



Rocky (fostered 73 days)

Rocky, age 3 years, was given up because he began to snap at children. We felt he was a case of neglect. He had lost much of his hair, yet had not been to the vet since 2006. When he was surrendered, the owner could not remember if Rocky had been fed yet that day!



Due to his likely lifelong neglect, he had issues he could not overcome. He tried his best but we cannot place a dog who is a known biter. After some incidents, Rocky went "to the bridge*" in late summer. He will be missed and grieved by his foster family.
* www.indigo.org/rainbowbridge_ver2.html

JULY 2008



Dexter (fostered 31 days)

Dexter, age 1 year, came to us because the owner had no time for him. Dexter has some minor allergies but his personality shines. He has now been adopted.



Mulligan (fostered 33 days)

Mulligan, age 6 months, bit his 8-year-old boy while "protecting" another child. His family decided they could not keep Mulligan. We had him neutered and worked with him to tone down his protective nature. Mulligan had a very strong personality, even for a Westie. Unfortunately it was rather erratic and we suspect a neurological issue. As a puppy recognized to be the alpha of the litter, he probably should not have gone to a family with children. He was a dog who needed very terrier-knowledgeable owners who could truly devote their time to his careful and consistent training. As time went on, his issues worsened and, after two biting incidents, safety issues forced us to conclude that he wasn't an adoptable dog. He was put to sleep rather than risk further more serious injuries to the people around him. Mulligan's foster family will remember him with love, always.



Toby (fostered 47 days)

Toby, estimated age 1 year, was quite a surprise for us. He was in a northern shelter. We knew he was a mix but didn't expect what we got! He weighs about 35 pounds. While he has Westie in him, the mix is strong. Toby is a very friendly, happy and bright young fellow who aims to please. He has been adopted by his foster family which includes a Westie who was adopted several years ago.

AUGUST 2008



Oliver (fostered 38 days)

Oliver, estimated age 3 years, was yet another surprise. He was listed by the shelter as a purebred Westie. The shelter told us he had 24-48 hours to live. When we got there it was clear that this dog had a lot more in him than Westie but we couldn't leave him there to die. He was 27 pounds and very similar to Toby! We had him neutered and he also had to recover from kennel cough. The foster home found that he was terrified of riding in the car and he has a tendency to want to run. Otherwise, he was a very loving and sweet boy. (He was eventually moved to a mixed breed rescue where they were better able to find an adopter for this size of a dog and he has been adopted.)



Winston (in care)

Winston, age 7 years, was turned over to us from the Eaton County Humane Society. Winston wasn't doing well with children. With a strong human alpha presence, Winston seems to do much better. When he yelped in pain when being picked up, we had him x-rayed and found that he had an old injury. We are treating this with pain killers and he immediately became a different dog. He is now happy and playing with the other dogs in the foster home with only occasional instances of discomfort resulting in a grumpy attitude. We continue to work with his vet to find a way to make him comfortable full time.



Fergus (fostered 39 days)

Fergus, age 6 months, came to us because the elderly lady who owned him was not able to handle him. (He and Mulligan came from the same litter of pups. The breeders are in Ann Arbor and this was their 2nd Westie litter.) Fergus is more settled than Mulligan but, at first, did need to be reminded that he is not boss. Fortunately, he was able to adapt and learned to live nicely in a family and with another dog. After a few weeks of foster care, his foster home decided to adopt.

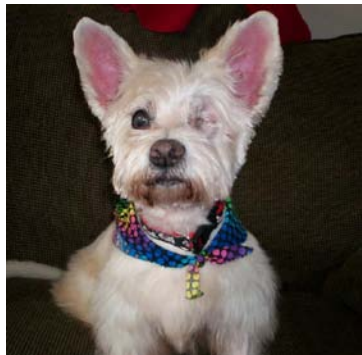


Reggie (fostered 25 days)

SEPTEMBER 2008

Reggie, age 5 years, was a frequent boarder with one of our breeders. She was surprised to get a call from his owner saying that she needed to find a new home for Reggie. She agreed to foster Reggie and he came in to Rescue. His family just did not have time for him and had allowed him to roam the neighborhood. Reggie is a very friendly fellow who gets along well with both people and dogs. He found his forever home in a family with another dog with whom he enjoys playing.

OCTOBER



Josie (30 days)

Josie (now Dolly), estimated age 10-12 years, was found as a stray. Josie had multiple issues and, as a senior dog, we had to decide if she would eventually be adoptable. She appeared to be deaf and her sight was compromised. We could not predict quality of life while she was living in pain so we did several things medically including the removal of an eye due to a deep ulcer and dental work to address a very painful mouth. She appeared to be incontinent but this could easily be a temporary condition. We were all relieved to find she didn't have Cushings!

So many people pitched in to help with Josie, it is hard to know where to start. First she was found by Gina Sterett who happens to be a certified dog trainer in Marshall, MI. She took Josie to her vets at Marshall Animal Care Center. There, three vets (Drs Rzepka, Eshuis, and Boney) and groomer, Jennifer, cared for her at their own expense. Then Gina transported her to her foster mom, a vet student at MSU, Marcia Backstrom. Marcia took her to Dr. Mortimer, East Lansing Vet Clinic who gave us a large discount on her care and surgery. She was also seen by consultants from MSU, Dr. Bartoe and Dr. Pierce. During the night after the surgery, Dr. Melissa Holahan helped out by giving her IV pain meds. Before we made any decisions, a current foster family offered to adopt her if she was thought to have any chance for a quality of life. (Who could resist those bunny ears!) This commitment made our decisions a lot easier. She made great progress after her surgery and was adopted at the end of October. Her new family will make her comfortable and loved for the rest of her life and will "walk her home".



Casey (in care)

Casey, age 8 years, came to us after his family left him at a shelter due to what they called his "attitude". They said that he would pee any time they asked him to do anything. We took him to the vet and learned that he had bladder stones. After surgery, he recovered and was easily housebroken.



He looked like he had lost 10 pounds once he was groomed. What a handsome dude under all that hair! He also had advanced dental disease and feels so much better after his dental work. He has changed from a "touchy" boy with housebreaking issues to a fun-loving little boy whose only issue is a growl when he is picked up. (Not unusual for many Westies.) He just needs a family who will recognize his medical needs and take care of them if anything crops up and which has some Westie experience so they won't be intimidated by the growl.



Cooper (in care)

Cooper, age 6 years, arrived because she was having problems with children. Ever since Cooper had ACL surgery, she has been sensitive about her knee and has started to nip at children - her owners believed she is afraid they will hurt it. The family has a six-month old baby and she is just starting to move around. Cooper has growled at her a few times. Also, the family was moving from their home to an apartment that does not allow dogs. Cooper will see a doctor to be sure there is not a problem with her leg and be treated if needed. Currently she is doing very well in foster care and is being observed to see if her legs seem to be giving her issues. So far we have not seen any nipping so possibly she just needs to be away from children.



Heidi (in care)

Heidi, estimated age 3 years, was found as a stray and taken to Detroit Animal Control. One of our foster homes heard about her and we investigated. We pulled her as soon as we could. She was listed as a "mix", maybe because she was stained yellow from head to toe. But we see nothing about her to make us think she is a mix. After the groomer washed her 3 times, she turned white again. She is a friendly little girl who is starved for human contact. She joined foster mom in her shower each morning because she so craved attention! She came into a pack of 3 with no issues at all. She has had a dental and has recovered from kennel cough. Like many Westies, she will issue a warning snap when worried but has never put any pressure in it; this behavior is lessening as she feels more secure. She needs a home with an experienced terrier person who can take charge and make her feel protected and secure.



Ava (in care)

Ava, estimated age 3 years, came out of Al Van Shelter in South Haven. Her owner said she wasn't housebroken and she didn't have time for her. She also came in stained yellow. What a difference a trip to the groomer can make!



Ava is small and scared.



Roni (in care)

Roni, age 11 years, was surrendered by her owner when the owner lost her job and was forced to leave her home. She went to an apartment where dogs were not allowed. She tried to hide Roni but had to finally give her up. Her mom was heartbroken but there was no choice. If she was caught with Roni, she would have again lost her home.

As you can see, there was a LOT of activity in October. We are filled to bursting and only see it getting worse. We are starting to have to turn down some dogs. Please help if you can.

FOSTER HOMES

After our appeals last year, some new families stepped up and have been fostering for the Westies. Those who fostered the dogs listed above were:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Marcia Backstrom | Eileen and Tom Michaels |
| David Collins | Maggie and John Payne |
| Cathy Dickens | Julie Reish |
| Peg and Jim Forbes | Martha and Tom Sayles |
| Sue Jackson | Bev Walker |
| Marge and Tom McMillan | Beth Widdows |
| Kathleen, Dave and Paige Marken | |

Some of these families fostered multiple times during the year. To prevent eventual "burnout", we would love to have some new families added to our foster list. Please contact Barb Engerer (bengerer@aol.com) for more information.

ADOPTER EMAIL ADDRESSES

In October, we sent out an email to all adopters inviting you to advertise in this newsletter. If you have email but did not get this message from us, please contact us with your current email address. (bew1234@sbcglobal.net). If any of your other contact information has changed, please let us know that also.