



Autumn
2016

WESTIE NEWS

the newsletter for supporters of
Westie ReHoming



www.westierehoming.org
0844 879 4260

Dedicated to the West Highland White Terrier

Registered Charity No
England & Wales 1108659
Scotland SC045329

MISSY, adopted from WRH in April wins a place in the 2017 Kennel Club Breed Rescue Calendar. The calendar will be launched on October 22nd at DISCOVER DOGS.

Missy came to us at the beginning of the year with her two brothers, mother, and five other westies from an ex-breeding farm. When the pups had their vet check at 10 weeks she was found to have a pulmonary stenosis heart murmur. Without surgery the prognosis was bleak and she could have died at any time.

An appointment with a Canine Cardiologist convinced us that there was no option but for her to undergo a very delicate operation at just 12 weeks of age. Fortunately the surgery was 100% successful and she can now lead a normal life with normal life expectancy. She has a very happy life with her family who stuck by her through thick and thin and we are delighted that she has been chosen as the Kennel Club Breed Rescue 'Miss January' in their 2017 calendar.

Well done Missy, we are so proud of you!



Meet us at DISCOVER DOGS, on October 23rd
on the Kennel Club 'Find a Rescue Dog' stand at ExCeL London.

Do come and say hello if you are going to the show, we'd love to meet you. There will be lots going on, and the show is an amazing retail therapy experience.

Our volunteers will be there to answer your questions on rehoming a westie and will happily talk westies all day long if you let them. Our rescue westies flying the flag on the day will be Bertie, Polly and Eilidh. Missy will give them a helping hand when she isn't busy signing pawtographs on the Kennel Club Calendar stand.

We hear a rumour that the beautiful 'Devon', BIS at Crufts this year may be dropping in to the show.

We hope to see you there.

Kennel Club Breed Rescue Conference 2016

We were privileged to attend the KC Breed Rescue Conference in June. Amongst the speakers was top dog solicitor Trevor Cooper from DogLaw Ltd. who gave an excellent presentation as always, talking about the new laws that came in this year and how they will affect charities.

The new laws carry massive penalties and we would urge any dog owner who is in a position to attend one of Trevor's seminars for owners to do so. His delivery is highly entertaining as well as educational, and we are sure that you will feel it is money well spent.

YOU MUST BE SURE THAT YOUR DOG'S MICROCHIP DETAILS ARE KEPT UP TO DATE.

SOME CELEBRITIES WHO OWN A WESTIE

- Dawn French
- Christian Serratos
- Kate Beckinsale
- Hairy Bikers' Dave Myers
- Rob Schneider
- Robert Pattinson

Glamis Castle Event

In August WRH attended 'Dogs Day Out' at beautiful Glamis Castle in Angus. It was a last minute decision due to the weather forecast, but many useful contacts were made, despite losing our marquee in the very high winds!



Summer Fetes & Shows

The ladies have been working hard all year raising funds and flying the flag for us, gaining more supporters. We are always amazed that they turn out in all conditions, including a recent violent thunderstorm such is their commitment.



Sandringham Walk

Volunteer Jan (East Anglia) held her annual westie reunion and walk in the lovely Sandringham Park in July and was blessed with perfect weather. There was an excellent turnout and it was lovely to meet up with the dogs and proud owners.



Remember, remember the 5th of November Bonfire night can be a very scary time for pets



It is now fashionable to have firework displays at any time of year bringing untold misery for your pets, particularly around November 5th. Keep your pets indoors at night during the firework period which can extend for a while before November 5th as well as for a couple of weeks or so afterwards.

If you have to leave them alone at night leave on a radio or television and draw the curtains to black out the room, removing the fear of associated flashing lights. **Plug-in Diffusers** such as **ADAPTIL** or **PET REMEDY** are very effective for nervous or fearful dogs. These should be plugged in close to your pet's bed, in the room it uses to relax and spend most time. It is helpful to leave the diffuser plugged in for a week before the event. Also useful is a combination homoeopathic remedy called '**ANXIETY**' from The Company of Animals 01932 566696 or homoeopathic **ACONITE** available from Ainsworths Homoeopathic Pharmacy in London, tel 0207 9355330

Make certain that your pet has a den to hide in if it is frightened. This can be an indoor crate with a sheet over it or a space under a table, bed or behind a sofa. Put its bed there if possible and **DO NOT DISTURB** it whilst it is in there.

The most important influence is your reaction to your pet's fearful behaviour. Never punish your dog when it is frightened, as punishment, apart from being pointless, cruel and counter productive, would confirm that there was something to be frightened of.

Make sure that your dog is kept in a safe and secure environment where it cannot escape and suffer injury. Check that it is microchipped or is wearing an identification disc just in case despite your vigilance it finds a way of escape.

Put some loud music on, particularly something with a lot of constant drumbeats if you can both tolerate it.

Ignore the outdoor noises yourself and try to engage in an active game with the pet.

You can follow us on Facebook
'Westie ReHoming Group'
Send us a member request



Find us on Twitter
@westierehoming4



Donate online on our website using
the CAF link under 'Appeals'



EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION!

Some events we have attended and hosted during the last year

THE NATURAL DOG CONFER- ENCE

(Robert with the amazing Dr Karen Becker)

This 2 day event was held in Birmingham and featured the crème de la crème of speakers, including Dr Jean Dodds, Dr Nick Thomson, Rodney Habib, Dr Isla Fishburn. They don't come any better than that and we were blown away by this fantastic seminar. An amazing experience



ZOOPHARMACOG- NOSY

(a new arrival seeks out calming chamomile)

Don't let the name put you off, it refers to the way in which animals self select the natural remedies they need. We have attended some fascinating workshops and are hosting our own on November 6th (more information on page 4 of the newsletter). Come along and learn how to help your dog to help itself.



TREVOR COOPER - DOGLAW LTD

(Some volunteers with Trevor at our seminar)

Always entertaining and highly informative, the essential Trevor Cooper, keeping us up to speed on the latest changes in dog law. We will see him again on Nov 20th and get the very latest updates.



FIRST AID FOR DOGS

(Chip the Jack Russell was A model 'patient')

We held an informative workshop with Polly Noviss from Danetree Medivet who showed us how we could help our dog in an emergency situation before it could be seen by a vet.



Another essential and enjoyable workshop.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES to join our dedicated band of volunteers?

Volunteers always needed in most areas for transporting, home-checking and short-term fostering. A basic, common sense knowledge of dog behaviour, and a compassionate approach to people as well as to dogs is essential.

There are never enough foster homes available to help the countless dogs needing to make the transition into a new home. By fostering a westie you can help us to help more dogs, and be their stepping stone to a new life. Many new firm friendships are made through volunteering, and you will find it very rewarding.

If you think that you could help we would love to hear from you. Please give us a call on 0844 879 4260 or send an email for more information.

A DOG IS NOT FOR CHRISTMAS!

We are already getting enquiries for Christmas puppies, and need to make it quite clear that

- We very rarely get puppies for rehoming
- We will never rehome a dog through a third party
- We will only rehome a dog over the festive season in very exceptional circumstances where it will benefit the dog.

This has been a bumper year for the puppy farmers who have difficulties keeping up with demand since the beautiful little 'Devon' won BIS at Crufts and we urge you not to line their pockets and perpetuate the suffering of the breeding dogs living in these hell holes.

TITRE TESTING ALTERNATIVE TO VACCINATIONS

More people are now turning to titre tests which check the level of circulating antibodies in their dog rather than give unnecessary and potentially harmful annual boosters, particularly in elderly or sick dogs. However, many people are finding it difficult to find a vet that offers this service at a sensible price.

We would point out that **MEDIVET** offer titre testing as an alternative at the same price as a booster. If you don't have a Medivet practice near you we keep a comprehensive list of vets nationally that will help. Please contact us.

THE PERILS OF THE SEASIDE

On a recent trip to a remote area of North-west Scotland our boy Dennis had an encounter with a jellyfish whilst walking the dogs on the shore. Not what you want when you are a ferry trip away from a vet! After rolling in it he decided to have a taste which is when the problem started. The effect was dramatic to say the least.

We now see reports that swarms of jellyfish are being washed up on UK beaches which may be a problem now that dogs are being allowed back on most beaches at the end of the season. It would seem sensible to offer some advice here, as an emergency measure while you get hold of a vet in case you need it.

First wash the jelly off using salt water NOT fresh water. Fresh water is not usually applied to stings, since changes in tonicity may release added venom. Apply a vinegar solution to the stings. Antihistamine such as piriton may help to reduce skin irritation. Jelly fish hold a fascination for dogs and humans alike, and even a dead one can give a very nasty sting. Fortunately the common ones are not normally poisonous, although some others can be.

APPLICATION TO ADOPT FORMS (ATA) change in current system

Due to problems with the online application previously on the website this system has temporarily been suspended. Instead, please send an email to jacqui@westierehoming.me.uk or enquiries@westierehoming.me.uk requesting a form. Alternatively, please send a SAE to:

The ReHoming Coordinator
PO Box 2868
Swindon
SN4 0WU

and we will get a form to you.



"A westie's eyes have the power to speak a great language"



Zoopharmacognosy Workshop

hosted by WRH, Sunday Nov 6th 10-4,
Liddington Village Hall, SN4 0HE

Zoopharmacognosy -

Zoo : animal

Pharma : remedy

Cognosy : knowing

describes the innate ability animals have to self medicate with natural remedies in the wild.

Applied zoopharmacognosy is where we bring these natural medicines to animals and allow them to select the remedy, dose and method of administration. In this fascinating workshop you will learn how to help your dog to help itself.

RACHEL WINDSOR - KNOTT

MY ANIMAL MATTERS

£49 places limited

£55 handler places (3 only)

To include homemade refreshments

tea, coffee

jacquelinefw@icloud.com

0844 879 4260

More Workshops & Seminars being planned

As part of our commitment to education for volunteers and owners we have some new, exciting workshops and seminars in the pipeline, details of which will be available later. Having always had a thirst for knowledge on all things canine and wishing to move on from outdated beliefs we strive to help others to help their dogs to the maximum. In the past we have held some excellent educational events with people such as Gwen Bailey and Trevor Cooper, and covered such subjects as

Ttouch

First Aid for Dogs

Natural Feeding

Canine Osteopathy

Canine Touch

Natural Healing

Behavioural

Aspects of Canine Health

After our Zoopharmacognosy workshop and Trevor Cooper seminar we will be planning our 2017 programme.

Watch this space!

A Star is Born

Dennis gets chance to star in Cesar ad

Just before Christmas last year we had a call from a film producer looking for a westie to appear in a Cesar ad. Our Dennis who had been with



us for 6 months seemed to fit the bill and so on the condition that I was always on hand to ensure his welfare we agreed and took him to the location for the filming. Dennis had the time of his life and enjoyed the adoration and his new celebrity status. When filming had finished at 3am (!) Dennis and I were put up for the night in a very posh guest house

with every comfort laid on. It was a great experience, a real eye opener, and we were **SO** proud of our boy!



Thank you Waitrose Swindon!!

The Swindon branch of Waitrose chose Westie ReHoming as one of their three local charities for August. Our bin has earned us the whopping total of £530!

Thank you to everyone who put their tokens in our bin, and THANK YOU WAITROSE.



The Rescue Dog

'Rescue dogs aren't broken, they've simply experienced more life than other dogs. If they were human, we'd call them wise. They would be the ones with tales to tell and stories to write. The ones dealt a bad hand who responded with courage. Don't pity a rescue dog, adopt one, and be proud to have their greatness by your side.'



'Snuffle mats'

Has anyone used one of these 'Snuffle Mats'? The idea is that you bury a couple of treats in it and let your dog hunt for them, giving the dog mental stimulation.

They're excellent, although this bright little girl has already worked out that it's best to pick it up and shake the treats out as it saves all the time and bother of hunting!



SOME OF THE WESTIES WE HAVE REHOMED (only their names have been changed for confidentiality)



photo Chris Kyle

Gorgeous Hamish came to us at 9 months old because he didn't get on with the resident cat. He suffered from colitis as the result of food intolerances and any slight diversion from his very strict diet had spectacular consequences. Despite trying various food alternatives the effect was always the same. We became afraid to try any further and decided to use a Radionics practitioner. A few months later we took a Nutriscan test with Dr Jean Dodds in California and were amazed when the results came back normal, with only venison listed as the food to avoid. he is now on a normal, varied diet and is a picture of health. We were eventually able to rehome him at 18 months old where he now lives very happily with 2 other dogs - and no cats!!

Bob came in as a shocking case of neglect weighing only 5.5 kilograms and in the most appalling condition. When the vet first saw him she seriously considered euthanasia, but knowing that we would do everything that was possible to help him she agreed to let us try. Bob was fed several very small meals a day to build him up, feeding a fish diet high in Omegas for his itchy skin, together with a course of antibiotics for secondary infection. Bob is now a very healthy, strapping lad, and his skin is excellent. He lives with two other westies and loves his runs on the beach

'Alternative' therapies are now morphing into so-called "Complementary" medicine, working side by side with conventional veterinary care to the benefit of the dogs. We are fortunate in having the very best of both fields available to us and use it extensively.

We adopt a holistic approach to every aspect of rehoming and can offer counselling where appropriate.

Ted is 12 years old and was devoted to his 'mum' who worshipped him in equal measure. Sadly she suffered from cancer and



made her husband promise to care for Ted for the rest of his life. He was with her when she passed and he took it very badly, missing her very much. When her husband had to go into care Ted wasn't allowed to go with him and the guilt he felt was unbearable. He was distraught when he handed him to us and this affected Ted who became very defensive. With patience and understanding his new 'mum and dad' have won him around and made him feel secure again.



photo Judy Plater

and the Scottie had attitude! It would have been cruel to have separated these lovely dogs who were totally bonded, and had relied upon each other for so long. A change of diet and a holistic regime resulted in the two dogs seen above. Their adopted family adore them, and they are making up for the time spent on their own. We were able to assure their first owner before he sadly passed away that they are now very settled and happy.

This lovely pair was living in a home where they were very much loved but badly neglected due to their bed-bound owner's failing health. The westie had a dreadful skin problem



Christopher Day
MA VetMB VetFFHom MRCVS
Alternative Veterinary medicine Centre

Performing spinal manipulation on a little rescue westie with 3 legs who suffered a trauma to her hind leg and resulting strain on her spine.

People often wrongly imagine that an older dog won't be able to adjust to a new home. Because we go to great lengths to match the dog to the home that is right for it they very rarely have a problem.

Here is a super little chap that had been very very much loved but needed a new home at 12 yrs of age when his owners needed to care for very young babies, which stressed him at his age. He adapted instantly to his new home and has become quite a celebrity, even having his own blog and Facebook page! After initial updates, his owners have found that they can move on



photo Eileen Horsham

