



**Rambo**  
Fostered 17 days

**Rambo**, age 1, came in to Rescue because his owner was overseas in the service and was totally disabled. His sister had power of attorney and surrendered Rambo to us. Rambo was a very active and not very trained little dog. He is sweet which makes up for a lot. He was adopted quickly.

SURRENDER REASON: OWNER ILLNESS



**Tyson**  
Fostered 41 days

**Tyson**, age 3, was returned to rescue because he could not learn to live with the family cats. Most Westies can adjust but once in a while we run into one who just has too much prey drive to adapt. In foster care, Tyson did very well and has now been adopted by a family without any cats!

SURRENDER REASON: CATS



**Toby**  
In care

**Toby**, age 2.5 years, arrived into Rescue when his owners divorced and no one had time for him. He had spent a lot of his life in the basement and was not fully housetrained. He was apparently just picked up and held (to avoid accidents) when he was upstairs so this is what he expects. He is now experiencing many changes in his life as he learns to live in a home like a normal pet. He had issues with barking and was fearful of many common things, probably because he wasn't exposed to them. Toby is in a special foster care situation where he is trying to adapt. We expect him to stay in this situation for some time to come.

SURRENDER REASON: HOUSEBREAKING



**Simon** - Fostered 32 days/  
Euthanized

**Simon**, age 8, came in to Rescue when the family had their first baby. It is likely that he was the focus of the family until the baby came along and suddenly he was pushed out of the spotlight. Simon's world collapsed when he was surrendered to Rescue. On top of this, he was in great need of dental care. He had broken teeth and even a sore inside his mouth that would have been very painful. Until he had the dental we had great concerns that he would ever become adoptable but after the pain went away, he settled down and began to do much better. However he was never able to be totally trustworthy and after incidents in three foster homes, we had to let him go to the bridge.

SURRENDER REASON: NEW BABY



**Max** - Fostered 66 days

**Max**, age 6, came in to Rescue because the family divorced. He was a larger Westie, weighing in over 25#. Max is a very nice little boy who found his new home with another Westie and several cats.

SURRENDER REASON: DIVORCE



**Milo** - Fostered 61 days/  
Euthanized

**Milo**, age 16, came to us when his owner became too ill to care for him. We knew that Milo would not be adoptable at this age but we had a foster home willing to take him as a permanent foster. We would normally not have the space to do this so Milo was very fortunate. Milo was a very nice dog and became part of the family. But after several weeks in care, Milo began to have untreatable seizures and was euthanized.

SURRENDER REASON: OWNER ILLNESS



**Abby**  
Fostered 30 days

**Abby**, age 10, arrived when her owners got a divorce and mom could no longer keep her. Abby is a happy, peppy little girl. Everyone who met her, fell in love. Go to <http://www.westie3.fatcow.com/RESCUE/Dance.html> to see Abby's happy dance. She also woo-woos. A family who lost an older female decided to adopt her as a friend for their senior boy. Abby is doing just great in her new family.

SURRENDER REASON: DIVORCE



**Bonnie**  
Fostered 61 days

**Bonnie**, age 7, came to us from a shelter. Bonnie's owners left her at the shelter because she was incontinent. She had not been seen by a vet. They were told of Westie Rescue but couldn't be bothered even though they were told she might be put down. Bonnie arrived stained yellow. After each visit outside, she automatically headed straight back to her crate. We suspect she was a breeding dog from a kennel in her area. When given half a chance, Bonnie had ZERO accidents. After cleaning her up, she became a delightful little lady with another foster mom who could not give her up.

SURRENDER REASON: SHELTER-HOUSEBREAKING



**Tinker**  
Fostered 18 days

**Tinker**, age 9, was a previous placement from our Rescue. Her mom has had health issues and simply could not give her the level of care she felt was appropriate. Tinker is a very nice little girl. She does love to bark but then, what Westie doesn't! Tinker's foster home fell in love and adopted Tinker.

SURRENDER REASON: OWNER ILLNESS



**Fargo**  
In Care

**Fargo**, age approximately 7, came to us from a shelter where he had arrived as a stray. Again we were told he was a Westie but when we got there, he was clearly a mix. He is a bit larger than the average Westie at about 30#. Fargo is a very sweet fellow. He has a back leg that he tends to drag. The vet believes it is the result of a birth defect and is providing a physical therapy program to help him. He also has some allergies/skin issues. But fortunately his winning personality overshadows these issues and his foster home is dreading the day they have to give him up. His adoption is in progress.

SURRENDER REASON: SHELTER - STRAY



**RIPLEY**  
Fostered 30 days

**Ripley**, age 5, was offered to one of our foster homes through a family member. The owners said he was a Westie mix and they indicated that they just did not have time for him. They also commented on his habit of going in the basement with the cat and marking. While he is clearly not a Westie, we decided to take him and keep him out of a shelter. Ripley fostered with several Westies and a Scottie and did fine without any issues arising. Once his medical issues cleared (ear infection and other minor issues) he found a new home with previous adopters.

SURRENDER REASON: NO TIME; MARKING



**CASEY**  
In Care

**Casey**, age 4, was surrendered to a shelter because his family could not afford his medical care. The shelter contacted us because they felt he needed care before he could be placed. We took him to the vet immediately because he was clearly in pain. His ears were so severely infected, he had to be asleep while they were cleaned; otherwise it would have been too painful. He also had a severe urinary infection. Once those were treated, we had him groomed and found, underneath all the hair, a handsome little fellow. Casey is mild mannered and well behaved. At the time of this publication, he had kennel cough but when he is ready, we believe he will make a great addition to a new family.



SURRENDER REASON: SHELTER-MEDICAL ISSUES

## ISSUES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE DOG LOVERS

During the Year 2010, several issues of interest have come up. We'd like to share them with you.

### **AUCTIONING OF WESTIE PUPPY**

In the fall of the year, we learned that the March of Dimes was including a Westie puppy as an auction item in a fundraiser they were holding. We would like to thank the March of Dimes for reacting and pulling this puppy from the auction within 24 hours of our contacting them. Some do not understand why we would object to the auctioning of a puppy. Below are some of the "talking points" we put out during this "campaign" to get the puppy removed.

- Dogs should be placed in homes only after
  - o appropriate interviews to determine the suitability of the home for the particular breed
  - o Vet and reference checks and Home Visit
- Westies, as a breed, are not always good with young children
  - o Michigan Westie Rescue experience shows that at least 50% of the Westies who are surrendered to Rescue, arrive with "problems with children" as at least one of their issues. Fenced yards or on leash required.
  - o Well known trainer, Rodger Kilcommons advises, in his book, "Paws To Consider", that they are "Okay with "OLDER" children". He also notes the need for regular professional grooming and a fenced yard or leash are required.
- Auctioning live animals gives a poor example to children as to the value of the lives of our animals.
- If the dog does not work out, not only does the dog suffer the loss of home and family, but the family is also traumatized by the loss of the pet.
- By the time a "follow up" visit is made after the auction, the Westie may have learned to dislike children and be impacted by this experience for the rest of his life. Care needs to be taken BEFORE the placement to ensure the best chance of a good result.
- As an organization devoted to the welfare of children, there should be some affinity towards the welfare of animals.

### **Pound Seizure: HB 4663**

Pound Seizure is the practice of some shelters to give dogs to dealers who in turn take those dogs and sell them to research. The shelters who do this often give the dealer first choice, ahead of the public or Rescue. The dealer prefers dogs who are healthy, socialized and easy to work with, the same dogs who could most easily find new homes if given a chance. If your dog is lost or stolen and ends up in a shelter that sells or gives dogs to dealers, your dog could easily end up in a research facility. It is hard to imagine the trauma of a former pet who ends up in such a facility. The human who lost that pet will forever have to wonder if their pet suffered this fate. There is no need for these dogs to end up this way; research has other means to satisfy their needs without taking "random source" dogs. This bill had no opposition but at the time of this printing, it was stuck in the Senate Agriculture Committee headed by Senator VanWoerkom who would not release it for vote. If it isn't released by December 9, it will have to start all over in the next session.

### **Humane Euthanasia: HB 6042/6043**

These bills are intended to force all shelters to use humane methods of euthanasia when it is necessary to put an animal to sleep. We do not object to the practice of euthanasia. We understand it is needed and do it ourselves when we must. But no dog should be gassed when there are better methods available. This bill also got stuck in committee and probably died. It too will need to start all over in the next session.

**PLEASE WATCH OUR WEBSITE** for information on these issues. There is currently a promise to reintroduce the euthanasia bill but not yet the Pound Seizure bill. When they are introduced, we will need letter writing, phone calling, and e-mailing help to pressure for their passage. Also watch [www.voiceless-mi.com](http://www.voiceless-mi.com) which is the group working hardest for the Pound Seizure bill. They are a great group and have managed to put in a couple of large ads in the appropriate newspapers this fall. They will be asking for your help too.