

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN



WESTIE RESCUE

(West Highland White Terrier Club of SE Michigan)

Year 2008

THIS NEWSLETTER-See <http://www.westie3.fatcow.com//ChristmasNewsletter08/Chnewsltr08.htm>
RESCUE CALENDAR 2009-See www.cafepress.com/Westierescue

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE.....

...the more they stay the same, or so the saying goes. The economy has changed the source of many of our dogs and caused us to consider taking in more and more shelter dogs who may be less than "pure bred". In the past our policy has been to take only purebred Westies. While many of our foster dogs do not look just like show dogs, we have tried to make sure they were actually Westies. This year, shelters have become a much larger source of the dogs we have taken in. The shelters are getting many more "strays" with no backgrounds available. They often put them on Petfinder as "Westies" but when we get there we find that they are mixes. When we arrive at a shelter to get a "Westie" who has only 24 hours before being put down and we find that the dog is really a mix, it is hard to leave them there. So you will notice several mixes in the photos below. We do make sure that we tell the potential adopters that they are mixes before we place them. In the end, though, we are still taking care of Westies and are as busy as ever.

While we have increased our foster home network, we always NEED more homes. We still have times when we cannot find a foster home for a dog who needs care. If you can help, please do give this your consideration. If you think you can do this job, please contact Barb Engerer at 248-302-3240. bengerer@aol.com to discuss it further. She will send you information and an application. We will do our best to make sure you start off with "easy" dogs!!!! Please help us and help the Westies. They need you, in this economy, more than ever!

MEET OUR RESCUE WESTIES FOR 2008!

The year 2007 was our largest year ever. We will pick up this newsletter starting with November 2007 and go through October 2008. Year 2008 was just as busy with more and more strays coming in. Many families have found themselves in an economic crunch which has left many Westies in dire need of help. The shelters gave us more strays than ever before. We don't know why people would leave their dogs loose on the streets rather than turning them over to a shelter or rescue but it happens pretty regularly. (A shelter can put down an owner surrender immediately while they legally MUST hold a stray for a certain length of time so that may be part of the reason.) We also have had some who were probably dumped by puppy mills which are also finding the economy to be difficult.

LATE FALL 2007



Lucy (fostered 24 days)

Lucy (now Lainey), age 14 weeks, was purchased along with another puppy from an Ohio puppy mill. The owners had just lost their senior Westie and forgot how much work puppies can be. Their adult children took one of the puppies and they then surrendered Lucy to us. She arrived with Giardia but was otherwise healthy. We had her spayed and then placed her just after the holidays with a previous adopter whose Westie had just passed unexpectedly. She helped heal their hearts and that of their other Westie, a boy, who was grieving for his lost sister.



Ellis, age 4-8 years, is one of the Westies from last year who were dumped at a shelter by a puppy miller. Ellis had various issues but over time he grew confident and comfortable. He was then placed in a home where he is now very much loved and pampered. (Editor: I ran into his proud mom at St. Andrews Scottish Festival last year and she took out a packet of photos of Ellis to show to me!)

Ellis (fostered 100 days)



Max, age 1 year, came in because he wasn't housebroken. His owner just didn't have time for him and commented that they "weren't terrier people". Max went to a foster home with a doggie door and had no housebreaking issues at all. He is now happily a member of the pack and has been adopted by his foster home.

Max (fostered 39 days)



Ramsey, estimated age 1 year, was a stray in a shelter. The owner had claimed him but then decided she didn't want him back because he wasn't doing well with her toddler. He was a very nice dog while in foster care and was soon adopted by a family who adores him.

Ramsey (fostered 28 days)



Ricky, age 1 year, arrived in foster care because his owner just could not afford to care for him. She had lost her job and had to choose between Ricky's medical care and a home and food for her daughter. Ricky had developed skin issues and she could not do what was needed to make him well. She gave him to rescue out of love. Ricky went to our vet and was soon on the road to recovery. He was then placed into his new home and is again a happy pup.



Ricky (fostered 75 days)

JANUARY 2008



Max (fostered 11 days)

Max (now Wolfy), age 1 year, came into foster care because he wasn't doing well with children. His family planned to adopt from overseas and were afraid to keep him with a toddler in the home. Max was adopted by his foster home.

FEBRUARY 2008



Mindy (fostered 34 days)

Mindy, age 8 years, was in a shelter. Her owners had a new baby with a severe heart condition. The doctor did not want them to have any pets. While she was listed as a Westie we learned that she was surrendered as a Westie/Doxie mix. She was soon adopted and seems to be a perfect fit with her new family.



Charlie (fostered 59 days)

Charlie, age 5 years, was purchased at Utica Pet Supply. He was fine until the family began having children. Now he whines for attention and, of course, barks out the window at squirrels. They began to find him "annoying". They realized that they were not giving him enough attention and so turned him over to us to find a family who would be more suited to his needs. Charlie was adopted, however in October he came back into Rescue when his family was hit by the bad economy and lost their home. Charlie became a permanent member of his foster home in early November.

MARCH 2008



Dexter (fostered 51 days)

Dexter, age 4 years, came in to Rescue because he was not doing well with the child in the home. When she hugged him while he was sitting on mom's lap, he bit her on the face. The child is a sweet little girl but had no boundaries and was allowed to bother Dexter even when he was trying to hide from her. Dexter was an overweight dog but was not eating well when he arrived. Soon after he arrived, he began to show signs of illness and did get very sick. We feared he would die but with the help of our vet and a specialist, he recovered. Dexter then was adopted into a home with another Westie and they have been committed to working through any remaining issues.

APRIL 2008



Kelsey (fostered 21 days)

Kelsey (now Angel), age 1 year, came from a shelter in Roscommon. She was a puppy mill dump. They thought she was pregnant but she wasn't. She was spayed and after a short time in foster care, she was adopted into a home with other Westies and cats. Kelsey was the Scottish Santa in our April 2008 Rescue Parade. (The show had a Christmas theme this year.)



Rags/Jack (fostered 53 days)

Rags (now Jack), approx. age 5 years, was one of several dogs abandoned in a house and was probably part of a small puppy mill. When they were rescued they went to a shelter and sat there for 3 months until the owner finally signed off on them. During all that time they had not been groomed or seen by a vet. Jack was a mess. The shelter insisted on doing his neuter before allowing us to take him despite the fact that he was filthy. We managed to get a groomer in before the surgery. (Before the haircut he was estimated to weigh 30#. After the haircut, he turned out to weigh 13#!) When we got him he still had ear mites and needed a dental. He also had to have a 2nd surgery to fix issues with the original stitches. But finally he was well and ready for adoption. By that time his foster home couldn't give him up so he was adopted and stayed there. Jack is a mix of some sort but we aren't sure what.



Abbie (fostered 34 days)



Abbie, age 2 years, was a stray in a shelter. After we cleaned her up and had her spayed, she went into a false pregnancy. She collected all of the toys and took them to her doggie bed to care for them. Her foster dad thought it was going a bit too far when she took the remote control! Abbie has now recovered and is in her new "forever" home.



Avery (fostered 162 days)

Avery, age 3 years, was in his third home. Avery was a sweet boy but he had a skin issue which caused him to lose much of his hair. No matter what they tried, nothing seemed to work. His dad was dealing with his own cancer treatments and could not help Avery any further. He was close to putting him down. Avery went into foster care and has now recovered his hair and is looking good. Avery will continue to have some allergy issues but with good care, he can have a quality life. He was adopted in October and is doing very well.



Mr. McGoo (fostered 75 days)

McGoo, age approx. 4 years, came to us from a family who had found him as a stray. They treated severe fleas and skin issues and brought him around but he wasn't able to live with their small children. He stayed in foster care for quite a while and has now gone to his new home and is doing well.



River (fostered 28 days)

River (now Stella), approx. age 3 years, was one of three dogs pulled from the Montcalm shelter. They were found as strays and were probably a puppy mill dump. River had some bad skin issues and seemed to have given up on life. By the time she went to her adopters, she had a nice coat of hair and sparkle in her eyes.



Ike (fostered 44 days)

Ike, estimated 6-9 years, was another of the three Montcalm dogs. He had broken several teeth, probably from chewing on a metal cage. His one ear is down with a lot of scar tissue, possibly from a dog fight. He is a pretty laid back little guy and has now been adopted.



Bella (fostered 37 days)

Bella, age approximately 2 years, was the third Montcalm Westie. She was a very sweet girl and a playing machine. However, she had a tendency to bully the weakest dog in the pack so we placed her as an "only dog". Bella is doing well in her new home.