

# WestieMed News



## 2019 WestieMed Auction

**A huge thank you to our bidders,  
donors, and the admin team  
for your support!**

[www.WestieMed.org](http://www.WestieMed.org)

## FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

Thank you for supporting us here on Facebook! **We just hit 6,000 likes!**  
Please share our page with your Facebook friends to help get the word out about WestieMed and the work we do.

**MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE ONE  
WESTIE AT A TIME**

**DONATIONS  
GRACIOUSLY  
ACCEPTED!**



# WESTIES WE'VE HELPED IN 2019



## ZEUS MCGOOSE | FEBRUARY 2019

We were contacted by a woman who was a neighbor to the people that owned Zeus in October of 2018. She was beside herself at his condition and had previously intervened a couple of years ago and taken him to the vet, paying over \$3000 for his care, only to have the owners refuse to administer the medications or make the dietary changes that would have helped him. She said that he had been like this pretty much since a couple of months after they bought him at a pet store over eight years ago.

She relayed that she could see he was suffering and couldn't just stand by and do nothing, but knew that if she contacted Animal Control he would be seized and euthanized "could we help? After gathering more information and setting out a game plan, I told her that while we could not legally take the dog unless they agreed, we would certainly help him if they would agree to surrender. With her help and that of her vet, the owners were persuaded to release him rather than face neglect charges under NY state law. The vet also started him on some antibiotics and gave us some medicated shampoo to get us through until he could see our own vet.

For the rest of the story: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2019/zeus/>

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## WIZARD | MAY 2019

Wizard In December 2018 we received a call from a woman on Long Island who had a 6 year old Westie that "we have no time for". Wizard was spending most of his time crated or tied up outside with little positive human interaction. The family admitted to neglecting him and thankfully called rescue so he could have a better life.

Wizard went to live with a family who had lost their Westie. They were excited to have him and were going to foster him in hopes of adopting. Wizard had not had any veterinary care in 5 years so that was the top priority. Wizard had extreme thirst and was having accidents so the vet did a series of tests and ruled out Cushing's disease, Diabetes Mellitus and bladder infection. The vet diagnosed him with Diabetes Insipidus and put him on a bed wetting medication to help with the accidents.

*continued on next page...*



“Surgery  
and your  
financial  
assistance  
saved this  
poor guys  
life! ”

The tests showed that Wizard's liver levels were elevated so after a month a new blood panel was done and showed the liver levels were even higher so an ultrasound of his liver was done which showed he had a bladder full of bladder stones, 50-60 they estimated. Surgery was scheduled right away. During the bladder surgery they also did a liver biopsy, the vet feels he may Copper Storage Disease and that the bladder stones were caused by his liver issues. We are still waiting for the results of the liver biopsy but Wizard is recovering nicely from his bladder surgery and is back to his normal routine.

<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2019/wizard/>

### WIZARD UPDATE

May 2019 We thank you for your financial assistance for Wizard's surgery on April 1, 2019. When Wizard first joined our family in late December of 2018, he was underweight, snapped and bit us, was scared of a leash and was kennel protective amongst other issues, and no vet visits for 5 years—His teeth were almost black! The most serious was his biting and constant urination in the house regardless of being taken out moments before. These issues were almost deal breakers... His many visits to the vet resulted in a variety of medications for bed wetting and ALT levels. When he started urinating in his sleep, we knew it was more of a medical issue. We've never had a dog wet in his sleep! After an MRI, we learned that Wizard had bladder stones. Surgery was performed and resulted in the removal of 50-60 bladder stones...poor guy was probably in pain and I assume those stones caused him involuntary urination and anger issues! Also a biopsy of his liver was performed and determined very high ALT levels. Following his recuperation, he became a new dog! He was placed on a liver diet and a daily dose of Denamarin for his liver issues. Jackie sent Chinese herbs for his liver but Wizard did not like them and refused to eat his food so we discontinued the herbs. He's now up to about 18 pounds, seems happier, has settled in, is no longer involuntarily urinating, no longer bites, his anger issues are under control, his ALT levels are down to about 380, from almost 900, and continue to fall. We take him to the vet about every 2-3 months to check on his ALT levels, and his shots are all up to date and has had dental care. Wizard has become very affectionate, loves to play with his many toys, has learned to trust us (for the most part), obeys most commands, and has become a valued member of our family. We recently moved into a new neighborhood and Wizard has embraced everyone he meets! To think that if the MRI had not been completed, and if Wizard had not had this surgery, he would not be with us today...that surgery and your financial assistance saved this poor guys life! He has made our life richer and we so love him to pieces! THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE to this well deserved little guy! Best wishes to you and your WestieMed organization. We hope your involvement with other Westies in need result in positive outcomes as well. Happy Thanksgiving to all, Kathy & Tim Johnson

## ABBY | SEPTEMBER 2019



Abby was picked by the shelter as a stray. She was listed as “code yellow” which means she was not available to the public, only to rescue. The shelter called WROC as a last resort and, of course, we took her. She had 3 large bladder stones, each the size of a hand ball. She went directly to our vet and was operated on the next day. Her bladder walls were weak and did not hold the stitches from the first surgery, so she had a second surgery to repair and replace the stitches.

We took her home and she would not eat or drink for almost a week. We went back to the vet for fluids and medicine. X-rays and bloodwork showed that she was recovering, but it took her quite some time to come around. Then one evening, she started wagging her tail and cleaned her bowl. She is a very sweet girl and we are really happy that we were able to save her. She is still recovering and will be available for adoption in a few weeks.

## STELLA | SEPTEMBER 2019

Stella’s story starts in early February 2019 when her owners surrendered her to their vet. Stella who was known as Lulu at the time was in pretty rough shape. She was admitted to an Animal Hospital on February 5, 2019 suffering from severe allergies that caused hair loss and also damaged her skin, ear infections, she weighed 12lbs and overall was just looking for some TLC. While at the hospital Stella started receiving the care she needed-medicated baths, prescription diet food, ear care, eye cleansing, her skin started to heal, grew some hair back all the while she stayed a loving playful Westie.

On February 20th Stella was released into the care of Garden State Westie Rescue and Lisa Curry who continued Stella’s treatment. While scrolling through Westie sites on Facebook I came across a post from Garden State Westie Rescue stating Stella’s condition and that she was gentle and loving with people and other animals and she was up for adoption. My wife and I talked it over, we contacted the rescue and on March 25, 2019 we became the new parents to Stella.

<http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2019/stella/>

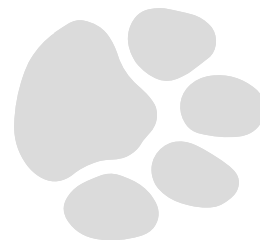
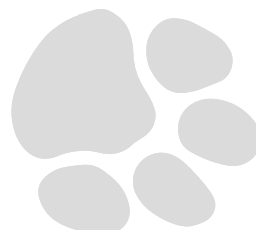
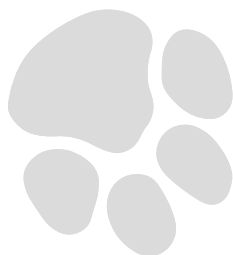
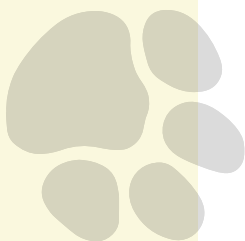




## SAMMI | NOVEMBER 2019

Sammi's life from the beginning was bleak. He came from a pet store and his new owners probably didn't know anything about his breed but did know that he was a cute snowball and they wanted him. They taught him cute tricks like sitting up and begging but he never saw a veterinarian for 3 years. He started his itching and biting at himself until his belly was a thick gooey black yeasty mess and he didn't smell very good so he ended up being tied outside for a good majority of his short little life getting worse and worse with no protection from fleas or mosquitos.

Luckily, a neighbor and a dog lover, saw his plight and asked the owners if they could take him in. They bathed him and tried to fix his itching but he continued to bite at himself and lick his paws raw. They didn't know what to do for him so they contacted Westie/Cairn Terrier Rescue of SW OH who took him in. He had the worst case of Malasszia Dermatitis I had ever seen and he had what looked like a mass next to his sheath. This was going to become expensive and he wasn't neutered to boot.



## HETTIE | NOVEMBER 2019

On June 30, 2019 our little girl to be was found in a rural part of Tennessee where dogs are often dumped. She was found by a friend of Rescue Westie Tennessee and handed over to them. She was in bad shape; matted, filthy, and full of ticks.

They just knew she was more than likely heartworm positive and pregnant.Â Whisked off to the vet for evaluation, she was heartworm negative and already spayed!



The DVM for the rescue group and staff cleaned her up and kept her for the next several days for evaluation while rescue reached out to find a family with Westie experience to foster. We stepped up to “foster to adopt.” We met her for the first time on July 7 and fell in love with her and took her to her forever home to adjust to us and our Westie pack.

Bringing her home, we knew she’d need her own time and space to bond with our three other Westies. On her first full day with us, I noticed she was deaf. She was also having very small seizures and both were a real concern. Off to our vet we went and they agreed she was deaf and were unsure about the tremors.

Over the next few days her seizures increased dramatically and our vet thought she had White Shaker Syndrome. Medicine controlled it for about another week or so, then they came back with a vengeance! She was now having over 30 seizures a day. Over the next several weeks we visited specialists in Atlanta where the diagnosis was changed to Sick Sinus Syndrome and we were referred to the University of Georgia Vet School’s Cardiology Dept.

HettieAt UGA, Hettie saw an incredible team of cardiologists. She was fitted with a vest to capture her heart rhythms. She was to wear the vest for one week UNLESS she had a seizure and then we were to send the vest back immediately. Within the first day at home wearing the vest, she had multiple seizures and the vest was sent back pronto.

The cardiologists at UGA read the results and contacted us that she was on emergency status. Her heart was stopping between 9-12 seconds at a time and she was in danger! Emergency pacemaker surgery was needed and the cardiologists cleared their busy schedules just for her!

Now Hettie is home and on 12 weeks of bedrest and she is going on week three of doctor’s orders. (That’s a challenge to keep a Westie on bedrest!)

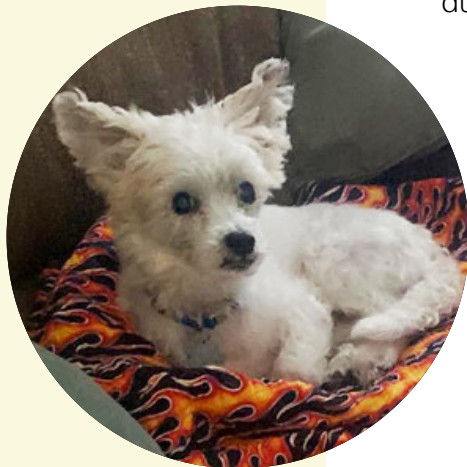
Our sweet little girl now has a new lease on life because of the pacemaker. Once her twelve weeks of healing are behind her, we know she’ll have many hours of playing with her new Westie and human family.



“We fell in love with her and took her home to her forever home and new Westie pack! ”

## TROOPER | NOVEMBER 2019

### BEFORE TROOPER

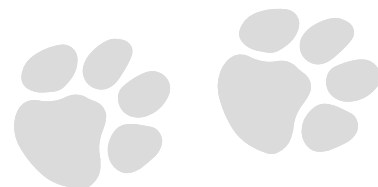


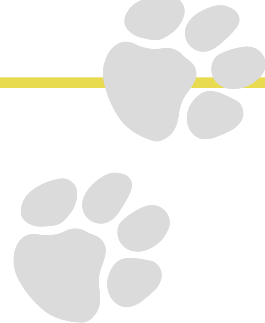
My son, now 11, has been asking for a dog of his own since he was around 5 years old. I work at the same elementary school my son attends and during school breaks we would house and pet sit. Being a single mom with a small child it wasn't the right time to have our own pet. But, we had so many pets to love, play with, and care for in and around our neighborhood. Less than a year ago, a client referred me to a friend of theirs who needed a pet sitter for their two purebred Westie puppies - brother and sister. It was love at first sight! From then on the only dog my son would ask for is a West Highland White Terrier. I started shifting my no to a maybe. When school let out last summer, I made a deal with my son: if he helped me with feeding, walking/running, grooming, playing, etc. with pets - without complaint - during the summer to show he's up for the responsibility of a dog we would adopt one. He stuck to it... and it was a busy summer! End of July we started researching breeds that would best fit our lives, and Westies were on the list. Yay!!

### WE MEET TROOPER

The 3rd visit at Bradshaw Shelter we saw him. He was in a little room over crowded with other small dogs. We stared at him and he was staring at us. He wasn't ready, though, since he was a stray and the shelter had to do their due diligence. Aug 6 was his available date and I was there before the shelter opened, my son was visiting family out of town. The volunteer announced his number and asked if anyone else was there to meet him. A few raised hands. There was a lottery...and I WON! I go meet him, and I knew the moment he came in: he was our dog. I knew it was going to be a rough road at first. He was matted all over, flea dirt all over, paws were raw, and you could feel every bone in his body he was so skinny. And, he was at least 5 years old and not neutered. We picked him up Friday Aug 9th, the day he was neutered. We barely slept that weekend and the following week, and many more nights to follow. Poor guy was so hungry but would throw up after he ate, had diarrhea all day. He was in pain from surgery (it took about 3 weeks to heal), had kennel cough and had to take antibiotics. The antibiotics also helped with his paws, but they were still a bit raw. To try to prevent further infection, he received a shot of cytopoint in hopes he wouldn't be so itchy and stop chewing on his paws. It helped very much, and his paws look so much better! The diarrhea continued for weeks. Then, when it stopped, he was extremely constipated. He would moan and couldn't get comfortable. Couldn't sleep, licked his sides, and wasn't himself. After normal blood tests, x-rays, meds, and fluids I decided to have the vet administer an enema to give him some relief. He was so happy. Now he is eating better, but still has a ways to go. Food and environmental allergies are a focus as well. Judging by the length of his matted fur when we met, he was probably homeless for a long time. I love seeing him happy, and I cannot imagine life without him. He is on his way to living his best life!

A M. McClain





# DOG UPDATES



## DAVEY | JULY 2019

We knew we would have very little interest in Davey due to his age but that would never stop us from helping a senior boy. Davey is officially a WROC Forever Foster dog, and making that decision was not a hard one to make at all. Being deaf with limited eye sight, we felt it was in his best interest to stay with us since he had been through so much. This little fellow loves to be loved, eats like a horse and snores like a lumberjack. He is gentle, feisty, grumpy, loving, and a quite bossy. Our favorite kind!

Karen Simondet

Westie Rescue of OC & Beyond

See Davey's Full Story <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2018/davey/>



## ANGUS | JULY 2019

Angus came to rescue on 12/20/2017. He was adopted 4/18/2018. He passed away due to renal failure November 1, 2018. Below is Angus's obit.

Angus, my little Man of the house went to Rainbow Bridge on Thursday, November 1st, 2018. We knew he was going to be a tough case because he was very ill when he first came to rescue and us. In spite, of his poor beginnings, Angus was a very sweet boy, enjoying his time snuffling around in the yard, lending affection whenever and wherever he could, and enjoying his food.

We think he was about 12 but he had had a very hard life and ultimately his kidneys failed him. Though he was blind and deaf, he really did manage to get around just fine and would meet me at the door with the rest of his pup siblings.

He was a beautiful little Westie, and had the most expressive tail. A great lover of cuddling, he just loved to be around others and made friends easily with the rest of my crew. I love my girl Westie dearly, but oh how those little boys break my heart every time. Angus will be greatly missed.

Mom Janet





## KIKI | JULY 2019

Kiki was adopted on October 4, 2018. Unfortunately her cancer returned and her adopters paid for two additional surgeries before she passed away on June 3, 2019. Here is her obituary:



Kiki came to WRAP on July 9, 2018. She was found on the streets of an East Bay city in very rough shape. She had terrible skin issues and had obviously been used for breeding. She had two large mammary tumors- which we knew were probably cancer. Barbara did not have a foster home for her, but she was definitely a Westie, so my husband and I agreed to foster her. Kiki came into our home silent and depressed. Her first surgery was 2 weeks later. She had mammary cancer and a sarcoma. Her recovery went well and with each day we could see her spirit get brighter.

This spirit was simply amazing and we adopted her. She loved to play with toys; she always wanted to be on our lap....we even built a little box for her to get on the sofa herself.

Kiki was a god send for us. She reminded us how we can take our health for granted. She was so happy each day, playing with toys and our other two Westies. My husband fell in love with Kiki, and they had a special bond. He got on the floor to play with her most mornings, and Kiki would bark at him when he did not. Kiki loved sitting on my husband's lap when he read the paper in the morning. It was their routine.

She became the happiest little Westie we had ever seen, and we adored her!

Kiki made me laugh....I mean really laugh everyday! Kiki had plenty of Westitude and oh, how she loved to boss me around! Especially when it was time to eat! I have many videos of her and I am so thankful for them.

We had to say good bye to Kiki on June 3, 2019. We spent the morning holding Kiki, taking turns doing so. Even to the end she was loving. She had stopped eating, though, and we know she was in pain. We had to let her go, but we miss her to this day. She died in my arms, resting on my shoulder. Eleven months with Kiki was not enough time. Eleven years would not have been enough time. That BITCH cancer took another sweet life. We have had a lot of Westies. They all ARE and WERE special and wonderful, but there was something extra special about Kiki. She was one of a kind. She reminded us to stay in the moment, and to take each day as precious.

I know in time I will laugh again. And yes, we will foster again after our hearts have time to heal. Don't be afraid to foster. You might get lucky enough to find a Kiki.

Full Story: <http://www.westiemed.org/stories/2018/kiki/>

“She became the happiest little Westie we had ever seen, and we adored her!”

## UPDATE ON CHLOE | MAY 2018



I am not sure if the last update included the immediate aftermath of her surgery. Her condition was so far advanced that they could not free her jaws. Fortunately she doesn't seem to be in too much discomfort and she does have pain medication on hand if she should need it. The few interested parties that initially acted like they were interested in adopting her no longer expressed interest when we couldn't correct the problem, so she is being cared for by our foster. The

other thing is that she and her sister are very bonded. Foster mom decided to adopt her sister, Panda, so they could stay together. They are having a great life. Chloe loves to run outside, play in the mud and swim in the pool. Feeding time, as you can imagine, is very messy because of the way she has to eat, but foster mom has it down to a science now.



These pictures she sent were taken this past December.

Thank you so much for helping us with our really difficult cases.

Aggie Laytak

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## UPDATE ON MISSY | AUG 2018

Missy learned that life is full of wonderful second chances. She was adopted by lovely couple and they think she is lovely too. Missy found a new beginning and a great Mom who tells us they are honored to have a girl like her join their family. We are all so happy!

Kay DeLoach  
Westie Rescue of OC &  
Beyond



## GET TO KNOW THE BOARD

### Rachel Phelps WESTIEMED MARKETING COORDINATOR

Rachel Phelps is a pet industry influencer best known for her development of the nationally recognized dog blog PrestonSpeaks.com. She is a professional member of the Dog Writers Association of America and the Cat Writers Association. She is a regular speaker on pet issues, rescue topics, and the use of social media. She oversees the social media endeavors, website, and general PR for several non-profits. She and her husband Brad own Preston Media Group, a full-service media and event planning agency specializing in the pet industry.

Rachel is also very involved in the animal welfare community. She is the founder and president of the Preston Cares Network Westie Rescue which covers Indiana and Kentucky. She is also on the board of Shorty's Rescue, an international non-profit that works to provide free veterinary care for animals in need throughout the United States and Mexico.

Rachel and her husband have five "fur kids" – Preston, Elvis, Daisy, and Piper (all Westies) and one cat named Dillon who is very much outnumbered by little white dogs in the house!

Rachel joined the WestieMed Board in 2012.

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?



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!

1

### MAKE A DONATION

- Mail a check or money order donation to: *WestieMed, Inc.  
13 Spire View Road  
Ridgefield, CT 06877*
- Make a secure online credit card donation
- Make an automatic monthly subscription donation.
- Donate Westie treasures for WestieMed's Facebook Auctions .
- 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.

2

### 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

3

### 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 Facebook Auctions.
- Shop at our Cafe Press Store - the WestieMedCafe featuring Westie designs by many talented artists.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Lisa Gryskiewicz

### Ex-Officio Board Member – Consulting Attorney

Lisa Curry, Esq

## 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 acknowledge 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.

[Light a Virtual Candle >](#)

## Our Mission

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.



## CONTACT INFO

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