

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JANUARY 24, 2013**  
**ONLINE**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present:

B. Widdows

M. Murray

M. Sayles

J. Curtis

Minutes from the November 29, 2012 regular meeting were previously distributed. They were approved unanimously.

There was discussion and the following was unanimously agreed.

B. Widdows will coordinate the program.

The general guidelines for special dog program are attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.

And lastly, Attorney Tom Michael is still working on contract language for this program. Any contract will be reviewed at a later date by the board.

There was discussion and it was agreed unanimously that a roster of all foster dogs will be maintained by the secretary of the corporation.

There was discussion and it was agreed unanimously that the board would review all dogs in foster care over 8 weeks to determine future care and possible change of foster homes.

The current roster was reviewed. There is only one dog in care over 8 weeks. Digger is currently in medical care and a diagnosis is actively being sought. Nothing will be changed at this time. He will continue treatment with medication rather than further testing or other treatments as this time. As more information comes in the board will consider the medical recommendations. No limiting dollar amount will be determined at this time.

There was a discussion about how to handle appointments with specialty veterinarians for current foster dogs. It was agreed unanimously that appointments with specialty vets require prior approval by board (except emergencies).

It was agreed unanimously that a board member would attend consults and test results appointments.

It was agreed unanimously that these guidelines would be published to the foster home list.

J. Story here at 7:22 p.m.

C. Beaudry joined meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Board Member Nominations – Closed Meeting

J. Story was advised if she is in need of any assistance in keeping up the applications lists she will contact the foster list for help and failing receiving same, she will contact B. Widdows who will help on one time basis any time at Story's request.

There was discussion about creating a volunteer recognition award. It was agreed unanimously that all volunteers would be recognized at the specialty in April of each year for the West Highland White Terrier Club of Southeastern Michigan. Special and exceptional services will be pointed out in a written speech at that time.

There was prior discussion on list of starting and retaining a list of foster home checks. It was agreed unanimously that the corporation will make and retain a list of current foster homes and make and retain home checks for these foster homes. J. Story will send B. Widdows a list of foster homes that already have home checks being certain each home check is dated. The list of foster homes without a home check will be published on board list and the board members will make every effort to complete home checks on all homes.

It was agreed unanimously that a time frame for updating these home checks will be made by the board at a future date to be determined.

It was discussed and agreed that the corporation should create a budget. J. Curtis, as Treasurer will build a budget in Quickbooks. She advised it is best to do one after the first fiscal year for the second fiscal year and then thereafter. The board will wait for her to report back on this matter at a later time. Our fiscal year is August 1 to July 31.

B. Widdows reported to the board the foster home binder program is working well. Paperwork has been filed for the most part timely and properly. Kinks will continue to be worked out but overall it's very satisfactory.

Registering with the State of Michigan as a Charity will be completed in April 2013.

The treasurer will work with the CPA to determine the language for the 501(c)(3). She will issue it when it's completed.

It was discussed on list prior to the meeting and agreed unanimously that the rescue would coordinate creating the graphics for a specialty tee shirt and would promote the sale of same for workers and attendees at the specialty in April 2013. Marcia Reimer created a design, the tees were priced at \$15 and offered for sale to foster list, club list and on Facebook page. B. Widdows agreed to coordinate the sale of the tee shirts.

It was agreed unanimously B. Widdows will purchase cowboy hats for the workers and rescue parade participants. She will make decisions on type, color and costs.

There was discussion on list prior to this meeting about whether we should change the reserved fund amount decided before incorporating for a special needs / permanent foster dog. The amount previously retained for a dog, set aside in case the rescue dissolves, is \$1,000.00 per dog. It was agreed unanimously the corporation would continue at the same amount until we have experience and reason to change this amount.

J. Curtis will take any financial questions, ask our accountant and report back to the board.

New Business: M. Murray advised that her retaining various requests for agenda additions throughout the month is not working when creating a new agenda. In future she will ask, one week prior to meeting, for emailing of any agenda items. Please submit the wording of the agenda item and reason for it. This will facilitate shorter meetings and fewer emails prior to the meeting. The agenda will go out the day before the meeting in completed form. There were no objections to creating the meeting agenda in this fashion.

Approved:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL DOG PAYMENTS**

### **Always approved:**

Routine medical care including

- Vaccinations as agreed to with vet
- Annual blood panel including heartworm test
- Annual fecal check
- Heartworm preventative (year around)
- Annual wellness appointment
- Dentals as needed
- Any other items agreed to between Westie Rescue and vet

### **Extra vet visits for**

- Illness including treatment for routine items

(Examples: Giardia, diarrhea, nausea, fever)

- **Not routine illness upon agreement with vet**

(Examples: Skin issues, eye problems, etc.)

Other illness which is preventable will require further discussions with the adopter:

- Example: Heartworm. We will treat this but will discuss possible return of dog since this is a disease that should not happen if the owner is giving the preventative.

**Non Traditional treatments will not be covered.**

- Examples, chiropractic, acupuncture, homeopathy

**Major illness**

**Dogs up to age 14:**

- We will pay to diagnose most illnesses. We will consider treatment on a case by case basis. If the disease is curable, we will usually treat. If not, we will pay to help the dog be comfortable but will not pay for extreme treatments.
- MRI: We will consider this but due to the high cost, we will agree only after careful discussion with the vets involved.
- Cancer treatments: We will pay for some cancer care where the dog can be cured surgically at a reasonable cost. Examples: early stage breast cancer, limb amputation, removal of single tumors. We will not pay for experimental treatments or radiation or chemo treatments.
- Cataracts: We will pay for cataract removal in one eye but may dictate the vet to be used.
- Brain Surgery: We will not often pay for this but will discuss it with the vet or surgeon.

- Other: We will make similar decisions on other illnesses on a case by case basis.

### **Over age 14 or if previously diagnosed with a serious or fatal illness**

At this point, we consider the dog to be near the end of life. As such, we will not routinely pay for treatments that we might agree to for a younger, healthier dog. We will not interfere with the decision of the adopter to pursue treatment at their own cost.

We want to care for all of our dogs to whatever degree is needed but we must be practical also, when it comes to end of life. Prolonging the life of a very ill elderly dog may be at the expense of giving aid to a younger, healthier dog due to financial considerations.

- MRI: If a brain tumor is suspected, we will pay for palliative treatment (e.g., steroids) rather than the expensive MRI.
- Illnesses following diagnosis of a serious or fatal illness:

Example: We will not pay for emergency care of a dog who is very ill if the dog is already diagnosed with a brain tumor. We will suggest that the owner consider it time to let the dog be euthanized. We would pay for initial care by the original vet but not emergency care.

- Kidney disease: We would pay for diagnosis and initial treatment outside an emergency facility. We would discuss ongoing care costs with the vet before making a decision on payment.
- Other diseases: We would handle in a similar manner but on a case by case basis.