

# Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

## CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

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### Super-Expanded Collector Edition!!

Ok, maybe we're being a bit dramatic here, but this edition of WWR newsletter is 2 pages longer than usual, so grab a comfortable seat and read about all that has been going on in rescue since last we met!

We feature a couple of our not-so-traditional adoption placements including stories about some of the Westie mixes that have found forever homes through WWR! In addition, we have a great story about Jackson, a pure-bred Westie who became a hero after warning his family about a burglar! Rounding things out are Rosie & Roo, a bonded pair of Westie that stayed together after adoption when their forever family had love enough for two!

### Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday to WWR!

Ten years ago, Laura Stafford Hagar started Wisconsin Westie Rescue and since then hundreds of Westies and Westie mixes (and a few other breeds along the way) have found their forever homes through WWR. Here is what Laura has to say about the early days of WWR;

*WWR started back in January of 1999 with my main focus of doing Rottweiler rescue and then later that year I started doing Westies as well. Eventually I went to just Westies. It's hard to imagine now that I did everything myself at first – fostering, home visits, reference checks, transports, etc. I'm sure glad we now have so many dedicated volunteers!*

Laura set the groundwork on which we continue to grow and grow! Currently we have about 18 foster homes/emergency temporary foster homes, and a

network of talented volunteers that offer their talents to help Westies in need! From volunteers donating time and materials making blankets for the incoming dogs so the dog has something of their very own, to volunteers willing to drive a leg of a transport to get a dog safely to foster care or to do a home visit giving a dog a shot at their forever home! To volunteers spending a 'free' afternoon at a pet Expo talking about WWR, or spending hours hunched over their home computer compiling a date base for rescue dogs, we appreciate you ALL!

Want to join us in our second decade? We need your talents and your desire to continue our efforts to help homeless Westies. Call or email Cheryl Cutsforth at 715-839-7831 or [cutsfocl@uwec.edu](mailto:cutsfocl@uwec.edu) for more information on how you can help us make the next 10 years even better! Help us continue Changing Lives, One Westie at a Time!

Annie by Jenna Albright



We adopted Annie from Westie Rescue in May of 2004. Her foster family was Carol and Cheryl Cutsforth and they had taken very good care of her.

Annie is a very happy little dog. She will be seven years old in December, but she still looks and acts like a puppy. She is definitely the alpha dog and puts the other dogs in their place. Curly and Snuggles, her brother and sister, let her be the queen.

Annie loves to show off her toys and gets very excited when her family gets home. Annie has always been a good companion. She is silly in that she gets scared of small things like bottle caps and little pieces of cardboard. She will bark at them and paw at them, but when it comes to something like a toad, she will ignore it.

Annie is our little guard dog. One time she found an opossum in the backyard and attempted to scare it away. I had to go out there and rescue her from it. She was determined to get rid of it.

This past winter Annie got very sick because she has always had digestion problems. The vet had told us that there was nothing we could do and that we should put her down, but we were determined to nurse her back to health. With love and lots of protein such as beef tips and chicken breasts, she was able to get back to being her old self again.

We love Annie very much and were happy that we could bring her back to health. ☺

### Watson! By Kristi Wilhelmson



As you can see, Watson is absolutely adorable, with a personality to match. He is so happy and full of energy. He loves running after his toys and playing keep away with us. In the mornings, of course, he's fully rested and wants to play. I'll be busy getting ready to go to work, and feel this nudging on my leg...it's Watson with the toy. If he could talk, he'd be saying "come on, throw it, let's play!". He's impossible to resist, of course. He just loves to run after it as many times as we can throw it.

We've had some adventures with Watson, too. Like the day my husband called me at work to tell me that there was a large mysterious rip (a 12" by 12" L shape) in the back of the sofa. Watson hadn't been seen doing it, but signs pointed to him. I completely gave him the benefit of the doubt...that it had somehow been an accident. I covered the back of the sofa with a blanket until I could get it fixed. The following day, he chewed through the blanket and chewed and ripped the sofa beyond a simple repair. And oh yes, that was the same day that he chewed an inkjet printer cartridge in the middle of the living room on the carpet and on the ottoman. Apparently he's partial to the color blue since there was so much of it there. Thanks to Watson, I've learned that dry erase board ink can successfully

remove ink from carpet and furniture as long as you're persistent! Of course we told him it was naughty, but there was nothing we could do about it after the fact except deal with it. Fortunately he seems to have gotten that type of mischief out of his system.

Strangely enough, his improved behavior coincided with our purchase of a wire crate to put him in during the day, even though we never used it. We hadn't wanted to resort to kenneling him, since he hadn't grown up with it and hated being caged. But after these things, and some erratic potty mistakes, we thought we should maybe give it a try. I set it up, but was procrastinating on using it. A couple of weeks went by with no more mischief, so we put it away and he's been just fine ever since. Seems like just the sight of the crate scared him straight! House training was at about 95% for awhile...sometimes, he would run downstairs and poop in the basement right after we came in from outside, but he hasn't done that for awhile now. It's like a light bulb clicked on...."oh - when we go outside that's when you want me to go to the bathroom." I think he's got it!

He enjoys his feline companion in the house - probably more than Zoey our cat enjoys him. He "tortures" her several times a day...nothing serious, just some dog play. She moans and caterwauls, but doesn't make a move to get out of his reach, so we think that deep down she likes it. If she starts sounding too annoyed, we make him stop. We think he loves have a living, breathing play toy.

He also loves to play with "the big dogs" (as we call our two yellow labs). He's pretty good at getting them to run around outside with him, even though they're not puppies anymore. When I go out to take care of them, I say "let's go feed the big dogs" and he knows what I mean...he's ready to go outside and goes right to them.

We talk often about how this poor little guy didn't have a home last year at this time....and can't imagine him wandering around on his own. We think he might have gotten a little frost bite on one of his feet when he was homeless - when he's out in the snow when it's really cold, he doesn't want to hang around outside for very long, and he holds one of his back feet up a little like it bothers him. When we're coming in from outside, I tell him that I'm so glad he has a warm house to live in now. He loves to be couch potatoes with us during this cold weather.

We're so thankful for the WWR. I think it is such a well run organization with so many caring people who help these animals. Watson was so well taken care of already when we got him - besides being well fed, groomed and living in a wonderful foster home (the Pedens!) he had been to the veterinarian for shots, treatment for lyme disease, neutering, etc. He was such a lucky little canine to have ended up with WWR and how very lucky we are to have been able to welcome him into our family. We can't imagine life without him! ☺

### Our Hero Jackson!

by Jane & Brett McCormick



Our Westie, Jackson is a hero. We adopted Jackson in May of 2007, and he has been a pure joy to our family. The only complaint my husband ever had was that Jackson barked at strangers. This included anyone who came to our house or even walked by.

This past November, I was awakened at 3am by the sound of Jackson growling and barking. He flew off the bed and ran into the kitchen. When I entered the kitchen, there was a stranger, stealing my wallet out of my purse. Neither Jackson barking nor the sight of me scared the burglar, who proceeded to flee from my house with my wallet. I yelled to my husband who had fallen a sleep in the family room in our basement. He went in pursuit of the burglar, as did my son. My son thought that I had said "he took Jackson" and was driving in his car through out the neighborhood. When I was outside watching my husband run after the guy, I could hear Jackson barking and was worried that he had followed the burglar, but when I walked back into the house, I was relieved that he had run back into the bedroom and was watching the ruckus from inside the house. The poor little guy was so scared, he pooped all over the bedroom. I called 911 and after 1 ½ hrs the K-9 unit finally found the guy.

No one but Jackson ever heard him enter our home and if brave little Jackson hadn't barked and ran out of the bed room, I would have awoken in the morning wondering where I had left my wallet. My husband now says he will never complain about Jackson's barking. ☺

### Rosie & Roo

by Dee Bainter



It was a very snowy day in January one year ago, when my husband and I drove one hour from our home to Madison, WI to meet a pair of Westies that we were 'considering' for adoption. Of course, I knew from their photograph on the WWR website that we would be bringing them home.

Long story short, we went to meet Snowy & Roo and fell in love with them immediately. The foster Mom told us that we would be their 3<sup>rd</sup> home due to unfortunate family situation in their previous homes. Snowy was only 3 and Roo was 2 years old. We brought them home.

Snowy seemed pretty independent and somewhat aloof and ignored her name when we called her, so we took advantage of the situation and gave her the new name of Rosie. Now we have Rosie & Roo.

Rosie and Roo have brought us so much joy. Rosie is so sweet and seems so confident and calm. Roo, on the other hand, is our 'nervous Nellie'. He's much more anxious and much more eager to please. His 4 little paws cannot stay planted on the ground when he sees you. He just HAS to jump up and around and around, he's so excited to see you, and everyone is his best friend. Rosie stays much more calm, but does the 'stare down' to encourage me to follow her to the doggie cookie jar when she wants a tasty treat.

The best thing is that wherever one is, the other is usually there, too. They sleep in the same bed together. Watching them play together is so fun! To our surprise, Rosie is the more dominant one when it comes to tussling around. Rosie gets on top of Roo and bites his ears until Roo agrees to play. Then they romp and play and chase toys and take toys away from each other or play tug-of-war until one of them has had enough.

Rosie and Roo are definitely adorable, entertaining, loving, good natured and pretty well behaved little guys. They are both good with our four grandchildren, now at the ages of 3, 6, 7 and 7. The puppies take the hugging pretty well, but I am still somewhat cautious and I can tell when they've had

enough. That's when I put them (not the kids) in their bed for a little R&R.

Their favorite things are getting special treats, riding in the car, sleeping in our bed and taking walks. Sometimes I open the car door, they get in, and I close the door. They stay in there for 5 or 10 minutes, then I open the door and say, "We're home!" and they happily jump out of the car.

It's so easy to please this little guy and girl and the love, loyalty and appreciation they show in return is immeasurable. Anyone thinking (or not thinking) of adopting more than one Westie should reconsider. We say "Yes!" and Rosie & Roo say, 'Go for it, too!'. If one is good, two might be better....think about it!

### FOSTER NEWS

We are FULL of dogs! ALL of our available foster homes have a foster dog or recently placed a dog. We are at the point where if we do not add homes soon, we will be forced to turn dogs away. The need is CRITICAL! Please, if you have a little extra love to share and have adopted from us before, or just love Westies, consider opening your home to a foster dog in need. You'll be making a huge difference in the life of a Westie in need! Thanks!

#### *Looking for a Forever Home*

Please check with Cheryl [cutsfocl@uwec.edu](mailto:cutsfocl@uwec.edu) or 715-839-7831 or the WWR website for more information on the following dogs.

**ADOPTION PENDING!** *Piper* is a 2 year old female Westie fostered in Superior.

*Tessa* is a darling 6 year old female soon to be available to adopt. She is fostered in Eau Claire.

*Dewey* is a 5 year old male Westie new to rescue. He is fostered in Madison.

**Dudley**



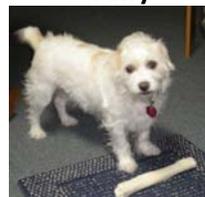
**ADOPTION PENDING!** *Dudley* is a 1½ year old male Westie. He is potty trained and very sweet! He is fostered in Oshkosh.

**Ella**



**ADOPTION PENDING!** *Ella* is a 3 year old female turned over to WWR from a BYB. She is quite charming and has a little docked tail. Ella is fostered in Eau Claire.

**Scruffy**



Scruffy is still waiting for her forever family to come and claim this special little girl. Scruffy is a 2 year old Westie mix. Scruffy came to WWR as a stray and she is a runner, therefore we are requiring her family have a visible fence. She is sweet and affectionate with the prettiest face! Check out those big brown eyes! Scruffy is fostered in Onalaska. For more information on Scruffy, please check out her webpage at <http://www.wisconsinwestierescue.com/gallery1-4-scruffy.htm>.

**Dexter**



**ADOPTION PENDING!** Dexter is an 8 year old male Westie turned over to rescue due to financial hardship. Smart and affectionate, he is ready to meet his forever family.

**Andrew (Special Needs)**



Andrew is a 2 ½ month old Westie male turned over to rescue by his owner. Andrew was born with a small lower jaw and his lower puppy canine teeth were removed at 8 weeks of age because the teeth

were hitting his upper jaw. Hopefully by removing the baby teeth, his adult canine teeth will move over into a more normal alignment. If not, Andrew will require more dental work to align his teeth and jaws. Andrew is being treated at the U of MN vet clinic and is fostered in Eau Claire. He should make a full recovery and live a normal life. For more information on Andrew and when he will be ready to adopt, contact Cheryl at [cutsfocl@uwec.edu](mailto:cutsfocl@uwec.edu).

Cory



**ADOPTION PENDING!** Cory is a super sweet 3 month old Westie male ready to steal a heart or two away! Cory, an owner turn in, is ready to add a little puppy charm to the home. Cory is being fostered in the Eau Claire area!

### ***Forever Homes Found!***

**PUPPY UPDATE!!** All of Louise's puppies went to their forever homes the first week of January and momma the following week. One of the puppies, Laci, had more than a few bumps in the road after it was found during a vet exam she had a heart murmur requiring surgery! See Laci's story on page 6. For puppy photos go to PictureTrail at <http://www.picturetrail.com/sfx/album/view/21720426> ! Click 'slideshow' for pictures and music!

***Kacey*** was born first and also went home first as our New Year's Baby placement! She joins her family Lynda and Phil, in Maple Grove MN!

***Bingley*** was born second and also went home second! He now lives and charms all he meets in De Pere WI! Cindy and Gary are his proud parents!

***Laci*** went to her foster home with Lana and Tom next where she would be closer to the U of W vet clinic and her cardiac team of doctors. Lana and Tom were first in line to adopt Laci and made her officially 'theirs' a few weeks later.

***Phinneas*** was the last to be born but cut in line ahead of Winston in the puppy adoption parade! He is now living in Neenah with Joan and Ed.

***Winston***, the darling little moppet of the group was the last to join his family, but I bet they'd say

that the best was saved for last! Dianne and Jerry, from Black Earth, are Winston's new parents.

***Louise*** joins her new sister Sugar in Madison. Louise was the best mom 5 puppies could ever wish for! Tom and Todd are Louise's proud parents! All 6 family members were fostered by Cheryl and Carol Cutsforth!

### ***And now the other adoption placements!***

***Lionel*** joins his new family, Elsie and Norman in Sheboygan where he relished his new role as the spoiled baby in the family!

***Betsy*** joined Cathy and Dean, previous WWR 'parents', in McFarland WI in December! Sharon Ager and Mark Patterson fostered her.

***Richie*** and his new dad Tom of Sturgeon Bay are instant best friends! Reports indicate the two are enjoying taking walks, rides and just spending time together. Kris and Tom Thommesen fostered Richie.

***Sophie*** knew a good thing and convinced her foster family she should become a permanent family member! Congrats to Sophie, Dawn and Mark!

***Alice*** also joins a previous WWR adoptive family! She joins Pam and Ken in Waukesha WI. Kim Keller-Chicione and family made their fostering debut!

***Louie***, our funny little Westie with the black smudge on one shoulder, found a perfect family to call his own when Mike and Laurie of Eau Claire made him their very own! Cheryl and Carol Cutsforth fostered Louie.

***Scrappy*** Jon and Laura made this delightful fellow the happiest boy in Madison when he became theirs! Cindy and Doug Seefeld made their fostering debut with Scrappy!

***Rocky*** is another foster failure and is so happy to join Teresa and John's family in Weston WI!

***Howie*** (Bailey) went from having nothing of his own to having the best home a Westie could ever hope for when Sue and Craig brought him home to Greenville. The Pedens fostered Bailey.

***Roxie*** also hit the forever family jackpot when Catherine and her daughters made it an all girl

family! Roxie now resides in Mukwonago. The Fleming family fostered Roxie.

### 2008 In Review

Boys, boys, boys! Male Westies were surrendered, lost or abandoned at close to twice the rate of females in 2008 (32 males, 19 females came into rescue). Being an adorable puppy didn't guarantee you a forever home either: 16 westies were under 1 year of age when they came into rescue, including 5 born in rescue, 27 were between the ages of 1 and 5 years, 7 were between 6 and 9 years of age and one spry senior was over 10 years of age when he came into rescue.

So where did they all come from? Twenty-seven were surrendered by their owners for reasons good or bad, excuses common or creative. Another 9 were transferred to us from animal shelters too over-crowded to care for them or too poor to pay for extraordinary veterinary costs, mostly related to severe allergies or required surgeries. The infamous Wisconsin puppy mills sent us 6 and other rescue groups sent 4 to us, the latter mostly from puppy mills also. Lastly, 5 were born to WWR, enriching our lives and reminding us of the joy to be found in healthy, lively, well-socialized puppies born to a mother who came out of the mill and into the light.

Forty-seven Westies were purebreds, 4 were Westie mixes. Six of our 2008 alums came into rescue as bonded pairs with one pair adopted together and the other four adopted apart. Happily, all 4 adopters report the Westies are thriving without their life-long companions, proving again how adaptable Westies can be.

Of the 51 Westies who crossed our paths in 2008 (compared to 43 in rescue in 2007), 48 of them found forever homes, two are still looking – won't you PLEASE help us find good homes for Dexter and Scruffy, who have been waiting a long time – and one, Honey, poor Honey, died in our volunteer's arms just a few hours after coming into rescue. Twenty-one foster families kept those 51 Westies warm, safe, fed, exercised and groomed for the weeks or sometimes months it took to place them in forever homes. They house-trained Westies young and old, taught terrified mill dogs how to trust a human, watched over them as they recovered from surgeries, helped them with physical therapy and cheered them when their hair finally started to grow back. Without their hard work, unquestioning love and sometimes superhuman patience, we would not be a rescue.

Without the countless volunteer hours spent doing home visits, checking references, driving transports through wind and snow, raising money, creating a web site, writing this newsletter, making blankets & belly bands, processing adoption applications, keeping the financial records, managing the database, registering microchips – well, we would not be a rescue without them either. Thank you each and every one who helped change 51 lives, one Westie at a time, in 2008. ☺

### Louise's Lucky Laci



As many of you know, Louise, a puppy mill mama that WWR obtained from the Thorpe auction last September, had a litter of five puppies that were born on November 7th while being cared for by Cheryl and Carol Cutsforth in Eau Claire. One of the female puppies, Laci (formerly known as Chelsea), was diagnosed with a heart murmur on her first visit to the vet. Heart murmurs are not unusual in puppies. Ninety-five percent of heart murmurs identified in newborn puppies go away within sixteen weeks of age.

On Saturday, January 3rd, Tom and Lana Olson, adoptive parents of Laci, picked her up at the Cutsforth's in Eau Claire and brought her back to her new home south of Madison, WI. Knowing that Laci may have a health issue, the Olsons took Laci to see their vet, Dr. Kate Peterson, the following Monday, January 5th. Unfortunately, Laci was diagnosed with a level 6 PDA (Patent Ductus Arteriosus) heart murmur which is fairly rare. A level 6 murmur is a very significant heart murmur, the result is poor blood flow through the heart and lungs. While puppies are in the mother's womb, they do not require oxygen, so the blood circulates out and back in the heart without going to the lung. At birth or very shortly after, the vessel that carries the blood back to the heart (bypassing the lung) is expected to close. Laci's vessel did not close, resulting in a PDA murmur. PDA murmurs require surgery to close the vessel and restore correct blood flow to the heart and lungs. Dr. Peterson recommended that Laci be taken to the University

of Wisconsin Veterinary School for further assessment and treatment for PDA heart murmur.

Lucky for Laci, the University of Wisconsin (UW) Veterinary School is only 20 miles from her new home and has a highly recommended cardiac treatment program. Laci was examined by vets that specialized in cardiac issues at UW Vet School on January 9th that confirmed the PDA murmur diagnosis along with symptoms of congestive heart failure. Laci was scheduled to return to the UW Veterinary School on January 14th for surgery, allowing a week for heart medications to reduce the fluids in her heart and lung area. When Laci returned to the UW Veterinary School on January 14th to prepare for heart surgery to repair the PDA heart murmur, she was experiencing significant congestive heart failure with more, rather than less, fluid build-up. Laci was immediately put on IV medications to treat congestive heart failure. The IV medications worked well overnight and Laci underwent heart surgery on Thurs., January 15th.

Dr. Trent Tuttle, DVM at the UW Veterinary School, explained the two methods used to repair PDA heart murmurs. If the dog is approximately 6 pounds or more in weight, a procedure similar to angioplasty in humans can be used. Surgeons can insert a lead into the femoral artery and enter the heart via the artery to perform the heart repair. Unfortunately, Laci was not a candidate for this type of heart surgery as she weighed less than 4 pounds. As a result, Dr. Tuttle needed to repair her heart via the traditional method. A vertical incision was made between Laci's ribs to gain access to her heart. Laci's surgery lasted 2-3 hours and went well. Laci experienced some breathing complications post surgery. One lobe of her lung would not re-inflate. She was given oxygen overnight and by morning was doing much better. Laci returned home on Friday, January 16th wearing a new yellow 'sweater'. The yellow 'sweater' wrap kept her bandages in place and kept Laci from getting access to her incision. Laci recovered from the surgery very quickly. Within four days of surgery, Laci was ready to play and run around the house with the Olson's two other Westies. It was a bit of a challenge for the Olsons to keep Laci 'quiet' for the next ten to fourteen days while she healed.

Laci returned to the UW Veterinary School on January 21st to remove her staples and to have Dr. Tuttle re-check her heart and respiration. She received a great health report. The PDA surgery was successful and Laci is expected to lead a

normal, healthy life. Laci will return to the UW Vet School in mid to late March for a cardiac re-check where tests will be performed to verify that her heart and lungs are continuing to function well.

Laci is very fortunate to have had access to the UW Veterinary School with their state of the art treatment facility and the veterinarians that specialize in cardiac issues.

Laci is now playing at full speed and is busy exploring the many things around her new adoptive home that a new puppy likes to get in to. Laci and her family would like to thank WWR for the wonderful moral and financial support. Her medical bills were paid by WWR along with a \$500 grant from the UW Vet School Mattie's Fund that offset her medical expenses\*.

The picture of Laci in her yellow 'sweater' was taken the day following surgery. The second picture shows Laci at her 1 week post-surgery check-up with her surgeon, Dr. Trent Tuttle, DVM.



\*WWR gratefully acknowledges a generous anonymous donation to offset Laci's medical costs. The rest was covered by previous donations made to WWR from people like you! Laci says THANKS! ♥

**Danke Shoen! Gracias! Merci! Domo**  
**Arigato! Barka!**

No matter how you say it, THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to Louise's puppy shower. Thanks to our wonderful Westie Rescue family, we raised over \$700 in monetary donations. We also received very generous contributions of toys, food, milk supplement, and gift cards to Wal-Mart, Petco and PetSmart. One lovely person even made sure that Louise and each of the pups had Christmas stockings. Your generosity does not go unnoticed, and we thank each and every one of you.

I'd also like to thank those of you who included personal notes with your contributions. It warmed

my heart to open envelope after envelope and read about how adopting a dog from WWR changed your lives. One dog at a time, with your help we continue to be able to make a difference for the Westies we all love and the families who don't know what they're missing yet. Thank you all!

#### ***WWR Odds & Ends***

Remember iGive when shopping online! It's easy, it's FREE! See the Links page on our website <http://www.wisconsinwestierescue.com/links.htm> for more information on how to sign up for iGive !

#### **Upcoming Events**

Let's have a Party-or at least a picnic! WWR is in the early planning stages of a 10 year reunion picnic in Eau Claire WI! Watch you mail or inbox for more information as we get it. WWR will provide the cake and beverages for you and your family and gifts and games for our furry friends!!

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

#### ***My Favorite Memory with My Rescue!***

In a paragraph or so can you tell us what your WWR rescue dog memory is? Was it the time he buried your favorite shoes in the garden before your brother's wedding? Or how about the 4 am bark-a-thon with the neighbor's poodle? Who else can understand these moments of Westie joy but another Westie owner? Send them to the newsletter address below or email them to me at [59barbie@charter.net](mailto:59barbie@charter.net) and we'll publish them in our 2009 Nov newsletter. Photos encouraged! We want to hear from EVERYONE! Let's celebrate 10 years of Westie!!

#### **Thanks!**

Thanks to Dee Bainter, Lana Olson, Brett & Jane McCormick, Jenna Albright, Kristi Wilhelmson, Cheryl Cutsforth and Amy Wolfgram for their contributions to this edition of the newsletter. Our next newsletter deadline is July 5<sup>th</sup>.