



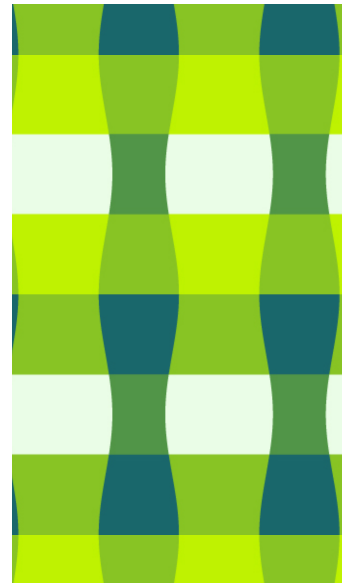
Happy Mother's Day

2021 May/June

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by Marlene Armfield

westie rescue network



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Spotlight on Health

Westie Lung Disease

Murphy came into our family on Sept. 19, 2019. It was a year later that we got the dreaded diagnosis that our newest rescue had WLD...Westie Lung Disease.....IPF...(Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis). I immediately thought our time with Murphy would be severely limited with this brutal diagnosis, but in reading all the articles I can find on it, I realize I am wrong. Murphy, with the correct treatments, can enjoy a good life, running and playing with his brothers and friends as long as the meds are effective. I have kicked myself for not taking Murphy into our vet sooner. His symptom was a hacking cough, similar to the sound of coughing up something, but nothing ever came up! That hacking cough is the initial symptom of WLD.

The first and most important thing I did after his diagnosis was to join the "Westie Lung Disease...IPF" in USA Facebook group. This group has a wealth of information and critical suggestions for the owner and the physicians to follow. I strongly recommend it to anyone who is unfortunate enough to have their Westie diagnosed with this disease. The recommended treatments and meds are listed on their website with the offer of their assistance in speaking with your vet who might not be familiar with the disease, which was our case. Our vet was fabulous in contacting the administrators of the group and receiving his first introduction to the disease. We were able to find another vet who was familiar with the laser treatments that are recommended, along with the inhaler, and have thus far been pleased with the laser treatments.

The cost of the treatments is significant. For us, the cost of the laser treatments thru our vet has been 6 for \$216. We initially had Murphy receiving laser treatments 2x a week, then once a week. We are now cutting back to 1 treatment every other week. Perhaps the most important recommendation that I can make, if your Westie is diagnosed with WLD, is to reach out to this group on Facebook and let them sponsor you with PlanetDrugsDirect in Canada for the purchase of the Flovent inhaler that is necessary for treatment. The savings are significant! A member of the group is willing to refer you to them and you can order those drugs....do it as soon as you know your Westie has WLD. There is a wait timepossibly up to 6 wks, so order as soon as you get the diagnosis. The inhaler thru US pharmacies was in the \$200+ category; thru PlanetDrugsDirect it was \$108 for 2 inhalers with a 25% discount on one's first order! Also, reach out to GoodRX for a significant discount on the prescriptions for both your Westie and yourself! What an eye opener this site has been! I was able to order the AeroDawg used to dispense the Flovent thru Amazon.

I wish anyone who receives this diagnosis for their Westie the very best. It is not an immediate death sentence. One would not know Murphy has it if he didn't occasionally have the cough. He loves to eat, walk, if not run, and occasionally play with new friends. We cherish every minute we have with him!

Hugs to you and your Westies!
Minnie Bourque and Murphy





Happy Tales

Recent Adoption



Mack



From the beginning Mack was special. As a foster placement, he arrived at my house this past January as dog number one for 2021. He was a gentle and shy senior with seeping sores, a crusty under belly, and darkened pigmentation from skin allergies. His family had been struggling with several issues but for the most part had maintained Mack's physical health well over the years. It's always heart breaking to hear that after living with his family since a puppy, they felt they could no longer meet his needs. That said, we are always grateful that dogs like Mack are surrendered to WRN for a new forever home. Like many dogs Mack came into rescue with some "knowns" and many "unknowns."

The "knowns" included his advanced age of 12, his long life with a family filled with children, his persistent and severe skin allergies, incessant itching and scratching and a reputation for having separation anxiety. As always, his first stop was a trip to the veterinarian for a complete health checkup and to develop a course of treatment for his skin allergy. After weeks of patiently enduring daily medicated baths (sitting/waiting 5-10 min. for the medicine to work on his dermatitis), antibiotics, and an anti-itch injection his condition improved dramatically. Then he had a setback when he developed an ear infection.

In the meantime, Mack's personality blossomed. He endeared himself to anyone who came to the house by rolling over on his back for belly rubs or greeting them with a military crawl. Initially, he was seldom left alone. My other 2 dogs would "babysit" Mack if I was out. If he lost track of me in the house he'd go searching. He would whimper as his primary method of communication: cry to find me, cry to remind me of dinner time, to ask to go outside, or to not be left behind on our daily walk. If one of the other dogs appeared to be in stress (i.e.; barking at the dog in the yard next door) his whimpering would become louder and more frantic to alert me.

His allergies and ear infection are under control; his abandonment issues have lessened. He still follows me around. He's taken on the mantle of being the "old soul" of the house. He snores as he sleeps comfortably with us at night. Now several months later, I offered to adopt him. Given his age and the trauma of being "abandoned" again, I felt he was less likely to easily find a new home.

Will he be with me as long as my own dogs? Probably, not. Will he break my heart? Most likely... but as I find him sleeping next to me as I type, he serves as a reminder of the gentleness, joy, charm, adaptability, loyalty, forgiveness and love that a senior dog can bring. We just plan to enjoy his companionship and take the knowns with the unknowns for as long as we can.

~Mary Beth



Happy Tales

Recent Adoptions



Oliver

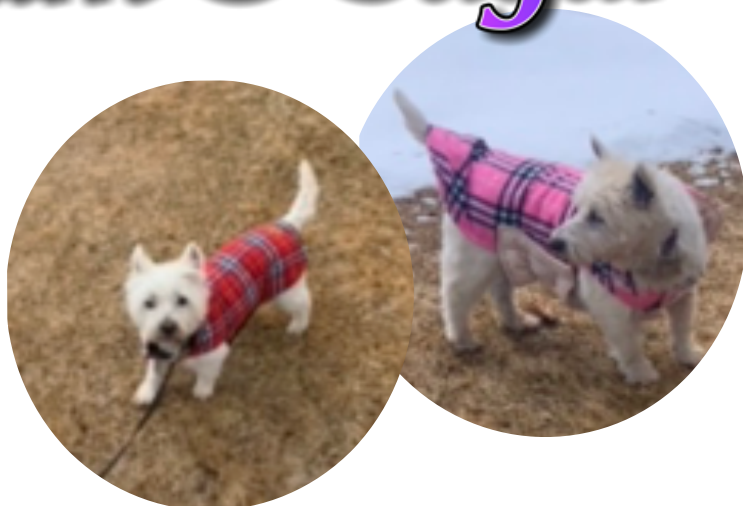
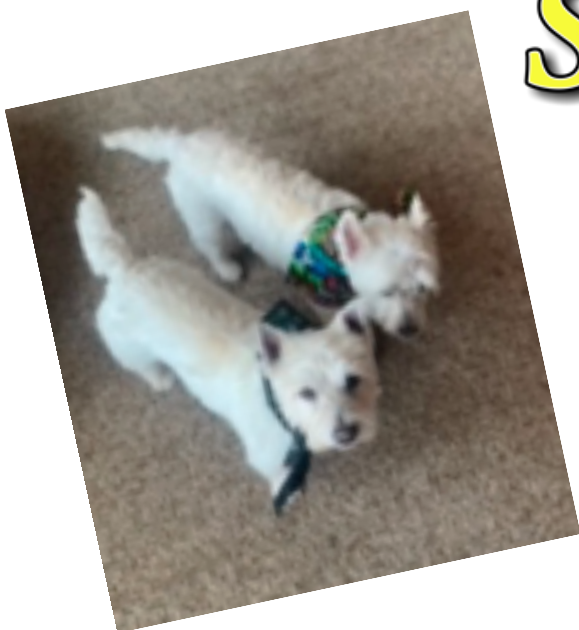


After a couple years waiting on a Westie adoption through WRN, we received a surprise call about a young boy named Oliver. We met Oliver on Valentine's day and he stole our hearts. He got along with our two boys Blizzard and Brodee well when he came to visit, so we decided to give him a go. He settled in fast and seems to feel right at home!

He loves to play with Brodee, chase laser pointers and reflections, even chases his own shadow! He just learned over the last few days how to sit up as well!

~Tom & Holly

Sam & Sugar



Sam and Sugar are settling in. They enjoy the cold weather walks. Both have been to the groomers and over all are doing well.

~Jennifer & Tim

My Life Is a Grand Safari



Reprinted from
THE DIARY OF A MINDFUL DOG
by Bob Lukin

ISBN 9780875169071
DeVorss Publications www.devorss.com

I get really excited about venturing out beyond my home,
where the world is changing from day to day.
Bob calls it an exercise walk, but to me it seems like everyone
is either blindly talking on a phone or listening to music instead
of enjoying the beauty all around them. I want to see
what's out in the world, every step of the way. I call it a safari.

My daily safari is always filled with suspense, joy, surprise
and adventure. I am so focused on not wanting to miss anything that I
rarely think about the past or the future. I am fully present. Everything I see
is alive with color, smell, and shape.
I am wonderfully surprised by everything.

Part of the excitement is exploring every blade of grass
in case i find something new. Yesterday, I saw what Bob calls a frog sitting in the
middle of our path.

I don't know how he did it, but that thing jumped
all the way to the other side of the path.
His landing ended with a thump and a croak.

I don't think Bob saw the frog because he was walking
for exercise. I had waited my whole life to meet this odd fellow.
He had no hair, no eyebrows, no visible ears . . .and no tail.

I hope you understand why I don't walk for exercise.

My life is a grand safari.



Spot the Westie



I like to hear a storm at night. It is so cozy to snuggle down among the blankets and feel that it can't get at you.
~ L.M. Montgomery



from Bobbie Carll



from Ecko Prue
Radar O'Rielly often takes several of his babies to bed with him



Westies tend to blend in with their blankets.

From the Editor

Send your Spot the Westie photos, and any other pictures, stories, and ideas to

marmfield@aol.com



It's Tick Season

It's Tick Season

Quick Facts...

- The most common tick that bites humans and dogs in Colorado is the Rocky Mountain wood tick.
- Rocky Mountain wood tick is most active and does most biting in spring, becoming dormant with warm weather in summer.
- Colorado tick fever is by far the most common tick-transmitted disease of the region. Despite its name, Rocky Mountain spotted fever is quite rare here.

Top picks for prevention:

NexGard Soft Chew for Dogs (view at Chewy)

These flea prevention soft chews are delivered through your dog's bloodstream to kill ticks and fleas before they can lay eggs. Offering up to 12 weeks of protection against fleas and ticks, this chew is available for both large and small breeds, 6 months and older.

Vet's Best Flea & Tick Pet & Home Spray (Amazon)

Formulated with certified natural peppermint and clove essential oils, this spray kills fleas, flea larvae, flea eggs, ticks, and mosquitoes on contact.

Adams Plus Flea & Tick Shampoo

Kill fleas and ticks and get your dog squeaky clean at the same time with this dog shampoo from Adams. With a formula containing aloe, lanolin, coconut extract, and oatmeal, it's gentle on both you and your pup's skin—and it smells good, too. The shampoo contains an insect growth regulator (IGR) to kill and prevent flea development for up to 28 days, though you may find you need to use it every seven to ten days for the most effectiveness. A little goes a long way, so the bottle should last you for some time.

A word of caution: the shampoo contains pyrethrin, which can be toxic to cats.

Flea and tick prevention products aren't just important for your dog's comfort and health—they can also prevent you and your family from getting Lyme disease or another tick-borne illness. Talk to your veterinarian to assess your dogs' risk and the best options for you to prevent tick bites. Check your dogs for ticks daily where ticks commonly attach and feed—around ears, on the face, between toes, under the tail... but realize that they can attach anywhere, even in the gum line!

- For humans several repellents are recommended for ticks including DEET, picaridin, IR3535, and oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Quick tick removal tip:

Don't try to smother them, burn them or squeeze them! Time matters. You want the tick off you or your pet ASAP and you want it intact. Use an inexpensive tick puller (available in pet shops and online) or a simple thin nosed tweezer, or if necessary, your gloved fingers (disposable nitrile gloves work great). Grasp the tick as close to its mouth parts as possible the gently pull straight up until it releases. Do not twist, bend, or squeeze the tick. It may come off with some tissue in its mouth—that is just fine. Place the tick in an empty jar or pill bottle, screw or snap on the lid, and save it for identification! Clean the wound, even if very small, with soap and water and apply alcohol or a wound disinfectant cream. Make note of the day the tick was found in case illness develops later.



more information at:

<https://thepetsmaster.com/how-to-prevent-ticks-on-dogs/#:~:text=Ways%20to%20Prevent%20Ticks%20on%20Dogs%201%20Tick,the%20Ticks.%20...%205%20Checking%20for%20Ticks.%20>



The Back Page



After a lovely walk around Chatfield Lake, Gumbo enjoyed stopping and resting at

Grist Brewing
9150 Commerce Center Cir, Ste 300,
Littleton, CO 80129

~Beth Larson

*Please share your pet friendly patios!
send to marmfield@aol.com*



Congratulations!

Gary and Mary Westdorp, WRN volunteers, are starting a new adventure of traveling and living in their RV full time.

We appreciate all you have done for Westie Rescue Network, and wish you and your 2 Westies "Happy Trails."

Calling for photos for 2022 WRN Calendar

All pictures need to be taken with a 300 dpi high resolution digital camera in landscape format, in order to be considered.

Photos taken with your mobile phone that provide less than 100 dpi can only be used for the smaller images within the calendar.

You can email your photos to our calendar editor Dianne Veno at contessa5360@aol.com



**Take your Dog to Work Day
June 25, 2021**