



Westie Owners Set Up GoFundMe for Pulmonary Fibrosis Study

The Westie Foundation of America (WFA) serves as a catalyst for life improvement and progress in Westie health and veterinary care. We need your help to support a new study that has the ability to change the way Westies suffering from Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF)/Westie Lung Disease are treated and has the potential to greatly improve our dogs' lives. And It might even help people or cats with this condition!

We would like to get this study underway soon and need to raise \$30,000 to make it happen. There is a grassroots effort to help us fund this project. The WFA can provide a tax receipt for donations through their effort. We thank the Westie Lung Disease--PF in USA FB group, especially PJ, for their support and dedication. <https://www.gofundme.com/wfa-pulmonary-fibrosis-drug-study>

What? Pulmonary Fibrosis Study looking at new discovery of importance of thyroid hormone in treatment (link to study in Nature on the discovery: <https://www.nature.com/articles/nm.4447>)

Who? The WFA introduced two renowned research centers to look at this discovery and its potential efficacy in Westies with PF. Yale made the original discovery and Tufts has significant interest in Westies and PF. It is a match made in Westie Heaven.

Why? Pulmonary Fibrosis poses a significant burden on the quality of life of Westies that are affected and is a major cause of death in the breed. There are no therapies approved for treatment of PF in canines.

When? As soon as possible, the WFA would like to get financial support for this study to get it underway by fall 2018.

Where? The study will be housed at Tufts University and the University of Minnesota and dogs will be recruited for the study in the local area (unless owners from outside areas meet the logistical requirements of the study). Tufts researchers are already working with researchers at Yale to set up the study protocol and logistics – the only thing they need to get started is the funding to do the study.

Background on WFA's work in Pulmonary Fibrosis and with Canine/Human Researchers:

The WFA works with the best scientists in the world on Westie health. We have a track record of coordinating and convening the world's greatest minds in veterinary and human medicine to tackle the most burdensome diseases in our breed. In 2014, we convened the first-of-its-kind *Fibrosis Across Species* three-day conference bringing together renowned scientists and clinicians from human and veterinary medicine. The resulting partnerships and strategies continue to pay dividends on our and our partners' investment – and because of donations by Westie owners like you. As a result of the information exchanged and shared at the meeting, the National Institutes of Health identified "fibrosis across species" as a priority in human



Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis research efforts. In 2007, we convened the first meeting of human and canine researchers looking at naturally-occurring pulmonary fibrosis (PF) in the Westie and explored tandem efforts to attack the disease. The WFA will continue to cover new ground and pioneer strategies and tactics to solve the most confounding issues that affect the West Highland White Terrier.

WFA Vision for PF Research to Improve the Lives of Westies:

Our vision is to expand our efforts to become a catalyst in Westie research efforts by proactively establishing research partnerships with universities, independent research centers and experts in industry including companies in the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and medical device industries. We envision matching researchers with potential partners and resources to provide successful and sustainable Westie-related research programs.

A Partnership for Healthier and Happier Westie Dogs and Owners

Together, we can build an all-new program that will advance research to improve the health and lives of Westies. We can make Westie ownership even more satisfying and rewarding. We can challenge the current research paradigm in Westie health and accelerate progress into finding treatments and cures for our dogs and hopefully humans. We can ensure that our leaders move us quickly in the direction of success and we fully capitalize on our research efforts and partnerships to drive innovation.

Okay, you've made a donation – Thank you! How ELSE can you help Westies?

In addition to helping fund this study, we are also planning to have Westie families help determine the normal value for the 6-minute walk test in Westies! While we know this distance (which is a measurement that provides important information about progression of disease) in people and dogs, we don't know for sure about Westies, in particular. It is EASY and you can do it at home! We need both normal Westies, and Westies that been found to have pulmonary fibrosis.

What you need:

- 1) A Westie
- 2) An area to walk that is not filled with distractions, like a parking lot.
- 3) A smart phone that measures distance. You can also use an official 6 MWT app on your phone. 6MWDAPP.
- 4) Please participate, and then enter data here! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SJSZGWK>

About *The Westie Foundation of America*

The mission of the Westie Foundation of America, Inc. is a 501 C (3) organization established to provide financial aid and other support for medical research in order to benefit the health and quality of life of West Highland White Terriers; and, to further develop and communicate information regarding the health, care, breeding and quality of life of Westies to Westie owners, Westie breeders and veterinarians. For more information visit www.westiefoundation.org.