

2009

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FOR THE LOVE OF WESTIES

WESTIEMED

Karin Parish, Editor

FOR THE LOVE OF WESTIES

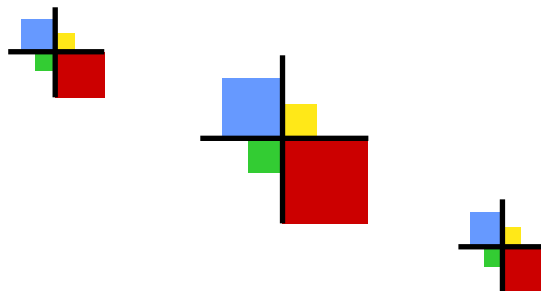
Dear Westie Lovers,

2008 was a record year for WestieMed, the all-volunteer non-profit organization created to provide financial aid for rescued Westies who otherwise, because of illness or injury, might never find their forever homes.

Twenty-four (24) Westies, ranging in age from 12 weeks to 14 years old were helped by WestieMed in 2008.

Our appreciation goes out to all of the regional Westie clubs, groups, companies and individual supporters who gave generously toward the health and welfare of West Highland White Terriers. We could not have done it without you!

We at WestieMed thank you for your heartfelt donations. Together we have made an enormous difference in the lives of Westies. With your help, we can do even more in 2009!



Year	Westies Helped	Funding Provided
2000	14	\$ 5,565.97
2001	7	\$ 8,295.63
2002	19	\$10,642.23
2003	14	\$10,162.15
2004	14	\$15,368.19
2005	20	\$21,323.64
2006	15	\$11,211.43
2007	22	\$21,461.83
2008	24	\$24,222.92
TOTAL	149	\$128,253.99

Mission Statement

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.

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ABOUT WESTIEMED

Since its inception in 2000, WestieMed has become a recognized force within the Westie rescue community due to its unique purpose of providing the financial assistance necessary to save the lives of rescued Westies in need of medical treatment and has provided over \$128,000 in financial support towards their medical expenses.

WestieMed is an all-volunteer, nonprofit corporation created to distribute financial aid to ill or injured rescue Westies. The organization was founded by a small group of Westie rescuers located across the country who saw a need to provide a resource where medical treatment funding for an abandoned or rescued Westie was unavailable or inadequate.

In August 2000 WestieMed was granted tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization is registered in the state of Maryland as a charitable organization. Articles of Incorporation were also filed in the state of Maryland. WestieMed is uniquely the only tax-deductible organization in the United States specifically providing financial help for rescued Westies in need of medical attention.

As an internet-based organization, WestieMed is able to intercede quickly on behalf of rescued Westies in need of medical attention by using the communication powers of the internet. Also, the organization maintains a toll-free, web-based voice mail message center at 1-877-853-9469 to better serve inquiries.

WestieMed Website

The WestieMed website was developed in January 2000 and is currently being maintained under the direction of the Board of Directors. The website educates the public on various animal health and welfare issues through the information and updates published about the cases funded by WestieMed. Solicitation of volunteers and contributions is made via the website.

Support Independent Rescuers

In addition to providing support to all Westie rescuers through the organization, WestieMed also works to provide referrals to volunteers who can transport, foster and otherwise care for a rescued animal. The organization helps facilitate the contact of the appropriate volunteer with a specific rescuer's needs.

Presence at Dog Shows and Events

WestieMed provides a presence at dog shows and other dog-related events across the country throughout the year to continue educating the public on WestieMed's Mission. Presence at these events also facilitates contacts with rescuers, volunteers and donors. WestieMed has developed brochures, business cards, ballpoint pens and plastic canned dog food lids as outreach tools for use in this regard. Among the dog shows attended was the West Highland White Terrier Club of America's prestigious Annual Specialty Show in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

Throughout the year, WestieMed articles and advertisements are contained in the *Westie Imprint*, the news magazine of the West Highland White Terrier Club of America with a readership of over 1,100.



"Together we can make a difference...one Westie at a time!"

FUNDING ACTIVITIES

The WestieMed Board of Directors is responsible for the careful screening of each Application for Aid submitted to ensure that Funding Guidelines are consistently and fairly met. WestieMed's Veterinary Advisory Board is consulted where there are questions about diagnosis, treatment and expected outcome. Further, the Board is responsible for appropriately disbursing funds in a timely manner for all approved cases. During 2008, 24 new cases met the WestieMed Funding Guidelines to receive financial support towards medical expenses which totaled \$24,222.92 .

Since inception, WestieMed continuously has maintained a positive cash flow and has established an exemplary record in its ability to fund eligible cases. To ensure that demand for future financial aid will continue to be met, WestieMed is responsible for the ongoing development of funding sources. The Board of Directors works year round implementing numerous fundraising efforts to protect and maintain the organization's viability.

Throughout 2008, these efforts included solicitation of individual contributions, club and group donations, corporate affiliations, planned gifts and donations of in-kind items. Several artists auctioned their paintings and donated their graphics through WestieMed's Artists to the Rescue program. The Board also sponsored eBay auctions and a WestieMed pre-holiday raffle with in-kind donations. WestieMed's online Gift Shop offered a wide variety of Westie-themed products throughout the year. The Pedigree Foundation awarded a grant to WestieMed during 2008.

Additionally, the Board has supported special events held for the benefit of WestieMed such as the extremely successful WestieWalks held in various locations throughout the country.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Our deepest appreciation goes out to all who have given so generously toward the health and welfare of rescued West Highland White Terriers.

As a nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization, WestieMed is funded solely by contributions from the general public. Financial contributions may be deductible for federal income tax purposes to the full extent allowed by law. Each year WestieMed's activities have been fulfilled, thanks to the donations from our supporters.

WestieMed has established two funds to help rescued Westies — the General Fund and the Goober Memorial Fund. The Goober Memorial Fund was created in August 2001 to assist Westies with congenital orthopedic conditions. The fund was named for Goober, the little Westie who touched and inspired so many people with his courage and will to live. The General Fund is used to assist Westies with other medical conditions.

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

WestieMed will provide monetary assistance toward non-routine medical expenses for non-terminally ill Westies or Westie mixes displaying the physical and behavior attributes of a purebred Westie who are abandoned, rescued or recent adoption cases (up to 3 months) and for whom no other funding is available or is insufficient.

WestieMed will accept applications for assistance from any group, organization, or individual who is of legal age (18 years). The age of the Westie is not a limiting factor as WestieMed will decide each case as to the quality of future life for that dog. No funds will be released without specific assurances that the dog has been or will be spayed or neutered.

WestieMed will provide monetary support to reimburse or directly pay veterinary services for medical expenses of rescued Westies. No rescuer or other individual will be permitted to make a profit from funds disbursed by WestieMed.

FUNDING PROCESS

Just as each Westie is unique, each Westie's rescue situation and health condition is also unique. The following is the general process by which an application is submitted, eligibility is determined and financial assistance is disbursed for rescued Westies in need of medical attention.

STEP ONE: How to Apply

- Confirm your Westie meets all the requirements of the Funding Guidelines as stated on the WestieMed website.
- Submit an online application from the WestieMed website
- Email, fax or mail a photo of your Westie and the veterinary invoice or estimate to the WestieMed Applications Coordinator.

STEP TWO: Determine Eligibility and Approve Funding

- The Board of Directors reviews application for eligibility in accordance with the Funding Guidelines
- The Applications Coordinator may contact you, your veterinarian or the WestieMed Veterinary Advisory Board for additional information
- The Board of Directors determines and approves the funding

STEP THREE: Disbursing Funds

- Write a summary of your dog's medical condition and rescue story for the WestieMed website
- Approved funding will be issued by the WestieMed Treasurer
- Stay in contact with WestieMed while treatment is ongoing and for a period of at least one year following completion of treatment.

Due to the high cost of veterinary care and the limited budgets of most rescuers, not all rescued Westies are given an opportunity for restored health and a better life. Rescuers are often placed in the difficult position of making decisions based solely on available resources.

WestieMed strives to offer financial assistance to rescuers nationwide allowing them to foster, rehabilitate and nurture as many Westies in rescue situations as possible.

WESTIES WE HELPED IN 2008



Name of Dog: **Jack**

Age of Dog: 11 months old

Rescue State: Illinois

Medical Condition: Tibial Tuberosity Avulsion

Jack is an 11-month-old Westie with an indomitable spirit. His new owner states, *"He thinks he can fly! It's true with most Westies, but especially true with Jack. He's adventurous, curious and loveable."* So much so that just hours after he arrived in his new home, he broke his leg trying to jump onto a bed. Two days later, he was in surgery to repair the serious break. Jack had been surrendered by a family with two special needs children and too little time or resources to care for this rambunctious Westie puppy. His new family had plenty of time and love to give, but needed an assist with these unexpected expenses. His new family turned to WestieMed for help, and found it. The biggest challenge was keeping Jack quiet during weeks of recuperation. For several months after the surgery, Jack would be plagued with periodic limping and swelling of the affected leg. Sure enough, his vet discovered that the little guy had pulled his pins loose. This required another surgery, the second in six months! The good news was that the broken bone had healed perfectly,

meaning Jack should have no further problems. Jack's pins and wires were removed to eliminate the limping and swelling. *"He has become a very expensive dog – but make no mistake that we love him and would not give him up for anything. He is full of life and character. Makes us laugh on a daily basis. And he is back to being the fearless dog with lightning speed."* But of course, he's a Westie!



Name of Dog: **Buddy**

Age of Dog: 18 months old

Rescue State: Indiana

Medical Condition: Addison's Disease

Buddy was rescued from a shelter in northern Indiana by a volunteer for Indiana Westie Rescue. He had been abused by a previous owner, yet he had a pleasant personality. Buddy had some anger issues to work out and that was progressing nicely with his foster family. At first, all seemed to be well. But then Buddy's personality drastically changed. He became lethargic, which wasn't like him at all, and then he stopped eating and drinking. A two-hour drive through a snow storm brought him to a vet's office where he was diagnosed with Addison's disease, requiring ongoing monthly medications.

WestieMed helped with funding for the diagnostic testing and initial treatment. Today Buddy is doing well, adopted by his foster family, who couldn't bear to part with him. His new family writes, *"Thank you for your support through WestieMed. Buddy has been improving very nicely and is just about his normal self. With the proper monthly (treatment), his life will continue as a normal dog and will be happy the rest of his life. I guess we all share the love for these wonderful dogs. Thanks again for all you do."*



Name of Dog: **Roy**

Age of Dog: 14 months old

Rescue State: Virginia

Medical Condition: Pulmonic Stenosis

Roy and his brother, Robbie, were rescued from a small commercial breeder in May 2007. Both had been diagnosed with Grade III heart murmurs, according to the breeder. Since the breeder couldn't sell the dogs in that condition, she was planning to euthanize them unless a local rescue group would take them. Subsequent examinations at Virginia Tech's Veterinary Hospital determined that while both boys had heart murmurs, Roy's was much worse at a Grade V-VI. Diagnosis in May 2007 was eventual death from congestive heart failure without a balloon valvuloplasty to open the stenosis and decrease the pressure on the pulmonary valve. WestieMed agreed to help, but the surgery had to wait because vets recommended that Roy finish growing before any medical procedure was undertaken. So in January 2008, his rescuers came to

WestieMed for help assistance – and got it. But when the catheter was inserted for the ballooning, Roy's blood pressure and oxygen levels dropped dangerously low so the catheter was removed and surgery was postponed indefinitely. Roy's rescuer writes, *"I am sad that Roy was unable to have the surgery that could have extended his life, however I am very grateful to WestieMed for giving us the opportunity to try. Roy's foster family is committed to loving and caring for him for the rest of his life... We could not have gotten here without your help!!!"*



Name of Dog: **Hope**

Age of Dog: 2 years old

Rescue State: Indiana

Medical Condition: Fractured Pelvis

Hope was rescued from a Northern Kentucky animal shelter where she was taken after having been hit by a car and found lying in the road with tire marks on her back. She was in shock and pain when taken to the shelter, but received no treatment while she was held for the requisite number of days to see if anyone came for her. No one did. As soon as she was able to be rescued, she was taken from the shelter and immediately brought to a vet where x-rays revealed that her pelvic bone was broken in two places, requiring immediate surgery. WestieMed helped ensure this little princess got the care she needed to fully recover and go on to her forever home.

*"Many thanks to WestieMed for caring about
this wonderful little Westie!"*



Name of Dog: **Alice**

Age of Dog: 3-4 years old

Rescue State: Illinois

Medical Condition: Heartworm

Alice was used as a backyard breed dog who was bred every time she came into heat. The breeder surrendered Alice to an independent rescuer. Left out in the yard all summer, Alice was full of fleas. It was obvious that she had never seen a groomer's brush, and in her vain efforts to find relief from the flea bites, she had scratched all of the hair from her rear end. In short, Alice was a mess. But the worst part was that this valiant little lady was pregnant – and heartworm positive. Alice had her puppies, all of whom were spayed or neutered and tested negative for heartworm. However, Alice had to undergo painful heartworm treatments. It wasn't easy, but with WestieMed's help she came through with flying colors and today is heartworm negative. Her rescuer writes, "Thank

you all so much for your help with Alice and her care. We have become very attached to her and her wonderful personality. She the most special of Westies I have had in foster care. A true diamond."

"I can't tell you how much it has meant to me to receive this help. WestieMed is the best!!"



Name of Dog: **Robbie**

Age of Dog: 18 months old

Rescue State: Virginia

Medical Condition: Heart Murmur, Congestive Heart Failure

Robbie was rescued along with his brother, Roy, by Canine Friends Foundation, which got them from a small commercial breeder who no longer wanted them since neither could be bred or sold. Their diagnosis of congenital heart murmurs foretold of a shortened life and eventual death from congestive heart failure. Because Robbie was not showing signs of clinical heart failure at the time of the initial evaluation, it was recommended that he

be allowed to grow up and be monitored closely for any changes in condition. He stayed in foster care and for a few months he was as active and happy as any Westie pup, but then a second evaluation revealed that his heart had seriously deteriorated. Immediate surgery was required, and WestieMed again responded to help. The surgery done at Virginia Tech was completely successful and although he will continue to be monitored for any unexpected changes, today Robbie is doing well and happily enjoying life in his new forever home. His rescuer states, "I cannot begin to thank WestieMed enough for the financial help that allowed sweet Robbie to go ahead and have his surgery-he is such a good boy and so worth saving! I am so happy for Robbie and so grateful to WestieMed for helping to get us to this time and place. He is a wonderful little Westie boy who is just lovin' life!"

The Memphis Four



Name of Dogs: **Ian, Millie, Izzy and MacKenzie**

Age of Dogs: 5 years old

Rescue State: Tennessee

Medical Conditions: Multiple Severe Infections, Dry Eye, Worms



The Memphis Four were puppy mill rescues that were released to Westie Rescue Tennessee by the breeder who had caged and repeatedly bred them for the first five years of their lives. They were used up and basically thrown away. When they were placed in the care of rescue, they were frightened, trembling and almost unrecognizable as Westies. Their rescuer states, *"There are no words to describe the filthy, disgusting shape they were in. Each one of them had a blank look in their eyes that I will never forget. I had to look hard to find their little eyes. They were covered by so much dirty, matted hair."* Upon examination by a vet, the dogs were found to have a myriad of medical issues



including severe urinary tract infections, bloody urine, yeast-infected ears and paws, skin infections, broken teeth, dental diseases, bladder stones and dry-eye as well as hook worms and whip worms. In short, they were in awful shape and would require considerable and costly medical care. WestieMed was there to provide the necessary financial assistance. Ian, Millie, Izzy and MacKenzie spent many days at the vet's office, just getting enough daily meds into their systems so they would be healthy enough to move on to their foster homes. Through the compassion, kindness and patience of their foster families, all four Westies continued their recovery and began to blossom, both physically and emotionally, before eventually being adopted. For the first time in their lives, Ian, Millie, Izzy and MacKenzie are learning not to be afraid, learning how to trust, learning how to play with toys and learning how to live in a world where they are loved. Their rescuer writes, *"We are so very grateful for WestieMed's generosity. Thanks to WestieMed, our rescue did not go into the red after taking in these four sweet Westies. We did not have to temporarily shut down our rescue while we paid off our debt and then try to start over. Thanks to WestieMed, we are able to continue to move forward with our determination stronger than ever."*

"If Westies could talk, I am sure they would sing the praises of this wonderful organization. I know four little ones who would be in the front row of that choir!"



Name of Dog: **Maggie**

Age of Dog: 4 years old

Rescue State: Missouri

Medical Condition: Severe Mange



Maggie was misdiagnosed with allergies and suffered for two years. Her previous owner could no longer afford the vet bills to treat her and the stress of her not getting any better was too much. Maggie was consequently surrendered to Westie Rescue Missouri (WRM). With WestieMed's help, WRM took Maggie to a different vet, who correctly diagnosed her condition as severe mange on three paws and under her chin. The new vet said her skin was so badly damaged it will always be a black color. Once Maggie was given the proper treatment, she started to heal. A flare up four months later required additional treatment, but she soon was on the mend again. Maggie was adopted and found her forever home. She has now blossomed into a beautiful Westie girl. *"Maggie is doing great and loves her new home...She has given us so much joy and love and we feel that we are the lucky ones to have found her."*

*"I cannot begin to express my gratitude to WestieMed
for the support they have given."*



Name of Dog: **Butters**

Age of Dog: 3 years old

Rescue State: Pennsylvania

Medical Condition: Extensive Ear Infections

Butters is a sweet Westie boy who started life as a puppy mill stud dog. He was taken into rescue in November 2007 when the mill was shut down. He was then adopted by a young woman who found herself facing steep medical costs to treat Butters. It was determined that he had extensive infections resulting from allergies in both ears that had gone untreated for years and now threatened to block both ear canals. Vets at the University of Pennsylvania examined Butters and recommended ear ablations and ongoing allergy treatments. WestieMed responded, and ensured that Butters received the care he needed so he could find out what life outside of a puppy mill was all about. After his ear surgery, Butters' new owner wrote, *"I am so happy to know he can finally live without the pain he has went through for the first three years of his life. Butters has gone from a low energy dog who was constantly scratching his ears to a happy, playful, and affectionate dog. I am so thankful that WestieMed has made it possible for Butters now to have the life he always has deserved. Thanks for all of your help!"*



Name of Dog: **Emma**

Age of Dog: 5 months old

Rescue State: Virginia

Medical Condition: Pulmonic Stenosis

Emma was just hours from being euthanized by her breeder when rescued by Canine Friends Foundation (CFF). When her rescuer saw Emma, she was *"shocked by her small size and thin frame - she only weighed three pounds!"* Her rescuer speculated that the breeder had just stuck her in a cage and neglected her after he got the initial diagnosis of a grade III/IV heart murmur. Emma was referred to Virginia Tech's Vet School for

evaluation, and valvuloplasty surgery to stretch and open her heart's narrow pulmonic valve was promptly scheduled. The surgery was successful, and today Emma is a thriving Westie puppy. *"Again, WestieMed has provided financial support and helped save the life of one of CFF's precious rescued Westies. It is hard to believe that breeders routinely kill these little ones with heart murmurs without giving them a chance."*



Name of Dog: **Double Trouble**

Age of Dog: 4-6 months old

Rescue State: Maryland

Medical condition: Hepatic Liver Shunt

Double Trouble, affectionately called "Double", was surrendered to Maryland Westie Rescue in July by a backyard breeder in North Carolina who didn't want to spend the time or money needed to figure out what was wrong with this little tyke. Yet it was obvious something

was seriously wrong. A visit to an Annapolis vet led to the discovery that Double had an extra hepatic shunt in his liver – a congenital condition that prevents the liver from filtering toxins out of the bloodstream. Fixing this required surgery to repair the shunt - this is where WestieMed entered the picture providing financial assistance. Double's surgery took place in August and was 100% successful. Weeks later, Double Trouble was living up to his name, running and playing with his foster siblings as he waited to go to his forever home.



WestieMed Gift Shop

We are delighted to offer you a wide selection of unique Westie items in WestieMed's online Gift Shop. You will find great gifts for yourself and your friends for all occasions. All proceeds from these items will go toward helping rescued Westies in need of medical attention. Help us give the gift of "HOPE" to a Westie. On behalf of the Westies your purchases will help, **THANK YOU!**

www.westiemed.org/shop



Name of Dog: **Angel**

Age of Dog: 7-8 years old

Rescue State: Ohio

Medical Condition: Pulmonary Fibrosis (Westie Lung Disease)

Angel was found wandering in traffic near Louisa, Kentucky, very near the West Virginia border, on Christmas Day 2007. How she got there is a mystery – and a miracle. She was in very bad shape with infections in both ears and one eye, and it was obvious that Angel had given birth to multiple litters in her life. Further diagnostic testing showed that she had an enlarged heart and a mammary tumor, which later was found to be benign. Angel received medical treatment for what was believed to be congestive heart failure, but her symptoms progres-

sively became worse. Several months later, a cardiologist diagnosed Angel with Pulmonary Fibrosis, also known as Westie Lung Disease – a chronic scarring of the lung tissue that is seen mostly in Westies. WestieMed stepped in to help, and within 12 hours of her initial treatment Angel's activity level improved dramatically and she *"began acting like a puppy!"* Today, with three respiratory medications and use of an inhaler twice a day, Angel reportedly is happy, full of life and more confident with each day. *"Quite a contrast from when she first came, so timid and fearful and then unable to do much with the shortness of breath and coughing. Angel wakes up full of energy and ready to go. Angel has truly been given another chance and she is taking every opportunity to live her new life to the fullest. Each day is a new adventure. Angel is truly an angel!"*

"May God bless WestieMed for that work that you do."



Name of Dog: **Lillie**

Age of dog: 3 years old

Rescue State: Missouri

Medical Condition: Thyroid Deficiency

Lillie was a stray, adopted through Petfinder from a shelter in Warrenton County, Missouri in July 2008. After being in her new forever home for only two weeks, Lillie began to suffer from "spells" of 6-12 hours in duration during which she would eat and drink excessively, then cough, vomit and become lethargic to the point she could not hold her head up. A series of tests at the local vet ruled out Addison's and several other likely causes, but while the cause of her illness was undetermined, it became very clear that Lillie was dying. At that point, WestieMed received an urgent request

to fund testing of Lillie by a cardiologist. The cardiologist ran a series of tests, one of which determined that Lillie's thyroid was barely functioning. Lillie was put on thyroid meds, which put much of the spring back in her step, but she wasn't out of the woods yet. Doctors continue to monitor her for signs that she may have a tumor on the pituitary gland, with the pressure inside her head causing the atypical seizures. By the end of the year, Lillie's spells had lessened and she was holding her own. *"Hopefully, we will stay on course. So far no other problems have come up. Now, if I could get her to sleep past 6:30 a.m. on a weekend we would really be making progress!"*



Name of Dog: **Cilla**

Age of Dog: 6-7 years old

Rescue State: New Hampshire

Medical Condition: Severe Dental Disease

Cilla is a middle-aged female Westie who is estimated to be approximately 6 to 7 years old. An independent rescuer found an ad on internet selling site stating Cilla needed to be rehomed ASAP. The rescuer replied to the ad and was instructed to rendezvous in a parking lot that evening. When she did, she found a trembling, frightened and very thin Westie who was visibly neglected and in all likelihood had been abused. From bits and pieces of the story that eventually came out, her rescuer learned that most of Cilla's years had been spent confined in a basement. She came to her new life with nothing more than a sandwich bag of dry dog food and a leash tied around her neck. She hid under the bed for several days and ate very little. A trip to the vet revealed that Cilla had severe dental disease with an infection that contributed to her being malnourished - it simply hurt too much to eat. Despite everything she has been through, Cilla is a gentle and sweet Westie who seemed to know her rescuer was not going to hurt her. The rescuer and her son soon became very attached to Cilla and decided to find a way to restore Cilla's health. Someone told Cilla's rescuer about WestieMed and she applied for financial help to give Cilla the dental care she needed. WestieMed funded Cilla's expenses, part of which were paid with the remainder of the Pedigree Foundation grant. Within days, Cilla's dental problems were history and Cilla was gaining weight as well as getting stronger and healthier. She was adopted by her loving and caring rescuer who writes, *"I am elated with your fast response, your organization truly saved this dog...I thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this possible for Cilla and giving her a very hopeful, healthy and happy life ahead."*



Name of Dogs: **Gilley & Kenna**

Age of Dog: 6-8 months old

Rescue State: Oklahoma

Medical Condition: Patent Ductus Arteriosus

Gilley and Kenna were rejects from a puppy mill – worthless because a genetic condition meant they couldn't be bred and couldn't be sold. So at the age of only 6-8 months, they were surrendered by the breeder to a rescue group in Edmond, OK, who came to WestieMed for help. Both Gilley, a male, and Kenna, a female, were born with a potentially fatal cardiac defect that would deny either of them a chance to reach adulthood unless surgically repaired. Echocardiograms at Oklahoma State University's vet school confirmed that they had profound Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA), or holes in their hearts that should have closed shortly after they were born. Fortunately, there were no other congenital defects and both pups came through their surgeries without any problem. After several weeks of forced inactivity while recuperating, both Gilley and Kenna were raring to go, cramming eight months of lost puppyhood into each and every day. *"They run, play, jump in the kiddie pool and run and play some more. Thank you, WestieMed for considering our application for aid and for helping these two adorable Little White Dogs!"*

"Thanks, WestieMed, for giving these little ones their lives back!"

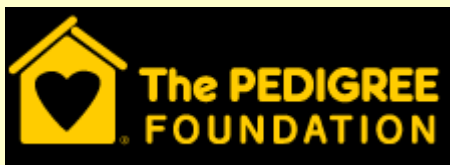
The Pedigree Foundation Awards Grant

WestieMed, Inc. thanks The Pedigree Foundation for the grant to help fund McKayla and Cilla's medical needs.

The Pedigree Brand believes that every dog deserves a loving home. The Pedigree Foundation is a philanthropic organization dedicated to providing grants to support other programs that help make life better for homeless dogs. WestieMed is pleased to announce it received a grant from The Pedigree Foundation in November 2008.

WestieMed wishes to express its thanks and gratitude to The Pedigree Foundation for this support. This grant enabled WestieMed to help McKayla and Cilla, two Westies who were in need of medical attention and new, loving homes.

These little ones were luckier than most. They found homes right away with the people who helped them get help and get better. It doesn't always work that way, of course. Sometimes it takes weeks or months to find just the right forever home for a very special Westie in need. It can be a long road for some of these dogs, but WestieMed exists to ensure that rescued Westies get the help they need along the way.



Name of Dog: **McKayla**

Age of Dog: 9 years old

Rescue State: Oklahoma

Medical condition: Pyoderma and Torn Anterior Cruciate Ligament

When McKayla's widowed "mom" passed away, she was left with family members who either did not want her or could not take her. So at age 9, McKayla was surrendered to Oklahoma Westie Rescue. When the rescue group picked up McKayla, they saw that she had a bad limp of her rear leg and was infested with fleas. The limp was subsequently diagnosed as a torn Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) of her right rear knee and needed surgical repair. The surgery, however, had to be delayed as McKayla had developed a skin condition known as pyoderma from the flea infestation. McKayla was placed in a foster home for a month until the pyoderma cleared up. The rescue group applied to WestieMed for financial assistance for her surgery. McKayla's ACL repair surgery took place and it was fully funded by WestieMed's Pedigree Foundation grant. After a few weeks of recuperation, McKayla was returned to her foster family, who decided that this orphaned girl needed to become part of their family. So today, McKayla is enjoying her second life with a new knee, a new family who loves and wants her and two active Westie siblings with whom she can run and play. Thanks to WestieMed and the Pedigree Foundation, it is a great ending to what otherwise could have been a very sad story. As a senior Westie, McKayla is a very lucky girl.

WestieMed's Café Press Store

Thanks to CafePress.com, WestieMed is now selling a number of products featuring unique Westie graphics donated by renowned artists through our Artists to the Rescue program. We offer a wide variety of apparel and other items featuring beautiful Westie designs by Kirsten Fox, Carol Sanger, Suzanne Renaud, Barbara Scotten and Dawn Barnes. Proceeds of all sales will support our mission to help rescued Westies!

www.cafepress.com/westiemed



Name of Dog: **Herman**

Age of Dog: 6 years old

Rescue State: Nebraska

Medical Condition: Torn Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL)

Although you could never tell it from looking at this handsome boy now, Herman was the runt of his litter. He was given away by his breeder and, after six years in what he thought was his forever home, Herman was surrendered to Little White Dog Rescue when the cost of repairing a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his left rear leg was far more than his owner could afford. If surgery was not done, Herman would have developed arthritis in the leg to a greater degree than other dogs his age. Herman did not use the left hind leg unless he was forced to do so. Instead, he hopped on three legs during a walk, and stood with the affected leg held off the floor. The surgery to repair the ligament was not complicated, but it was expensive. And afterward, Herman had to endure two full months of total inactivity – probably the most difficult challenge for a Westie. After that, physical therapy would be necessary.

Thanks to WestieMed's ability to provide the needed funding, Herman received the care he needed. Today, he's as healthy and active as any Westie his age and, after being given away twice before, is now living happily in his forever home.

"Little White Dog Rescue would like to thank WestieMed and the many kind, caring people who donate to this worthy cause for helping our group help Herman. Because of what you do, we can continue to do what we do...save dogs!"



Name of Dog: **Westley**

Age of Dog: 10 months old

Rescue State: Texas

Medical condition: Ulcerated Eye

Westley was taken to the vet for boarding – not a big deal, usually – but this time the owner never came back for him. He no longer wanted Westley because he was blind in one eye. So after the requisite waiting period, the vet contacted Westie Rescue in Austin, Texas. Westley had suffered a serious eye injury to his left eye when he was just a wee pup and prior “flap” surgery done at the time had not been successful. As a result, Westley had no vision at all in that eye although his other eye was perfect and he had full vision with

it. The specialist said the best option was to remove the damaged eye, as glaucoma was developing due to increased ocular pressure and pain was occurring. WestieMed responded to a request for help and surgery was performed to remove the damaged eye. *“Since coming back to his foster home after the surgery, you would never know he had anything wrong with him. He is an active one-year-old Westie, into everything and loving life in general.”*

“We are very grateful that WestieMed agreed to help with the costs of surgery. Westley now has a chance for a long and healthy life ahead of him. Thank you, WestieMed.”



Name of Dog: **Mac**

Age of Dog: 14 years old

Rescue State: Indiana

Medical Condition: Skin Allergies

This grand old gentleman came into rescue after his “dad” developed cancer and his “mom” could no longer care for him. Of necessity, she boarded him in kennels for months at a time. He didn’t get much attention, and as a result his skin allergies took hold with a vengeance. By the time he came to Westie Rescue Indiana, his skin was in bad condition, with several hairless patches on his back and legs that he was constantly biting, and several growths on his face,

ears and legs. It all combined to create “a face only a mother could love.” After a few weeks in rescue, with meds and a special diet to address his skin issues, Mac was adopted by a family in northern Indiana, but it didn’t take. Mac wasn’t feeling all that great, so he would growl a lot, which didn’t go over all that well. So for the third time in two weeks, Mac went to yet another foster home. Adoption prospects for Mac were not very good -- his sight was failing, his joints were riddled with arthritis and he will be on costly medications for the rest of his life for his skin condition. So Mac’s original foster mom, a volunteer with Westie Rescue, decided to give Mac his forever home. WestieMed helped with the initial vet bills so that there would be more funds available to her for Mac’s ongoing care. *“We are blessed to have Mac and will love him and keep him safe for the rest of his life. Thank you Westie-Med for helping us make Mac comfortable for what time he has remaining.”*



Name of Dog: **Zoe**

Age of Dog: approximately 12 weeks old

Rescue State: Wisconsin

Medical condition: Pneumonia and Parvo

The name "Zoe" means life, which from her earliest days looked like it might be a sad misnomer. When Zoe was adopted from a shelter in Wautoma, Wisconsin, at the age of approximately 12 weeks, she weighed just four pounds. Within days, the joy she brought to her new family turned to a deepening concern as the little puppy became increasingly ill. When the shelter that had

adopted out Zoe was unresponsive, her family turned to WestieMed for immediate help with the escalating medical bills. An initial diagnosis of respiratory infection and coccidia was ratcheted up to pneumonia when Zoe didn't respond to antibiotics, and continued to grow weaker. Chest x-rays confirmed her more serious condition, and she was immediately put on oxygen and given food and meds intravenously. For five long days she held on, fighting valiantly for the life she had yet to live. But in the end, it was too much for her little heart to take, and Zoe crossed the Rainbow Bridge. *"I will always remember little Zoe, she was such a trooper and hung on as long as she possibly could. She was only with me a very short time, but that time will never be forgotten. She has left a footprint on my heart. I truly want to thank WestieMed for all of your support. It is an amazing organization that you have."*

Paws and Remember



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.

www.westiemed.org/pawsandremember

HOW YOU CAN 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!

MAKE A DONATION

- Make a one-time credit card donation or an automatic monthly subscription donation at www.westiemed.org/donate
- Mail a check or money order donation to:

WestieMed, Inc.
2108 Fulton Avenue, Unit #3
Cincinnati, OH 45206
- Donate Westie treasures for WestieMed's online eBay 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*

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 the affiliate companies listed on the WestieMed website
- Shop in WestieMed's online eBay Auctions
- Shop at our new Cafe Press Store - the WestieMed Café at www.cafepress.com/westiemed

VOLUNTEER

- Help organize a Fundraising event or WestieWalk for the benefit of WestieMed
- Offer your talents and time for a WestieMed Committee
- Get news & updates through our Friends of WestieMed YahooGroups email list
- Help spread the word about WestieMed
- Join the WestieMed cause on Facebook

www.westiemed.org/help

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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.***



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“Honor your Westies by caring for those less fortunate.”