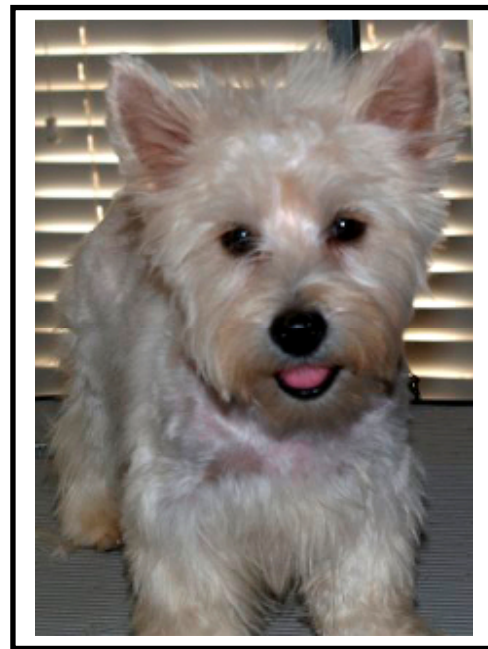
Louie was a “surprise” gift to a girl from her boyfriend. She did not have time for a puppy so she surrendered him to the Atlanta Westie Rescue Committee in September.

When Louie arrived at his foster home, he was very small and had a very sensitive stomach. He was put on a diet of boiled chicken and white rice. The rescue vet recommended the addition of a kiddie vitamin and fresh spinach and sweet potato to his diet. He still had stomach issues, was tiny at 5 1/2 pounds, and did not appear to be growing.

Louie’s neuter surgery is when his life changed. Pre-surgery blood work showed numbers “all over the place”. Considering the other symptoms, Portosystemic Shunt (PSS, or liver shunt) was suspected, meaning that the blood was bypassing the liver and not being cleansed of all the toxins. An ultrasound showed a very small liver. Neuter surgery was canceled and Louie was sent home with antibiotics and a special diet.

There was a huge difference in just a couple of days as Louie’s body fought infection and he received the proper nutrition. Another medication was added to help Louie pass the toxins out of his body, and again there was marked improvement.

Louie was referred to Dr. Berryessa at Georgia Veterinary Specialists (GVS) for consult. Louie’s “entourage” consisted of his foster mom, the chair of the rescue, and the VP of the Westie Club of the South, all there for moral support. After the initial examination, Dr. Berryessa suggested another ultrasound which confirmed that Louie was very sick with a PSS.



Surgery day arrived. Dr. Winkler, the surgeon, called after the surgery. The news was not what was hoped for. They were unable to repair the liver shunt because the veins were in the wrong location and Louie’s liver was very tiny. The surgeon was able to neuter Louie while he was under. He had an overnight stay, and was released the next day.

The foster mom brought Louie home and put him in a nest that created to keep him quiet and away from the pack to try and help his little body heal. The first couple of days he was pitiful, but as his incision healed he started acting more like himself. After about a week, it was difficult to keep him quiet because he wanted to play and be with the pack.

A few months later, Louie is thriving and growing and is a happy pup at 13 pounds - almost tripling his weight since diagnosis. Although he may have a shortened life span, he is living life to the fullest!

WestieMed helped 18 Westies in 2012 by providing \$18,803.85 in financial assistance for medical care.

Read their stories on the WestieMed website:

<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2012/>

imagine

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

“Why should I visit the WestieMed website?”

By now, you probably know that you can find information on the WestieMed website about the dogs that have been helped. You can also check on the current raffle, see even more volunteer opportunities, find out where the donations go, learn about the application requirements and more.

But...there's more!

Did you know that WestieMed provides information on various Westie health issues on the website?

<http://www.westiemed.org/health/>

Looking for the perfect gift for a Westie lover or something special for yourself? You have a couple of options that will assist WestieMed and you can shop for items in the WestieMed Gift Shop on the website.

<http://www.westiemed.org/shop/>

Shop with our affiliate companies and a portion of your purchase will go to help WestieMed.

<http://www.westiemed.org/affiliates/>

Thanks to CafePress.com, we are now selling a number of products featuring unique and beautiful Westie designs donated by renowned artists Kirsten Fox, Carol Sanger, Suzanne Renaud, Barbara Scotten, Ann Kallal, Dawn Barnes, Anne Huddleston and Allison Platt.

<http://www.cafepress.com/westiemed>



The Paws and Remember Program

Please take a moment to *Paws and Remember* your special friends.

Make a donation to light an "ever-burning" Virtual Candle from WestieMed's *Paws and Remember* program. This is a wonderful way to show your admiration, love and devotion for those you hold closest to your heart.

- Honor your own special family members,
- Celebrate a living friend, pet or person, with a Tribute Virtual Candle, or
- Remember those you have loved and lost with a Memorial Virtual Candle.

When you make a donation for either a Tribute Virtual Candle or a Memorial Virtual Candle, WestieMed will send a lovely



personalized card to the designated recipient acknowledging your thoughtful gift.

Our acknowledgment card features the *Paws and Remember* logo — Toto — The Rescue Angel designed and donated exclusively to WestieMed by artist Suzanne Renaud.

<http://www.westiemed.org/pawsandremember/>

How Can YOU Help WestieMed?

There are a number of ways and opportunities you can help WestieMed raise the quality of life and adoptability of rescued Westies in need of medical attention. We appreciate your support!

MAKE A DONATION

- Mail a check or money order donation to:
WestieMed, Inc.
2108 Fulton Avenue, Unit #3
Cincinnati, OH 45206
- Make a secure online credit card donation.
- Make an automatic monthly subscription donation.
- Donate Westie treasures for WestieMed's online eBay Auctions or Raffle.
- Make a *Planned Gift* consisting of such items as stocks, bonds, cash, personal property, bequests, trusts, life insurance and IRAs.
- Make a donation with your company's *Matching Gift Program*.
- Donate your artistic Westie designs for fundraising purposes through our *Artists To The Rescue* program.

MAKE A PURCHASE

- Obtain "ever-burning" online Tribute and Memorial Virtual Candles from the *Paws and Remember* program on the WestieMed website.
- Shop in the online WestieMed Gift Shop for unique Westie items.



- Shop with WestieMed's Affiliate Companies and a donation will be made to help us help rescued Westies.
- Shop in WestieMed's online eBay Auctions.
- Shop at our Cafe Press Store - the WestieMed Cafe featuring Westie designs by many talented artists.

VOLUNTEER

- Help organize a Fundraising event or a Westie Walk for the benefit of WestieMed.
- Offer your talents and time for a WestieMed project.
- Get WestieMed news and updates through our Friends of WestieMed email list.
- Join the WestieMed group on Facebook.
- Help spread the word about WestieMed.

The Mission of Westie Med, Inc. is to help raise the quality of life and adoptability of rescued West Highland White Terriers (Westies). WestieMed provides these Westies with a second chance at adoption and the opportunity to lead happy, healthy lives in stable, loving, forever homes. In addition, through its efforts and the example it sets, WestieMed aims to stimulate a dialogue, which will educate the general public about rescue animals and rescue organizations.

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