



Buttercup
7 days

Buttercup, age 11 years, was originally placed by us about 2 years ago when her owner died. She has been a happy "only child" but now her new owner also passed. Buttercup was a great comfort to both owners, staying with them on their beds until the end. But now she needed a new home. At age 11 with diabetes, she wasn't an easy placement. But fortunately, the vet tech who had been caring for her, asked to adopt her. She was again in a happy home and cared for by someone with medical expertise. Unfortunately Buttercup became ill fairly soon after that adoption and passed away. We are so glad that Buttercup was able to find a good home in each of her moves and we would like to believe that she and her 2 "moms" have met at the rainbow bridge and she is at peace.

SURRENDER REASON: OWNER DEATH



Nicholas
In Care (199 days through 10/31)

Nicholas, age 4 years, was surrendered by his owner when her neighbors began to complain because she had too many dogs. He came into foster care at a hefty 35 pounds and was immediately put on a diet. He quickly fit into the home and did well with the resident Westie. His care consisted largely of getting his weight down to a normal weight. But as he lost weight he became much more active and ended up having surgery for a luxated patella. Now in recovery, he is expected to be looking for a new home soon.

SURRENDER REASON: TOO MANY DOGS



Maximus
Fostered 10 days

Maximus, age 5 years, was taken to his vet to be euthanized. He had various medical issues and the owners said they could not afford to give him medical care. The vet held Max and asked the shelter to find a rescue for him. We were told that he seemed to have an "obstruction" and would we take him? We said we would and they arranged to transport him closer to us. By the time we got him though, he was very sick. When our vet finally saw him, he had not eaten in six days and he could no longer walk. He would crumble after a couple of steps and pull with his front legs. He had an enlarged heart, severe ear infections, skin infections and other problems. He was unable to keep down water although he could initially keep down food. We did not know if he would live but we did know that if he passed, he would have at least a few days of the kind of love and care he should have had his entire life. Unfortunately, his initial recovery was short lived. He got even sicker and after a consultation with a specialist, we had to let him go. Max most likely had a disease called Myasthenia Gravis. Max was a very brave little boy. He was never a stranger in his foster home. Max fit in from the moment he arrived. He never met a person he didn't love. He always greeted everyone with tail wags and kisses, right up to the end, even when he was gravely sick. He loved attention and gave his whole heart to anyone and everyone.

SURRENDER REASON: MEDICAL COSTS



Macy
Fostered 32 days



MacTavish
Fostered 39 days



Chloe
Fostered 133 days

Macy and MacTavish were found as strays and no one claimed them. They are about 1 year and 5 years respectively. They had obviously been cared for and loved so we were at a loss as to why no one had been looking for them. They were not microchipped so there was no way to get them back to their home. These are very well adjusted, happy little Westies who love to play. Macy is very small, perhaps 12-13 pounds. Mac has a loose kneecap which is not an uncommon issue for a Westie. Normal vet advice is to not "fix" them unless the dog is in actual pain but it is likely that it will eventually need to be repaired by the adopter as the dog ages.

Previous adopters cared for these dogs when they were found and then turned them over to a shelter so their owners could have a chance to find them. Arrangements were made with the shelter to make sure they came to Rescue once they were legally available. Thanks go to these previous adopters.

Both have now been adopted and are doing well in their new homes.

SURRENDER REASON: STRAYS

Chloe, age 7 months, is a Westie-Bichon mix who came in to rescue after being surrendered to the Humane Society because she was nipping four 2-year-olds in the home. More likely the reason for her surrender was a "liver shunt" which would be rather expensive. We arranged an appointment at MSU to determine if she could be helped by surgery. The day she arrived for the appointment, she had not been feeling well. She ended up staying at MSU for several days due to some sort of virus. A former Rescue from 2000, had recently passed at OVRs (Oakland Veterinary Referral Services) due to an illness that started with similar symptoms. When Glennie passed, Rescue received over \$2000 in memorials for him; these funds were dedicated to Chloe's bills. We hope Glennie is proudly watching from the "bridge" and can see Chloe run and play even though he can't be here himself.

A week after her recovery, they determined that the liver shunt was operable. During her recovery we discovered that she had mange and she had to be treated for that also. But she is now a healthy little 12 pounder who is friendly to people and dogs. She has been adopted and is doing well in her new home. You can read about her and see photos from our website. Go to www.westierescue-mi.com and choose "Our Westies". Find her in the photo album and use the link there.

SURRENDER REASON: CHILDREN; MEDICAL EXPENSES



Noli
Fostered 20 days

Noli, age 7 years, came into rescue because her owner worked full time and went to school evenings. On top of this, her daughter and 7-year-old grandson moved back in with her. Noli wasn't adapting well and her separation anxiety was creating havoc. She was eliminating in the house. She lost two front teeth trying to chew out of her crate. She was getting destructive. Her owner felt she was not happy and needed a better situation to live in.

She was a healthy, slightly overweight, and spayed, little girl. She adapted very quickly to her new living arrangement. She ate dinner within hours of moving in. She laid down with the other Westie girls within two hours. She sleeps in anyone's bed she finds. This is one laid back westie. Noli joined her foster pack and became a great hunter and tomato thief! Noli was adopted and has become a wonderful family member.

SURRENDER REASON: NO TIME



Duffy
In Care (75 days through 10/31)

Wesley (now Duffy) came to us from a shelter on the west side of the state. There was a family who had expressed interest in adopting him but then they began to realize he had medical issues. He came in as a stray and we were told he was about 5 years old but we are guessing maybe 11 years. Duffy had very badly infected ears which resulted in total hearing loss. He has a fatty tumor which does not require any attention at this time. It is just something that frequently occurs in older dogs. Since being in foster care and having had his medical attended to, he has really perked up and has a "spring in his step"! He loves to be chased in the house. He has an occasional accident so his foster home has to be very vigilant about taking him outside right after meals and sometimes in between. He only barks when he is hungry. He likes to rest in his little bed. Medical issues may keep him in foster care for the rest of his life.

SURRENDER REASON: SHELTER STRAY



Bailey
In Care (74 days through 10/31)

Bailey, age 12 years, went to live with the son of his owner when the owner had to move in with his daughter who already had 2 dogs and 2 cats. However the son had to leave Bailey alone for 13 hours a day so he decided to surrender Bailey or put him down. We took him in and got him to the vet to investigate some issues. Initially, he was a bit "nervous" but now is doing well. He had been fed "whatever is on sale" so we got him on a food to help with his joints (J/D) and he will be on Rimadyl for life. He had a dental and his ears were treated. Bailey needs a home that will give him the love and care he deserves. Despite being listed on Petfinder, he has still failed to find a forever home.

SURRENDER REASON: MOVING



Duffy
Fostered 27 days

Duffy, age est. 8 months, was owned by an elderly couple. They found him to be more than they could handle and their training methods were not compatible with the Westie personality. They surrendered him to a shelter when they found they were unable to handle him. The shelter person worked with him and made quite a lot of progress but then the shelter closed and we got him.

In foster care, he showed himself to be a good pup, able to live with the foster siblings. He was full of energy and was able to find a family with time to give him activity and attention.

SURRENDER REASON: SHELTER CLOSED



Hunter
In Care (41 days through 10/31)

Hunter, age 2.5 years, lost his home when his owner was evicted, along with her 4 children. She had to give up her dogs. Someone adopted the dog from her for his mother who had just lost her Westie. But Mom wasn't ready to have another dog so Hunter was surrendered to Rescue. Hunter had issues with marking but his foster home worked on that. The first step was to have him neutered. He is learning to greet people at the door calmly and his normal doggie manners are being reinforced. Hunter is living with another, slightly larger dog and is generally doing well. He seemed to have some "man" issues but is now doing quite well with the men in the home and is able to meet new men without fear when they offer him a treat. (Note: He was adopted in November.)

SURRENDER REASON: Inappropriate "gift"

To my foster mom

In a cold metal cage, in what I once called home,
You peered into my eyes, and said, "I'll help that one."
And you loved me so, you taught me some tricks,
You showed me some fun, and let me chase after sticks.

I know to shake hands, I come, sit, and stay,
and I happily comply when I'm told to obey.
You gave me good food, good treats, and good toys,
You showed me what it's like to be somebody's joy.

Because, Mom, I never had this, till you rescued me.
Without you, you know exactly where I'd be.
Now you've done your job, you say it's time to leave you
To live with a family who wants to love me too.

Who'd have thought, Mom? I was a sore sight to see,
Not long ago, Mom, when you rescued me.
Now I've found a true home, as part of a new "we."
I'm going to live with a family who wants to adopt me.

You drop me off, Mom, and hold tight onto my leash
With tears in your eyes, you lean down to kiss me.
You hug my new mom and she says, "Thank you,"
That without your love, her wish wouldn't have come true.

I'm someone's WISH, Mom! All because you appeared.
I'm going to be happy, Mom, please don't shed those
tears.

So give me a kiss, go on, now, don't cry
Because of your love, Mom, I'm living a life.

- Written by Julie Wessen