

# Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

## CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

Volume 6, Issue 1, March 2011

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### Off and Running!

We hadn't even finished the last of our New Year's bubbly when the dogs started coming into rescue- and often NOT one at a time! Two puppies came to us January 1st followed by a lull and then 'the call' came. A breeder release brought 10 Westies and Westie mixes to us over a 3 weeks time span. From that release we have had a lot of dogs become available and sent us begging for foster homes (hint: we can always use more foster homes even short-term) and scrambling for dollars (ditto on needing more of those as well). A couple westies went directly to another shelter as we just didn't have the space. More dogs from this breeder are waiting their turn in WWR but it's doubtful we'll have the resources to take them and still be able to serve other dogs that need our help.

This upcoming June we expect the new puppy mill legislation to go into effect and swell our adoption ranks again. We'll keep you informed on what's happening in rescue over the coming months which will be an adventure to say the least. Hopefully together you can help us to continue changing lives, one westie at a time. Thanks for all you do!

### Buzz

*By Mary Cole*



Ted and I had always had big dogs; German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, and a yellow Lab. Our Lab and Golden were over fifteen, and we knew their days were limited, when a friend told us he was breeding his female Westie and wanted to make sure the pups went to good homes, so we bit. Our Boys, Ralph and Norton, were born on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1996. Norton, my precious lamb and also the Alpha dog, died in November. The Boys had never been separated, and I'd always hoped that if one died before the other, it would be Ralphie. Poor Ralphie was a lost soul without his brother. I knew we needed a companion for him, but at almost 15 years old, I knew that a puppy wasn't a good solution.

My good friend and coach and her husband are Weimeraner foster parents, and each time I went to her house to train, it seemed as though there was yet another Weim who arrived, each with its own set of problems. But I watched Tina and Mike nurture and love these dogs, crying when they came into their homes, and crying when they had to give them up, even though they knew they were going to great and loving homes. Well, this was a no-brainer for me. There had to be a Westie for Ted and me who needed a home. So, I found the WWR website and contacted them and viewed the photos...and our little boy Buzzie just spoke to me. The process we went through in order to even be considered suitable adoptive parents was surprising and impressive. WWR contacted our vet, our groomer, and we had an in-house visit. I only wish that all people who get dogs were subject to such scrutiny. If they were, we probably wouldn't have so many rescue dogs. But that's another story, as you all well know. So on a snowy day in December, Ted and I drove to Milwaukee to meet our new little lammie. Even though he was exactly the way he was represented by WWR, when I actually met him I still had my reservations. Maybe I was still mourning the loss of Norton. Anne, Buzz's foster mom, sensed my hesitation. She said, "Mary, he's a good dog." And she was right. We took Buzzie home and haven't regretted a single minute of our decision. He's been a wonderful companion to Ralphie, and he is so eager to please. He's got that terrier

determination, “doggedness,” if you will pardon the pun; but he’s so smart, so trainable. He is so affectionate, much more so than Ralphie. I think he was just saving himself for our house and our love, and he’s giving back everything that he’s saved up. We are so grateful to WWR for our new little lamb.

### Molly and Toby

*By Donna Schmidt*

I adopted Molly (9) and Toby (10) on November 6, 2010 and have to say it was one of the best decisions I ever made. WWR had their backgrounds and medical files and even their actual birthdates, so we will have extra celebrating to do each year.

They are the best babies – very playful, smart and lovable. I live in a townhouse and they are adjusting extremely well to the different sights and sounds. They love their walks and during the day when I am at work, their dog walker. She tells me they are the cutest and sweetest dogs, which I know first hand. Even the groomer and her husband say they are so beautiful. And her husband only likes big dogs. Little does he know what big spirits and intellect Molly & Toby have!

Molly, being the little sister is quite bossy and feisty and I think would rather eat than anything else. She is really fed well and is holding at a pleasing 14.8 lbs. It must be the dozens of trips up and down the stair every day. Toby is my Mama’s boy – he is very affectionate and we cuddle, and is very much a big brother to Molly. He lets her think she’s the boss, until they start chasing each other through the house – then it is every Westie for him/herself. They still play like they’re 2 year olds and when we all play together, it so much fun for me as well.

It has been a number of years since I had two dogs at one time, and they do compete for attention at times, so I have the ‘hard job’ of cuddling, kissing and loving them both as much as possible. As a human resource professional, I highly recommend that kind of work.

### Janie

*By Jean Anderson*

I met Janie in July when she and her foster family came to visit us at our lake house. I immediately fell in love with sweet-natured Jane. In August she officially joined us as dog number 3. (At that time we had Josie, our elderly golden retriever who passed in November, and Cooper, our 5 year old Westie.) Janie splits her time between our summer home in Wisconsin and our home in North Carolina.

The rescue society thinks Janie may have been a mill mama. She was found wandering the streets of Milwaukee. Her hair was long (she looked like a sheep!), her ears were infected, and her skin was a mess. She is missing many of her teeth, perhaps from trying to chew her way out of a cage, and the kneecaps of her back legs tend to dislocate, maybe from being pulled out of the cage. Janie’s foster mom took her to the vet to treat her issues and after an appointment with the groomer you could see what a cute little girl she would be..



Despite her earlier life, Janie is one happy dog. She has never met a stranger, human or canine. Cooper may be the alpha dog, but Janie always makes sure to get her fair share of attention. She enjoys treats and dinner is her most favorite time of day. Janie loves to snuggle and have her belly rubbed. I often find my husband asleep on the couch with Janie sound asleep on his chest.

Janie is a bit unusual for a Westie in that she does not bark—not at squirrels or birds, not at the UPS truck, not when she wants something. It is not that she can’t bark, she just does not do so. I have heard her bark twice since August, once this fall when I took Cooper for a walk without her and then this winter when she saw a deer. While Janie may not be much of a watchdog, she is a wonderful addition to our family!

### Pretty Penny!

*By Jeremiah & Heidi Kiecker*



This is Penny! We adopted Penny this past November. She has become another special member of our family. Although she started out rather timid, she has now become playful with Jeremiah, me and our other Westie, Sophie. The transition from her foster home to her forever

home was wonderful. Penny's foster parents were great in teaching her how a dog is supposed to be treated, with love. I think that helped tremendously in her transition to our home. Over the past few months, Penny has learned a lot living in our household. The potty routines, various words such as treat, different noises in our house and her favorite spot to sleep (our bed). Penny prances around having lots of fun antagonizing Sophie and Sophie right back at her. They play well together as if they were sisters from the start. We're very happy we adopted Penny. Everyone that we've introduced her to asks where we got her from because she is "such a sweetie". We agree! We love our little Penny!

### Duffy the Sock Hunter

By Julie and Scott Jensen

With great joy and excitement our family of five, including Parker, Tess and Brooks brought McDuff (Duffy) to our home last October 2010. In those first days he showed his easy-going nature and good manners, and that it didn't matter to him that we already had a black and white cat living with us.

We helped him celebrate his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in November and overall the transition to his new home would have been unremarkable until I noticed something unusual, something out of place. A single boy's sock was in Duffy's dog bed. I quickly thought this was a silly game the kids were playing - --- hide your brother's sock. But the kids convincingly said they were not playing any such game. Besides, their favorite spot to leave their socks was the family room floor.

Hmmm . . . could Duffy have brought the sock to his bed? So, the kids immediately staked out Duffy's usual routes. They watched and waited and it didn't take long before Duffy was caught in the act. Since then we have found that he likes to search for socks in the morning after breakfast and playtime and sometimes at night after the kids turn off their lights. Our daughter likes to listen to him pad from room to room. He is not shy about digging his nose deep into a laundry basket to find the perfect sock. He doesn't have a sock preference, liking socks worn by either boys or girls.



Since Duffy has a collection of socks in his bed I have to remember to clean it out before I wash clothes. Just out of curiosity one day, I counted a total of 12 socks in and among the folds of his bed.

In addition to the 'Sock Hunter', our sweet boy has earned the nickname, "Tuffy Duffy" because of the way he barks at the woodland animals that visit our backyard and chases the squirrels from the bird feeder. The kids and their friends love seeing him tear out the back door at top speed.

We have learned that Duffy has many other wonderful qualities and loves to have fun with us. For example, when guests come to our door he remembers the excellent manners his original owner taught him and doesn't jump or bark. He politely watches kids' soccer or baseball games, goes for sled rides down the hill, likes to meet neighborhood dogs, and always has an appetite. He is a typical Westie. In fact, he looks very much like our dear Regis, who lived with us for almost 15 years, welcoming and raising each of our children.

So that's life in our home with Duffy. He is adorable and we love him very much. He is a senior dog and we are so happy that we could adopt him. Many thanks to Wisconsin Westie Rescue and the faithful volunteers especially foster family CindyLou and Doug Seefeld. They took such good care of Duffy when he arrived at their home with ear infections and they made sure we had the information we needed to decide that Duffy was the right Westie for us.

### Annie and Libby

By Jannell Westiemayer

Annie and Libby came to live with us Sept, 25. The first few weeks no squirrel or chipmunk was safe, and to this day they all scatter when the girls fly out the door and around the yard. Both girls have really blossomed.



Annie

Ms. Annie has to be in on every aspect of daily life. If anyone is going outside, she is going too. When company arrives, she needs to make sure they know proper petting procedures and she makes sure they have a comfortable lap. She is in charge of keeping her cat brother 'Dennis' in line. Her daily

chores include sorting the stuffed animals and toys into equal piles so no one has more babies than she does. Her work is never done!



Libby

Libby was a little shy when she first arrived. Now she is right up front to check out the new comers with the rest of the pack. She has decided that all the small sized stuffed babies are hers. Libby is the squirrel expert and none get by her! She is not real crazy about cold weather. When her dad goes to deliver a load of wood, she would rather stay home, lying on the couch or under the furnace vent. She loves to watch out the window and watch the birds at the feeders and keep a sharp eye on the feeders to make sure no squirrels are up on them. If they are the chase is ON!

Both girls have come to the conclusion that idle paws are the devils' workshop so if its company or a quiet night in front of the TV, no one's hands are idle. Libby has perfected the getting her tummy rubbed while catching a nap before bedtime (or anytime you happen to be sitting by her on the couch). They have adapted to the daily routine of the household and everything from brushing teeth to an all out dash out to the gate when it is time for a ride.

We all are anticipating nice weather so we can go for a walk in the evening. This activity is not Annie's favorite. She walks just so far and then decides it's enough and she has to be carried home. Libby, I think, would go for miles.

We feel very blessed to have been chosen by Annie and Libby as their forever home. Every night when I come home from work I am greeted by Annie, Libby, Ralph, Annabelle and Topsy rain-or-shine. It makes all of the day's challenges melt away.

### Charlie!!

By Nancy Honl

We welcomed Charlie (aka Terry) into our family in January 2011. Within a few days he settled into our home routine, met his groomer, learned his new name and went off on vacation to Florida.

At present, Charlie enjoys walks on the beach and the warm weather. It has been fun introducing him to other dogs on the beach and learning what a nice personality he has!



Charlie is a fortunate dog. He has had so many kind, helpful people to care for him. We are very lucky to be chosen to be his forever family!

### FOSTER NEWS

Via a breeder release, we now have 10 new Westies and Westie mixes in rescue. Some dogs do have applications pending or are already adopted from the waiting list but many are available. All are super sweet and very nice dogs! If you are looking to add a new dog to your family, or know someone who'd make a great home for one of these darling dogs, please let Lana Olson know. You can email her at .

### Looking for a Forever Home

#### Morgan



Morgan is a very handsome male Westie mix about 4 years old. Morgan reportedly is a Westie/Norwich mix but upon further inspection, it's likely he is a Cairn/Westie mix instead. Friendly and possessing a quirky, delightful personality, Morgan loves dining with his stuffed frog in his dinner bowl and bathing a cloth toy in his water bowl! Morgan is working on house training and leash walking. Morgan is fostered in Eau Claire.

#### Jodi



Jodi is a 6 year old female from Iowa who has ONE goal in life and that is to sit in your lap 24/7. If you are looking for a long-term relationship, Jodi is looking for you! Jodi would do quite well as an only dog. Jodi is fostered in Eau Claire.

**Daisy Mae**



Daisy, age 6, is a very pretty little lady from Iowa who is working on being a little less shy in new situations. Daisy needs a family without young children as they make her nervous. Daisy is fostered in Green Bay.

**Shelby**



Shelby is a 7 year old female from Iowa. Shelby has a funky little ear caused from a dog fight she was in before she came to rescue. Personally I think it gives her a bit of a cuddly polar bear look. Such a pretty girl! Shelby is fostered in Madison.

**Bella**



Bella is our second Westie mix and is supposedly a sister to Morgan. Again she is to be a Norwich/Westie mix and in this case, she just may be part Norwich. Very petite, Bella is an active little girl with a ton of energy to burn. Bella is fostered in the Eau Claire area.

**Violet**



Violet is a 9 year old female from Iowa. Just into rescue a week, we are still waiting for her to settle into her foster home before offering her to the waiting list. Violet is fostered in Milwaukee.

**Misty Rae**



Misty Rae, like Violet is new to rescue and will need another week to settle in her home. Misty shares the same DOB and is quite possibly a sister to Violet. Misty came to WWR with a growth on her shoulder we are having removed. Pathology will be available in a few days on the lump. Misty is fostered in Appleton.

***Adoptions Pending***

**Toby**



Toby, an 8 ½ year old male westie came to us from a shelter in the state. Handsome and friendly, Toby is looking forward to meeting his forever family soon. Toby is fostered in Green Bay.

***Courtesy Listing (Not through WWR)***

**Iggy**



Iggy is a 2 year old rat terrier who crashed at one of our foster family's homes and needs to find her forever home. She is approx. 2 years old, spayed and UTD with vaccinations. Iggy is sweet loves to cuddle and is eager to please. She does have some fear issues she will need to continue working on in her forever home. Iggy is in Wales WI and will be adopted through her foster home and NOT WWR. For more info on Iggy, please email Susan or Greg at or .

***Forever Homes Found!***

Charlie (aka Terry), a Westie/Cairn mix hit the jackpot and found Nancy and Ray of Wautoma. See his story on page 4. Charlie was fostered by Barb and Steve Streubel.

Joey, a shy little guy has found his perfect family and joins Cathy and Richard in Green Bay. Julie and Tom Risen fostered Joey.

Mylee moved west and across the WI border into the Minnesota and lives in Pine City with her new mommy Kathy. Lori and Duane Tyson fostered.

Scooter Rose joins her 'sister' Queen Katy and forever family Jerry and Connie Wolfgram. Needless to say, Scooter was sort of a planned failed foster dog for the Wolfgams.

Gabby, another Iowa girl moves to Whitefish Bay and joins her mom, Carla and will happily spend hours sitting in her new mom's lap. Susan Jacoby fostered Gabby.

Hunter, was a little Christmas 'gift' to rescue after his family figured out a 13 week old puppy is BUSY, has moved south to Illinois and calls Marilyn and Henry his family. Just about everyone from Appleton to Illinois fostered/transported/hosted Hunter on his trek to his forever home.

Starr, one of two of our new year's babies, is now a baby sister to Charlie (page 4).

Skye, our second of the two babies joins Sue and John in Wilmette Illinois. CindyLou and Doug Seefeld bravely fostered these two active babies!

Cheddar, a Westie/poodle mix is office manager in Oshkosh. Kim, John and family are his support staff. Kris, Tom and Wilson Thommesen fostered Cheddar.

Teddy, our puppy with seizure disorder lives with Joan now and enjoys running the local daycare in his spare time. It practically took a village to foster although the Cutsforths were the brave souls who shouldered most of the load.

Buzz, our super cute little Westie/poodle lambkins joins his new family in Lake Bluff Illinois. See Buzz's story on page 1. Anne Plouff fostered Buzz.

Penny joins her new Westie sister Sophie in Lake Bluff Illinois. Congrats to Jeremiah & Heidi and thanks to Connie and Jerry Wolfgram for fostering.

Molly and Toby are the last of our Wisconsin to Illinois adoptions for 2010. Best wishes to Donna and her new babies! See their story on page 2. Molly and Toby were fostered by Dawn and Mark Schepke and Cheryl and Carol Cutsforth.

Jaxson (aka Rex), one of the Iowa dogs found his perfect match with new family CindyLou and Doug and will help Doug clean up any leftover pizza crusts in their Oshkosh home. The Peden family fostered Jaxson.

Haley, has taken her gutted toys and moved to Milwaukee with Howard and Jane. Jerry and Connie Wolfgram fostered Haley.

## WWR 2010 Year in Review

*By Cheryl Cutsforth, volunteer coordinator*

Even though 2011 is well under way for Wisconsin Westie Rescue, we have not forgotten the Westies who joined us in 2010. Even as we remember the funny stories and the sad stories about them, the happy endings and the times we wondered how on earth we ever got ourselves into this rescue business in the first place, it is interesting to reflect on the bare bones statistics of the year 2010. Thirty-five Westies came through our foster home doors in 2010, about a 20% decrease over 2009. In part we saw a decrease in our intake because we did not have any litters of puppies in 2010. We also saw a decrease because we turned away 6 westies due to lack of open foster homes at the time they needed to come into rescue. We hope, with your help, to not turn away any Westies in 2011 because we don't have a foster home for them.

In 2010, 51% of the Westies were male, 49% female. Forty-nine per cent of them were turned over to us by their owners for reasons ranging from nipping and chasing the toddlers to lack of financial resources to continue caring for them to illness or death of their human companions. Another 36% came to us from puppy mills and professional breeders. Fifteen per cent came from animal shelters or other rescue groups, usually due to overcrowding at the shelter.

How old were they? Forty per cent were between 4 and 6 years old. Twenty five percent were between 13 months and 3 years of age, 17% were between 7 and 9 years of age, 12% were between 9 and 11 years of age and just 6% were under one year of age.

What did we spend our money on? Vaccinations, dental cleaning and extractions, surgeries to remove lumps and more lumps and then more lumps after that, spaying and neutering. Sixty-three per cent of the Westies coming into rescue in 2010 had to be spayed/neutered at WWR's expense. Very few came into rescue with more than perhaps a current rabies vaccination. All but the youngest badly needed to have their teeth

cleaned and nearly all of those released from breeding establishments had many teeth extracted. One poor mill mama had ALL of her teeth extracted! In general, most of the Westies coming to us need veterinary care first and a great forever home second. And what a personality change often comes soon after we get them "all fixed up and good as new"!

For these Westies, 2010 was a very good year. Thank you each and every one for the ways in which you helped make that true. Whether by adopting or fostering, contributing money or "stuff", your skills or your labor, your leadership or your prayers, it is through all of us working together that we changed 35 lives, one Westie at a time.

### Upcoming Events

#### *Spring Fling Online Silent Auction April 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>*

Thank you to everyone who participated in our holiday Westie Lovers/Sports Lovers online silent auction. Approximately \$1000.00 was raised for our general vet fund! The really great news is that we have had more beautiful items donated to us and so we're ready to go for a spring fling for WWR! We'll have the list ready to share to interested individuals by April 15<sup>th</sup> with bidding starting on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> and ending a week later on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Interested individuals can register to bid by emailing us at or .

We'd like to send out a big thank you to Lori Lane and Ann Marie Lubbert for some truly gorgeous items donated to our rescue group for this online auction event!

#### *K-9 Agility Competition Concession Stand Menomonie Falls May 20-22*

Greg and Susan VerPlank are brave souls and are willing to once again take on the upcoming K-9 Agility event May 20-22 in Menomonie Falls. They are looking for volunteers to help with food donations including pasta, potato and chicken salad and homemade baked goods. Volunteers are needed for both breakfast and lunch shifts as well. To sign up to help or to make a food donation, please contact Greg at or for donating baked goods from West-Central WI, contact Cheryl at .

In order for this to be a successful venture, we need your help so mark your calendars now!!

#### *2011 WWR Picnic*

Mark your calendars and save the date of Saturday June 25 for our "not yet named" summer Westie reunion (see contest below to name our not-yet-named event). This year it will be held at Tom and Julie Risen's home in Altoona. (Eau Claire). It's a chance for us to get together and talk about our wonderful Westies! Meet other families who have adopted from WWR as well as the volunteers who make it all happen. Best of all, watch our beloved dogs run and play off leash in the fenced back yard. It really is quite a spectacle. We'll have a picnic lunch, doggie games, prizes, drawings and other fun events.

Watch your mail for a flyer with information on how to register for this fun event. The registration fee, which covers lunch and all events, will be \$5 per person or \$10 for a family. We hope you can join us!

### Odds and Ends

#### *Gearing Up for the WWR 2012 Benefit Calendar*

The people have spoken and we loved our 2011 calendar so we will be doing a 2012 version! Get those digital photos of your adopted Westie and send them to us at by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Please do NOT compress your photos as we cannot enlarge those photos to full-page size and keep the same photo quality.

We still have some 2011 calendars available at half price! Get your copy for only \$7.50 plus \$2.50 shipping (\$10.00 total). Please make checks payable to Wisconsin Westie Rescue and send to Lana Olson  
WWR 2011 Benefit Calendar  
15213 W. Union Dane County Line Rd,  
Brooklyn WI 53521-9301.

For questions email Lana .

#### *Name Our Gathering Contest!*

Now for the bad news/good news story in this newsletter edition: the bad news is that last year's Westie Fest in Nekoosa was our last one of the kind as Weehaven Kennels has claimed the name for their use. The good news is we will continue holding the event (see opposite column) and just need a new name. This is where the fun begins because you can suggest names and vote for your favorite! Early suggestions include 'Best Fest', 'Westie-Tude', and 'Westies Rock-Fest'. Send your suggestions to us at or along with your RSVP (check for mailing in late-April). Then check our NEWS page on our Website for the list of fest names and how to vote. Winning entry will be named at our picnic in June and will be awarded a prize (yet to be

determined prize but trust us, you'd be happy to win it).

### ***Forever Westie Stamp Results***

Thanks to everyone who sent in books of FOREVER postage stamps after our Nov. newsletter appeal! We had enough stamps donated to cover mailing the entire March edition of 300! We're always happy to get stamps as postage costs take money out of our general vet fund so if you would like to make a stamp donation, send them to us at:

**WWR News/Fundraising  
1332 Armstrong PL  
Eau Claire WI 54701.**

Have you moved? Returned newsletters cost us money plus you miss out on all the news! Change of address may be done by email to or to the address above.

**WWR NEWS  
1332 Armstrong PL  
Eau Claire WI 54701**

read in PDF file format right on the web. You can access the newsletter on our ARCHIVE web page. !

### **Write On!!**

We encourage all of you to write about your life with Westies! The stories are the best part of the newsletter!! Stories and photos (or artwork) can be sent by email to us at or by snail mail to the newsletter address below. Our next newsletter deadline is July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. ☺

### **Thanks!**

We would like to thank the following people for their contribution to this edition of the WWR newsletter: Donna Schmidt, Jeremiah & Heidi Kieker, Janelle Westiemayer, Nancy Honl, Mary Cole, Julie & Scott Jensen, Jean Anderson and Cheryl Cutsforth.

**Our WWR newsletter is also available on our WWR website! Each issue is archived and available to**