

11/15/14 posted to foster homes.

ZUETERING POLICY OF MICHIGAN WESTIE RESCUE INC.

In case a foster home runs into this situation, we are passing this on so that you will know to tell your vet to proceed with neutering.

Background:

Some Michigan shelters have begun Zeutering instead of neutering. This means that they put a shot of a zinc formula into each testicle which sterilizes the dog without actual neutering. It is much less expensive. This is now available to individuals also. Because a large amount of testosterone remains, they may look intact when they come into rescue. They are supposed to tattoo a "Z" when they do this but there is no way to know that it will happen or that the tattoo will be visible after a period of time. So we may take a dog to the vet thinking it is intact when it may not be. Or thinking it is Zeutered but it may be intact.

OFFICIAL POLICY STATEMENT FOR MICHIGAN WESTIE RESCUE INC.

All dogs with testicles will be surgically neutered even if it is believed they are sterile. The only exceptions would be if there is a written medical reason for not doing so, approved by the Board.

- We would not have any chance then of accidentally placing a dog who might be able to reproduce
- Because there is still the testosterone in the system, all of the behaviors that neutering often helps with are likely to still be present, e.g.,
 - o Aggression, marking, running off
- Because there are still many health risks
 - o testicular cancers, perianal adenomas, perianal hyperplasia and prostatic disease and cancers
- Because we would not want to give even the appearance that we might be placing intact animals