

Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

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Special Needs Adoptions = Special Bonds

Adopting a dog from a rescue group like WWR isn't for everyone since most of the dogs we place came to us having lived at least one other place before coming into our care. Very seldom are puppies born while their mother was in foster care so a dog in rescue without a past life is very rare! While most dogs make the transition to their new homes quite easily, a few bring a bit more baggage than others and require a special family to welcome them into their homes. These dogs are adopted as special needs dogs, but as any home with one of these dogs will tell you, the love is just as strong if not stronger than any other. Enjoy the following stories from families of special needs dogs and you'll see that special needs adoptions = special bonds!

SOS! Mill Closing! SOS!!

On or around July 11 a Wisconsin puppy mill is closing its doors and WWR has been approached to take 11 Westies. While we'd like to celebrate another mill going out of business, the cold hard facts are where do we put them and how do we pay for their care? While we would like to accept all 11 dogs and in turn give them a chance for a wonderful new life, we are simply out of foster homes so where do we go from here?

Most of our current foster homes have had a foster dog in residence most of 2009 already. Several of our volunteers are recovering from or preparing for surgery, recuperating from an accident or sudden illness or are ready for a break! Lack of foster homes is the biggest hurdle for these dogs at this moment and it's extremely hard for us to choose who gets our help and who will not.

If you have ever thought of trying fostering, this would be a great time! The dogs being released are reported to be fairly socialized and have had some vet care done so we would anticipate their transition to the post-mill world to be better than most. Aren't really up for a mill dog? We desperately need back-up foster homes able to take dogs turned over from individuals! Just can't foster at all? Please consider sponsoring one of the dogs from the mill by underwriting a portion of their vet care. Below is a list of common vet and grooming expenses we will face with these dogs and make a difference TODAY in the life of a rescue Westie! *Please see back page for the address to send donations.* For more information on fostering, contact Cheryl Cutsforth at custfocl@uwec.edu or call after 6:00 pm at 715.839.7831.

- \$35 Full groom
- \$120 Neuter
- \$240 Spay
- \$100 and up dental work
- \$20 and up per vaccination
- \$5 microchip insertion
- \$10 de-worming
- \$5 one month Heartworm preventative
- A donation of any amount for collars, leashes, food, etc.

Who Ya Callin' Special? Dewey's Story

By Clay Rawn



As I write this, it's been just two months since my wife Kimberly and I brought Dewey home. When Cheryl asked me to write something about the "special needs" of our newly adopted dog, I first thought she had the wrong owners or was thinking of another dog. He's come so far since we first met

him it's easy to forget the frightened, confused and timid little dog he once was.

Short background: after 23 years of marriage we decided it was time for a dog. After deciding to adopt we sent our application and waited for a response. We very quickly heard from Lynn that they had a couple of Westies being fostered and waiting for new homes.

Dewey was described as follows: *6+ yrs old (actual age unknown), surrendered by a Wisconsin puppy mill. He has some health issues, working on house training. Lived his entire life in a kennel, frightened of loud noises, not familiar with life on the "outside."*

His very patient and loving foster family described him as needing much TLC, working on housetraining, and daily care for some health issues. He needed daily eye drops, is partially or completely blind in one eye and had to have several teeth removed, due to neglect. He was just completing treatment for a urinary tract infection when we picked him up. He certainly didn't know any basic commands (sit, stay, etc.) and wasn't very coordinated going up and down stairs.

Were we prepared for a dog in this condition? Not quite the 1-2 year old housetrained dog we had hoped for, but when his foster parents sent pictures, there was no way we could say no to this adorable guy.

When we first brought Dewey home he didn't bark. In fact, he was so quiet we thought he may have been debarked. His legs literally shook as he very slowly walked through the house for the first time. He wasn't interested in exploring, just staying close to my wife, who had held him in her lap as we drove home from Madison where we picked him up. Dewey didn't even know what a toy was prior to arriving at his foster family's house, so that provided little comfort for him.

When he first arrived home, he would pee in the house (as advertised), especially when startled. He was afraid of loud noises, rapid movements, and men, especially me. He would run from me when I tried to hook up the leash to go out for a walk. Thankfully his appetite was completely unaffected, and he proved to be a champion chowhound at every meal.

So what's Dewey up to now?

That scared little dog we brought home just nine weeks ago is a distant memory. Dewey is a relatively confident, well adjusted and happy dog – certainly more normal than we could have hoped for by now. He knows the leash means we're going out for a walk where certain things have to get done (things we no longer do in the house). For a while, he was marking a couple places inside the house, but he seems to have gotten over that with a little patience and training. Now, we don't even crate him if we leave him home for a few hours at a time.

He no longer shakes, and now runs around the house and yard with a joyfulness that makes you cry knowing where he came from. He found his voice a week or so after we brought him home. He's got a number of different barks, depending on the situation, but overall doesn't bark unless excited to see us or being protective. He doesn't bark even when the doorbell rings. He's no longer as bothered by loud noises, and rebounds pretty quickly when caught off-guard. His partial blindness does limit his ability to see some things up-close and sometimes peripherally. But it really isn't a big issue, and I'm sure he's not even aware he's got a problem. We simply try to remember to address him with this in mind.

He will sit calmly as we wipe off muddy paws, administer eye drops (no longer needed), brush his teeth, pick bugs off him or anything else, and LOVES to be brushed. He likes baths, as long as the faucet is turned off when he's in the tub (very scared of running water and water hoses).

Limitations aside, Dewey is a rock star in the neighborhood. He loves to meet other dogs and "their people", which he does almost every time he goes on his walks. He's a little tough-guy, and has no fear of even the largest dogs. I fear he's developing an ego, as all he ever hears is "he's so cute!" and "what a good dog!" Everyone stops to say hello and it seems the entire neighborhood knows him already. I'm not accustomed to this much attention.

Our trip to the vet's office last month was like a social visit. I was amazed at how calm he was. He also adapts pretty quickly when company comes to the house and is good around them – including small children. He now knows what toys are now and plays with them like a veteran. But most of all, he's a big sweetie and a very seriously snuggler with his mommy and daddy. He can spend hours

with his head on our laps or better yet, with his face tucked into Kim's armpit, snoozing away. He tells us how relaxed and happy he is by snorting like a pig. It's hilarious and very cute.

Some of Dewey's favorite things: He finds New Age "spa" music very soothing, and will sleep on the sofa all day long with the music on. He loves to ride with me in my truck where he'll put his head on my lap a minute into the ride and fall asleep. He's very happy watching Kim work in the garden where he has a favorite nap spot under a tree in the backyard. Did I mention he likes to sleep?

So after 23 years of enjoying a calm, orderly and easy-going lifestyle, we took a huge chance that changed our lives. Now we keep asking ourselves why we didn't do this sooner. Would we recommend to others who have a lot of love, some time and patience to give to a deserving doggie in need of a permanent home? Absolutely. What you'll receive in unconditional love is immeasurably rewarding. Corny but true.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone at Wisconsin Westie Rescue for placing Dewey with us, and special appreciation to his foster family Tom, Kris and Wilson for getting him on the road to happiness. Dewey will always have a special place in his very sweet heart for all of you. ☺

Our Boy Marty!

By Vince Rosso and Sue Clemas



"Slightly odd, but charming." That was how foster parents Carol and Cheryl Cutsforth described the sad looking little dog we'd been drawn to on the Wisconsin Westie Rescue website. That description turned out to be a huge understatement—on both counts.

The majority of Marty's oddities we attribute to his spending the first three years of his life in a small cage in the largest puppy mill in Wisconsin. The rest are almost certainly due to the fact that he is a Westie after all. The charm we attribute to Marty being Marty.

The puppy mill attributable oddities can be summed up in his initial fear of almost anything.

From loud (or not so loud) noises to new places, the list of Marty's fears is lengthy. The good news is that the list continues to shrink. Sometimes it seems as if Marty is getting braver by the day. However, as Marty finds his courage, his Westie attributable oddities seem to grow. These include his desire to chew a wide variety of objects to shreds—electrical cords, door jams, doggie beds, and his owner's wallet are prime examples, his desire to jump to the top of chair backs and arms and let the whole neighborhood know that he is watching, and his need go from room to room or up and down stairs at top speed (the result usually looks like a tornado has touched down).

Naturally, Marty's charms outweigh his oddities immensely, and they also continue to grow. It is hard to imagine a more lovable dog, except the dog he's going to become.

A large part of his charm is his desire for human contact. His favorite napping spot is Sue's lap, or at the very least, on Sue's toes; when on the love seat he has to be touching at least one person, and preferable both; belly rubs can be demanded anytime, anyplace; and no chin is safe from a good licking.

Finally there is his both odd and charming habit of lying awake on his bed every morning (literally every morning) in the minutes before the alarm goes off, so he can make a mad dash to our bed once it does, in order to make sure we're awake. He looks so happy and his tail is going a mile a minute as he urges us to get out of bed and start enjoying another great day (this would be much more charming if Marty wasn't the only morning person in the house).

Now that we've come to know him, we feel safe in amending Marty's description to "Definitely odd, but incredibly charming". ☺

Truman's Story

By Truman

Hello, my name is Truman, and I'm one of the dogs that was helped by the wonderful people of Wisconsin Westie Rescue.

I started off as an owner surrender when my family lost their home and had to turn myself and my friend a cat into the Eau Claire Humane Society. Here is a picture of me when I was turned-in. And as you can see, I wasn't quite my handsome self at the time – with skin infections, ear infections, missing fur due to everything that was going on – I

smelled and didn't feel so good either, but always had a pretty laid-back and easy-going personality!



Me when I was at the shelter.

After Cheryl from WWR got word of my situation, she put the call out for foster homes and for a pick-up of me from the Humane Society. You see, the Humane Society knew that they couldn't afford my care, and with the way I looked, I probably wouldn't find a home – so Cheryl, many a “happy-dance” has gone out from me to you!

A few rides with some WWR volunteers, and I ended up in Brookfield, WI. My foster Mom was Ann Marie, and she had to take me to the Vet right away, where I was nicknamed “the Train-Wreck” by Dr. Marold. After daily baths and ear-drops, my skin started to feel better and I actually started to look like a real Westie.



This is me when I started to feel better, and look like a real Westie....except my ear still bothered me

Try as my foster mom might, with shots and ear drops, the infection had spread to my inner-ear, and they just couldn't get it to go away. So, it was decided that I needed my eardrum removed so the Dr. could get the infection out.

Well, let me tell you – I have a whole new lease on life! I can hear just fine, thank you (even though I pretend I don't hear my Mom calling me, I do hear the cookie bag and the word “treats”). Me and my other Westie and Scotty friends get along just fine, and I love other dogs and cats, and snort when I see something in the yard. I just LOVE to go for walks, and I do cry when my Mom leaves me, but just for a little while.



That's me on the left before my ear surgery, with my friends (L to R: Logan, Abby, and Molly)

Recently, I was very proud of myself because I caught a rabbit, for my Mom. I still don't know why she started to scream when I dropped him on the living-room carpet. I do let my Mom know when a storm is coming – boy, can that thunder make a loud noise. But even with one ear, I hear it coming miles away!

And oh, btw, I have a new nickname called “fostering 101 failure”, since my foster Mom couldn't part with my charming personality. So even though I brought her a dead rabbit as a gift, and I like to rub my neck in anything stinky, she loves me no matter what, and I've found my forever home.

My story started off a bit sad, but it's all good now – I'm happy, well-cared for, and look at me – my Mom calls me “Prince Charming”, because I didn't look so good in the beginning, but now I'm as handsome as could be in my only special way! I'm still on the look-out for another rabbit for my Mom – I just don't understand why she doesn't like my presents?! ☺



L to R: Molly, Logan, Abby and Truman – after ear surgery

Max's Story

By Greg and Susan ver Pank

Max, like the other three westies we have adopted, came to us as a foster. Max worked his way into our hearts very quickly. When we picked up Max from a shelter in Minnesota he was practically hairless and looked like a little armadillo. We could

tell he was just miserable. He had just a little bit of fur around his face and not much else. We had experience with his condition, since we had adopted Zoey a year earlier and she also had Atopic Dermatitis, so we knew that there would be challenges ahead for the new owners. Within just a few short days we fell in love with Max and asked to adopt him.



Max without hair

The first thing we did was take Max in to see our vet and get him started on his own prescription for methylprednisolone, the drug of choice for his condition. Sometimes you can get them under control quickly with the meds, and then it's just a matter of bathing and eliminating the things causing the allergies. After a few months with no improvement, we did a little research on our own; we found studies on a new drug they were testing on dogs for Atopic Dermatitis. Cyclosporine is the generic name, but it is also sold in a canine version called Atopica. This is a drug that has similar effects to the steroid treatment but with little to no side effects. We brought this information to our vet and he wrote Max a prescription for the generic. We had used Ketoconazole tablets to help combat the fungus, but the combination of the two can be dangerous, so last year we switched to a special shampoo called Nizoral, and anti-dandruff shampoo which contains ketoconazole. Max improved but still seems to really suffer with the change of seasons. We went back to our vet and did allergy screening. The results were amazing – not only is Max allergic to everything in our yard, he's also allergic to chicken and pork. So with this news we had to make radical changes to the diet, which meant all four dogs would be eating what Max was eating. We scoured the ingredient listings on dozens of food bags before we finally found a limited ingredient dry food that would work. We also found a raw food with limited ingredients so he could have a little variety. Yet, even with the changes in diet, Max still had very little hair and a constant skin fungus. We also put Max through a series of injections designed to help with his

resistance to certain allergens, still only a slight improvement.



Max today with hair

So where are we today? We're managing. Poor little Max still has a lot of itching and scratching, flaky dry skin and some hair loss. Max is a trooper, even though he has some discomfort, his disposition is always happy. When we first got Max, he did nothing but sit and scratch. Now he has periods where he will scratch for a little while, but not constantly and he spends a lot of time sleeping in the sun and running around with the other dogs. He is far from cured, but Max brings us joy every day with his upbeat and funny demeanor. He is a very sweet little dog and we are very happy and grateful to have him in our lives. ☺

Cupid's Story

By Mike and Pam (Lewis) Nabbefeldt

We wanted to write about our Westie 'Cupid' so that we could share with you how fulfilling it can be to adopt a special needs Westie.

Cupid was born February 14, (hence her name), and came into rescue 5 years ago at the age of 7 because she was diagnosed with diabetes. Her family did not feel they could handle this and surrendered her to WWR. September 2004 we adopted Cupie and took on the task of regulating her diabetes. Together we learned how to give her twice daily insulin injections, check her blood sugar and urine, and frequent visits to the vet while making her feel comfortable in her new home. Cupie missed her family at first and sometimes cried in her sleep, but she was fine when we woke her up with hugs and reassurance.

Cupie is now 12 and we have been able to manage her diabetes for 5 years now. She is a very special Westie girl and we have been so blessed to have her as part of our family. She barks just once to go outside and once to come back in. She nudges you with her nose or taps her paw in your leg when she wants something which is usually to get her rawhide to chew or one of her sugar-free treats.

Her meals and snacks are structured times so as to manage her diabetes better. She lets us know the time with a bark and runs to her bowl. As she starts eating we say 'it's time for your shot Cupie', and she stops eating and is still while we give her the shot. It's like she knows it makes her feel better. After eating she is ready to play with the other two Westie rescues; Maggie age 6 and Samantha age 2.



Cupie on her 12th birthday!!

I am hoping 'Cupid's Story' will encourage others to adopt a special needs dog. Cupie is our second straight special needs Westie adopted from WWR and it has been a decision we have never regretted! They are so full of love and we believe they know what you are doing for them makes them feel better. They know they are loved even though they have 'special needs'. ☺

FOSTER NEWS

With the arrival of the mill dogs we will once again be FULL of dogs! ALL of our available foster homes have a foster dog or recently placed a dog so once again, please consider becoming a foster family. If you've been thinking of adding a new furry family member, let us know and if you have adopted from us before, we just may have a perfect match for you! All dogs will be offered to our waiting list of families first, but with 11 dogs coming into rescue, this is a great time to get your name on the list too!

Looking for a Forever Home

Scout



Scout is a sweet little 1 and a half year old Westie mix new to rescue. She came to WWR as a stray and her foster family is requiring her forever home have a visible fence because she is such an active

little girl! Scout is a petite little girl probably mixed with a poodle or Bichon, has a curly coat and adorable little ears! Scout is being fostered in Wales and is eager to find her forever home!

Andrew (Special Needs)



Andrew is a 6 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 hitting his upper jaw. Andrew is being treated at the U of MN vet clinic and will be re-evaluated this month on the progress of his adult teeth development. Andrew is also being evaluated at UMN for a funny gait when he walks. Andrew is fostered in Eau Claire. For more information on Andrew and when he will be ready to adopt, contact Cheryl at cutsfocl@uwec.edu.

Adoption Pending! Mickey is a happy little 1 year old Westie boy that came to WWR as an owner turn in when his family's landlord refused to let them keep him. Mickey is due to go to his forever home on July 12th. Mickey is fostered by Lori and Duane Tyson along with Widget and Joey.

Adoption Pending! Squirt, a 1 1/2 old male Westie was an owner turn in this past June. He is ready to go home to join his family as soon as his neutering stitches come out. A big THANK YOU and WELCOME to Michelle and London Robinson and their two children as our newest foster family!

Forever Homes Found!

Cory, now called Payton Manning (Gee I've heard that name before), was the number one draft choice of Susan and John in Fitchberg where he'll be quarterbacking their team for many years to come. Dawn and Mark Scheppke fostered Payton.

Scruffy, we are pleased to announce, foster family has failed fostering 101 and she will remain with Maureen and Bob forever. Scruffy knew a good thing when she chose them as her forever family.

Dexter took his time finding his forever home but he waiting for all the right reasons when Stephanie & Mark anxiously inquired if we still were looking for a home for Dexter. Fate brought them together and we're very happy for them! Thanks to Anne Plouffe for her patience in fostering Dexter!

Dewey (see his story page 1) endured so much suffering in his life before finding his special forever family. Turned over to WWR from a puppy mill, Dewey now has a wonderful new life with Clay and Kim in Hawthorne Hills IL. Kris and Tom Thommessen along with Wilson fostered Dewey and gave him a wonderful new start in life.

Piper, a 2 year old female turned over to us along with Dewey, Tessa and Ella, was eagerly awaited by her family Sharon and Don. Their beloved Roxie, adopted from WWR in 2000, had recently passed away and they wanted someone special to fill their home in Oshkosh with love again. Duane & Lori Tyson fostered Piper with help from Widget & Joey.

Tessa, has found the perfect place to call her forever home when she joined Barbara and Terry in Eau Claire. Tessa got a great start on her new life with foster parents Sharon Ager & Mark Patterson.

Ella, now called Lily, likes being spoiled rotten by Sharon and Leon in Green Bay! Cheryl & Carol Cutsforth fostered little Ella.

Dudley, now known as 'Dooley', is living in Appleton with Pam & Bruce. Cindy and Doug Seefeld fostered this sweet little boy!

Frankie and Molly, a sweet bonded pair that needed to stay together found a very special family with Susan and Tim from Wauwatosa with love enough for two! Cheryl & Carol Cutsforth fostered.

Roxie (2), our second Roxie of 2009, Jean and Bill have made this little girl very happy by making her a part of their family! Sherri Rice-Bentley fostered.

Sam (special needs) came to WWR from a shelter when they could not place him due to a hip issue. It was determined at the UW-Madison vet clinic that Sam had an untreated broken hip and required corrective surgery. Sam had successful surgery and is scheduled to go home with a vet from the clinic! Amy Zion made her fostering debut and was Sam's guardian Angel and personal physical therapist through out this long ordeal.

The 10 Commandments From a Dog's Perspective

By Stan Rawlinson, a dog behaviorist from the UK.

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want from me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. I am not capable of understanding why. I only know I have been rejected. You have your work, entertainment and friends. I only have you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Please don't hit me. Remember that I could bite or scratch you, and yet I choose not to.
8. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate, or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food or I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart is getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You too will grow old and may also need love, care, comfort, and attention.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so. ALWAYS! ☺

Upcoming Events

UPDATE WWR 10th ANNIVERSARY PICNIC!
It's right around the corner! Our tenth anniversary picnic will be held Saturday, August 22 from 1:00-4:00 pm in Altoona WI. Julie and Tom Risen have graciously offered their large fenced in back yard (yes-we said FENCED in yard) for this event! Details should be arriving in the mail but in case you miss it, check out our website at www.wisconsinwestierescue.com/news . For more

information, email Julie at westiecb@msn.com or Cheryl at cutsfocl@uwec.edu . Cost is \$5.00 per person or \$8.00 for the entire family and includes picnic lunch, beverages, cake (YUM!) and prizes for our WWR dogs! Please RSVP by Aug 8 to the address below with number of people and dogs attending, and include a check payable (no cash please) to Julie Risen at

928 Windsor Forest DR
Altoona WI 54720

WWR Annual Holiday Bazaar!

The dates are set and our popular bazaar will be held Friday and Sat Nov 6th and 7th at the Grooming Hut, 121 W Grand Ave, Eau Claire WI. If you are headed to Altoona for the Reunion picnic and have items to donate, please bring them along. The bazaar sells antiques, collectibles, jewelry, theme baskets, dog items, candles, fancy soaps, new "gifts" of just about any kind but no thrift sale type items please. For more information, contact Cheryl cutsfocl@uwec.edu or 715.839.7831. Thanks to Maren Books and Jan Doud once again for hosting this great event! ☺

WWR Newsletter
1332 Armstrong Place
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Monetary Donations to WWR may be sent to the following address:

WWR
1332 Armstrong PL
Eau Claire WI 54701

Please make checks payable to Wisconsin Westie Rescue. All donations are tax-deductible!
Thank you for helping us continue our mission of Changing Lives One Westie at a Time!

We're always looking for your stories about life with your rescue Westie! Send them to the newsletter address below or email them to me at 59barbie@charter.net and we'll publish them in our newsletter. Photos encouraged! We want to hear from EVERYONE! Next newsletter deadline is Nov 1st, 2009. ☺

Thanks!

Thanks to Clay Rawn, Vince Rosso & Sue Clemas, Ann Marie Lubert, Susan & Greg VerPlank, and Mike & Pam (Lewis) Nabbefeldt for their contributions to this edition of the newsletter. ☺

