



# WestieMed News

Summer 2013

## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

WestieMed is looking for volunteers to help with the following and more!

- Artists and Graphics Designers to donate Westie designs for fundraising purposes through our *Artists To The Rescue* program:  
<http://www.westiemed.org/artists/>
- Develop a Planned Gift/Legacy (wills, trusts, bequests) Program.
- Host a fundraising event or a Westie Walk in your area:  
<http://www.westiemed.org/westiewalk>

Can you volunteer to help with any of the above? If so, please contact us!

<http://www.westiemed.org/contact.html>

For other ways to help WestieMed, visit our website:

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

*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.*



Please understand that you may be asked to submit samples and/or provide specific details of previous work. If you don't have any prior experience but you would still like to help, please let us know what you might like to do.

imagine

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

### INSIDE:

- 2-4 Westies We've Helped
- 5 Westie Health Research

### ANNOUNCEMENT!

**COMING THIS FALL...  
The first WestieMed Facebook Auction!**

Details will be available soon, but we will be asking for donations, "shares" and of course...BIDDERS! We will announce the date soon, so watch Facebook for information!

**WHITEY**

The day before Easter, Garden State Westie Rescue was notified that a shelter had a Westie and asked GSWR to take him. Another Westie Rescue group had declined to help Whitey, so GSWR was his last chance.

Whitey had a retained diseased testicle, the source of most of his troubles. The testicle was grossly enlarged and resulted in a lump the size of an orange hanging off his belly in the groin area. His skin was covered with open, oozing sores all over his body, legs, tail and head as a result of the hormones from the abnormal testicle and a staph infection had also taken over his body and skin. He also seemed lethargic and wasn't eating well, had a Malassezia condition and a great deal of flaking and dry matter coming off his skin. His dry eye had not been treated, his eyes were infected, and his sight was almost entirely gone. He had an infected ear and his teeth were in bad shape, many so rotten they would break off when gently touched. The rescue's vet performed emergency surgery the day after Easter, removing the diseased testicle and the rotten teeth. The remaining teeth were cleaned in hopes that this could spare him a need for future dental work.

Whitey remains on antibiotics and anti-yeast medication. His prognosis is excellent: his skin and his spirit are healing well. He is a friendly boy who likes people and other dogs. He also likes to go for short walks and is not intimidated by the fact that he cannot see. He is also housebroken.

Read Whitey's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/whitey/>



**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://westiemed.org/pawsandremember/>

**HOW CAN YOU HELP WESTIEMED?**

Visit our Website for information on the many ways you can assist our mission...and tell your friends!

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



## SOPHIE

Sophie found her way to Carolina Westie Rescue in late January of 2013. She belonged to an older couple who had her since she was a puppy but could no longer give her the care and attention Sophie needed. They revealed that Sophie was around ten years old and had a "little skin problem", but was otherwise healthy. Along with Sophie's records they handed over some of the medications including Prednisone, Ketoconazole and Tramadol.

Sophie was quite small for a Westie, but she made up for it in sweetness. Not long after she arrived it was noticed that under her long, just groomed coat were feet that were black, swollen, bleeding and infected. Her belly was also black and she had a bit of a limp, and appeared to have an old scar on the top of her head.

Rescue took Sophie to the vet along with her records, which only went back six months. In those records, the vet said that she had an infection in all four feet and that Sophie's previous vet was not expecting a cure and hoped for management with meds and a medicated shampoo. The vet put Sophie on Ketoconazole along with Clindamycin and Pharmaseb shampoo. He took a skin scraping, a parasite screening and performed a physical exam. Sophie's teeth looked terrible and but it was decided to clean them at a later date to let her feet start healing. The vet also mentioned that Sophie's limp was from a torn ACL of her right rear leg.

Rescue was consistent with Sophie's meds and baths. She improved, but would then regress. Plans were made for more tests and a teeth cleaning/extraction. Sophie had to have six back teeth extracted; they were rotted at the roots.

Wilmington, NC isn't a very large city but, we are fortunate to have a canine



dermatologist who visits from Raleigh twice a month and an appointment was made. Sophie's lab reports came in a few days before the appointment to see the dermatologist. The culture result showed that Sophie had *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* which was resistant to all the antibiotics she had been given. New meds were prescribed for the staph as well as the Demodex diagnosed from the biopsy.

Sophie had her appointment with the dermatologist a short time later. She examined Sophie, looked over all of her records and labs and concurred with the diagnoses and protocol. She also supplied the foster mom with a detailed protocol to follow to get Sophie well and happy.

Sophie is hopefully on the road to healing. Her feet still have ulcers, but are not as swollen. She hates to take her oral medication but is always a trooper when her feet are treated

Read Sophie's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/sophie/>

**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/>

**MAX**

Dudley, renamed "Max", a 5 1/2 year old Westie, was rescued from a southern Maine backyard breeder (puppy mill) who had used him to sire litters of puppies. When Max was rescued, he had never walked on grass, was filthy and unkempt, and had no affect or emotion (other than fear). He did not wag his tail, respond to his name, or know how to walk up stairs, on a leash, or wear a collar. He had not been provided with any love, socialization, or the opportunity to experience life outside of a concrete-floored kennel. Soon it was discovered that he had not received adequate veterinary care.

After a sleepless night with Max standing all night on his makeshift dog bed, he was taken to the vet. After a thorough examination, the rescue was told that Max had been badly neglected. His feet were splayed from living on a concrete floor and many of his teeth would have to be pulled. He would also need to be neutered, have blood work done to check for parasites and ensure that he could withstand anesthesia, and be brought up to date on his vaccinations. The breeder had been quick to hand over his registration papers; unfortunately, vet records were nonexistent.

After a few hours of online researching, luckily for Max, the foster family stumbled across WestieMed. They applied for aid, crossed their fingers, and waited. In the meantime, with constant love, and a commitment to embrace him into our family, Max began his road to rehabilitation.



He has learned to walk on a leash, wag his tail, walk up two stairs, and bark! After many baths and gentle brushing, a nutritious diet, and bones for his sore teeth, his beauty is starting to shine through. He is indeed a loyal, delightful, handsome little man who has won us all over

Read Max's full story on the WestieMed website:  
<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2013/max/>

*"Your organization is a testament to the power of good people making a difference, through generosity and caring. It has inspired me personally to do all I can to crusade against puppy mills, and use Max's story to educate others about the abuse and neglect that exist for so many animals."*

**Thank You to all of you for your support.  
 Without you, we would not be able to  
 help so many sick Westies.**

**WE APPRECIATE YOU MORE THAN YOU  
 KNOW!!!**

## From the Westie Foundation of America

### Current & Ongoing Research Projects -- Request for Samples

Listed below are several of the current breed-specific research projects currently being conducted that require blood or DNA samples from West Highland White Terriers. Each project has a description provided in this section. If you would like to participate by contributing blood or DNA samples from your Westie, please call or email the contact person listed below. *Your participation will be greatly appreciated!*

Research Project	Samples Needed	Contact Information
Genetic marker for <b>Atopic Dermatitis</b> <a href="#">Atopic Research study details</a>	Blood samples from 100 normal dogs and 100 diagnosed with Atopic Dermatitis	<a href="#">Cary Agler</a> North Carolina State University 919-513-7235
Genetic role in <b>Legg-Calvé-Perthes</b> <a href="#">LCP study details</a>	Blood samples from affected dogs and unaffected dogs	<a href="#">Dr. Alison Starr</a> Clemson University 864-656-0191
Genetic susceptibility of <b>Transitional Cell Carcinoma Bladder Cancer (TCC)</b> <a href="#">TCC study details</a>	Blood samples from dogs diagnosed with TCC and dogs over the age of nine who have no known cancers	Gretchen Carpintero Ostrander Lab National Human Genome Research Institute 301-451-9390 <a href="mailto:Dog_genome@mail.nih.gov">Dog_genome@mail.nih.gov</a>
Genetic marker for <b>Addison's disease</b> <a href="#">Addison's study details</a>	DNA from cheek cells and/or blood from affected dogs and unaffected dogs over the age of 7	Dr. A.M. Oberbauer UC Veterinary School (Davis) 530-752-4997 <a href="http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/">http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/</a>
Genetic marker for <b>Cranio-mandibular Osteopathy (CMO)</b>	Blood samples from affected dogs and their unaffected family members	<a href="#">Dr. Kay McGuire, DVM</a> 281-821-3247
Pilot treatment of <b>Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis</b> with stem cells	Limited number of dogs accepted in the study; Determined on a case by case basis	Dr. Richard Vulliet, DVM, PhD UC Veterinary School (Davis) 530-902-9007
Genetics of <b>Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)</b>	Cheek swab samples from dogs diagnosed with IPF and healthy dogs. Request a free DNA kit from <a href="mailto:dogdna@tgen.org">dogdna@tgen.org</a> (list Westie DNA in the subject line)	<a href="#">Allison Ruhe</a> Van Andel Research Institute Translational Genomics Research Institute 530-304-4884

For more information about any of the above projects visit <http://www.westiefoundation.org/>



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Westie Foundation Of America, Inc.

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