

# Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

## CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

Volume 2, Issue 2, July, 2007

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**Marlee**

My husband kept checking the paper for Westie Puppies, but I kept saying we needed to wait. We decided to fill out an application for the Westie Rescue. We were not going to insist on a female, but in my husband's heart he really wanted a female. He had even picked out a name. He had read the book Marley and Me and decided if it was a female he would call her Marlee.

### Summer time!

Time to kick-back, relax and enjoy time with friends and family outdoors! Remember the sun block for you and plenty of water and shade for you and your canine companions!

In this issue we profile Marlee, Edel, & Goeff, who found their forever homes through WWR. Our EXPANDED foster news provides updates on recent adoption placements. We've been busy placing a record number of dogs this year! We'll also take a look at dog auctions, recent events started last fall which are bringing more dogs into WWR, adding extra expense to our group and demands on time and energy to our foster families. Your support of WWR allows us to help these dogs become valued family members, and more than ever we need you! There are many ways you can support WWR from direct monetary donations to online shopping through iGive to opening your home to a foster dog and MORE! Together, we can keep changing lives one Westie at a time! ☺

### **Marlee** *By Dick & Judith Wagner*

We lost our Westie, Mopsa, after 11 ½ years when she developed pneumonia and even after a valiant fight she developed complications and lost the fight. She was our first Westie and she imprinted herself in our hearts as well as the hearts of our children and grandchildren. She was not without complication, as she had Addison's disease for 9 years and required a monthly injection as well as careful attention, but the joy she returned was immeasurable.

When she died we had a ceremony at our lake home, where she was buried under a large oak tree. The grandchildren were there as well and this truly left an imprint of the meaning of love and loss. My husband wanted to get another Westie immediately, but I felt we needed time. During this time, I had remembered talking to someone about Westie Rescue and thought I would look on the Internet for information.

Life went on and he kept watching the paper. One Sunday he said, "You know I have not seen any Westies for sale in the last 4 weeks." I knew he was keeping vigilante watch in the Want Ads and he needed a dog back in his life. So Sunday evening I checked the WWR and there was a "new addition" on the webpage.

It was a female Westie, approx 7 months old, who came to the Westie Rescue from a puppy mill having a head tremor, which the veterinarian thought might be White Dog Shaker Syndrome. She was treated for this condition, the cause of which is unknown, and the tremors were relatively minimal after treatment. But due to this, she would be in need of a home where owners had experience with special needs.

I emailed the Westie Rescue that very evening and heard back Monday Morning. I was put in contact with Anne Plouff, a most dedicated Westie Rescuer. Anne invited me to come to see this "sweet little treasure" at her home. Her name at that time was "Sweet Pea" and sweet she was. That night my husband and I returned to Anne's home so he could meet Sweet Pea. She immediately was on his lap and the rest is history.

Our references and home were checked and by Thursday night Sweet Pea, now lovingly known as Marlee, became part of our lives.

She is a total joy and she has adapted to her new family and new surroundings quite well. She has a few housetraining issues, but as she adjusts to the new surroundings there are less incidences. She is very bright and is learning quickly. She loves to go for walks and does very well on leash.

We have taken her to the dog park near our house and she loves to socialize with the other dogs. She is quickly adjusting to routine and has made our house her "home" We could not have asked for anything better.

She occasionally has what we describe as a "head bobble" but this is rare and seems to be so occasional that we rarely notice.

She is great with our grandkids and her personality is quite calm and loving. The only time she barks is when she hears the dogs next door, the doorbell or a dog on TV. She wants to be near us most of the time and comes when called-most of the time. She knows her name as Marlee, but she really is a "Sweet Pea" She loves to play, does chew her toys, but she does not pick up items that are not hers. This takes time and effort to work with her to correct behaviors that are not in her best interest or ours, but she responds very well to positive praise. A training class is on her agenda as well.

It is hard to believe she has so quickly become such a part of our lives. My husband does not compare her to Mopsa, but is grateful to experience the joy of a Westie once again. To watch the Westie enjoy life, romp through the tall grass or roll in the snow is to smile. They are little balls of energy and love and spunk as well.

We owe this pleasure to WWR because without giving of themselves to take in these Westies into their homes and stabilize them to be adopted, we as owners could not experience the end result.

WWR works to make the transition to new homes more comfortable for the Westie. Our Westie came with her blanket, a special toy and a strong bond of hope for a future in a loving home. WWR makes sure that each Westie goes to a loving home and experiences what every dog deserves; a loving home and safe environment for life. We have given Anne several polar fleece blankets for the next rescue Westie, so they will have a blanket to take to their new homes.

We thank the WWR and all of the volunteers who spent the time to nurture our Westie, so she could come to us. ☺

**Geoff (Gee)** *By Bingay Fastino*  
aka Felix, a Thorp auction Westie!

A lot has happened since Geoff has joined our family. He has adapted very well. Nuk, our American Eskimo dog, and Gee play all the time. They love to chase (mostly Gee chasing Nuk) all over the house. Mikki, our Westie, would rather not be part of the rambunctious antics of the younger ones.



*Geoff (bottom)  
with Mikki (top) Nuk (right)*

Gee graduated from Puppy Obedience class with flying colors. I gave him his first haircut about 3 weeks ago. He looks older now that he has the Westie cut. He was very good about it. He just sat down and let me do whatever I wanted.

He is such a well adjusted dog. He is very loving and likes to be cuddled. I usually find my husband sleeping on the couch with Gee asleep on his lap. We are really very happy that he is part of our family! ☺

**Edel (Olivia)** *by Christie Witt*



Here is an update on "Olivia" the puppy I adopted through WWR 2 years ago. Since her adoption I have re-named her Edelweiss and call her Edel. I LOVE her! We definitely have a special bond! She has finished one obedience class and one agility class and is currently enrolled in another agility class. She LOVES class and does very well. Once in while she goes crazy in the arena and runs wild and her terrier side shines through. I can't help but sit back and laugh as she takes in her few minutes of freedom which is promptly followed by a short 'time-out'! Time-outs in class drive her crazy & she howls until I allowed her back to play. Two minutes can seem like an awful long time when all the other dogs get to play!

When she was brought to rescue she was suffering from mange and had to go through treatment. Laura, her foster mom cared for her extremely well and she was close to recovery when I adopted her. It took a while after adoption for her front legs to grow fur so she always looked naked from the stomach down. Now, her fur is all grown in and she is beautiful!

Thanks so much for bringing Edel into my life. She brings me more love & joy (and every once in a while a chipmunk or bird) than I could have imagined! ☺

## Foster News!!

### UPDATE ON THE THORP AUCTION WESTIES

It all started with the March 10 dog breeders' auction held near Thorp, Wisconsin. We were "blessed" with 8 Westies from that auction with a 9th entering our rescue via a humane society several weeks later. One of the original auction dogs, Mia, subsequently added 6 more to our rescue rolls when she gave birth to 6 healthy, Westie puppies. In all, WWR handled 15 Westies from the dog auction this past spring!

The Westies from the auction came to us with an array of health issues including bad teeth, a broken femur head, bad skin, ear infections and more. All were dirty, matted, fearful and shy, but, thanks to the dedication and skill of our foster families, nearly all have become cherished, healthy pets with their nightmares of their previous lives behind them.

In the Spring/Summer Supplement we reported that auction dogs Misty, Libby, Katie, Oscar and Felix had already found new homes. Since then, Mia's 6 puppies (4 girls, 2 boys) have all headed off to new homes in Sayner, Combined Locks, Menasha, Superior, and Waukesha where we know they are very busy learning to be in charge of their own households.

*Mia* will be moving to Delavan shortly, and *Daisy*, after extensive surgery on her hip and physical therapy afterwards, is living in Rhinelander where she is enjoying the good life and sleeping on the bed just like a Westie should. *Miss Katie* is living in Green Bay and recently enjoyed a day at the beach in Door Co!

*Tucker* was one of the shy auction dogs with a special fear of men. But, he has found his forever home in Madison, where he has made so much progress he was able to attend a graduation party with men in attendance too!

Please give a heartfelt thanks to our volunteers who fostered these frightened little Westies and made them whole again. Fostering mill dogs isn't easy but there are priceless rewards in watching them blossom. They are: Sharon Ager & Mark Patterson (Libby) Sue Bracken (Misty), Amy & Chris Fleming (Daisy), Carol & Cheryl Cutsforth (Tucker), Ann Marie Lubert (Katie), Blaine, Barbara & Micaela Peden (Felix & Oscar), Laura Stafford & Roger Hager (Mia & the 6-pack).

One auction Westie, Susie, the dog we received from the humane society due to extreme fear issues, remains in foster care. Susie after repeated breedings, brought a host of fears and heavy emotional baggage along with her from the mill. We want to especially thank Anne Plouff and Sharon Ager & Mark Patterson for the loving caring they have invested in Susie. One day she will be ready for a new home of her own but not yet today. Susie is a poster-dog for the havoc the mills bring to the lives of dogs. She is terrified of so many things and can find security only with

other dogs at this point. Her progress toward "normalcy" is slow but with the help of her foster family she will reach it one day.

In addition to the Westies who came to us via the dog auction, a number of other Westies have found Forever Homes through WWR. Congratulations to the following dogs and their forever families!

*Jackson* came to us from an impound facility in Minnesota where he was picked up as a stray. He is currently a big success living in Neenah.

*Tank* was an owner turn in who basically lived in a garage the first 4 years of his life. Tank is so adorable he forced his foster family to fail Fostering and now lives at 'Spa' VerPlank in Wales, Wisconsin

*Seal* was an owner turn in who spent his young life crated and ignored. Now he is living the good life in Machesney Park, IL.

*Snowy and Rufus* (better known as Roo) are a bonded pair of Westies, turned in by their owners for not liking the resident toddler. No toddlers around the Racine home where these two are up to the devilment AND entertainment a pair of young Westies can so easily provide.

*Spencer*, a 5 year old Scottie has just found his forever home in Eau Claire and now lives with another dog, 2 cats, a donkey and 5 sheep! Life is good for this lucky boy! Congrats to all!

Thanks to foster families Jennifer Ipsen (Snowy & Rufus), Kay & Richard Straumann (Jackson), Julie and Tom Risen (Spencer), and Greg & Susan VerPlank (Tank & Seal). ☺

### *Looking for a Home*



**Peanut**

**Peanut** is a 5 year old former mill dog. She is sweet with tons of personality and a vertical jump to put her in the NBA! Peanut is currently working on potty training and is fostered in Tomah.

### **Lilly**

**Lilly** is a one and a half year old female Westie just entering rescue. Lilly is being fostered in Appleton WI. Please contact our adoption coordinator for more information on Lilly!

*More foster news next page:*



**Mickey**

**Mickey** is a 5 year old neutered male Westie. An owner turn in, Mickey has some allergies and is currently resting an ACL injury (although you can't keep this spunky little guy quiet)! Mickey is housebroken and is fostered in Altoona WI.



**Misty**

**Misty**, a 1 year old female, has boundless energy and loves attention. An owner turn in, she did not do well with excitable children but is calming down now with a more relaxed environment. She's a sweetheart! She'll keep her forever family happy & entertained! She is fostered in Madison.

### ***Welcome New Foster Families!***

We're proud to welcome new volunteers Deirdre Elter of Appleton and Dawn & Mark Schepke of Eau Claire! They have been approved to provide much needed services of emergency & short-term fostering as well as assisting with dog transports. This is an invaluable service to WWR and the dogs! You can get an emergency call to help a Westie at 2 p.m. and have a dirty, smelly, rescue with you by 6 p.m. the same day! Thank you for making a real difference in a Westie's life!

We are always looking for new foster homes and people willing to transport dogs! Contact Laura at [westies@new.rr.com](mailto:westies@new.rr.com) for more information. ☺

### **Dog Auctions in Wisconsin**

Last October signaled a troubling first when the inaugural dog auction was held in Thorp Wisconsin. Dog auction, more often held in Iowa and Missouri, are primarily a forum to sell breeding stock from one puppy mill to another.

WWR had two female dogs from that auction surrendered to us after starting life as breeding stock in a puppy mill. Both dogs were purchased by individuals at a dog auction in Thorp and immediately turned over to a WWR volunteer. WWR has a policy that we do NOT pay for dogs and therefore, those of us who choose to attend the fall auction did so as observers and not as bidders. Approx. 225 dog changed hands that day and most went to breeders and not to rescue groups or to families looking for a pet.

Thorp, a small town in west central Wisconsin is home to Horst Stables, a livestock auction facility, and is right in the middle of what is becoming one of the largest puppy mill areas in our state. Some Amish and Mennonite farmers have added puppies to their list of 'cash crops', and these auctions are a mechanism by which dogs are bought and sold for breeding stock for these farms. Both dogs surrendered to WWR were sold as 'proven breeders' and were advertised as in 'good health' however both dogs did have health issues. Fortunately both dogs have been adopted by wonderful families and have adjusted quite well to life outside of the puppy mill.

We wish this auction was a one-time event but this past March Horst Stables held a second auction and this time almost 250 dogs changed hands. WWR had 10 dogs surrendered to us including Daisy with an untreated broken femur head and Mia who gave birth to 6 puppies in rescue. Several dogs had other health issues including dental problems and untreated infections. Two of four male puppies surrendered after the auction were given to another shelter with waiting families for them, but all of the remaining 8 dogs needed spays or neutering. Many needed updates on vaccinations. Expenses to rescue for these dogs have totaled many thousands dollars including over \$2000.00 for the dog with the broken femur head alone.

Recently Horst Stables had a third dog auction when a Michigan puppy mill had its kennel dispersal and brought dogs into Wisconsin to be sold. Why Wisconsin? We have no laws against these types of auctions and Michigan does. We did not accept any dogs from this auction.

If there is a silver lining to these auctions it is in the attention it's bringing to the fact Wisconsin has no laws regulating the growing puppy mill industry in the state. Several legislators are taking notice of this and promising action. Previous attempts at regulation have failed. Assembly member Jeff Smith (D) Eau Claire is currently working on a bill after attending a June listening session held in Eau Claire and sponsored by The Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project. Similar listening sessions have been held in Appleton and Milwaukee. For more information on The Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, go to their website at [www.nowisconsinpupmills.com](http://www.nowisconsinpupmills.com).

The next Thorp dog auction is planned for Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007.

### **2007 Fund Raising News!**

It's not news to anyone that in order to continue we need to raise money! Vet bills are high and we're always looking for fun (and easy) ways to keep WWR in the black! Here are the results of some of our fund raisers this year, and some ways you can help today!

*Article continues next page:*

### ***Volunteer!***

A gift of yourself & your time is priceless! Contact Cheryl, our volunteer coordinator, if you'd like to volunteer time to WWR! We probably have something perfect for you and your talents!

### ***iGive.com***

Did you know that by simply shopping online at your favorite stores, you can contribute to WWR? Sign up for an iGive membership and a percentage of your shopping dollars will go directly to WWR. iGive membership is free and over 650 online stores participate including doggie friendly stores like PETSMART.com, Pet Food Direct and PETCO. Go to iGive.com for more information or check the iGive link on our website to direct you to their signup page. ☺

### ***2007 Thrift Sale Results!***

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the annual WWR benefit thrift sale and to all the local volunteers who set up tables, priced stuff, clerked, hauled away leftovers and, best of all, SHOPPED! We earned \$1857.31 for WWR which nearly paid for Daisy's hip surgery and other veterinary medical expenses.

Carol & Cheryl Cutsforth are a bit sad to report that the 2007 benefit thrift sale was our Swan Song. After 25 years of benefit thrift sales, we are no longer young enough or sturdy enough to continue such large-scale endeavors. This has been solid fund raiser for our organization and we sincerely hope other volunteers will want to run WWR annual benefit thrift sales in their own towns. The Cutsforths are happy to share publicity ideas or offer help in any other way to new volunteers wanting to carry on the tradition.

### ***Mia's Puppy Shower***

*Bark Bark WOOF from Mia's Puppies!*

A great big thank you to everyone who donated to Mia and her puppies! Through the Special Edition May WWR Newsletter & Puppy Shower announcement we raised almost \$500. Each donation is greatly appreciated and went to vet bills, supplies, food, and other needs of Mia & pups!

### ***Bear Hugs 4 WWR***

A big thank you to everyone who sent in donations to our spring Bear Hugs 4 WWR fund raiser either through our newsletter or eBay auctions. Over \$400.00 has been raised to date. Some bears are still available so if you procrastinated you can still get your Westie their own bear! Make a minimum \$5.00 donation to WWR and receive a 'bear hug' back from us in the form of a 7 inch plush dog toy bear! Please make out checks to WWR & mail to:

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

### ***T-Shirts! Get Your WWR T-Shirts!!!!***

WWR has a great opportunity to do some really easy fundraising and you can help! Here's how!

Email Joe & BJ at [legalgraffiti@charter.net](mailto:legalgraffiti@charter.net) and ask them to send you the t-shirt designs to choose from. OR, personalize your shirt by using your own photo!! Just email and ask for the minimum picture requirements. You can also add lettering at no additional cost. Tell them what size shirt(s) and what design is going on each shirt. Joe & BJ will email you a proof of your design to make sure it is correct before making the t-shirt. Payment must be received prior to the t-shirt being printed. We can accept checks made payable to Legal Graffiti or you can pay via Paypal (email for details). Each shirt costs \$15.00 plus \$3.00 shipping. (Multiple shirts in one order = you pay actual shipping costs). For snail mail orders, send your photo, lettering request and your contact information along with your check or money order payment to:

Legal Graffiti  
PO Box 667  
Tomah WI 54660

### **Upcoming Events**

July 14, 2007, Noon-3:30 pm, Dane County Humane Society at 5132 Voges Road in Madison WI. WWR volunteers Tom & Kris Thommessen and Sheri Rice Bentley will be on hand with information on adopting a Westie and on how to become a WWR foster family. Sheri has compiled a wonderful display board with WWR information, and there will be a Westie or two to meet and greet. Check us out online at: [www.giveshelter.org](http://www.giveshelter.org), click on Events (under the Home section, upper left-hand corner), and click on Upcoming Events. Stop by and say hello! Thanks to Tom, Kris and Sheri for volunteering their time and talents! ☺

Sunday Oct 14<sup>th</sup> is WIS Scots at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. Admission is \$23.00 per person and includes brunch at the hotel. WWR plans to have a table for fund raising at this event. Pre-registration is required! For more information contact Lynn Sawyer, WIS Scots event coordinator at [weehaven@wctc.net](mailto:weehaven@wctc.net). Note: dogs are not allowed in the shopping or brunch area so bring crates if your dog is attending.

November is our annual Holiday Bazaar in Eau Claire. We're always looking for crafty people to donate their wares! Don't have talent in the craft department? Donations for making gift baskets are always welcome! Teas, chocolates, cocoas, are nice and sell well in these baskets! Contact Cheryl [cutsfocl@uwec.edu](mailto:cutsfocl@uwec.edu) for more information.

### **Doggie Anyday Cake!**

1 cup white or whole wheat flour\*  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 cup peanut butter  
1/4 cup canola oil\*  
1 cup shredded carrots  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/4 cup honey (optional)  
1 egg

Mix the dry ingredients. Add the remaining ingredients and mix. Bake in a small pan (greased) at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Cake may be frosted with softened cream cheese, cottage cheese or Cheese Whiz. Store any leftovers in the refrigerator.

*\*Dogs with grain allergies usually can tolerate white flour and canola oil.*

### **We ♥ Hearing From YOU!**

Want to be a published author? We can't promise you'll be famous but we will publish your WWR story! Photos welcome! Jpeg photos work nicely or we will scan your photo to use and return if you wish. Please send stories and photos to Barbara Peden at 1332 Armstrong Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701, or by email to [59barbie@charter.net](mailto:59barbie@charter.net). Deadline for the next newsletter is Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. ☺

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

### ***HELP US GET OUR NEWS OUT!***

Postal rates went up recently and WWR newsletter can use your financial support to continue to send our newsletter out. We will gratefully acknowledge your support of WWR Newsletter in our next issue. Any dollar amount is welcome! Please make checks payable to WWR. Would you prefer getting your newsletter via email? Email Barbara at [59barbie@charter.net](mailto:59barbie@charter.net) and we'll switch you over to electronic copies and save WWR \$\$ and Mother Earth's trees!

We'd like to gratefully acknowledge Amy & Joe Tokarz sponsorship of the WWR Newsletter in memory of Elfie. ☺

### ***Thanks!***

Thanks to Judith & Dick Wagner, Bingay Fastino, Christie Witt, Cheryl Cutsforth, Tom & Kris Thomessen, and Amy and Joe Tokarz for their writing skills in this edition of our newsletter.

We'd also say a BIG thank you to Judith for her donation of Polar fleece blankets to our foster Westies and to Amy for throwing Mia's puppy shower! You're the BEST! ☺

