

YEAR 2015

WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN, INC.



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Donations can be made:

Check: Westie Rescue Michigan; Mail to WRMi, 12460 Pamela Court, Hartland, MI 48353

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Poppy and Luke

**Do you ever wonder if your donations are put to good use? We thought this was a great story.
Report from foster mom:**

You may remember the two terrier mixes we rescued about 18 months ago. Poppy was the one we thought we were going to put down immediately, only to discover what my vet said was the WORST ear mite infestation he'd ever seen in a dog. The two dogs had been chasing chickens, "living off the land" and in general getting in trouble with chickens! Poppy (his new name at adoption) does have some neurological issues, and difficulty walking, but we met his new owner at the car dealer while I was waiting to get an oil change and take him on a potential home visit. Mike, his wife and son Luke - about 7 years old (remember, this dog is NOT a Westie, but probably a Papillion/Maltese mix so the under 10 years for kids didn't apply here) fell in love. I got this message in an email this morning from Mike and it just made my day!

"We have taken to sometimes calling Poppy "Floppy Poppy", because he'll walk or run and sometimes flop over, then gets right back up. He doesn't seem fazed by it and it's done in jest. He's walking much better, and is even putting his two paws on the couch to indicate he wants to snuggle up (When I let him out of the crate in the morning and I'm sitting on the couch drinking coffee, reading, etc., I'll pick him up to snuggle with me).

Anyway, Poppy was snuggled up this morning and Luke wakes up and comes out, snuggles next to Poppy, too. He starts asking questions related to the main question: Is Poppy tough, Dad? I have no idea how he came up with that but I told Luke that "Yes, Poppy was tough to have survived the streets, being in the condition he was in". The conversation went on for at least 30 minutes - how did Poppy eat? Did he fight bad guys? Was there a wolf after him? And on and on. I tried to answer the best I could, most of it made up but all of it going back to Poppy being "one tough dog".

CARRYOVER DOGS FROM 2014 INTO 2015

Our cutoff date is 10/31 so that we can get the newsletter and calendar prepared and available by December. The following dogs were still in care as of 10/31/14:

TOBY, age 6.5, is not adoptable and will remain a permanent foster dog.

MAX, age 10, was made a permanent foster but died in care.

KELLY, age almost 16, was made a permanent foster due to his age.

DIGGER, age approx. 11, was made a permanent foster due to his health issues.

MISSY, age 7, found her new home in November of 2014.

BENTLEY, age 1, found his new home in November of 2014.

GRACIE, age 7, was adopted by her foster home in December of 2014.

2014 FOSTER DOGS (Arriving between 11/1 and 12/31/14)

This was a rare treat for us.....2014 was the first time in memory that we had no dogs come in after 10/31 and we finished the year with no dogs in care. Of course, 2015 seems to be making up for that lull.

2015 FOSTER DOGS (Arriving between 1/1 and 10/31/15)



Bubba and Delilah

Bubba and Delilah came into foster care together. They are litter mates born in Feb. 2010, and were surrendered because their family did not have time to spend with them. Therefore, with so much alone time together, they became very dependent on each other. Delilah is definitely the alpha of the two (which is very normal...girls almost always take the number one spot). However, she is also the most distressed when separated from her brother. They have found their forever home together.



Katie

Katie is an 8 year old, spayed female. She came into foster care because she wasn't getting along with the other dogs and cats in the family. She came into foster care and learned to live well with others. She then found her new home.

In March of 2015, we learned of a situation in the Midland area where dogs were being kept in outdoor rabbit hutches throughout the cold weather. The owners had passed the minimal requirements of the State and were unwilling to change their living conditions. Their intentions were to increase the number of dogs they were breeding and selling. There was a lot of community outcry and eventually they agreed to surrender the outdoor dogs to the Sheriff who turned them over immediately to rescue. Westie Rescue received six of these dogs. Five of them were Westies and one was a mix. You can imagine the difficulties that arise in trying to bring in this number of dogs at once. Foster homes had to be found quickly and with little idea of just what we were getting or just when. Fortunately we were able to manage and got these dogs in out of the cold before some of the very frigid late winter weather we had this year. Special thanks to Julia Risch and Kate King for their dedicated efforts. And also to all of those who knew of this effort, mostly through Facebook, and donated to their care directly or through "Gofundme". And of course, to the foster homes who took in and cared for these little ones. (Jean Story, Cathy & Jim Schenk, Carrie & Dave Hallman, Tracy & Tom Knaub, Beth Widdows)



Poppy

Poppy is just under a year old and came to us from the Midland situation. She had no chance to have a puppyhood in her previous life but she began to make up for it immediately. She weighed all of 13#. She was full of mischief and was an escape artist. She could get out of anything. Fortunately, she wasn't looking to run away....she always went straight to foster mom when she got out. She loved to run and to wrestle with Betsy (below). She was adopted by a family with a young male Westie who needed a playmate. They are both having a great life now. Below are photos of Poppy climbing a tree in her new yard. The neighbors are treated to the view of two little white dogs sitting in the tree on a regular basis!!!!



Betsy

Betsy was about 2 years old. She may well be Poppy's and Mia's (see below) mom. She was underweight and had hair loss. But she recovered from those issues pretty quickly. She was a happy little one and played hard with Poppy. But she did have issues with male dogs. We were very happy to find an adopter who had no other dogs and was happy to have this sweet little girl. Betsy is now called "Hayley". Her mom reports "*She is a happy, tail wagging little imp. She likes to steal things and hide them. She likes to play with other dogs (female). But she plays hard and she is very fast! Thanks again. I love her!*"



Mia Michelle

Mia Michelle was just under a year of age and probably Poppy's sister. She was a very energetic little girl, again with no training. She loves to go for walks and is very good at "stealing" household items that she shouldn't have! Mia had some medical issues that delayed her spay and managed to go into heat before it was accomplished so her adoption was delayed until that could be arranged. But she is now living in her "forever" home and enjoying her new life. She is now called "Sophia Mia".



Molly

Molly was estimated to be about 4 or 5 years of age and came from the same place. She was filthy and had layers of flea dirt in her coat when we picked her up at the Sheriff's office. She quickly became a lap dog. Once we got her ear infections cleared up, her teeth cleaned and spayed, she turned into a real little imp. For instance, she loved to play with foster Mom's yarn, but only the expensive stuff! Finally her day came and she is now living a great life. No more rabbit hutches for Molly! She, like the other mill dogs, has had many firsts in a short period of time, but she is enjoying even more new things. She's gone to work for the afternoon with her Mom, taken a cross country trip, visited a family member in a nursing home and is a real Daddy's girl!



Callie

Callie was about 3 years old. She came in with a fever, a sore foot and very underweight. (She weighed only 10.5 pounds). She turned into a happy little puppy who had to learn basic things like sharing toys and playing nicely with other dogs. But she has come a long way and was adopted by her foster family.



Lily

And then there was Lily. She was identified as a "Westie Mix" which is why we got her but we don't really think she was a Westie at all. There were a lot of guesses as to her breed but we just don't know. Lily was very small, and about 4 years of age. The larger Westies tended to pick on her so we sent her to a separate foster home. She did very well in foster care and was quickly adopted.

We can't resist the opportunity here to get on our soapbox a little and remind everyone that buying puppies from pet stores keeps these types of facilities in business. If you are going to buy a puppy, please check with the National Club (www.westieclubamerica.com) for a list of breeders and avoid pet stores. Thank you.