

YEAR 2011
MICHIGAN WESTIE RESCUE



(West Highland White Terrier Club of SE Michigan)

THIS NEWSLETTER-See www.westieclubmi.com and choose Newsletters
CALENDAR 2012-See <http://www.cafepress.com/Westierescue>



Year 2011 was a year of change for us. We reorganized and spread the responsibilities so that no one person carries the load. This has meant a lot of 'coordinating' but in the end we believe it will be a healthy move for Rescue as everyone will be more invested in the process and it will be easier to transition if a key person leaves. We intend to maintain our standards and become even more helpful to the dogs who need us.

You will notice that this year we had more than the normal share of older dogs and dogs needing special care. Due to the lack of foster space, we are not sure how long we are going to be able to help the older or sicker of the dogs, or those who are not full Westies. If you can help us foster, it WILL save lives. The economy is still taking its toll although the "lost jobs/homes" have slowed down. Now we are seeing so many older folks going into long-term care or passing and leaving older dogs whose families cannot or do not care to keep them. It reminds us that we must all be making arrangements for our dogs in case we are not able to be there for them. Make arrangements and put them in writing; make sure your families know who will take the pets. Do it now because you don't ever know what tomorrow will bring. Even if you are young, things can happen and your pets will suffer if you aren't prepared.

DOGS WHO WERE IN CARE AT 10/31/10

Our cutoff date is 10/31 so that we can get the newsletter and calendar prepared and available by December. Last year we left 4 dogs listed as "in care"; here are the rest of their stories:

TOBY, age 3.5 years, remains in foster care indefinitely. He is one of those dogs who is not a dog we would be comfortable placing but he isn't so bad that we would have to euthanize him. He is in a foster home with someone who is very good at working with difficult dogs and we expect he will remain there. FARGO, age 7 years, was adopted by his foster home. He has some medical issues but his personality outshines everything and he has become a great addition to their family.

PETHEY, age 13 years, is in permanent foster care. He has Westie Lung disease and his illness is clearly progressing. He will stay with us until he passes.

CASEY, age 4 years, was adopted and is doing well in his new home.



Stevie
Fostered 39 days

LATE FALL 2010

Stevie, age 6, was surrendered by his owner because she could not afford to take care of his skin issues. He did very well in foster care and was adopted by a home that is able to care for him and give him a good life.

SURRENDER REASON: MEDICAL EXPENSES



Charlie
Fostered 17 days

Charlie, age 1.5 years, came in to Rescue because his owner had lost her job and he was not doing well with a couple large dogs belonging to her children. She could no longer afford his care. Charlie was a great little foster teenager. He was placed in a new home with two cats and everyone is getting along nicely. Charlie enjoys traveling to visit relatives and going up north to the cottage. He's always ready for a ride and enjoys long walks with his new Mom.

SURRENDER REASON: LOST JOB



Gracie Noelle
Fostered 43 days

Gracie Noelle, age 13 weeks, came in to Rescue on New Year's Eve. She was an unwanted surprise Christmas gift who was transported here from Kansas. Gracie was something very rare for us....a very young puppy without any medical issues. She did well in foster care and was placed in a forever home with a previous adopter whose Westie had recently passed.

SURRENDER REASON: UNWANTED GIFT

MEET OUR WESTIE RESCUES FOR YEAR 2011



Terry
Fostered 150 days

Terry (now Pippa), age 10 years, came in to Rescue because her owners no longer wanted her. They said they had not bonded to her. They had recently moved here from a home with a doggie door. Now Terry was having accidents because she didn't tell them when she had to go out. And when she went out in their unfenced yard, she ran. They were clear that they did not want help to find a way to solve these issues. They just didn't want her any more. We took her into foster care and she did well. She did occasionally have an accident but that was controllable. Terry was adopted by a previous adopter and continues to do well.

SURRENDER REASON: HOUSEBREAKING



Itsy Bitsy Pupsy
Fostered 75 days

Itsy (now Isabella), age 15 weeks, was given away by a pet store who said someone had asked him to find her a home. He mentioned a slight heart murmur. She was coughing and sick in his dark storeroom so mom and daughter took her home. They nursed her through her illness but the vet told them the heart murmur was more than slight. Then she seemed to be getting sick again; she was listless and would not eat. Mom called and surrendered her because she knew she could not afford the care.

We had an ultrasound at OVRS and found that her murmur was graded as "severe" but at the low end of this. She will require ultrasounds until she is 3 or so. There is some chance she could require surgery, but if she gets to age 3 without serious problems, she may be fine for the rest of her life. She found a home with a mom, dad and older Westie sister, age 12 and instantly fit in.

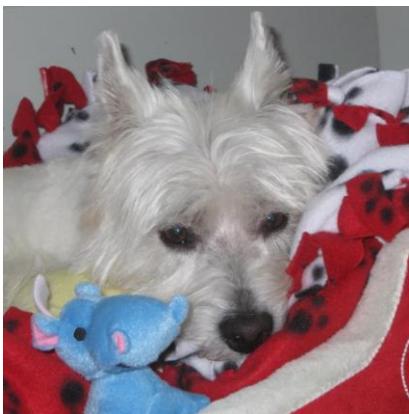
SURRENDER REASON: MEDICAL COSTS



Snowflake
Fostered 23 days

Snowflake, age 12 years, was left at a shelter by her family. We don't know why. Snowflake is a larger Westie. From day one in her foster home, she was very quiet and settled in. She had lost one eye, we are told, from a Coyote attack! What a brave girl, she must be, to have survived that! She was adopted by her foster family and is doing very well.

SURRENDER REASON: UNKNOWN



Maddie (now Missy)
Fostered 46 days

Maddie (now Missy), age 3 years, was surrendered by a woman in an abusive situation. At Christmas her husband kicked the wife out. Then he left for a week, leaving the dog behind alone. When the lady got a restraining order and got in to get Maddie, Maddie was cowering and hiding. We were told that he had also been known to hit the dog. The owner and Maddie moved back to Michigan where she had relatives. But she was unable to find a job and had to return to her original state and old job. She had to live with a relative who would not let her keep the dog. She called us, heartbroken, but knowing that this was the only thing she could do that would be fair to Maddie. Maddie did well in foster care and was adopted into a family who loves her and now call her Missy.

SURRENDER REASON: OWNER MOVING/FINANCIAL



Theo
Fostered 71 days

Theo, age 8 years, came into Rescue because his owners said he likes to run and they didn't have a fenced yard. They felt bad about having him on a tether. They felt he needed a yard to play in. He is a very good boy and did well in foster care. He then found his "forever" home and is doing well.

SURRENDER REASON: NEEDED MORE ROOM TO PLAY



Caesar/MacTavish
Fostered 25 days

Caesar (now MacTavish), age 1.5 years, came into foster care because they had no time for him now that they have a new baby. Caesar spent some time with us and simply had no real issues. He was easily placed after a short time in foster care.

SURRENDER REASON: NEW BABY/TIME



Nelson/Buddy
Fostered 124 days

Nelson/Buddy (now Monk), age 5 years, came into foster care from a shelter. He had been owned by several families, passed around from one relative to another. When he was surrendered, they said he "didn't fit in". He was very shy and didn't play with the other dogs or children. Once in care, he was found to need some extensive dental care and lost several teeth. When foster mom walked past him, he would drop to the ground in apparent fear. It took time and patience to help him settle in and learn to trust. He took a class designed to help dogs gain confidence through scent training.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUxj1tRUA_o will give you an idea of the sort of work they did. Foster mom credits this class for bringing the real Buddy out although we think foster mom was pretty amazing too. Buddy has not only become a "real Westie" but he has also found a new home, living well with other dogs and cats.

SURRENDER REASON: SHELTER-DIDN'T FIT IN