

Our Club on the Move!

Upcoming Events

Our club hopes to attend the 2014 Frankenmuth Dog Bowl Memorial Day weekend. This popular dog event attracts visitors from all over Michigan. It is the perfect venue to talk "Westie" and spread the word about our Club and Rescue. Our participation depends on your willingness to volunteer your time at our booth. More specific details as the time gets closer!

ACTIVITIES AND COMPLIANCE

In discussing ways to encourage members to become more involved in Club activities, we have discovered that not everyone understand the AKC Compliance requirements. We were asked to put something in the newsletter to explain to all members why it is so important that we all take part in activities throughout the year so that we can meet the AKC requirements. The bottom line is that if we do not meet these requirements, we will not be granted permission to put on a Specialty.

In February 2009 the AKC issued a letter to all Clubs entitled "ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO HOLD FUTURE DOG SHOWS". This letter outlines the areas where we must be active each year so that we can hold a show in the following year. Each year, after the Spring Specialty, we submit a formal "Statement of Compliance with AKC Policies Governing the Approval of Dog Shows". This form requires us to provide specific information to show that we have completed:

- MAJOR ACTIVITIES (Two are required)

We comply with this through

- 1)(Public Education Program) a)Attending public events where we hand out information and education materials (such as at Novi and at various dog events through the year) b)Active Rescue Program and website/facebook
- 2) (AKC Classified Advertising Program) our Education Committee which submits ads to newspapers throughout the year to education the public on finding responsible breeders, AKC info and other similar items
- 3)(Outreach Programs) Education website

Other items that would qualify are: Holding an independent match; Canine Experience (a multi-club match following a specific required format); an AKC Canine Good Citizen Test; Other Educational or Outreach Programs (pre-approval required); Performance Events; National or Regional Judges Education; New Exhibitor Mentoring Program

- ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (Two to Four are Required)

We comply with this through

- 1) Breeder Referral Services (on the website and on business cards and the edu ads above)
- 2) Dog Show Tours - We provide a handout called Dog Show 101 at the spring show and the show chair announces it on the loudspeaker throughout the day.
- 3) We maintain a Disaster Plan which was approved by the AKC (Website)
(We consider the spring show to be within our club's territory which allows us to perform 3 rather than 4 activities.)

Other items that would qualify are: Holding Conformation, Agility or Obedience Training classes; two educational programs at Club meetings; registered handler seminars or workshops, new exhibitor briefings, use of provisional judges; AKC show committee seminars; Meet the Breeds; Health Clinics.

SPRING SPECIALTY CATALOG ADS!!

It's that time again! Time to buy and sell ads in our Specialty catalog. This is a large part of our fundraising to cover the costs of the show. If all members would sell an ad and buy an ad, we would do very well. The information regarding the ads and the form to use can be found on our website at <http://westieclubmi.com/2014-spring-specialty/>. There is both the ad form and a suggested letter to use when soliciting ads. It is there in both pdf and doc format in case you want to modify it. **If you do not have access to the website, contact Beth (248-879-2479) and she will send you a copy of the forms in the regular mail.**

Please try to submit your ads as early as possible so that there is not a last minute rush. Sue Peters and Beth Widdows will help you set up ads upon request. This year's theme is "Westie Side Story" but your ad doesn't have to relate to the theme. It can be an ad for a business or product, a memorial, brag or whatever you think appropriate. Photos or artwork make your ad much more noticeable.

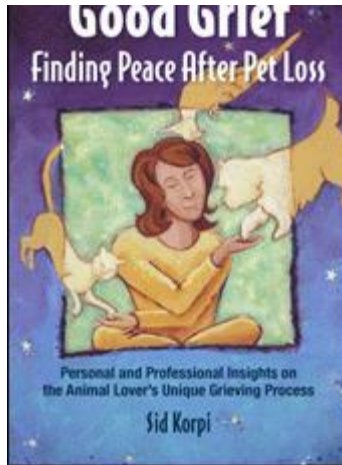
15 MINUTES OF FAME

South Shore Marlee Davidson. New champion. Dec. 5, 2013, Starved Rock Kennel Club. Judge: Mareth Kipp Best of Opposite/Best of Winners, 3 pt. Major. Bred by: Bev Walker. Conditioned and handled by Allison Sunderman. Thank you Allison!!

I LOVE FAST FOOD!!!!!!!



Cartoon used with permission from the artist. (Modified to reflect a Westie, of course!) See <https://www.facebook.com/KabukiCartoons> for more Kabuki cartoons.



www.goodgriefpetloss.com

This book was written by a fellow Westie owner and one of our eBay customers. Sid has 4 Westies and lives in Minnesota. Notice the Westie on the book cover. We all have or will suffer this loss. Perhaps reading this book now, will help you through it when it next happens. Or it might make a good gift to a friend who has recently had a loss.

MEMORIAL



Thank you, Westie Rescue, for the company of two magnificent creatures:

Daisy May Darlin'

And

Caesar

The gang of Westie Hooligans, Woofie, Daisy and Caesar are all at the Rainbow Bridge. Hope to see thembut not too soon.

Donald J. Herman

(Paid ad)

Club Member, Bonnie Wilson, isn't sitting idle in her Grand Rapids home with her two Westies, Blossom and Wrigley. She put them to work! Bonnie's mother, Helen Roersma, was blind and lived in a nursing home. Helen had one last wish.....for Westie Wrigley Wilson to become a Therapy Dog.....because she loved him so much and wanted other people to enjoy the love and attention that she received!!

Bonnie wanted to honor her mother's wish. After her mother passed away, Bonnie adopted Wrigley's mother and enrolled both Westies in a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) class. Upon graduation and lots of work on training, Bonnie took Blossom and Wrigley down to a dog show where Therapy Dog International (TDI®) was testing. TDI is a volunteer organization dedicated to regulating, testing and registration of therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers for the purpose of visiting nursing homes, hospitals, hospice, other institutions and wherever else therapy dogs are needed including natural disasters. To be recognized as an AKC Therapy Dog, a dog must be registered/certified by an AKC-recognized therapy dog organization. Blossom and Wrigley both passed the tests, and Bonnie registered them in TDI's program.

A Therapy Dog must have an outstanding temperament, which means that the dog should be outgoing and friendly to all people; men, women, and children. The dog should be tolerant of other dogs (of both genders) and non-aggressive toward other pets.

Blossom (currently age 13) and Wrigley (currently age 10) didn't stop at receiving an AKC Therapy Dog title (THD). They are both Therapy Dog International Associates (TDIA) and most recently, Therapy Dog International Active Outstanding Volunteers (TDIAOV).

Was the journey difficult? Bonnie says the hardest thing for them was to obey the words "leave it", meaning not to pick up any food or anything on the floors. It also makes you feel really good when you see all of their smiling faces when Wrigley & Blossom walk through the door and they call them by name. Paws awhile for love!



Wrigley Giving Love to Grandma Helen



Blossom & Wrigley Hard At Work
With Resident, Lucy



Blossom and Wrigley

Westie Christmas Party *Hot Fun on a Cold Day!*

The Westies were the stars at our annual Christmas Party held on December 8 at the Howell Recreation Center. Once the delicious potluck lunch was served, Santa and the Westies entertained us for the afternoon. The Westies formed a parade and walked in front of Santa so he could judge the Best Christmas Attire contest. Foster Cassie Hallman won because Santa liked the "little red bows on her ears". Then Santa judged the Best Dog Trick contest where Butch Riley won by spinning. This year, the Westies chose their own Christmas gift by entering the gift area, one-by-one, and letting us know which one they liked. Westie Amber Saygon won the Doggie Door Prize, a stocking full of dog toys and treats.



Dog Show Information

Date	Location	Type of Event	Sponsoring Club
2/1, 2/2	Wyoming, MI	Agility	Grand Rapids Agility Club
2/7, 2/8, 2/9	Dexter	Agility	AADTC
2/14, 2/15, 2/16	Dexter	Agility	Canine Combustion Agility Club
2/21, 2/22, 2/23	Dexter	Agility	Capital City Canine Agility Club
2/21, 2/22, 2/23	Warren	Rally and Obedience	Sportsmen's Dog Training Club
2/28, 3/1, 3/2	Lapeer	Agility	Sportsmen's Dog Training Club
3/7, 3/8, 3/9	Lapeer	Agility	Oakland County KC
3/8, 3/9	Buchanan	Rally and Obedience	St. Joe Valley Agility Club
3/14, 3/15, 3/16	Wyoming, MI	Agility	Kalamazoo KC
3/21, 3/22, 3/23	Midland	Agility	Central Michigan Agility Club
3/21, 3/22, 3/23	Flint	Rally and Obedience	Companion Dog Training Club
3/22,	Whitmore Lake	Rally	AADTC
3/28, 3/29	Kalamazoo	Rally	Kalamazoo KC
4/4, 4/5, 4/6	Birch Run	Rally and Obedience	Saginaw Valley Kennel Club
4/5, 4/6	Birch Run	Conformation	Saginaw Valley Kennel Club
4/18, 4/19, 4/20	Midland	Agility	Midland Michigan KC
4/25,	Birch Run	Conformation	Terrier Club of Michigan
4/26,	Whitmore Lake	Conformation	WHWTCSEM
4/26, 4/27	Birch Run	Conformation	Progressive Dog Club
4/25, 4/26, 4/27	Birch Run	Rally and Obedience	Progressive Dog Club

Congratulations to Rocket Peters, RATI, RATN

Rocket and his mother, Sue Peters, traveled to Sheboygan Wisconsin in mid-December for a weekend of Barn Hunting sponsored by the Sheboygan Dog Training Club. The event was held indoors while the snow was falling outside. In addition to the Instinct and Novice titles earned, Rocket also placed first in Instinct for finding the rat the fastest in his leg. On Sunday morning, he placed second in his Novice leg.

Rocket is the 4th Michigan dog to earn the Barn Hunt Novice title.....but the first Westie! His challenge this year will be the Open course, which will have more tunnels and more rats to find!





Westies + Barnhunt = Fun For All!

The purpose of Barn Hunt is to demonstrate a dog’s vermin hunting ability in finding and marking rats in a “barn-like” setting, using a straw/hay bale maze to introduce climbing and tunneling obstacles in the dog’s path. It’s a timed, sporting event with 3 different dog height divisions. Teams can get titles, placements, and championships. Titles are recognized by the AKC. The sport was created by The Barn Hunt Association, LLC. www.barnhunt.com

Barn Hunt is for any breed or mix of dog who loves to hunt and who can fit through an 18” wide gap between two hay bales. It will test speed, agility, and surefootedness. But there is also a handler component in that the handler must signal when the dog has reached the desired target rat tube; thus, the handler must know and have a partnership with their dog. Teamwork wins the game.

Zodiac Ranch in Milford Michigan www.zodiacranch.com is currently holding Barn Hunt practices. Two levels of practices are offered: Intro and Novice. Start out with **Intro** to see if your Westie is interested in finding the rat. Then graduate to the **Novice** level where you and your Westie will find the rat tube hidden among the bales. You must pre-register for your session (\$12).

Upcoming Practice Sessions at Zodiac Ranch

Saturday, February 8	Tuesday, February 11
Intro Session 2-3 pm	Intro Session 12-1 pm
Novice Session 3-4 pm	Novice Session 1-2 pm
Sunday, February 9	Tuesday, February 18
Intro Session 12-1 pm	Intro Session 12-1 pm
Novice Session 1-2 pm	Novice Session 1-2 pm
Intro Session 2-3 pm	Tuesday, February 25
Novice Session 3-4 pm	Intro Session 12-1 pm
	Novice Session 1-2 pm

Just announced: A Barnhunt fun match in Holland, MI. February 15, 2014. If you need a premium to enter, contact Beth. (Remember to register your dog first at www.barnhunt.com.)

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6mS6305SNQ>

TREATMENT FOR WESTIES WITH SEVERE SKIN ISSUES

Updated 1/27/14

Dr. Brad Theodoroff at Animal Medical Center of Troy 248-852-9800

Generally when a dog comes into Rescue in the Troy/Rochester area and is having allergy/skin issues, we take him to see Dr. Theodoroff. Following is a general description of the things that are usually done to help the dog. When these procedures are followed, we have a very high success rate.

Dr. T. checks the dog over.

- checks for fleas; if present, then treats for adult fleas with Capstar, and or Parastar Plus.
- both ear canals tested for yeast, bacteria and mites
- tape prep of skin sores and feet for bacteria and yeast
- skin scraping to check for mites
- blood panel, heartworm testing, fecal testing
- all dogs are started on Sentinel for flea and heartworm prevention, and hookworm, whipworm and round worm treatment and prevention
- thyroid panel if the dog has the look of a dog with thyroid issues (unusual)

Most Recues with skin disease or itch are suffering from Atopic Dermatitis. In human medicine, the common name for Atopic Dermatitis is eczema. Recently, there is emerging evidence that the inflammation in Atopic Dermatitis results primarily from inherited abnormalities in the skin - a skin "barrier defect". This barrier failure causes increased permeability of the skin and reduces its antimicrobial function. Additionally, the "barrier defect" means that water is lost; Irritants (soap, detergent, solvents, dirt) and Allergens (pollens, dust-mite antigen, microbes) may penetrate through the skin "barrier defect".

Dr. T. usually recommends the itchy dog start on Hill's J/D food which has lots of Omega 3 fatty acids and can often provide enough support for the mildly allergic dog without going into the steps below. Additionally the Omega 3's are powerful antioxidants and have anti-inflammatory functions that aid in skin health and healing. The Omega 3's are thought to help restore or improve the disrupted skin barrier and do help the skin retain moisture. J/D has more Omega 3's than the skin and allergy diets. Every cup of J/D is the equivalent of a cup of DermCaps and has more Omega #'s than any other supplement. (No, this isn't a typo....Yes, J/D is a joint disease food but it is what we use for the skin/allergy issues.)

Dr. T. usually will apply Revolution at the time and then again in 2 weeks time just in case there are undetected Sarcoptic mites (mange).

He will often give us

- antibiotics if he feels they are appropriate and always if steroids are used (Simplicef, Clavamox, Zeniquin or Baytril are the typical antibiotics used) Note: There is now an antibiotic injection, Convenia, that we use; it is more expensive but one less thing to give orally. Convenia last for 2 weeks. Many Rescues will need to be on antibiotics for 4 to 6 weeks, sometimes even longer!
- ketoconazole tablets, rinses and or creams may be used if yeast is present in high numbers

- **Apoquel for itch control.** To manage the itch that is present, we **had been using** a single steroid Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate(Dex SP) shot that last around 1 week (sometimes followed by another but not always). Sometimes an injection of Tiamcinolone, a stronger and longer lasting steroid is given. Stronger and longer does not mean better since steroids have profound effects on the immune system and long-term health for our Rescues. Then we switched to Atopica and used that for many years.
- **Now** we are using a new (Nov 2013) revolutionary medication, **Apoquel (Oclacitinib Maleate)**. Apoquel, provides onset of relief within 4 hours and effectively controls itch in 24 hours. It works as fast as steroids with none of the side effects we see with short or long term use of steroids. Apoquel, is a Janus kinase (JAK-1) inhibitor that blocks the cytokines including interleukin (IL)2, 4, 6,13 and 31. While all these ILs play a role in allergic dermatitis, IL31 has been shown to play a key role in generating and transmitting the neurologic itch signal to the brain that tells a dog to scratch. Apoquel does not inhibit other JAK enzymes in the body when used as directed. JAK-2 play important role in the blood production and innate immune system.
- Apoquel is dosed at .04 to .06 mg/Kg 2x/day for up to 14 days, then is given once, day, every day as needed. Dogs have been on Apoquel for up to 2 years now without any side effects noted.
- Apoquel is licensed to control "pruritus associated with allergic dermatitis and control atopic dermatitis in dogs at least 12 months of age".
- Flea bite allergy, Food Allergy, Contact Allergy (hotspots) and Atopic Disease all cause allergic itch. Apoquel is indicated in all these cases
- Apoquel is only for dogs over 1 year of age that do not have cancer or serious infection (pneumonia, kidney, pyometra, demodicosis). It is fine with skin infection, if it is properly diagnosed and being treated.
- Apoquel has replaced Atopica for the long term treatment of allergy. It works faster, and costs less. Additionally, Apoquel will not irritate the GI or cause gingival hyperplasia we saw with Atopica.
- We now can control the dog's itch with Apoquel and still have intradermal skin testing or allergen-specific blood testing. It also seems to be fine to use while getting allergic hyposensitization treatment. (Allergy shots)
- <https://online.zoetis.com/US/EN/Products/Pages/apoqueldvm/Index.aspx>
- We have had one dog that had a lot of yeast issues and had to also be treated for yeast eventually (with shampoos and rinses made for yeast infections). This was an extreme case.
- Note: Putting a tight t shirt on the dog will keep the dog from traumatizing the skin from scratching. They also seem to feel less of a need to scratch when wearing the shirt.

Note: Dogs that have ear infections will require ear drops such as Mometamax or Baytril. Medication is selected based on what is seen on the ear canal testing.



When she came in



Roxie now

Roxie came in with pretty severe skin issues. Atopica took her a long way. But Apoquel has further improved her skin and well being. And she no longer has to deal with side effects.



FIRST CLASS

Beth E. Widdows, Editor
1371 West S. Blvd.
Troy, MI 48098
bew1234@sbcglobal.net