



WestieMed News

2016

For the love of Westies

SAVE THE DATE!

WESTIEMED'S KANDY MERRIC MEMORIAL AUCTION

SEPTEMBER 16 – 18, 2016



Announcing the WestieMed 2016 Kandy Merric Memorial Fund Auction!

All items in this very special auction are exclusively from the private collection of the late Kandy Merric, generously donated to WestieMed by Kandy's family. We look forward to a very successful auction honoring Kandy's tireless commitment to the Westie community and her unconditional love of Westies.

We will forever miss our dear friend Kandy. She taught us all that one person can make a tremendous positive difference in the world. Kandy's impact and legacy will always be remembered. Her needlework is cherished by all who were lucky enough to win pieces in various auctions.

Proceeds from this auction will be placed in WestieMed's Kandy Merric Memorial Fund to financially assist senior rescued Westies in need of medical care, a cause near and dear to Kandy's heart.

Follow this link to the auction Facebook page to join:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/KMMemorialAuction/>

WHY DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

Some may wonder why WestieMed exists and why this assistance is needed. This "follow-up" is just one example of WestieMed's mission...

FIONA

From Fiona's New Home...

To WestieMed - thank you so much for your help with Fiona. She is such a wonderful little creature. We just love her to no end! Her surgery removed her tail as it was dead, and left her with a little cotton tail, so we still have to clean her bootie once a day to make sure no poo gets where it shouldn't to cause a UTI.

Fiona lost her Westie brother a year ago to lymphoma. After very careful consideration we had her meet an older Scottie and they got along so well he came home with us. Jack is an 11 yr old Scottie, from the TN Scottie Rescue. He lets Fiona run things and they are both quite happy with that arrangement.

Fiona is doing quite well, although allergies are tough this season, but our vet is helping us get through it! She is such a little princess - a true terrier princess!

We would never have been able to get her all the medical care needed without WestieMed to help. We are forever grateful!

Wendy Eubank



Read Fiona's full story on the WestieMed website:

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

2016 has already been a busy year for WestieMed.

**In all of 2015, WestieMed funded
13 cases for a total of
\$21,337.75**

**From January to June alone in 2016,
16 cases have been funded for a total of
\$24,514.23**

imagine

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

SCOTTIE JOE

Scottie Joe was a seven-year-old former breeding male Westie. Always outside, he had never been vetted. Unwanted by his owner, she advertised him for free to anyone who would have him as a "good rat dog". A man named Mike answered the ad and after seeing Scottie Joe, took pity on him. Mike said it was clear as soon as he saw Scottie Joe that he was blind and no rat dog which was what he needed. The poor dog's skin also appeared to be moving from a severe flea infestation. Mike thought, "If I just take him home and put him down at least he will be out of his misery." Mike left for home with that intention, but on the ride Scottie Joe rested his head gratefully on Mike's lap. Mike decided to try and help him.

Mike is a poor man from a town of about 400. He did the best he could. He dipped Scottie Joe several times to kill off the fleas and bought the best food he knew. Mike kept him inside and in two weeks he was housebroken. After having Scottie Joe for several weeks, Mike knew he had more needs than he could handle. He searched the internet and found Westie Rescue



of Missouri. Mike drove a long distance to the foster, then handed Scottie Joe off with tears in his eyes. WRM promised they would take very good care of Scottie Joe and would keep Mike updated on his progress and adoption...

You can read Scottie Joe's full story on our website:
<http://westiemed.org/stories/2015/scottiejoe/>

CALLI

Dorie and Jim Southwell got Calli from Tri-State Yorkie Rescue in Evanston, IN after seeing her on Petfinder. She was fearful but sat quietly in Dorie's arms on the drive to Michigan.

She slept almost constantly. It was as though she had PTSD so they just held and loved her. She had never been out of a cage until rescue, but learned to trust us and tried to please. She learned to go through doors and climb steps; she was so fearful of everything.

Her new mom noticed Calli's ears were full of black "coffee grounds"-looking stuff. Calli went for a wellness check. The vet treated her for a bad yeast and bacterial infection in both ears which had mutated the ear canal membranes so much that they were almost closed off. She was very hard of hearing and bolted and cowered when startled. Two teeth were removed because of rot due to sawdust being used as filler in her food. She was also spayed so it was thought her lethargy was due to the stress of surgeries and a new home...



You can read Calli's full story on our website:
<http://westiemed.org/stories/2015/calli/>

ROSIE

Rosie came to Garden State Westie Rescue (NJ) as a surrender in very poor condition, with significant hair loss over her back half and under her neck. The hair she still had was very long and stained. She had black skin from a long-term skin disorder, and was covered with flea dirt. She was also vomiting up everything. GSWR's vet realized she was in acute renal failure. She spent six days in ICU, and he managed to save her life. The renal failure had largely been caused by a lifetime of "mis-medication" (too much prednisone).

Her recovery was remarkable. After about six weeks of treatment, her blood levels showed that her kidneys were almost self-sufficient. She is on a strict diet of prescription food for kidney patients, and she still needs sub-Q fluids, but only every few days. She will have to be checked every few months, but with proper care and the good diet GSWR hopes for even more improvement.



Without the assistance of WestieMed with extraordinary cases like this, small rescues like GSWR would not be able to take in these dogs, and deserving dogs like Rosie would die too young...

You can read Rosie's full story on our website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2015/rosie/>

CASEY

Casey, a 5-year old male Westie, was surrendered to Westie Rescue of TN/AL in July 2015. His owner had been dealing with Casey's medical issues for several years and nothing was helping. She realized it was time to turn Casey over to someone that could help him get well and contacted WRT/AL.

From looking at his pictures, the rescue thought he had the typical Westie skin and ear issues but soon realized that it was much worse than they thought. When he was picked up by volunteers, his eyes were matted, his ears were red, swollen and full of scabs, and his hair was non-existent in places on his body, particularly around his backside and tail. The poor little one was pretty miserable and in obvious pain, as he would cry out when you touched him on his head.

Casey was in desperate need of a bath, he was whisked off straight to a tub for a gentle cleansing. Through all his pain and the turmoil of that afternoon he never growled,



snapped or fought. He was such a gentle little soul and just looked at the rescuers with confusion, yet love. He knew his life was going to change for the better...

Read Casey's full story on our website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2015/casey/>

**How can you help
WestieMed?**

**Visit our Website for information on how you can
volunteer to help WestieMed...and tell your friends!**

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

MOLLY

Five-year-old Molly spent her life in this decrepit rabbit hutch. Born into a puppy mill, she was forced to live in cramped quarters with several other Westies. Chicken wire flooring and rotting wood with chicken wire sides were her home. If she could stand long enough on the wire, she could see the other 15 hutches filled with animals. After several months of negotiations, Westie Rescue Michigan (WRMi) finally got the owners to surrender the dogs in the outdoor hutches, taking in five Westies, including Molly, and one Westie-mix.



WRMi took Molly to the vet who knew immediately Molly lived on chicken wire. Her paws were sore, irritated, and inflamed with a twisted nail or two. She was severely matted, her fur filled with flea dirt and general filth, stained with urine and feces. She had diarrhea; a fecal exam showed several type of worms and parasites in her system. Her skin was red, had scabs and was inflamed. The vet prescribed short term use steroids, an antibiotic and ointment for the paw pads, and medicated shampoos...



Read Molly's full story on our website:
<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2015/molly/>

CALLIE

When Callie came to rescue from a San Diego shelter, it was thought she had the typical skin issues that rescue deals with often. With care, she was ready to be moved to a foster home. While in foster, it was noticed that she was again losing some hair and drinking a lot of water. It was back to our vet for bloodwork and urinalysis; because her belly was larger than normal, she was also tested for Cushings Disease which was found to be the case. Knowing it would be very difficult to place a dog with Cushings, Callie's foster Mom agreed to keep Callie for as long as it took to find her an appropriate home.

Several months went by with little interest in our girl but rescue remained hopeful. Shortly thereafter, another issue popped up with this little girl. Rescue had been battling Callie's chronic ear infections since she came to rescue, but it became obvious that something drastic needed to be done. Back to the vet they went and during the exam, a second



opinion with a specialist was suggested. Fears were confirmed that Callie would need TECA surgery (*Total Ear Canal Ablation*). Poor Callie was stuck in a cycle of inflammation, infection and fibrosis and the pain was just too much to bear. Callie had her first TECA surgery in June of 2014...

Read Callie's full story on our website:
<http://westiemed.org/stories/2015/callie/>



Group Now On Facebook

Westie Lung Disease--IPF in USA (Treatments, Symptoms, Studies, Etc.)

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (Idiopathic simply means that the cause is unknown) or acute interstitial pneumonia is a disease of the lung in which there is injury to the cells and fibers of the lung known as the interstitium. As a result of this injury scarring occurs. The scar tissue decreases the ability of the lungs to function normally causing difficulty in breathing and eventually death. However, there are other diseases of the lung that have somewhat similar symptoms as IPF, which can be misdiagnosed as IPF. [Westie Foundation of America]

Welcome to our Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (aka Westie Lung Disease) group. We know this diagnosis is not an easy one for any owner to hear but you have come to the right place. We are very proud that our members are very knowledgeable and caring. Though our focus is sharing information and suggestions of conventional treatment and medications, you will find this group is a great source of support, encouragement and love.

The photos above show two of the processes used in Westie Lung treatment and diagnosis and a few Westies affected with this disease of Westie Lung/Pulmonary Fibrosis.

The First row shows the top part of a Cold Laser machine (*Class 4 made by K-Laser company*) used at the University of Minnesota to possibly reduce the scarring in the lungs or at least stop or slow down the progression of

WL/IPF. The wand is being used on Tyler and sessions are usually 30 minutes, and varies how many per week or weeks. Sally is going thru a CT scan, unsedated and it only takes 2-3 minutes and the result is photo on the end showing very detailed inside looks of her bad PF lungs. She passed on April 2, 2015. This photo was taken mid-Oct. 2014.

In the second row we have Tyler, currently taking cold laser treatments and Bailey who passed several years ago from IPF. Kaylie was one of the first Westies that had cold laser treatment and lived many years; her story is on the WestieMed website (*see our INDEX-Treatments*). The Westie Foundation of America awarded a two-year grant to the University of Minnesota for the genetic study of pulmonary fibrosis in Westies. Sally & Suzi, 13-year-old sisters from Nebraska, were the first participants in the study in October of 2014, and then Sally was also first to die while on the study.

OUR GROUP

Our group consists of over 600 members located all over the world. While most members have Westies diagnosed with IPF, some of our members have joined our group to learn more about this disease. All of the group Admins have had one or more Westies diagnosed with IPF.

We are fortunate to have a number of expert veterinarians in our group who give us their valuable time and answer many questions that

often come up. Our membership includes Dr. Lindsay Merkel, DVM, an Internal Medicine Veterinary Specialist from the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center, who often treats dogs with respiratory diseases and volunteers her time with our group to help answer questions from our members. She advises our members on the more technical aspects of testing and treating IPF dogs. Additionally, Dr. David Bradley and Dr. Phil Harrington, two laser therapy experts from K Laser, the largest manufacturer of Class IV lasers, are available to our members to assist with laser therapy questions, settings and protocols. Our group is also assisted by ICU critical care veterinarians, rehab vet tech specialists and vet techs.

Hopefully you and your vet can work together educating each other about this disease. As most veterinarians have not treated IPF and know very little about this disease, we welcome your vet to join our group as well. Please give your vet our URL address: westielungdisease.net. This domain will seamlessly connect to our closed Facebook

group where your vet will just need to click the "Join" button.

We encourage you to follow and participate in the daily group discussions where you will find members sharing their experiences and observations on all aspects of IPF. We do request that members limit their posts to the topic of IPF and do not use our group for posting sales, auctions, lost dogs, jokes, etc. There are many other Westie-related Facebook groups that allow such posts.

Additionally our group offers and maintains an INDEX of IPF articles accessible to all members. You will find our Index by clicking "Files" at the top of the group page, then click on the Index file. The articles include symptoms, diagnosis, case studies, current research studies, treatments, medications and pharmacies as well as contact information for some of our veterinarian members. Our Admins routinely update the Index with new and informative articles. We urge you to search the Index and we welcome your suggestions for input.

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/>

Note from the Editor: My apologies for the lack of newsletters previously in 2016. I've been dealing with some health issues and my priority was focusing on that. I hope you all understand!

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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.
1546 Brandon Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45230
- 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 WestieMed, 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.