



# WestieMed News

Summer 2014

## 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:
- Develop a Planned Gift/Legacy (wills, trusts, bequests) Program.
- Host a fundraising event or a Westie Walk in your area:

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

<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:

**2-6 Westies We've Helped**





### Nilla

Westie Rescue of Orange County & Beyond learned of a female senior Westie in a desert shelter. Nilla was brought in by a couple that said they found her wandering the streets. It was more likely the owners brought her to the shelter due to her age. A vet exam revealed severe osteoarthritis in her front shoulders, spine and hind quarters. She was available for adoption, but those interested declined because of the cost to keep her comfortable.

The pain was managed with medication, but it was clear Nilla would need more help and becoming a WROC Forever Foster was her best chance. Her appetite was affected by the pain so it was time for another consult. Because Nilla enjoys life greatly, the vet suggested stem cell treatment. After researching, WROC decided to go ahead.

Stem cell treatment collects fat cells from the dog's body. The regenerative cells do several things: release chemicals that help decrease inflammation; send out chemicals to the body to bring healing cells into that area; and have the potential to regenerate damaged tissue...in other words, nearly reproducing tissue as it was at a younger stage. Under local anesthesia, the cells would be re-injected back into Nilla's arthritic areas in greater concentration than her own body could have accomplished.

The procedure is very expensive but it is worth extending the quality of Nilla's life. With the generous sponsorship she received from a previous adopter and WestieMed, Nilla now has the funds to start treatment!

Read Nilla's full story on the WestieMed website:  
<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/nilla/>

## 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/>

## Sassy

Sassy, an 8-year old West Highland White mix, was diagnosed as an insulin dependent diabetic. Her owner was elderly and in poor health, so Sassy came to Hope Lane Foster and Rescue when they learned the owner was unaware of rescue and thought the only options were to euthanize Sassy or the county animal shelter.

Within a week they thought Sassy had found the perfect adopter who also suffers from diabetes. Unfortunately her adopter was confined to a wheelchair and was unable to conduct her daily glucose urine strip tests and also had his own increasing health concerns, so he relinquished Sassy back to HLFR. She then went into medical foster. HLFR managed to get her insulin under but unfortunately the effects of the uncontrolled diabetes over the years caused severe cataracts and Sassy went blind quickly.

Sassy was seen by several vets including a Veterinary Ophthalmologist, Dr. Dees, who confirmed Rescue's worst case fears -- Sassy was completely blind and the only way to help her see again was cataract surgery in both eyes. Dr. Dees prescribed several eye drops for Sassy and retested her two weeks later to see if there were any pressure changes that might cause permanent retinal damage. Dr. Dees was pleasantly surprised to find that the drops were doing an amazing job and believed they had successfully halted any further damage for the time being. Dr. Dees did inform HLFR that if surgery was delayed and permanent retinal damage occurred there would be no chance of restoring Sassy's sight and recommended surgery be performed within three months.

Estimates for the surgery plus testing came to just over \$3,200 even after a generous rescue discount from the clinic. HLFR is a very small



independent rescue group that does not have finances to handle large veterinary bills such as this but they could not allow Sassy to go permanently blind as an effect of her unmanaged diabetes. HLFR was desperately searching the Internet for help us and stumbled across WestieMed. They filled out the application thinking it was our last chance to raise the remaining funds needed. In just two short weeks they were elated to receive the good news that the WestieMed Board of Directors had voted to help with funding.

Sassy's pre-surgery testing has been scheduled and surgery will follow as the vet recommends. HLFR prays that Sassy will regain most, if not all, of her sight so that she can find her perfect forever home!

Without the help of WestieMed HLFR could not have raised the money needed to give Sassy the gift of sight again. "We will be forever grateful to your organization and hope one day to pass on a similar gift you have given us to another rescue dog in need."

Read Sassy's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/sassy/>

**In 2013, WestieMed helped 13 Westies by providing \$20,687.35 in financial assistance for medical care.**

**Read their stories on the WestieMed website:**

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



## Albert

Albert was surrendered at 12 years of age due to divorce. His owners moved to apartments that don't allow dogs and wanted him to be in a home with a yard and proper care and attention. He is a diabetic Westie who is totally blind from cataracts and his hearing is also impaired.

He is being fostered by a retired RN as the rescue had trouble finding a foster comfortable giving insulin shots and managing his blindness. It is hoped that she will request to adopt him after his cataracts are addressed.

Dr. Cynthia Cook at Veterinary Vision in San Francisco gives the rescue a 20% discount and strives to come in at the low end of her estimate for surgery. The rescue will pay the remaining costs of surgery after the WestieMed grant is sent to her. Dr. Cook has confirmed that Albert is a good candidate for surgery.

Albert is a very sweet little guy. He has a dog to play with in his foster home and has become fast friends with a Golden Retriever named Connor. He learned his way around



the house fairly quickly and his favorite spot is on the sofa with his foster mom. He naps in the sun on her deck and was able to ask to go outside after only a few days. He is affectionate and tries to play. In an update his foster mom reported, "If Albee had his vision again he would be a playful li'l guy, likes to lay on his side next to you and have his tummy rubbed." It will be wonderful to observe him when he is able to see after three years being blind.

Read Albert's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/albert/>

## Toby

Toby's rescuer is a retired senior who has been a Westie lover her whole life. She was in a PetsMart shopping for her cats when she spotted an elderly woman with a Westie. She had to go over and meet him. The woman was very nice, and said she had gotten Toby from a shelter but was afraid she wasn't going to be able to keep him. She said her husband was very ill with cancer, and was in the hospital. She was afraid she was going to have to take him back to the shelter. The rescuer told the woman not to do that, wrote down her phone number and asked the woman to call if she thought she couldn't care for him anymore. A week later the woman called and the rescuer met the woman and Toby at PetsMart. Toby came home with the rescuer and it was love at first sight.

She is on a limited income, and when she realized Toby was going to need vet care, she



was afraid of the high cost. Luckily, she found WestieMed on the internet. She had no idea that there was such a bunch of dedicated Westie lovers!

Toby goes everywhere with his new mom, and of course sleeps on the bed!!!

Read Toby's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/toby/>



## Max

Max, 7, was an owner surrender; his owner's health issues caused her to be placed in a nursing home. Max was left in her apartment for a month before being surrendered to Westie Rescue Michigan. He was confused and lonely.

Due to the owner's health problems, Max's vet care was inconsistent. When he entered

foster he had atopic dermatitis, skin, dual ear and eye infections, was diagnosed with dry eye syndrome, needed all vaccinations and a dental. He was fearful and emotionally shut down.

It took a lot of medication and care to resolve these issues. Just as his ears cleared, tumors were found in his ears. Surgical removal was needed, but the tumors were benign. A week after the tumors were removed, Max's anal gland ruptured, apparently due to an infection, and he was immediately placed on antibiotics. The next week he ruptured the ACL on his back leg. He underwent surgery and recovered well. During this time he also went through dog training class and graduated.

Max is one of the most resilient foster dogs the foster mom has had. It has been a wonderful experience to see his development. Initially he kept his tail between his legs and growled when trying to hook him up to a leash. Today, he wags his tail and holds the leash in his mouth. He is excited about going for rides in the car and walks. His hearing returned and his eye sight is much improved.

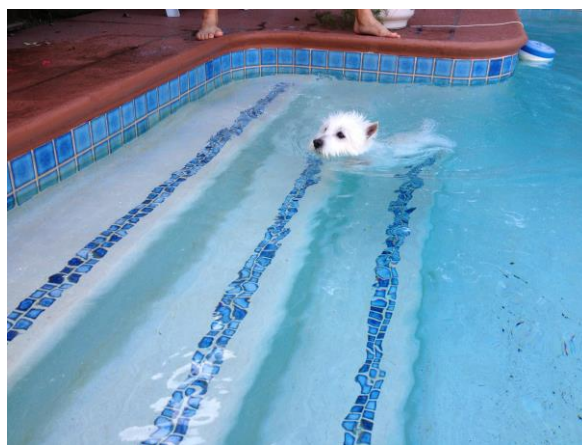
Read Max's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/max/>

## GUS - 6 Month Update

It has been six months since Gus was found at a high kill shelter suffering from life-threatening injuries after being hit by a car. After two surgeries, rehabilitation in foster care and being officially adopted in March, Gus continues to thrive! His new person dotes on him and there isn't a want or need that goes unfulfilled.

Gus travels quite a bit between Southern California and San Francisco to visit family and friends and it was recently discovered that Gus is a water dog! The first time he saw a pool, he walked around it for about 1/2 hour and then decided to jump in at the steps. His family cheered him on as he swam back and forth and it was quite obvious that Gus was very pleased with himself.

He loves to chase squirrels up trees, gets home cooked meals, absolutely loves his toys and even gets blueberry facials with his grooming



every six weeks. He is sweet, gentle, happy, and his personality just lights up a room! The best part of Gus' journey is that he is safe and living an incredible life!

Thank you WestieMed for helping us make Gus' dreams come true!

If you missed Gus' full story, you can read it on the WestieMed website:

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

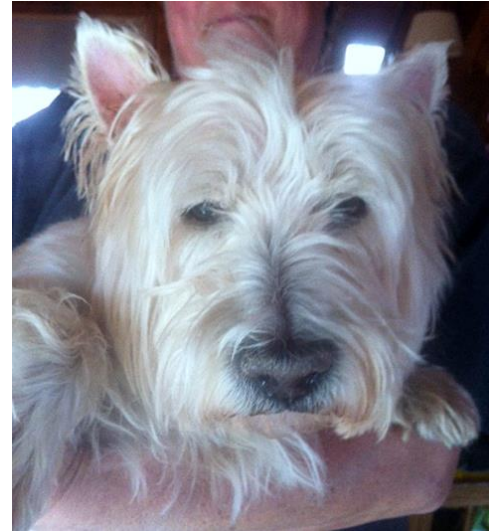


## Merlyn

Merlyn was in a shelter, an owner surrender. They said the wife had 'suddenly developed allergies', but his condition told another story. He was underweight, arthritic, his coat was very thin, his skin was not in good shape, and his teeth were a mess. He was old, grumpy, didn't see or hear well and walked with an odd gait from the arthritis. He also had a growth in his left ear and an ear infection.

He had not been neutered, so his prostate was enlarged and like a lot of old men, he dribbled a bit. He just wanted to be loved, but wasn't sure how to respond when he got affection. He startled easily and would snap out of fear at times. The vet estimated Merlyn's age at 12 or 13, if not older. No adopters were interested, so New York Westie Rescue made the decision to keep him in sanctuary.

After proper vetting, a new diet, dental cleaning and neutering, he seemed more comfortable and began to settle in. He soon appointed himself the Lord of the Manor and when we got another old fellow, Egan, who was in terrible shape, Merlyn took up his post as Egan's guardian and would watch over him, a task he took very seriously.



Unfortunately, Merlyn's ear did not respond well to treatment. NYWR sought a second opinion and it was decided that the only option to end Merlyn's discomfort was a partial ablation of the ear canal which is very expensive. Thanks to WestieMed, NYWR was able to schedule surgery and provide Lord Merlyn with some comfort and relief.

*Read Merlyn's full story on the WestieMed website:*

<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/merlyn/>

## Suzy

Suzy, a 6-year-old Westie, came into Wag N Train Terrier Rescue from a shelter, a family surrendered after her owner's death. The shelter stated that Suzy limped on her left rear leg and was badly in need of a dental.

Suzy was immediately bathed and the long matted coat was clipped off. She was matted in places to the skin and had a large amount of feces stuck to her coat underneath her tail. She graciously met the intake coordinator's Westies and had a good snoop in the yard.

During Suzy's vet exam, it was discovered that she suffers from degenerative joint disease in both hips and a degenerative disc at the lumbosacral joint. Multiple surgeries would be required or she would need anti-inflammatory medication for the rest of her life. The rescue's vet, Dr. Martin Ramm, suggested stem cell replacement therapy with the goal of giving Suzy a chance at a good quality of life without the use of surgery, drugs, or medications.



Suzy remains a happy, carefree girl who likes to carry small stuffed toys in her mouth and is happy to meet young and old. The rescue anxiously anticipates her recovery and they are optimistic that the procedure will render her able to run, romp, and zoom in the yard without suffering the painful after effects.

*Read Suzy's full story on the WestieMed website:*

<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/suzy/>

### Follow-up from Valentine & her mom!

Just wanted to say thank you again for everything you've done for Valentine and me. Her surgery went amazing and for the first time ever she has a healthy normal heartbeat. We are trying to keep her calm for the next 10 days (which is turning out to be quite the challenge) but after that she should be a happy healthy puppy with a LONG life ahead of her, something that would not have been possible without your help. I cannot thank you enough!

Love from me and Valentine (Seriously, she licked the card ☺ Alex Filer"

<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2014/valentine/>



### New GARDEN FLAGS now available in the WestieMed Gift Shop!



*This is just a sample!*

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

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