

# Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

## CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

Volume 2, Issue 1, March, 2007

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### Think Spring!

Spring is right around the corner and it's time for our first newsletter of 2007. Thanks to our ever growing WWR family who have shared their stories with us! Through them we've gotten to know a little more about how WWR has added joy to their lives via new 4 footed family members!

In this issue we profile Bella, Ozzie & Gurt who found their forever homes through WWR. We will hear from Amy Tokarz her family's story of Failing Fostering 101! We will pause to celebrate the memory of a special Westie, Tessie, and her legacy of joy she brought to Julie & Tom Risen.

Please see page 6 for our Bear Hugs for WWR program! Make a minimum \$5.00 donation to WWR and get a Bear Hug in return! Help WWR and keep changing lives one Westie at a time! ☺

### Beautiful Bella

*Introduction by Anne Plouff, foster mom, and Cheryl Cutsforth WWR volunteer coordinator*

Bella was a stray picked up by Milwaukee County Animal Control. When she was picked up, her hair and nails were very overgrown. It was not certain what would be found underneath all the fur and dirt. Needless to say, a very pretty, petite female was underneath. Bella was also fully house broken. She is estimated to be about 7 years old and in good health although an examination revealed she has an eye disease that will ultimately leave her blind.

Joan and Nick did not hesitate to adopt this beautiful special needs Westie, and have committed themselves fully to continuing her care and treatment. Bella is enjoying life, learning her environment and will be well prepared for the total loss of vision when it comes. We hope Bella's story will encourage others to consider adopting a Westie with special needs.



**Bella** by Joan & Nick Janis

Bella, AKA Rosabell, came to us the week before Mother's day 2006. We had lost our 14 ½ year old Westie, Salty, in October of 2005 and knew that we wanted another Westie. We were fortunate to come across WWR on the internet and decided adopting a Westie was a good idea. Little did we know how lucky we were going to be.

Bella is a perfect Westie. She is very beautiful with a great coat and great personality. Although she is very laid back, she is the best behaved little lady and understands everything you tell her, and when you offer her a treat, she does a little ballerina dance on her two hind legs, even turning around in a circle. She gets along with other dogs and also our cat Kirby. Kirby is 17 years old and tries to rule over her, but Bella just dismisses him with a turned up nose. She doesn't bark, in fact I have only heard her bark three times since we got her. She may not be a great watchdog, but she is obedience trained like no other dog I ever had. I can stop her from chasing a rabbit or a squirrel with just a simple "no Bella".

Bella's foster mother was Anne Plouff in Milwaukee and Anne named her Rosabell, but we changed it to Bella because it means 'beautiful' in Italian and that fits her in every way. Although we don't have any little children in our house, she is attracted to children and loves to be petted by them. She doesn't jump on people but is always willing to be petted, especially on her belly. You can see why we love her and feel so lucky to have her as part of our household. Thanks to Anne and WWR, we got a wonderful little Westie! ☺



*Gurt (right) and her sister Pip*  
**Gurt** by Annitta & Bob Wosniack

Dear WWR

I rec'd your newsletter today and it reminded me to send my annual thank you for our dog Gurt. Gurt was formerly known as Bitsy and is a mixed West Highland White with a Border terrier. She is now 4 years old, and has a "sister" named Pip who is full Cairn. These two are quite a pair. Gurt is short for Yogurt- when we adopted her she wouldn't eat well so we put yogurt on her dry kibble to entice her. It worked. Our family grew around her. We now have three children and Gurt has adjusted well. We are thankful to have her and tell everyone we know to call WWR if they have an interest in an amazing dog like our Gurt. Thank you for your work and love of animals. ☺



*Ozzie & Mikey*  
**Ozzie** by Ozzie with help from Karen Stephenson

Hi! My name is Ozzie. They used to call me Buddy, but my boy Mikey is a big White Sox fan and there is a guy on that team named Ozzie. I am a big white socks fan too, but Mom always takes them away from me when I take them out of the dirty laundry! I live with my Mom, Dad, and Mikey. I get lots of treats and walks and Mike and I like to play chase a lot, but my favorite thing to

do is go to class. There are a lot of other dogs there and we get to do fun things like go through tunnels and over jumps. Mikey says I will make a great agility dog because I'm so fast! I'm not sure what that is, but it sounds like fun. I love to play, but at night I like to cuddle up on my bed and take a rest. I sleep in my crate in Mom and Dad's room (sometimes Dad let's me lay on the big bed). I have a nice yard with lots of bunnies and squirrels and my friend Bogie next door. I also have a friend named Emma, a big yellow dog, who I visit sometimes and we play together in this fluffy white stuff they call snow. At first, I didn't know what it was, but now I really like to go out and play in it. Well, it's time for my third nap of the day: I'm still a puppy, you know. Thanks for taking good care of me so I could come home to my family. Love, Ozzie ☺

## Foster Failure 101 or How to Adopt a Westie Without Trying

by Amy Tokarz

The idea of fostering seems simple. You sign up, you get a dog, you play with it for a few weeks, maybe teach it some manners, and then some nice family comes along and takes the dog home. You give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done and wait for the next dog to show up.

Or not.

My husband Joe and I have always been animal people. We both grew up surrounded by pets; Joe with dogs and everything from goats to guinea hens and me with cats, goldfish, and a mercifully short experiment in hamsters. When we met 10 years ago Joe had a Scottish Terrier, and I quickly discovered that terriers are like potato chips – if you're a terrier person you can't have just one!

In August of 2005, having lost our beloved Scottie girl Elfie, we found ourselves with one very lonely little Scottie boy, Mr. Frodo. We adopted a couple of goofy cats to help keep Frodo company but we could tell that he still missed having a dog in the house. Joe and I were getting lonely for another dog too, but Elfie's loss was still fresh and we weren't sure we were ready.

Around that time I had been talking with my friend Katie, who volunteers at a shelter near Eau Claire. Katie knew Cheryl and Carol Cutsforth from her shelter work and knew that they were involved with WWR. Katie suggested maybe we should get involved in fostering rather than getting a puppy. Joe and I were intrigued. Fostering sounded like a great idea (see first paragraph)! We got in touch with Cheryl and a few weeks later she and Carol came to do our home visit. Frodo and the kitties put on quite show for them and soon we were approved for foster.

Soon we got a call asking if we were ready to take on our first foster dog. We were excited – this was gonna be great! Now, I admit that we had been warned that most dogs that come in to rescue are not exactly examples of health and manners – at least not good examples! We knew that this foster dog had some problems and was going to need some attention. That said, Joe and I were NOT mentally prepared for the stinky little one-eyed ball of fur that peed on everything that showed up as our foster dog!

About a week later (after a loooooong bath, two surgeries, and a lot of carpet cleaner) we were in love. Joe started talking about adopting, but I stood my ground. Remember, I said, this is NOT our dog. He's just the cutest thing ever, but he is NOT our dog. That lasted for all of 3 days and then I broke down and secretly emailed Laura to ask if there was anyone interested in our foster and if not, could we keep him. Laura gave me the 'foster failure' speech and assured me that this happens to everyone and that a wonderful home had been found for the little guy.

Soon we had another call from WWR asking if we would foster a 5-year old Westie boy called Dexter. We had very little background information on him other than he had been a runaway and had been adopted for 3 days and then returned to the shelter. According to the lady who had briefly adopted him, he was a terrible dog who peed and barked and didn't like men. At the time, Joe and I were in the middle of remodeling our house and were about to host a baby shower for 30 people, so adding an unpredictable little dog to the mix was probably the last thing we should have agreed to. Nevertheless, we said we'd take him.

This time we were better prepared for the condition Dexter was in. His fur was at least 6 inches long and was full of mats. He was covered in scabs from old tick bites and a flea infestation. He had a problem with excitement urination and was so stinky that I almost couldn't bring myself to touch him. When I got him home, we discovered that Dexter was fearful of men – he crouched and covered every time Joe came near him. Dexter also didn't have the first idea how to climb the stairs to get into our house.

Finding the dog under all the mats and scabs and smell was more important than a stair climbing lesson, so into the laundry sink went Dexter. Having given my share of baths to squirrely terriers, I was prepared to get soaked. Here was our first surprise from him – he stood quietly for a solid hour of grooming and for a long scrub in the tub. Clean and dry for the first time in who knows how long, we introduced Dexter to Frodo. 10 seconds of sniffing led to a long game of chase in

the back yard and two very happy little terriers. Success!

Encouraged, Joe and I moved on to introducing Dexter to the cats: Drizzt and Martha Jane. Both of them are from a shelter – and are fully, wickedly clawed - and neither one had any fear of dogs. Then they met Dexter. I'm still convinced that Dexter isn't trying to hurt the cats, but after Drizzt gave Dexter the cold shoulder and Dexter grabbed Drizzt by the tail and pulled him out of the window sill where he was perched I'm pretty sure the cats don't agree with me on that one!

Less encouraged and with the cats safely hidden away in the basement we went on with getting Dexter used to our house. By now we had figured out that Dexter was probably not his real name, our first clue being that he never answered to Dexter! He also didn't answer to treats, so rewarding him with food for his good deeds was out. Needless to say, by the end of Day 1 Joe and I were exhausted!

The turning point came the next morning. Joe got up early and let the dogs outside. When they came in, Frodo did his usual Saturday morning jump-into-bed-and-roll-in-dad's-spot routine. Dexter hesitated for a split second and then followed right behind, jumping into bed and snuggling right under the blankets and covering us with doggie kisses. We were doomed!

A week later, we emailed Laura and adopted Dexter. His new name is Samwise - Lord of the Rings Fans will understand. He finally figured out that treats are for good boys and that there are lots of opportunities for him to be a good boy! He loves belly scratches and toys and shares the window seat with Frodo where they lay in the sunshine and bark at squirrels and kids on bikes and the UPS guy. He plays catch and chase in the back yard and loves to go for rides in the car. Someday (if we're lucky) he'll figure out cats are not a food group and will give up on chasing them!☺

*Samwise at home on his favorite spot*

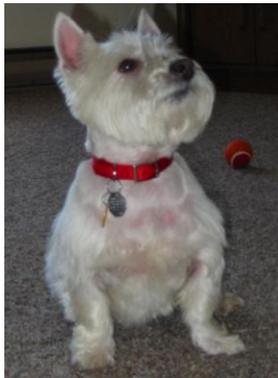


## Foster News!!



**Teddy**

Teddy is an 8 year old male Westie just coming into rescue. Teddy, an owner turn in, is outgoing, energetic, and likes to play fetch. An adoption is pending for this handsome boy. Teddy is currently fostered by Greg & Susan VerPlank.



**Malibu**

Malibu, a 3 year old female Westie just entered WWR as an owner turn in due to her allergies. Malibu loves to play ball and gets along with her foster cats. Please contact Lynn Sawyer at [weehaven@wctc.net](mailto:weehaven@wctc.net) for more information on this sweet little girl. Malibu is being fostered by Kaylene Pernsteiner.

## *Forever Homes Found!*

**Lenny**

Lenny, a 2 year old Westie Mix, came to WWR via the Pepin shelter due to overcrowding at that facility. Sweet and personable, Lenny quickly found his forever home and a 12 year old boy to play with! Lenny was fostered by the Cutsforths.

**Henry**

Energetic Henry has found his forever home in Madison where he is certain to shake things up a

bit! Previously a puppy mill dog, Henry was turned over to WWR when he got too old to sell. He was fostered by Amy & Chris Fleming.

**Elvis**

Elvis, age 7, an owner turn in, was rumored to be a wild one, but turned out to be as nice as he is handsome! Elvis joins his new mom Christine, in Milwaukee. Elvis was fostered by the Cutsforths.

**Hudson**

Hudson came into rescue along with Elvis with the same description and turned out equally sweet! Hudson, age 5, has found his forever home with Amanda and Gayle in Janesville, WI where he enjoys walks in the park and Packer games! Thanks to Sherri Rice Bentley and Ann Marie Lubert for tag-team fostering duties!

**Sadie**

Sadie, age 5, also an owner turn in, has found life pretty nice since moving in with her forever mom Barbara in Burlington WI. Sadie was fostered with Amy and Joe Tokarz with help from the gang!

**Dusty (Dustin)**

Dustin came to WWR from an Arkansas puppy mill. Dustin, now named Dusty, is happy with his forever family in Kaukauna, WI where he gets plenty of love and attention and is enrolled in obedience class! Good luck Dusty and thanks to Amy & Chris Fleming for fostering Dusty!

**Annie**

Annie, fostered by Ann Marie Lubert in Brookfield, WI didn't have to move far when she found her forever family right in the same town! Annie was turned over to rescue after the Thorp dog auction last fall. Congrats to Annie and her family, Richard and Janelle!

**Gracie**

Gracie now lives in Franklin WI with her new mom Penny! Gracie was also turned over to rescue after the Thorp dog auction last fall. Best of luck to Gracie & Penny, and thank you to foster mom Anne Plouff!

**Sweet Pea**

Darling Sweet Pea has found her forever home with Richard and Judy in Mequon WI. Sweet Pea, a special needs puppy, was turned into WWR from a puppy mill in Southern WI. Thanks to an all-star cast of foster families including Anne Plouff, Amy & Joe Tokarz, Cheryl & Carol Cutsforth and Kris & Tom Tommessen for all you've done for Sweet Pea!

## **Welcome new Foster Families!**

We're proud to introduce our two new foster families Sharon Ager & Mark Patterson of Eau Claire, and Kaylene Pernsteiner of Altoona! Sharon and Mark have first-hand experience of rescue dogs having adopted two of their own, and Kaylene brings to WWR experience with training and handling dogs from her job as a vet tech! Both families look forward to their new role in WWR and we are happy to have them in our fold.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster family for WWR, please let us know! We are always looking for new homes for our foster duties! Contact Laura Stafford at [westies@new.rr.com](mailto:westies@new.rr.com) for more information. ☺

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

May is our annual thrift sale in Eau Claire WI and we want your stuff! The tentative dates for the sale are May 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Call Cheryl or Carol Cutsforth at 715-839-7831 or email Cheryl at [cutsfocl@uwec.edu](mailto:cutsfocl@uwec.edu) for more information on how to make donations. Books, tools, toys, gardening and lawn equipment and household items are big sellers. No clothing, shoes, or large appliances please. The thrift sale has been a great fund raiser for rescue over the years. If you're unable to participate in the Eau Claire sale and would like to host your own event, go for it! It's a fun way to meet other animal lovers in your community!

Check out spring eBay offerings! We will be listing new items for Easter and Mother's Day. Our eBay user ID is wwestierescue.

June 30th, 2007 is our next deadline to submit news items or stories for our July newsletter. Let's hear from you!

Sunday Oct 14<sup>th</sup> is WIS Scots at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. Black and White is the theme for WIS Scots! Admission is \$23.00 per person and includes brunch at the hotel. Shopping, a doggie fashion show, commercial vendors and rescue groups will be in attendance. Westie owners are invited and WWR plans to have a table for fund raising. Contact Lynn Sawyer, the WIS Scots event coordinator at [weehaven@wctc.net](mailto:weehaven@wctc.net) for more info. Note: dogs are not allowed in the shopping or brunch area so bring crates if your dog is attending. ☺

## **In Memory of Tessie**

Our hearts go out to Julie and Tom Risen who lost their beloved Tessie this past December. Tessie, who became a permanent foster after being

diagnosed with cancer when she came into rescue, spent her final, and undoubtedly best years of her life, with the Risens. Julie wrote the following for WWR before Tessie passed away.

### ***Tessie*** by Julie Risen

*Tessie became part of our family on her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday, November 1, 2004. We originally took her as a foster after her elderly owner passed away and his family did not want to take on the responsibility of Tessie and her skin allergies. We quickly went to work on trying to find a way to control her skin allergies and make her as comfortable as possible. About 6 weeks into her stay with us during a routine visit to the vet, a lump was found that proved to be a form of untreatable cancer. The decision was made at the time that it would be unfair for her to be adopted so she would stay with us.*

*Tessie has brought so much joy into our home. You can't help but smile when she looks at you. She is so unlike our other two male Westies (also seniors at 12 and 14). She is a 13 year old puppy! She chews on the strangest things like phone cords, pens, or anything that's left on the floor. She spent her first 6 years in a puppy mill, so we attribute the "puppy behavior" so late in life to the fact she didn't get the chance to do all those puppy things when she was young. Just the other day when I left the refrigerator door open for just a second, I caught her pulling a bag of carrots off the shelf.*

*The exact opposite of our other two dogs, she likes to stay in the house. She will only go outside to do her business then she hustles right back in and waits for her treat. When we all go for our walk, Tessie prefers to be pulled in her wagon. Since she doesn't bark or jump up on furniture, when she wants to be picked up she uses her nose to nudge at us. The longer it takes, the harder she nudges.*

*We can't imagine our home without Tessie. Fostering her has been a very special experience.*

## **Thanks!**

A BIG thank you to everyone who sent in donations for our end-of-the-year appeal in our Nov newsletter! WWR could not continue without the generous donations of our members!

Thank you to Ann Marie Lubert and Lynn Sawyer who donated Westie themed item to our holiday eBay auctions! Their donations brought in over \$250.00 to rescue this Christmas and their donations were shipped to Westie lovers in Italy, France, Germany, Canada and the USA! ☺

## Bear Hugs 4 WWR

Our spring fund raiser is Bear Hugs 4 WWR! Make a minimum \$5.00 donation to WWR and receive a 'bear hug' back from us in the form of an adorable plush bear manufactured by Zanies Pet Toys! Each bear is 7 inches tall and has a squeaker inside. The bears come in solid colors including bright green, orange, yellow, aqua, and blue. Color choices will be on a first come, first serve basis. They make a cute Easter basket toy for your best friend! Join us with our Bear Hugs 4 WWR promotion and give a 'hug' to a Westie in need! Please make out checks to WWR & mail to:

Bear Hugs 4 WWR  
% B Peden  
1332 Armstrong Place  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Name: _____
Address: _____ _____
Donation Amount \$ _____
Color Choice 1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____

**WWR Newsletter**  
**1332 Armstrong Place**  
**Eau Claire, WI 54701**

If you'd like to help keep our newsletter going, donations are always welcome. We will acknowledge your support of WWR Newsletter in our next issue. Any dollar amount is welcome! If you'd like to write something to honor a special Westie we'd love to have it! Photos are welcome. Jpeg photos work nicely or we will scan your photo to use and return if you wish. Please send these to our newsletter editor Barbara Peden at 1332 Armstrong Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701, or by email to Barbara at [59barbie@charter.net](mailto:59barbie@charter.net). Please make checks payable to WWR. ☺

*We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals who have sent money to support the WWR newsletter project: Julie and Tom Risen in memory of Tessie, Joan and Nick Janis in honor of Bella, and special friends in memory of Zoey VerPlank. ☺*

Thanks to Joan & Nick Janis, Annita & Bob Wozniack, Julie Risen, Amy Tokarz, Ozzie & Karen Stephenson, Cheryl Cutsforth & Anne Plouff for their writing skills in this edition of our newsletter! ☺

