

## RESCUE

Responsible breeders take care of their own. But pet stores, puppy mills, brokers, and most backyard breeders stop when the money changes hands. Rescue is the "Safety Net" for these dogs who have no responsible breeder to stand behind them.

Many people take on a dog when they are not prepared for them. Many do not research the breed and choose the wrong dog for their lifestyle and personality. Many do not feel a need to commit to a dog for their lifetime. Many dogs end up homeless. Rescue tries to take in these dogs. Many rescues foster the dog until they can find them a good home. Others don't have the volunteer help to do this so they "introduce" the owner to the potential adopter. Either way, a family can often find a great little friend through Rescue.

Michigan Westie Rescue requires children to be at least ten years of age and prefers a fenced yard. We do reference/vet checks and home checks. Some people complain that we are too fussy. But we are advocates for the dogs who have had a bad break and deserve only the best.

See [www.westierescue-mi.com](http://www.westierescue-mi.com) for lots of information, photo albums and stories of previous rescues and an application. We generally place between 2-3 dozen dogs a year and every year seems busier than the last. Your friends in other states can find a rescue at [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com)

Rescue needs funds to continue. Send donations to WHWTCSEM @ 1371 West South Blvd., Troy, MI 48098. For wonderful fundraiser items featuring Westies, go to <http://www.cafeshops.com/Westierescue>.

WESTIES ARE NOT  
DISPOSABLE!!!

## YOUR PART!!!!

Delightful and Loving or  
Snappy and Snarling??  
It is almost entirely up to  
YOU!

Age: Make sure your puppy stays with the litter until they are AT LEAST 8 weeks of age. Things such as bite inhibition are learned during this period. It is crucial!

Socialization: Dogs need to be socialized from the time they are very young puppies. What you do in the first few weeks will make a difference for their entire life. You MUST socialize them with dogs, kids, adults and in various situations.

School: What better way to begin the socialization than in puppy school. Be sure they use positive training methods; NO choke chains or negative corrections! Observe a class before signing up.

Time: To properly raise an enjoyable dog, expect to spend as much time as you would to raise a child!!  
Educate Yourself: Before you get that puppy, do a lot of research on the breed and on raising a puppy, as well as living with an adult dog. You only get one chance to do it right!

There are many books and web sites available to help you. You can also join an email list dedicated to the subject. (Search [www.yahogroups](http://www.yahogroups) for Westies to find an active list.) Also use the Profiler at [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com) and read their information.

### AKC REGISTRY

You want your pet to be registered with the AKC because this is what most responsible breeders use and it provides entry to many AKC activities

### BUT DON'T BE FOOLED!

The AKC is JUST a registry. In and of itself, it does NOT guarantee the quality of your puppy or even that they are purebred. The AKC registers puppy mill dogs too!

### AND BE AWARE

There are many other registries out there; "registered" does not necessarily mean AKC!

## PET WESTIE 101



[www.WestieEduMi.com](http://www.WestieEduMi.com)

### Westie Facts:

#### West Highland White Terrier

- ◆ Usually 15-22#
- ◆ Always white; sometimes with a darker dorsal streak
- ◆ Many types of coats, e.g., soft, hard, straight, curly
- ◆ Average life span - 12 to 14 years
- ◆ Housebroken around 6 months if YOU do a good job!
- ◆ Usually clipped every 4-8 weeks to resemble a show Westie (round head, carrot tail, skirts)
- ◆ Requires daily brushing - will minimize shedding & prevent mats & promote good bonding
- ◆ Requires frequent nail clipping
- ◆ Has a happy, peppy personality
- ◆ Never totally grows up!
- ◆ Spay/Neuter by 6 months of age
- ◆ Less likely to cause allergies in humans BUT there are those who still ARE allergic!!

WESTIES  
IT'S A LIFETIME  
COMMITMENT!!