

CHRISTMAS 2009

We have had an exciting year this year. Of course, most of my life centers around my pups. And they took me for quite a nice ride. All three surprised me in some very nice ways!

Molly earned her This happened in knew what she CDX). I was good in any decided to not "push it" any further!! So she is retired from formal obedience and does it just for fun now.



CDX which is Companion Dog Excellent (Open Obedience). March. She chose that day to suddenly heel in the ring like she was doing! Her performance is on YouTube (Search on Westie and really fortunate that a friend taped it for me. Molly hasn't been as future attempts. I think God gave me that one great day and I have

Glennie shocked me in October. I entered him in five obedience shows just feel left out. He went 5 for 5 and earned his **CD**, something I never would do! He showed his brother and sister up nicely!



so he wouldn't thought he

And Jake earned both his **NA**, novice with six BLUE ribbons! He then decided so we pulled while we work through this title this summer. And he earned the National Club. (Glennie and Jake have now earned the National Club Versatile Dog Award and Molly has the Versatile Dog Excellent Award!)



agility and **NAJ** novice agility jumper's titles he would rather visit the crowd than run the course glitch. He also earned his **JB**, Junior Earthdog 2008 Rally All Scores Annual Award from the

It is hard to ask for more....but I did get more! In February, as we were walking into a show, we were stopped by a photographer who wanted to tape us. He followed us into the building and interviewed me. He taped Molly in the ring and in the end, Molly and I ended up on the front page of the Detroit News! You can see the article and video with my interview at:

<http://www.detroitnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?APP=200902270394>

At Cobo the next week, someone took Molly and Glennie's photo and they ended up in an ad for a dog product. (Photo is in the card.)

Molly is aging well. For a 12 year old, she gets around very nicely and is still very active. She is trying to get her Tracking title but we had a bit of a glitch. It was so funny, I am recounting it below:

Miss Molly went to her first Tracking test today. We did not pass so it was a \$55 walk in the park.....Jurassic Park, that is! We never do anything the easy way. If there is a possibility of something weird happening, it will happen to us. Dog 1 passed, Dog 2 failed, Dog 3 passed, Dog 4 failed and then it was Molly's turn. A caravan of a dozen vehicles drove to the site for her test. When we got there everyone got out and went to the viewing area and the judges, observers, Molly and I went down towards the starting area. Well, off to the right about 200 yards was a barnyard and in the fenced area by the barn were two horses and a llama. They were apparently fine yesterday when they plotted the track and okay when the track was laid but when the dozen cars drove up and disgorged 30 or so people, they got very upset.

We walked to the first flag and Molly sniffed the starting article and I encouraged her to "go track". She headed out and got about 15 yards. But by then the llama was pacing back and forth and the horses started neighing very loudly. They were upset and the more noise they made the more excited they got. The llama didn't seem to be making noise but it may have just been drowned out by the horses. The horses started chasing each other and I swear they began to scream. Then it sounded like a raptor started crowing too...at top volume from inside the barn so it echoed. Later I heard it was a "rescued" peacock! And someone told me there were also two dogs running around in all the commotion. With all of this going on, Molly just stopped and

stared. I encouraged her and instead of going forward, she returned to me. In a lull, I sent her back out and she went but then the horse screamed again and she stopped dead. She came back to me and I couldn't get her going forward again. Finally the judge came over and said, "This is the Test from HELL. You might as well just use this as a practice track." So they all left and the tracklayer and I took Molly out. When we finished we went past the barn again and the animals were totally silent!

Later one of the judges said to me, "If you closed your eyes, you could easily have believed that you were in a jungle somewhere". And that wasn't any exaggeration at all. I thought they were playing the soundtrack from Jurassic Park!!! I should not be scared at all when we test again because what could possibly happen worse than this!!!! ☺

Her second test was better. She tracked 4 legs and 3 turns but she just could not make the 4th turn which involved a cover change. Instead she turned around and glared at the judges. They couldn't hear her but I could hear a little "grrrrr" from under her breath! I guess she decided she didn't like the peanut gallery! So, maybe next year! Her eyes aren't great – she has cataracts in both eyes (Like mom, like daughter!) but they aren't bad enough to risk the surgery yet. And she is retired now from all competitive sports that require jumping but she still loves Earthdog and we have a great time at that. We'll give tracking another shot in the spring and see if she can certify again. If not, I'll probably let Jake take over her classes.

Molly, Glennie and Jake all love to go out in the back yard and hunt. They hunt the critters they believe live on the other side of the fence. They are sure there are mice under the storage units and this year I must have rescued 50 toads. I can hear the "critter" bark and go out and get the toad before they paw it to death. (Toads here are not poisonous and the Westies have learned to not eat them! They know that if they do, their mouth will foam and cause mom to panic and half drown them with the hose!)

Finally I will mention that we continued to attend Rock-N-Roll K-9 events, www.rocknrollk9s.com, and they all seem to enjoy entertaining the crowds. Glennie has done some parades and is quite proud of himself. I feel sure that working in front of these crowds made all the difference in the ability of Molly to get her CDX and Glennie his CD. I'm hoping the same magic works for Jake. He still loves to visit the crowds but is doing pretty well at working his obedience during free times between shows despite the distractions.

We were very busy with Rescue this year, taking in more Rescues than ever before. I've been doing less fostering personally but our organization has been growing with the addition of some great new foster homes. I'm concentrating more on the administrative side of the work.

We also enjoyed a visit from Gayle Gray, my good friend from so long ago now! We met when we were 17; she was replacing me as the co-op student at Michigan Bell while I went on to full-time work. It was fun to share a meal and recount our memories to her grandkids! (Sister) Fran and Del are retired and still live in Temperance. My older nephew, Jim, is temporarily working in England but will be back by Christmas; younger nephew Tom just moved to Ann Arbor which is closer to his work.

We wish you all a great Holiday and a happy 2010.

Beth, Molly, Glennie and Jake

My Website: www.westiedreaming.com

This Card: <http://bqw1234.glis.net/NEW/Christmas09/Card2009.htm> (on the cover, the dogs from left to right are Jake, Molly and Glennie)

Our Rescue Newsletter: www.westie3.fatecow.com//ChristmasNewsletter09/Chnewsltr09.htm