

# WestieMed News

Winter 2015

## WestieMed says THANK YOU!

In November, a dedicated group of volunteers put together another well-run and profitable auction.

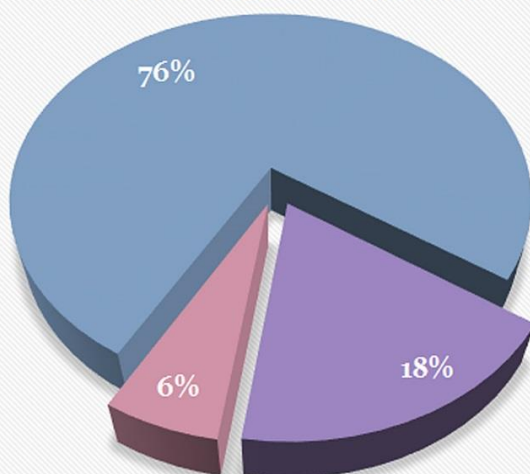
*We must say thank you once again to:*

- The generous people all over the world who donated so many lovely items. Everything from collectibles to clothing could be found on the list and bidding was at times fast and furious!
- The fabulous bidders! It was amazing to watch the bidding, especially in the last hour or two. People were watching their favorite items closely, ready to jump in if they were outbid. Some items were extremely popular, resulting in exciting "bidding wars".



**OVER \$24,000  
RAISED  
FOR WESTIES!!!**

2014 WestieMed Expenses



■ Case Funding ■ Fundraising ■ Management

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## PIPPA

In August, Westie and Scottie Rescue Houston received a request to take in a Westie mom and her puppies. The person surrendering this little pack said Pippa had been dodging cars on a busy highway so they picked her up and took her home. Two weeks later, she gave birth to four puppies. The finders kept the family for nearly four months when they realized they were unable to provide the vetting five dogs required. Realizing that the puppies were four months old and had no veterinary attention or shots, WSRH took in the little pack.

Pippa was a great mom, very attentive to her pups. The first job was to get rid of the fleas and worms, then get them in for a vet check and start their shots. The pups were quite healthy, but the vet was concerned

with Pippa's health. First she was found to be heartworm positive, then x-rays confirmed bladder stones which were quite large and needed to be removed as soon as possible. Since she was still nursing, time was needed for her body to recover. The puppies were old enough to be fully weaned and had no trouble eating whole food, so Mom got a break. WSRH worked with an all-breed rescue group to place the pups, who looked nothing like mom.

After two weeks rest, Pippa had the stones removed and was spayed at the same time. Surgery went well and after two weeks of recovery she began treatment to eliminate her heartworms. Heartworm treatment can be very hard on a dog. Some reports say the medicine which destroys the heartworms can cause pain and inflammation in the dog, making them lethargic as we would with the flu. It's also hard on dogs who don't experience much discomfort because they have to be confined for at least a month...no jumping and playing, no exercise which may cause an increased heart rate. Pippa is in a foster home with retired foster "grandparents" who are able to watch her closely.

Pippa has cleared the two week mark following the start of heartworm treatment and is doing very well. If she continues to do well, WSRH expects she will be released soon and available for adoption.

WSRH is very grateful for WestieMed and all of its supporters for providing assistance to Westies who need extra help to get healthy and ready for forever homes.

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/pippa/>

**WestieMed helped 13 Westies in 2014 by providing \$23,538.15 in financial assistance for medical care.**

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

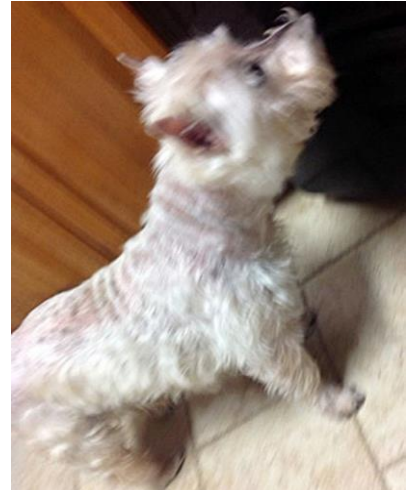
<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/>

## SCOOTER

Blue Bonnet Yorkshire Terrier Rescue received a sad call...A dying woman had entrusted the care of her beloved small dogs to a friend to care for them after she was gone. Instead, after the funeral her friend immediately surrendered her dogs to the shelter. Would BBYTR accept the small aged Yorkshire Terrier?

When BBYTR arrived to pick up little Andy, they found that his companion for his entire 10 years of life was a scruffy, neglected Westie named Scooter. The local Westie rescue was full, and these guys needed help.

The boys were happy to leave the shelter. They pulled the rescuer to her car, popped in and said "Phew....take us outta here, PLEASE". Both were very dirty and ungroomed, had long nails, dirty ears and neglected oral hygiene. One thing never stopped -- happy wagging tails!



After a few weeks, Scooter blossomed. BBYTR found an elderly man who had recently lost his wife and 17-year-old Westie. There was a big hole in his heart and BBYTR had the perfect dog to fix the situation. They regularly hear from Leonard Gretskey, who cannot stop singing Scooter's praises. <http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/scooter/>

## CLEO

*From Cleo's new mom:* Have you ever heard the song *What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life?* Since I am retired with little family, I felt alone without my Westie that passed two years ago. So, I started looking at different Westie websites. Someone suggested I the Indiana Westie Rescue site. I decided to fill out an application. WRI soon contacted me about Cleo. They were trying to place her; she didn't fit in with a larger family.

A meeting was set up. Out of the van popped a beautiful three-year-old, ready to take on the world. She was ready to be in my life, jumping into my car as if saying "Come on Mom, let's go home!"

I soon realized she had a severe case of Separation Anxiety. At home she wouldn't let me out of sight, no matter what, even if she had to be destructive. WRI helped right away with suggestions including phone sessions with a canine behaviorist which helped a lot.

Off we went to the vet for a checkup and medications which cost more than I have ever thought about. After a month of retraining of



the crate, plenty of exercise and lots of love, Cleo changed slowly. After two months and an increase of meds I am seeing a light at the end of the tunnel with a pile of vet and medication bills.

This is where WestieMed came to our rescue and is making it possible with funds for the medications and knowledgeable information that Cleo and I definitely know "*What we are going to be doing the rest of our lives.*"

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/cleo/>



## BEN

*From Ben's new mom:* My children often asked when I would get them a dog. I chose to check the Animal Care & Control of NYC located nearby, because I felt the need to help one of these dogs who are left there heartlessly.

When I saw Ben up for adoption at the shelter's website, it was love at first sight. I just could not wait to meet him. After reading his description, I knew he was the right fit for my kids. We have loved Ben from day one. He is a sweetheart, and we are happy to have him.

I can't understand why Ben's previous owner left him at the shelter. I was told by the staff that he just did not want to deal with Ben any more. Knowing this breaks my heart because Ben is adorable not only with us but also with strangers.

The shelter told me Ben was healthy, but I wasn't sure about that because Ben was constantly scratching. He had patches of hair loss which turned into cuts in days.

These spots didn't seem to heal, so I took Ben to the vet for treatment. The bill was so unexpectedly high and I didn't have enough money available to treat him. I just paid what I could at the moment. I started to resent



myself for adopting a dog when I was not financially stable to care for one. Soon I was able to get what the vet suggested at the pet store, but weeks later the skin condition started all over again looking worse than before. I was afraid to go to the vet to pay for a treatment that did not seem to help, but I could not leave my dog like that either.

I reached out to WestieMed for aid, and to my surprise they approved my request. Thanks to them, Ben will be able to receive the care he needs.

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/ben/>

## 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/>



## MOJO

Little Mojo's owners brought him to the shelter because they thought he was "too high maintenance", cost too much to groom and was always constipated. Not only did they dump Mojo, they took home another dog. Westie Rescue Orange County and Beyond picked him up within just a few hours of his arrival at the shelter.

Mojo was taken to the vet where he had to be sedated in order to shave him down. Blood tests were performed and aside from an upper respiratory infection, ear and eye infections and obvious dental disease, he was sent home with antibiotics, eye and ear meds until his dental could be scheduled.

Over the next few days, it was noticed he had a lump that would come and go at the right side of the base of his tail, but his appetite was healthy and within a few days he started playing with toys and the other dogs. Two weeks after arrival, his dental was scheduled.

The morning of his appointment, he did not seem to feel well, so WROC planned to change his dental to an observation stay instead. Mojo became violently ill on the ride to the vet. He was examined, blood work was redone, and he was hospitalized and put on fluids. His blood showed his ALT levels were off the charts and he was diagnosed with a Perineal Hernia. Surgery had to be

put on hold until his levels were back to normal, but in the mean-time his hernia was getting worse. A third blood test several weeks later showed his ALT levels were back to normal and he was cleared for surgery.

During surgery, his surgeons spent the first hour trying to control blood vessels. It was obvious he'd had this for a very long time. This problem is rarely seen in castrated males and it's unsure when Mojo was neutered but it was recent as his stitches were still intact. The vet also discovered a mass above his rectum adhered to his rectal tissue but not attached to his anal glands. His colon was herniating as was the fat from the prostate. This fat was necrotic so it was removed. It was decided to leave the lump because it was so adhered. The chance of fecal incontinence is always a risk with this type of surgery so a needle biopsy will be done at a later time. While he was under, an enormous amount of debris cemented onto his teeth was removed. Mojo was recovering and went home to heal.

We are happy that we rescued Mojo and with the generous sponsorship from WestieMed, Mojo had a surgery that he should have had a very long time ago. This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life for this very sweet boy.

### *Update December 6, 2014:*

Mojo's bladder is full and cannot be expressed. We may be looking at either a urethral obstruction or tumor or inflammation. We will do an x-ray.

We were prepared to move ahead with his treatment, but his little body shut down and sadly Mojo passed away.

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/mojo/>



## HOLLY

Holly, age 13, and her bonded sister Hannah, age 11, came into foster care through Westie Rescue of Missouri in September of 2014 after their human parents divorced and they were left at to the local shelter. Holly and Hannah both had skin issues and had to be shaved, both were in need of dentals and between them needed a total of 14 teeth removed. Upon entering rescue, it was noted that Holly had heavy yellow staining to her tail and hind legs as well as constant squatting to urinate. It was suspected that such staining meant she must have had a long-term untreated UTI or bladder stones.

WRM provided excellent care with extensive blood work and x-rays to try to determine the specific problem. X-rays showed no stones and a urinalysis showed a typical UTI. Antibiotics were prescribed and Holly responded well. Two weeks later Holly again showed symptoms of a UTI and urinalysis showed infection but x-rays showed no stones. A double dose of antibiotics was prescribed and Holly improved quickly.

Holly and Hannah had been with their foster mom for two months at this point, and since WRM never separates a bonded pair it was determined they'd already found their forever home. The girls were adopted November 1, 2014 and all was well until the next day. While both presented with health issues, Holly's seemed more urgent. She once again showed signs of a UTI...tests, x-rays, antibiotics. This scenario was repeated two more times. Holly's vet decided an ultrasound was needed to find the cause of the persistent UTIs. A trip to a specialist was scheduled where the vet immediately felt there was more going on than stones and ordered more tests. It was determined that Holly had been born with a fold of skin that partially covered her vulva. Through the years the skin had become thicker and heavier covering more and more of the vulva. The skin would not allow all of her urine to be eliminated from her bladder, would gather and breed germs that then traveled into Holly's bladder



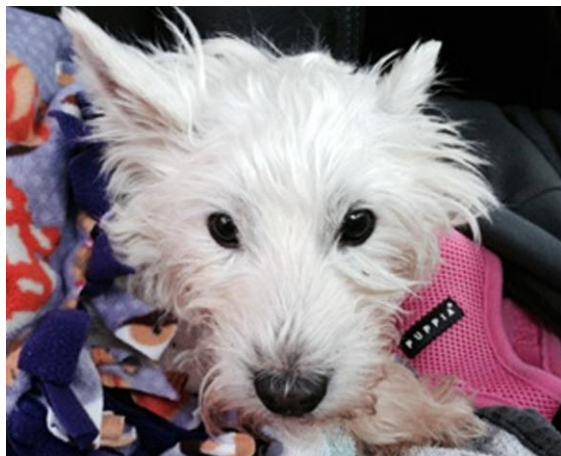
creating the ongoing constant problem of UTIs. The bills were mounting, now totaling over \$800 and the recommended surgery was estimated at \$100 and up. Thanks to WestieMed the family will be able to provide Holly with the surgery and she is scheduled after the first of the year. Unfortunately while dealing with Holly's issues the family was also been dealing with Hannah's diagnosis of a fast spreading bone cancer. Since Holly and Hannah are so bonded the family felt it was best to see how things go with Hannah, and how Holly adapts to losing her lifelong companion. Hannah will be monitored closely and when the time is right the family will be there to send her to The Bridge. The family's concern about Holly's reaction has been eased by WestieMed granting them time to decide when Holly is ready for surgery.

### *Update from Holly's mom, January 29, 2015:*

I wanted to let WestieMed know that Holly passed away. She had developed some sort of neurological disorder over the past month that we were trying to determine the cause of when she became paralyzed and was in considerable pain. I am crushed. Thank you to all at WestieMed for the financial support for Holly. Oh how I wish we could have fixed her. It just was not meant to be. I would not have traded my short time with her for anything.

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/holly/>





## SOPHIE

Sophie's story began in August when she was picked up as a stray and turned in to an animal shelter. One day, she was picked up by rescue and she traded her hard shelter habitat for a soft bed and blanket. Sophie spent a few days under her rescuer's care and the watchful eye of two Cairn terriers as well as two foster Westies resting before being transported to their new home. Sophie was very quiet, preferring to spend her time resting and watching the other dogs. She wasn't very hungry, no matter how tempting the treats. Sophie made her way to her foster home. Her foster mom made her yummy food and Sophie started eating. In a few days, she was eating three meals a day and chewing yummy sticks. At her first vet visit, she had bloodwork and exam. However, in a few days her foster mom felt

that something was wrong and took Sophie back for an ultrasound. The bloodwork came back and something was indeed very wrong. Her liver values were all out of whack and her kidney function was at 25%. The veterinarian diagnosed a gallbladder mucocele (cyst). Without surgery, the gallbladder could burst and leak toxins into Sophie's body, most likely killing her. New England Westie Rescue Network started fundraising while Sophie was in the hospital. Soon she had surgery to remove her gallbladder and do exploratory surgery in other parts of her gastrointestinal tract. Doctors removed a meat wrapper from her stomach. The surgery was a complete success, and after three days Sophie returned home. She is fighting a bacterial infection but making good progress. She has her appetite back and is playing with toys and her foster mom. Sophie's rescue was a collaborative effort between two independent rescuers and New England Westie Rescue Network. Our team thanks WestieMed for its generous, life-saving donation in support of dear Sophie's care. She now has a high quality of life to look forward to, something that every Westie deserves.

### *Update October 28, 2014:*

Sophie is recovering very well at her foster home, right now. She is being treated for E.coli infection from when she ingested the meat wrapper. Thank you WestieMed for giving her a donation.

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/sophie/>

## 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/>**

# Why We Do What We Do...

## DUCHESS UPDATE

*Duchess arrived at Westie and Scottie Rescue Houston in July 2013 after her two moms died; the first when she was 3 1/2 years old and the second, her original mom's sister, four years later. Because she was diabetic and blind from cataracts, no other family members were willing to care for her.*

It seems the holidays, more than any other time of year, remind us to be grateful for the blessings we receive. Duchess was one of those blessings and WestieMed multiplied the blessing tenfold.

When we took Duchess in, she had outlived two owners and was blind due to cataracts caused by diabetes. Our wonderful vet helped us get and keep her blood sugar under control and, thanks to a grant from WestieMed, we were able to have the surgery done to remove her cataracts and restore her eyesight.

Duchess was still healing from the surgery when a wonderful person whose Westie also was older and diabetic, saw her profile and knew that she had to have Duchess in her life. As soon as the surgeon cleared her, Duchess moved to her forever home.

Duchess's forever mom sent us this holiday photo showing how happy this beautiful girl is now. We always will be grateful to Dr. Keith French at Bear Branch Animal Hospital, Dr. Jim Swanson at Gulf Coast Animal Eye Clinic, and WestieMed for making this beautiful creature's life brighter.

Kind regards,  
Maggie Escriva  
Volunteer, Director  
Westie & Scottie Rescue Houston  
<http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/duchess/>

Duchess and Clancy are just two examples of the WestieMed mission. We couldn't do this work without our supporters!



## CLANCY UPDATE

I wanted to let you know Clancy has been adopted. He has gone to live in Pinehurst, NC. He has been renamed Zeke. His new home is only about an hour away from a good animal ophthalmologist. If he needs to be checked by one, per his vet, his family is very willing to take him. Clancy is having some anxiety issues while settling in his new home. He adores his new family and showers them with love.

Thanks so very much to WestieMed for helping this sweet boy to have the best future possible.

Sherry Moore

Westie Rescue Southeast

<http://westiemed.org/stories/2014/clancy/>



## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

WestieMed, Inc.  
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T. C. ...

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.*

## CHECK OUT THE WESTIEMED GIFT SHOP!

T-Shirts, Tumblers, Garden Flags and more! Becky's Dandy Lines designs are just some of the items you'll find in the WestieMed Gift Shop.

Show your love of the Little White Dogs AND support WestieMed with your purchase!



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