

# WestieMed News

Winter 2014

imagine

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

## WestieMed says THANK YOU!

In November, the first WestieMed Facebook auction took place. A dedicated group of volunteers put together a well-run and profitable auction.

Thank You #1...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!

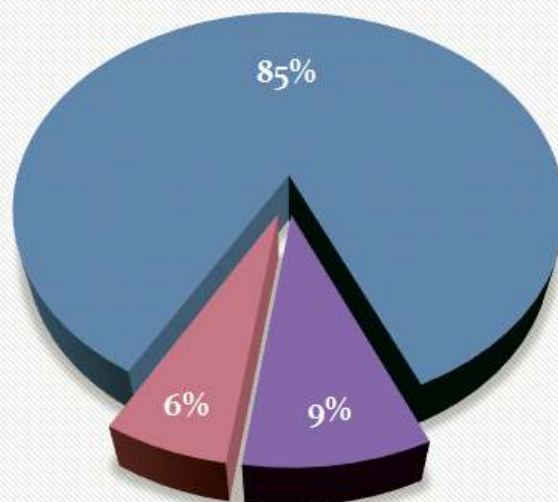
Thank You #2...the bidders! It was amazing to watch the bidding, especially in the last hour or two. People were watching their favorite items closely, ready to jump in if they were outbid. Some items were extremely popular, resulting in exciting "bidding wars".



Thank you #3...Auction Coordinator Marcia Reimer and her committee! You all did a fantastic job!!! Without you, we would not have had such success.

**OVER \$20,000 RAISED FOR WESTIES!!!**

2013 WestieMed Expenses



■ Case Funding ■ Fundraising ■ Management

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## DAISY

Daisy was a tiny young Westie in a lot of pain. She had fractured her leg but her owner could not afford the surgery. Daisy's leg was splinted in hopes that it would heal on its own, but without surgery her leg started to heal improperly and would have caused Daisy a lifetime of problems.

Soon Daisy found herself in a shelter in Evansville, IN...dropped off to become someone else's concern. Fortunately, a caring shelter employee contacted Westie Rescue Indiana (WRI).

A WRI volunteer picked Daisy up the next day and immediately took her to the vet.

Ultrasounds and X-rays showed the fracture was more extensive and complicated than originally thought. Daisy was referred to an orthopedic specialist in Louisville where she underwent extensive surgery.

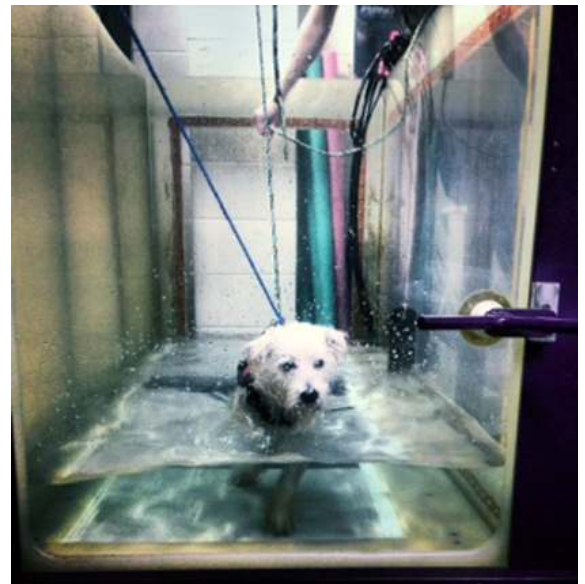
Daisy's vet bills soon climbed into the thousands, but one look into her trusting eyes and there was no question that she deserved a

chance. She was a trooper, making friends wherever she went, doing what was asked without complaint and *always* bestowing kisses!

The WRI volunteer devoted much of her life over the next several months to giving Daisy the loving care required. She said the most difficult part of the recovery process was keeping this energetic Westie pup quiet enough to heal. After several weeks, Daisy was well enough to begin a course of water and physical therapy necessary to ensure she would be able to put weight on the leg and eventually walk without a limp.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, a concerned shelter worker and some very accomplished vet and PT specialists, Daisy now has a full and happy life ahead. Thanks to help from WestieMed, Daisy's bills can be paid without jeopardizing WRI's ability to help the next Westie in need!

Read Daisy's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/daisy/>



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

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

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

## DUCHESS

Duchess arrived at Westie and Scottie Rescue Houston after her two moms died. Because she is diabetic and blind from cataracts, no family members were willing to care for her with daily injections and the cost of insulin. Duchess spent seven weeks at her veterinarian's office before the family released her to WSRH. Her first stop was the intake house, where she was introduced to the resident pack and other foster. Duchess was put on a healthy diet and taken to see the rescue's vet.

Duchess had always been an only dog so she was a bit overwhelmed with all the action and new dogs around her. After a few days she was able to maneuver around the dog room and showed her love of "caves" by crawling onto an open shelf in a cabinet which became her daytime safe area.



Fortunately, it was only a week before first-time foster parents took her to their home. She quickly learned to navigate the house and established cave areas under furniture. She would hide after meals to avoid her injections and this has become a game!

One discovery...Duchess is a barker. When she is unsure of her surroundings, can't find the toy she dropped, or wants a playmate, the barking begins. She has a strong prey drive



and spends hours "looking" for squirrels as she and her foster brothers run the fence line while the squirrel runs along the top. When the squirrel is gone, the boys go into the house but Duchess continues to run along the fence, barking. She likes to play with squeaky toys or toys with bells and when she drops the toy, the barking begins until she finds it.

Duchess and her foster brothers visit the dog park and Duchess plays with smaller dogs. She is socialized with other dogs, but blindness makes meeting new dogs difficult. When new dogs approach her quickly or bark near her, she becomes frightened and looks for Mom or Dad.

After monitoring Duchess's blood sugar levels, the vet suggested that Duchess might be a candidate for cataract surgery. A specialist started her on eye drops to control swelling behind her corneas. After a month of treatment, Duchess was approved for surgery. The specialist agreed to waive half his fee and with the help of WestieMed Duchess will soon be able to see the squirrels she loves to chase.

Duchess will always be diabetic but surgery will make her more adoptable and allow her to lead a fuller, safer life. We are grateful for WestieMed and its supporters for the assistance.

Read Duchess' full story on the WestieMed website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/duchess/>

**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/>

## STEWART

In April 2013, Stewart was found in the corner of an outside apartment storage closet. The tenant of the apartment had abandoned him three days earlier. He was filthy and his collar was entangled with mats of fur. The only sign of care was an empty food bowl, small water bowl and wet cardboard box draped by a towel. Stewart was taken to the Austin (TX) Animal Center. The veterinarian that initially examined him at the shelter recommended he be euthanized.

The individual that abandoned Stewart had told authorities that he found Stewart in a barn in 2010. There were only two known vet visits, both within the first three months. Stewart's ears were infected and treated; however, during the second visit the ears were still infected but the individual declined to pay for tests. Stewart's ears had been left untreated since January 2011.

Westie Rescue Austin learned about Stewart from another Westie owner in the same apartment complex. While pulling a Westie from the Center, WRA asked about Stewart. The coordinator reported the recommendation of euthanasia but didn't have current info and promised to get back with WRA.

Approximately 30 days after his arrival at the Center, WRA was contacted about taking Stewart into rescue. A copy of Stewart's lab work taken from the Center was given to WRA's vet to review. She said that the results showed signs of starvation and suggested new blood work. The tests showed that Stewart's body was responding; the Center still stressed that Stewart might be considered "hospice".

WRA met Stewart immediately took him into rescue regardless of how long he had. They weren't sure about his vision or hearing but he clearly had the Westie zest for life.

WRA took Stewart directly to their vet where he won the hearts of the clinic staff. They left the clinic with multiple medications and a lengthy checklist. Even though he had been receiving treatment at the Center, his ears were still infected. It was determined that the "goop" in both ears was drainage. His right ear canal was completely blocked and a Total Ear Canal Ablation (TECA) was discussed. His



left ear canal was horribly infected with a small opening, his eyes had some crust around them, and his skin was dry with flaking and scabs.

At the foster home, his vision and hearing status still unclear but he was not content to be "sheltered". Stewart wanted his freedom. He had the run of the house as well as the big backyard.

At the next vet visit, the left ear showed improvement but the right ear showed no real improvement. His eyes were still crusting so medication was prescribed. Blood work showed he suffered from hypothyroidism.

WRA was referred to Central Texas Veterinary Specialty to get another opinion regarding Stewart's ears. After the exam it was agreed that Stewart's right ear canal was completely blocked and required surgery. There was no urgent need for surgery so WRA opted to wait, allowing Stewart some time to stabilize his other health issues and learn to savor his new life.

There was no doubt Stewart was unable to hear anything. It was determined that he has limited vision. He compensates with a keen sense of smell and loves to explore the backyard.

With the help of WestieMed, Stewart was scheduled for surgery, eliminating the risk of future emergencies.

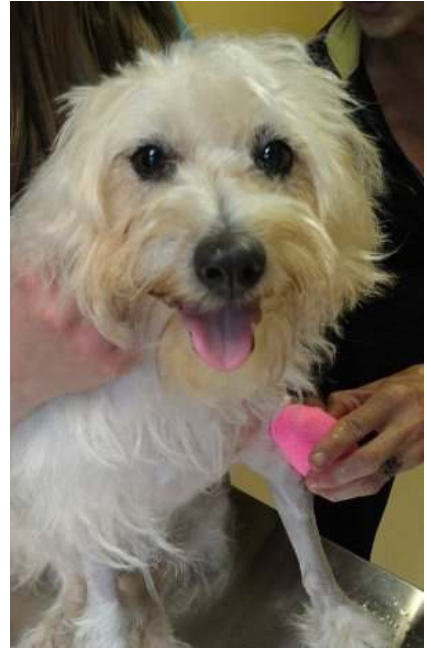
Read Stewart's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/stewart/>

## MILLIE

Just before Labor Day, Westie Rescue Tennessee received a call about an injured Westie that had wandered up to their front door. It was obvious she had been hit by a car. The lady and her husband took the dog to their personal vet and paid for the office visit and x-rays. The vet told them thought she could be saved, but that surgery to repair the damage would cost a minimum of \$3000. The vet found a microchip, but the microchip was never registered by the owner, and the chip was registered to a former out-of-state breeder that had gone out of business. The couple was told it was their responsibility to try to find the owner and suggested the dog to be sent to the shelter in Murfreesboro. The vet's office would keep and medicate the dog for pain through the weekend. In the meantime, the woman found and contacted WRT. WRT told the woman they needed the x-rays to send to their vet so she said she would OK it with her vet. Sadly, the vet's office had gone ahead and sent the dog over to the shelter the night before. WRT knew it would be difficult to get the dog out of that shelter because of past experience. WRT was hopeful that since she was injured and probably deemed unadoptable, it may not be so difficult this time. That was not the case.

On Tuesday after Labor Day, WRT called the Murfreesboro vet early and got the x-rays emailed immediately to WRT and the orthopedic surgeon. WRT then reached out to the shelter; they were told that because the dog had a microchip, she had to stay at the shelter five full business days, the past weekend/holiday time was not counted in that as well as the following weekend.

After MUCH discussion and promises from the shelter that they would ensure the dog was not in pain, one of the WRT Board Members was allowed to pull her when they opened on Tuesday, September 10. It was feared that while the injuries seemed repairable in the early stages of her diagnosis, perhaps bones, tendons or muscles had begun to fuse together in an incorrect manner. It was also feared the poor dog would suffer from some sort of shock.



Much to WRT's amazement, she was happy from the get-go, the tail never ceasing to wag! Millie was immediately taken to WRT's vet, who took more x-rays and got the surgeon over to evaluate the situation. While he was not concerned about the rear hip injury, he was concerned about the front leg and if it leg could be saved; he wouldn't know for sure until he got into the surgery. Thankfully, on the day of the surgery WRT got the best news...the leg could be saved!

Millie is now in a foster home with a new foster mom who is friends with the original rescuer. Thankfully the foster mom has experience with this sort of injury, which is good because Millie doesn't seem to think she has anything wrong with her! Millie has to go to the vet weekly to work with the dressing on the injury sites. The staples in her hip are out and the front leg is healing nicely too. Still, Millie has to be somewhat sedated to keep from wanting to run and jump. It should be about a six-week recovery period. Once recovered, we will get Millie spayed and ready for adoption. She is UTD on all of her vaccinations, heartworm testing, etc.

We will continue to send updates, and thank WestieMed once again SO MUCH!

Read Millie's full story on the WestieMed website: <http://westiemed.org/stories/2013/millie/>

## Why We Do What We Do...



### WILSON UPDATE

*Wilson was pulled from a shelter about two years ago. He weighed nine pounds at that time as a full grown Westie. In addition to the severe starvation, he basically had every possible infection and sickness a Westie can get. Here's the latest update from his adoptive parents:*

Wilson was in for surgery **October 14** to remove a sizable growth on his left cheek and a smaller one on his neck. While there, he was again diagnosed with Yeast problems and has been on Ketoconazole tablets each day and the ear medicine, now only his left ear. His feet and legs are about back to normal with hair and while he continues to like to lick, he is not licking his feet and legs, they must have itched.

The vet also put him on a very strict prescription diet, Hills Z/D. It has only modified protein and we have even stopped using HeartGard as it has a beef flavor. He is on a topical heart worm medicine.

If we can identify a food allergy we may be able to get him off of prescription medications such as Ketoconazole, albeit we'll continue it in his bath regimen. I have approval to give him baked potato (microwave) and white rice with nothing but the cooking water. He likes those as a treat, and does okay with the prescription kibble. He liked the salmon and sweet potato much better. I also used a canned salmon to add interest...I hope he can eat fish in the future.



I am beginning to think Wilson may have been abandoned by a family in the city area who simply couldn't afford to treat him, and was ashamed of his condition to the point of not taking him to an animal shelter. He may not have been in Liberty State Park long before animal control picked him up. This guess is not important but reflects our affection for him and wondering about his earlier life. He has many "family dog" characteristics; he was not simply a "puppy mill" caged breeder.

We hope your good work helping our dog friends is going well. You remain in our high regards for your good work for Westies which is a lovely breed I have come to believe, albeit they are Terriers!

Read Wilson's full story on our website:  
<http://westimed.org/stories/2011/wilson/>



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## VOLUNTEER WITH US!

WestieMed is looking for volunteers to help with the following and more!

- Artists and Graphics Designers to donate Westie designs for fundraising purposes through our *Artists To The Rescue* program:  
<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.*

## 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/>