



WestieMed News

Winter 2013

A New Year...And Your Help Is Needed!

In the twelve years since its inception, WestieMed has awarded \$198,189.26 in grants to help 222 Westies.

Each WestieMed grant assists a rescue with a dog's veterinary bills which in most cases removes a significant potential barrier to adoption. Each funded Westie gets the opportunity for a second chance at finding a forever home. As a result, WestieMed rescuers nationwide can foster, rehabilitate, and nurture the Westies in their care without worry of monetary constraints. In the year 2012, 88% of WestieMed expenses went directly to help achieve this goal.

As much as we would like to believe that these funds, like the Westies themselves, are gifts from heaven, the truth is far more down to earth. We are dependent on donations, and that's why we need your help to make sure that in 2013 no Westie needing medical help has to go without.

As a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization, WestieMed is funded solely by contributions from supporters like you. WestieMed is not affiliated with, nor endorsed by, any other organization or breed club. It is only through donations made directly to WestieMed that we are able to fulfill our mission of helping rescued Westies in need of medical attention.



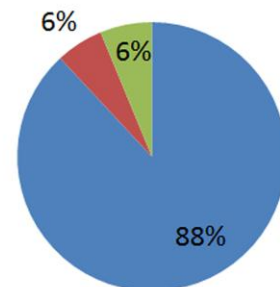
WestieMed cannot survive without your financial support. We are asking regional Westie clubs, rescue organizations, and individual supporters, to consider making a contribution to WestieMed. In addition, we would appreciate anything you can do to spread the word via club newsletters and websites, encouraging others to step up and support this important effort.

Tax-deductible donations can be made directly to the address below or via PayPal on our website: www.westiemed.org

Jennifer Hosler
Treasurer, WestieMed, Inc.
2108 Fulton Ave. Unit #3
Cincinnati, OH 45206

2012 WestieMed Expenses

■ Case Funding ■ Fundraising ■ Management



INSIDE:

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imagine

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



CHARLIE

Charlie came to Westie Rescue Tennessee with 3 other Westies and 2 Scotties after a commercial breeder dumped them in a rural shelter in Kentucky. Tennessee Scottish Terrier Rescue took the Scotties and the Westies were vetted and boarded to be sure they didn't have Kennel Cough or parasites. Needless to say, the bills were pretty steep just for basic vetting and dentals.

Charlie was immediately comfortable in his foster home, so much so that he took a flying leap the bed in the middle of the night. His foster mom knew instantly he was badly injured and took him that morning to the vet who confirmed an ACL rupture. The vet got Charlie on pain meds to give him some relief and surgery was scheduled a few days later. Two days after surgery Charlie settled back in to his foster home for rest and rehab. His foster mom nicknamed him *Sir Bulldozer Charles* because the "cone of shame" he wore didn't keep him from getting to things he wanted to smell or carry in his mouth...he just scooped it up in his cone!

Read Charlie's full story on the WestieMed website:
<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2012/charlie/>



LUCY

Lucy is 13 years old. She was the cherished baby of an elderly man. As they aged, the man and his wife were unable to cope Lucy was taken from the city to rural Arkansas. She was tied to a stake outside where fleas and mites attacked her skin and she was sunburned.

Lucy's story spread to Tennessee where a campaign began to save her. Lucy was rescued and taken to Tennessee where she was gently cleaned up. She was picked up and taken to a vet where she lived for a few weeks.

The search for a home was in progress and finally Lucy was taken to the home of Kaye Wimberly. Luckily, Kaye knew all about Westies and their skin issues, and she took charge right away. By this time, Lucy's skin was in bad shape and she was in pain. She was diagnosed with demodectic mange, cellulitis and bacterial pyoderma as well as chronic renal insufficiency, low-grade anemia and proteinuria.

The bills began to add up so the people who rescued Lucy started to raise funds. Lucy became a Facebook celebrity! Donations were received, but more was needed. After hearing Lucy's story and talking to the vet, the WestieMed board voted to help fund Lucy's care.

Read Lucy's full story on the WestieMed website:
<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2012/lucy/>

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/>

JOSIE

Josie was surrendered by her owner due to economic issues; she was 10 years old, a borderline diabetic, and on a special diet. The rescue vet discovered that she had full-blown diabetes. She now has a thyroid condition and was diagnosed with Cushing's Disease, both of which require medications, and has become profoundly deaf. All of these setbacks combined cannot stop her from being an active, loving, and happy little girl.

Josie had a cyst on her left shoulder. It became infected in September and during surgery to remove it, the margins started swelling, which may indicate a mast cell tumor. The vet took wide margins and stapled her back together. Insulin was also regulated once again, and she stayed with the vet for several days. Even with the vet's discount, this hospitalization put a strain on rescue funds. Josie is healing well and has returned to her bubbly, curious self.

In recent years, many Westies at this rescue have been seniors with health issues or



but the rescue is unable to keep up with the need. The assistance received from WestieMed will assist the rescue group to continue their work with abandoned, neglected, and abused Westies.

Read Josie's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2012/josie/>

LUZI

Luzi was a dream rescue...young Westie girls are in demand and she came already spayed, all shots up to date and no health issues. Luzi was surrendered by her family so they could travel.

The rescue group had a home in mind and it turned out to be the perfect choice. Luzi was the fifth Westie for the family, but the first girl. She was instant friends with their male, Romeo, and although the older Rufus took a little longer to come around, they now all get along together well.

While Luzi arrived in rescue healthy, she developed bladder stones as well as a urinary tract infection. The UTI proved unresponsive to antibiotics, so surgery was necessary to remove crystals from the urethra. This very complicated and



expensive process was possible due to WestieMed's contribution to the rescue and Luzi's family. She is recovering well, and will be back to her old self soon.

Read Luzi's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2012/luzi/>

LOLA

Lola came into rescue in September as an owner surrender. A diabetic, Lola needed insulin. After she was picked up, a stop was made to give Lola some food and insulin. She went wild when she smelled the kibble and ate it so quickly that it was worrisome. She got frantic at the smell of food. It was decided she'd had enough to get the insulin and make it through until the vet appointment the next day. The first night in rescue, Lola cried until she was picked up, then she settled down and fell asleep whimpering.

The vet visit the next morning showed that Lola was significantly underweight at only 12.8 lbs. Her blood glucose levels were extremely high and she had a bad case of conjunctivitis in both eyes; it was also discovered that she was almost completely blind. The vet thought she might be able to distinguish light, dark and possibly shadows. She was also dehydrated and suffering from diarrhea and loaded with internal parasites of every possible kind. Through all the poking, prodding and needles, Lola was a champ. She let the vets and techs do what was necessary with never so much as a growl or whimper.

As time passed, Lola's blood sugars were brought under control. She has occasional bouts of colitis but is doing better with good food. She takes her insulin injections very well, stands still and never flinches or cries.

As she began to feel better, Lola wanted to play. Unfortunately, because she cannot see, she wasn't very successful as a playmate, always bumping into the



other dogs and not being able to see the ball or whatever toy they were playing with. She would try, and then after getting a couple of growls from the others, would sit back with a wistful look on her face. When outdoors, she tried to run with the others but would stumble, bump into things, or trip and finally, give up and come back to my side to become the little white shadow once again. She no longer tries, although she sometimes forgets herself when she gets excited that someone's come to visit and runs to greet them only to bump into the door.

Lola has a very sweet disposition, and has never met anyone she did not like, man or beast. She is a very lovable, social little dog; no longer shy, timid, frightened or frantic. Her life will change now. Thanks to WestieMed and the incredibly generous Westie community around the world, she will have cataract surgery soon.

Read Lola's full story on the WestieMed website:
<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2012/lola/>

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/>

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 Atopic Dermatitis Atopic Research study details	Blood samples from 100 normal dogs and 100 diagnosed with Atopic Dermatitis	Cary Agler North Carolina State University 919-513-7235
Genetic role in Legg-Calvé-Perthes LCP study details	Blood samples from affected dogs and unaffected dogs	Dr. Alison Starr Clemson University 864-656-0191
Genetic susceptibility of Transitional Cell Carcinoma Bladder Cancer (TCC) TCC study details	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 Dog_genome@mail.nih.gov
Genetic marker for Addison's disease Addison's study details	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 http://cgap.ucdavis.edu/
Genetic marker for Craniomandibular Osteopathy (CMO)	Blood samples from affected dogs and their unaffected family members	Dr. Kay McGuire, DVM 281-821-3247
Pilot treatment of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis 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 Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)	Cheek swab samples from dogs diagnosed with IPF and healthy dogs. Request a free DNA kit from dogdna@tgen.org (list Westie DNA in the subject line)	Allison Ruhe Van Andel Research Institute Translational Genomics Research Institute 530-304-4884



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Westie Foundation Of America, Inc.

**WestieMed says a heartfelt "Thank You" to the following for their support:
Westie Rescue Tennessee, the Hamish & Hailey Rescue Fund
and those who purchased raffle tickets**

A Note from Westie Rescue Tennessee



We cannot begin to express our gratitude for those who support Westie Rescue of Tennessee, Inc. through our annual calendar sale fundraiser and all year long.

This year, we are honored to give back to WestieMed, Inc. for all they do to help groups like ours all over the country. **10% of the proceeds of this calendar** will be donated to WestieMed so they can continue their inspired work of helping sick and wounded Westies recover, and enjoy all that life has to offer.

Charlie, Dudley, Morgan and Sammy (*left*) are WRT's wonderful WestieMed success stories. They will forever have a special place in our hearts after overcoming terrible health and psychological obstacles to become the happiest little white dogs around!

<http://www.westierescueoftn.com/>

A Special Message from Hamish McTavish:

Hello, my name is Sir Hamish McTavish and I am a very much loved Westie. I live with my family in North East England. For the past three years, I have spent all my spare time trying to raise much-needed funds to help less fortunate little dogs who find themselves without a forever home through no fault of their own. Along with my daddy I have written several books about my Westie adventures and all profits from the sales go straight to the donation fund.

On behalf of all the members of Westie News and all supporters of McTavish Towers and our *Hamish and Hailey Westie Rescue Fund*, we would like to thank Westie Med for the decision to pay the bulk of the medical expenses to New York Westie Rescue to enable Lola to have her sight back as a very special Christmas present. Lola has stolen all our hearts this Christmas and as I type this with my paws tears of joy are running down my face at the comradeship and amazing generosity and love within the WESTIE COMMUNITY in our groups. Working together we REALLY can do miracles at Christmas.

WESTIES ARE SPECIAL. WESTIE OWNERS ARE ANGELS!
Please visit the Hamish and Hailey Westie Rescue Fundraising website: <http://www.hamishmctavish.co.uk/>

THANK YOU
to all who bought
raffle tickets, and
CONGRATULATIONS
to the winners!

1st prize
Gold Bracelet
Katherine Barnes

2nd prize
Kindle Fire
Roberta Hobson

3rd prize
Westie Goodie Basket
Constans Perilla

*And of course, thank you to
ALL who contributed to
WestieMed in 2012!*

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/>

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.



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.

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/>

WestieMed, Inc.
2108 Fulton Avenue
Unit #3
Cincinnati, OH 45206
1-877-853-9469
(toll free)
info@westiemed.org

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