

A Lifetime's Journey

CH PACH2 Kirkton's Moonlight at SilverOaks RE OA OAJ MXP14 MXPB2
MJP10 MJPC OFP PAX3 SWN SINE SCA RATO

By Mary Ann Neal

We are on borrowed time. I've known that since Maura turned 14, an age when my previous two Westies had departed this earthly plane and when most of my TEAM Westie callers over the years told me they had lost their beloved Westie. However at 15 years and 4 months my Maura continues to work and play with me. At the 2019 National Specialty she earned her RATO title in the one sport she truly only did because I asked her. She didn't particularly like Mr. Stinky. Ever. Not in Earthdog. Not in Barn Hunt. Her attitude? To throw shade at the location as if to say 'He's there. YOU deal with him.' Ask her to sniff out birch, anise or cypress and it's another game altogether. Even my stinky sock in Handler Discrimination is preferred to Mr. Stinky Rat!

Bred by Allison Platt, Maura was selected as my "everything Westie"...conformation and performance...we were in it for the long haul! Maura's performance career began young with basic obedience and rally obedience classes, but when she was climbing over my shoulders during class to see what was going on in the yard behind us where the big dogs were running agility, she indicated her game of choice. And once retired from

that game at 13, we took up AKC Scent Work as a way to keep her active and happy. Then we used the training from Scent Work to convince her to find Mr. Stinky. She earned all her scenting related titles, including her Barn Hunt Novice and Open after the age of 14. She would go on to become CH PACH2 Kirkton's Moonlight at SilverOaks RE OA OAJ MXP14 MXPB2 MJP10 MJPC OFP PAX3 SWN SINE SCA RATO, earn 3 trips to the National Agility Championships, and hold a top 5 position in Preferred Agility Westies for several years. And pending confirmation, in 2020 she will earn her WHWTCA Master of Versatility award.

Maintaining her health has been an important component in her achievements. She hasn't made it easy...swallowing a rock at 11 months which had to be surgically removed, a C-section for the big puppy who went the wrong direction during whelping, the repair of the sutures on that C-section when they popped. At 6 we spayed her. That's the point where we

moved her down to Preferred in Agility to jump 4 inches and her successes in that sport took off. Even before that I had had hips and patellas checked and OFA'd. With the help of my vet, Dr. Richard Yamaguchi, we ran titers



Maura Stacks for Mary Ann

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Maura Jumps



Maura Weaves

for all her regular shots after the initial ones, administering only the Rabies, which is required by law, on the 4-year cycle.

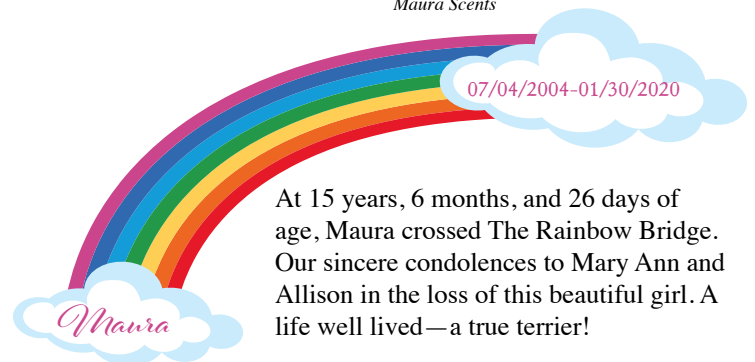
When she ate on a toxic plant that sent her liver into failure combined with Pancreatitis at 13, we treated her and changed her food to a low fat diet and brought everything back into the normal range. She had already been on a yearly senior blood panel to monitor changes. Then I found a hard bump near a nipple when she was 14. Dr. Yamaguchi removed a string of cancerous mammary tumors, achieving clean margins. A few weeks later she was back to work in Scent Work and earning titles there again, including a high Novice in Trial. She's maintaining her weight of 15 pounds, never misses a meal and plays with 6 year old Gibbs and the new addition, 16 week old Nuala. There are signs she's slowing down; her renal function isn't as good and I've been forced to cut back on the roasted chicken treat rewards she LOVES, her hearing is "selective" at times and she sleeps more soundly and startles if you wake her too quickly and she feels the aches and pains of active Westie Rumpuses with the pack. But she goes to Scent Work class weekly, tells the other dogs they aren't doing it right and continues to work, qualify and title when we trial.

Because of sound breeding, excellent veterinary care and a wide variety of activities, Maura continues to live her best life as my "everything Westie".



Maura Scents

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At 15 years, 6 months, and 26 days of age, Maura crossed The Rainbow Bridge. Our sincere condolences to Mary Ann and Allison in the loss of this beautiful girl. A life well lived—a true terrier!