

SPRING 2024

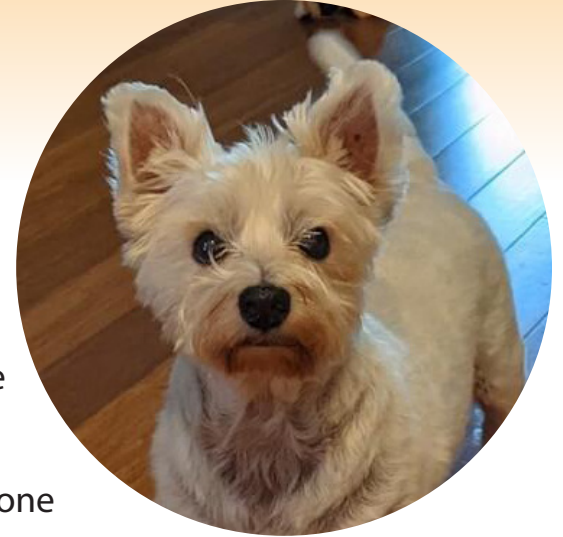
WestieMed News

Our Mission Statement

The Mission of WestieMed is to help raise the quality of life and adaptability of rescued West Highland White Terriers (Westies) in foster care or those recently adopted (within one year of rescue).

WestieMed provides these Westies with a second chance at adoption and the opportunity to lead happy, healthy lives in stable, loving 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.



**Thank you
for donating
and participating
to help save
more Westies!**

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



**DONATIONS
GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED!**

WESTIES WE'VE HELPED

CHARLIE | AUGUST 2022

As shared by Loren lemke and Garnet Towne who adopted Charlie



Those of you reading this know the loss of a pet is heartbreaking. Anyone who loves dogs knows they are members of our family ... irreplaceable and unforgettable. This story starts out with the loss of our Westie-terrier mix Buddy. We had found him as a stray on the road all matted and dirty. No one eventually claimed him so he became a member of our family. For two and half years he gave us joy. We lost him this summer due to inoperable adrenal gland tumors. We were devastated, but despite the loss, we as a family knew that we needed to rescue another Westie or Westie-mix in the name of Buddy. That is when I saw a picture of Charlie on a rescue's page. We knew that he was the one! One problem, he was at a rescue in Arizona. There was only one thing to do and that was to drive to Arizona to get this little guy. (People thought we were crazy, but look at him – that face!) The whole trip took about six days and instead of just coming home with one dog, we came home with two. Charlie and his brother CJ had been surrendered to the rescue by their owner. Charlie was being fostered with his bonded brother CJ (not biological brother). The rescue offered a two-for-one deal to keep them together and of course there was no question, we were now coming home with 2 dogs.

Even before we got home my husband purchased pet insurance on the little guys. As per the insurance there is a 14-day waiting period before illnesses are covered ... we weren't worried. Both CJ and Charlie seemed to have made the trip like champs. The only thing we knew we were going to have to do was to work on their weight since both of them were overweight. Charlie was only with us a few days when we noticed he didn't want to eat (which is VERY unlike Charlie). We got up the next morning and he didn't want a treat, then we went outside and I was horrified to see him do his business and it was all bloody. We immediately took him in to see our primary vet. They were very concerned and diagnosed him with



Hemorrhagic Gastroenteritis which is sudden onset of profuse bloody diarrhea (vets don't really know what causes it). I had no idea what that was and had never seen anything like that before. They immediately sent us to an emergency vet since apparently this can be a serious life threatening illness if not treated right away. I was so scared and didn't know what I would do if we lost Charlie so soon. Charlie was admitted for hospitalization which was going to be a significant expense. We knew that he needed to be there and of course we were going to get him the help he needed, but remember the pet insurance ... well all of this happened three days before the insurance kicked in. We had no idea how we were going to afford his lifesaving care. Then I saw the website for WestieMed. I applied for assistance with them and told them Charlie's story. He obviously stole their hearts too since they decided to help us. Thanks to WestieMed, Charlie is now back home with his forever family. He is on the road to recovery and starting to transition back to normal food. We are so grateful to WestieMed and their support because having Charlie home and feeling better is a gift.

We lost our beloved Westie-mix Buddy and went to rescue Charlie, but he really rescued us. We feel the loss of Buddy, but every day with Charlie and the unconditional love this little guy gives us is priceless and we know just how lucky we are to have him in our lives.

Thank you WestieMed for being there to help Westies and their families in need like you did for us!

CHARLIE UPDATE

Welcome to Charlie's new life!!! Since Charlie found his forever home in Minnesota, he has blossomed into a cute, funny, extremely happy dog! His favorite things are cuddling with his two humans, playing in the yard, and of course getting a treat! Charlie discovered that if one of his brothers or sisters dogs needs to go outside, he is right there too because when he comes in, he gets a treat! Even if he went out ten minutes before, he will do a little dance, look at you with his beautiful eyes and run right to the closet where the treats are stored and will stay there until he gets one. He has learned to catch them and if anyone misses, he is right there for an "extra".

Charlie is now just one of the family. It seems as if he has always been here. He brings joy to us everyday and is so cute and well mannered. He loves sleeping right next to his humans. He cuddles right up to them and loves getting petted. He also gets along well with the rest of the dogs and the cats in the house. He is a constant joy to have and has made our lives full of smiles to watch him.

We feel deep gratitude to WestieMed for helping so much with his vet bills when he first came to us. He has recovered nicely and is a very happy fellow. We are forever in your debt. Thank you for all your group does for these dogs and for helping the owners give them the best life possible. We are truly grateful for WestieMed and Charlie's new life is proof of the impact of your generosity.

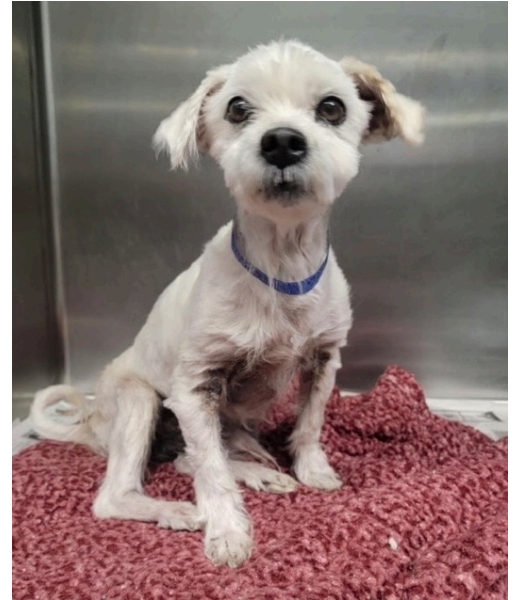
Thank you again,
Loren Lemke and Garnet Towne

CARL | SEPTEMBER 2022

As shared by Westie Rescue Orange County (California)

Carl was wandering the streets of LA and was picked up by Animal Control. He was in pretty bad shape. His coat was matted, he had painful foxtails imbedded in between his toes, ear infection, skin infection and a horrible upper respiratory infection. The shelter did what they could for Carl with medication, shaved his coat and removed the foxtails. However, there was no public interest to adopt Carl because he needed an expensive hip surgery.

Carl's only chance of exiting the shelter was if a rescue took over his care and when we found out that Carl had been lingering there for several months, we knew we were his only chance. Oddly enough, when we arrived at the shelter, there was a person in line ahead of us to adopt Carl, but again, Carl was turned down because of the cost of surgery.



Carl Fall 2022

Carl needed time to recover from his upper respiratory infection and once he did, he had his hip surgery. He also had a dental at the same time and thankfully he did because foxtails were found imbedded in between his teeth! Overall, he did well only losing a few teeth, but had he not been on antibiotics for his upper respiratory infection, his mouth could have been much worse.

Carl has several weeks of rehabilitation ahead of him. We are doing range of motion exercises and short walks to aid his recovery. He is now using that leg and walking on all fours which is something he hasn't done since coming to rescue.

Living on the streets and shelter life took a toll on him, but thanks to WestieMed, Carl has a new lease on life! This incredibly sweet and playful boy will now live pain free thanks to the surgery. This is something that he probably hasn't had in a very long time.

Thank you WestieMed!



CARL UPDATE

Rehabbing Carl had to be the easiest rehab of any dog we've fostered, hands down. He is such a calm and well behaved dog that is happiest being with his person. Our precious little man was adopted just a few days before Christmas, making this his best a Christmas ever! Carl has fully recovered from his hip surgery and is now enjoying life at the beach in Santa Barbara with his new mom and dad, Karen and Bill.

With WestieMed's help, another deserving dog will never be neglected again.

BELLA | NOVEMBER 2022

As shared by the Westie Club of the South

The Westie Club of the South received Bella on March 25, 2022 at the age of three months. Her breeder surrendered her because of a disorder involving an ectopic ureter. We were advised by the University of Georgia (UGA) Veterinary Hospital that surgery was the only option for improving Bella's condition. She underwent the procedure which was originally done with a scope in hopes the issue could be corrected without making an incision. Unfortunately, one of the ureters was not attached and was below the actual bladder and more surgery was needed.



Bella November 2022

The Vet at UGA said he has performed the procedure Bella had hundreds of times and has only seen Bella's additional issues less than ten times.

Shortly after the second surgery, Bella developed a hernia due the wrong size of stitches used and the hernia would continue to grow if not surgically treated. The cost to repair the hernia if treated at UGA would be another \$3,000. Bella's foster caregiver urgently texted her own Vet, Dr. Shannon, after hours to discuss Bella's situation and Dr. Shannon performed surgery the next day at a significantly reduced cost. Bella's incontinence issues remained but became worse due to constant urinary tract infections. The rescue consulted a specialty vet in Greenville, SC and the recommendation was to perform a Vulvoplasty to fix the issue causing the infections. Dr. Shannon once again offered to perform the recommended surgery at a reduced cost.

Bella has gone through so much in a short time. She is doing great ... very independent, but loving and sweet. She still has a "leakage" issue which more than likely will result in her continuing to be in diapers. We humbly thank WestieMed for their support of our organization and sweet young Bella who will now have a bright future bringing joy to others.



Bella May 2023

BELLA UPDATE | May 2023

Bella is a happy, sassy Westie. She has gained weight and has had no issues with Urinary Tract infections until recently. She plays outside most of the day with her Westie sister Maggie. Bella keeps our family entertained and on our toes.

To WestieMed, thank you for providing assistance with Bella. We love her very much.

Barbara Perry
Adopted Pet Mom

TOLLEY | DECEMBER 2022 As shared by Westie Rescue Southeast (WRSE)

Tolley the senior westie's story didn't start so well. He was found by a Good Samaritan that discovered him tied with a rope around his neck in a vacant lot, out in the cold with no protection. She cut the rope and immediately took him to the shelter. Because he was a stray he was kept at the shelter for two weeks. Unfortunately, while there he developed an upper respiratory infection. He was put on antibiotics by the shelter's veterinarian. During his stay the employees commented on what a sweet boy he was while there. We know how stressful and scary a shelter can be for Westies and it is amazing how sweet he was the entire time.

Once we were contacted about him we sprung into action and with the help of several volunteers Tolley made a four-hour journey to his new foster home.

Unfortunately, after less than 24 hours his foster had to take him to the vet. He stayed for a few days there but wasn't getting better. He was transferred to the veterinary specialist hospital to be admitted for more aggressive treatment. He was diagnosed with severe pneumonia and he was struggling.

It has been an ordeal and it's not over yet. It has been over a week at the time of this writing and he was still hospitalized. It was discovered he has a heart murmur that will need further evaluation once he recovered from this pneumonia.

Every doctor and technician we speak to starts each conversation with how amazing this pup is. He has the will to survive with everything he has endured all while wagging his tail and wiggling his entire body when he sees people walk into his room. This little senior boy deserves to live out the rest of his days happy and loved. We are so happy so many people are stepping up to give this pup the care what he needs.

Susan D. Massey
Director, Westie Rescue SouthEast



TOLLEY UPDATE | JAN 2023

Tolley is perkier, eating very well (once I started to feed good ole kibble) and taking his meds which are pretty high powered. I had a long talk with my regular vet, who saw him FIRST. So next Monday he will do another Xray and exam. Since he has the ORIGINAL XRAY to compare to also!!! Please pray that those lungs are clearing. I am also doing Courtage (percussion) and added cool humidity to the small powder room he is in. Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers. This is a long process to recovery I am finding out.

Thank you for your support!
Susie
WRSE

UPDATE | AUGUST 2023

Following the mass removal at MedVet on March 10, 2023 and a dental and growth removal also at MedVet on May 4, 2023 ... he is doing great. He has been identified with Westie Lung Disease.

Cinda (Tolley's adoptive mom)



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 Candle](#) from the [Paws and Remember](#) program on the WestieMed website
- 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.

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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.



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**Together
we
make the
difference**

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