

YEAR 2012
WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN, INC.



THIS NEWSLETTER-See www.westierescue-mi.com and choose Newsletters
CALENDAR 2013-See <http://www.cafepress.com/Westierescue>



August 1, 2012 was an important date for us! On that date, Westie Rescue Michigan obtained official status as a Michigan Non Profit Corporation! On October 5, 2012 we finally jumped the last of the insurance hurdles and announced our existence as a rescue organization legally independent of the local Club. We will still maintain an "affiliation" with the West Highland White Terrier Club of Southeastern Michigan, do the Rescue function for the Club and have a close relationship.

We have also filed with the IRS for a 501c3 tax status. Once approved, this will allow us to become tax exempt and to offer tax deductions to those who donate to us. We hope this will be approved before year-end but the IRS does things at its own pace so we cannot be sure. We are now officially known as "WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN, INC." but will also answer to "Westie Rescue Michigan", and "WRMi". (This will distinguish us from WRM which is used by another Westie Rescue.)

You will notice our new logo (above). Our little Westie is being protected by the Westie Rescue Michigan umbrella as we hope to continue to protect the many little Westies who need our help. The logo was designed by volunteer Marcia Reimer. We expect to also use our old logo on certain items but most logo'd items will use the new one. Thank you Marcia!

As always we are looking for foster homes but we would also be very interested in finding volunteers with specific backgrounds such as accounting, marketing, photography and artistry. If you are interested in volunteering but not fostering, you might be willing to provide transportation for dogs when needed. We are always looking for those who are interested in sewing, knitting and craftwork to make fundraiser items for us. Whatever your talent, we can probably use it!

Officers at Incorporation Date: President, Beth E. Widdows; Secretary, Margaret Murray; Treasurer, Jackie Curtis; Board Members are Carol Beaudry, Christine Finkbeiner, Martha Sayles and Jean Story.

Through all this, we were involved in a busy year. At one point, we had ten dogs in care at the same time. Several were older and several had ailments to be treated. So even though we had fewer dogs than normal, their average stays in care were much longer and their medical costs were higher. Our search for more foster homes took on a high priority and we did find some new volunteers. But this is an area where we can always use more help. We were very close to refusing dogs at one point during the year due to lack of space. All the funds in the world don't help, if we have no one to care for the dogs. So please consider fostering. Even if you foster only once a year, it will be so important to that one dog and may well save his or her life.

DOGS WHO WERE IN CARE AT 10/31/12

Our cutoff date is 10/31 so that we can get the newsletter and calendar prepared and available by December. Last year we left 5 dogs listed as "in care", and only 1 of these was placed. Here are their stories:

PETEVY, age 14, died of Westie Lung Disease. His illness made him unadoptable but we chose to keep him and let him live out his life with someone who loved him.

TOBY, age 4.5, remains in foster care indefinitely. He is one of those dogs that we would not 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.

HUNTER, age 2.5 years, went to his new home before the end of the year. Hunter has developed some issues with his eyes. But he is much loved and is living a good life with his new family.

BAILEY is now 13 years old. He is a lovely dog but it is very hard to find a home for a dog his age. As a result he will be **staying at his foster home**.

DUFFY is now 12 years old. He is in the same situation. He is a very nice boy and well loved by his foster home but no one is interested in adopting him so he has become a **permanent foster** also.

Because we have such a hard time finding foster homes and because these old or sick dogs tie up a foster home for months or years at a time, we are forced to give consideration to refusing an older dog or to put down such a dog if they are not adopted after a certain amount of time. Because this is such a difficult situation we have decided to introduce a new program in hopes of finding homes for these special dogs. Please read about "SPECIAL DOGS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE" further on in this newsletter.

LATE FALL 2011

Bear (now Diesel Bear Blu), age 13 weeks, came to rescue in November of 2011. Bear was surrendered by his young family because they had not realized how much time and effort it takes to raise a puppy. Both owners work and he was being left crated too much. Bear came from a breeder somewhere "up north". She advertised in the paper and brought the puppies down when they were ready. Bear had Giardia which took a while to clear up but then we were able to neuter him and before very long he was ready to go to his new home before the Christmas holiday craziness began. Bear is doing well in his new home although he is definitely the boss of all dogs who visit, no matter what their size!
SURRENDER REASON: NOT ENOUGH TIME



Bear

Fostered 31 days



Ginger

Fostered 103 days

Ginger, age 4, was given up for an unknown reason. She went to a lady who had 4 Westies but then she gave her up because Ginger was very timid and her Westies were going after her. Ginger then went to an independent rescue person but she had so many dogs in her care that she felt we could do more for Ginger. She was clearly fearful in some situations but she wanted attention and was happy to be cuddled and loved. Ginger may have had a litter in the past. Her foster home worked with her on her shyness and fears which were a bit extreme; but she made a lot of progress and is pretty much a normal little girl now. Ginger was been adopted and making her new family very happy!
SURRENDER REASON: OTHER DOGS DIDN'T LIKE HER!

MEET OUR WESTIE RESCUES FOR YEAR 2012



Molly
Fostered 21 days

Molly, age 12, was given up by an elderly couple. They found that they were just too old to take care of her any longer. They had health problems and they didn't like her barking. Molly walked in and got along with the dogs already in the foster home. She was very sweet and showed no issues at all. Molly was adopted in March by a family who will give her a great senior life.
SURRENDER REASON: OWNER HEALTH



Angel
Fostered 147 days

Angel, age 6, was left at an Animal Control by her owner who felt she could not afford to treat her ear infection. Angel was treated for a severe infection in one ear. Her hearing was minimal. We did a liver biopsy to determine the reasons for some high liver values that were not resolving but were not able to find the cause or fix the problem. She appeared to have cataracts. One of her back legs was deformed either from birth or injury, and the other had a knee issue. After 5 months of medical care we had to finally make a decision to let her go to the bridge. She had so many physical issues that could not be fixed. She bit or tried to bite multiple times in two different foster homes. Angel was not well and we could not make her well. We will miss you, Angel, and hope to see you again one day.

SURRENDER REASON: MEDICAL COSTS



Baxter
Fostered 34 days

Baxter, age 8, came in to Rescue because he and his brother Westie were not getting along well. His owners were older and unable to afford their routine medical care including neutering. Over time they began to spat. We took Baxter in and had him neutered right away. We also had his brother neutered although his brother is staying in the original home.

Baxter did well in his foster home and endeared himself to the family. He got along well with the two female Westies in the home. He does not like to be crated and is a great escape artist. But who can help but love that face? What a cutie. Baxter was adopted and is doing well with his new family.

SURRENDER REASON: BEHAVIOR



Abbie
Fostered 33 days

Abbie, age 7, came in to Rescue along with her sister. The girls are very cute and sweet but had a habit of "ankle nipping" which had gone uncorrected. It reached a point that the family insisted the dogs be surrendered. We put them in separate foster homes so that they could not continue to reinforce this behavior. In foster care, Abbie was very good, although dominant, and has now been placed in her new home.

SURRENDER REASON: BEHAVIOR



Tillie
Fostered 72 days

Tillie, age 7, came in to Rescue with her sister, Abbie. She exhibited none of the problems that caused her to be surrendered. Tillie did very well with the other animals in the foster home (which is a farm). She has now been adopted.

SURRENDER REASON: BEHAVIOR



Mia
Fostered 115 days

Mia, approx age 5-7, was found as a stray out in the country. She appeared to have had a recent litter because she still had milk. She had been shaved down (poorly) but at least her head was saved. Mia was named when our volunteer looked at her and said, "Mamma Mia!!"

Mia's ears were totally closed with infection. She had a large cyst on her back and didn't appear to have ever had a dental. She had a bloody discharge. The specialist indicated that she probably has incurred some lung damage that scarred her lungs. It was eventually diagnosed as chronic bronchitis. After a false pregnancy and spay, she was then ready for another surgery. She had a grade 1 mammary cancer but it was totally removed and no further treatment is needed for that. Because we spayed her, it is unlikely to ever occur again. So she has come through another battle with scars but a WINNER! Mia is adopted and doing well in her new home.

SURRENDER REASON: STRAY



(when she arrived in rescue!)