

**WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN, INC.
LIMITATIONS**

Please understand that we have our limits. We are an organization of volunteers. We have no professional expertise. Our intent is to **FIND GOOD HOMES FOR GOOD DOGS**. We do not pretend to be able to "fix" all kinds of behavior issues. If your dog is **AGGRESSIVE** or has bitten an adult, please do not ask us to live with the problem. Please understand that our families, friends and visitors do not want to be bitten; our dogs do not want to be attacked. Our neighbors don't want to listen to the non-stop barking when we must crate a dog that has not been trained. If your dog is unable to be crated or confined or has severe separation anxiety, we are not your solution! No one applies to us with the request to "Find me a Westie who bites" or "Let me adopt a Westie who cannot be controlled." We don't have foster space to spend months trying to rehabilitate these kinds of problems. If your dog has issues, it is your job to fix those issues. If your dog is aggressive or has bitten an adult, it is your responsibility to care for him and work with a behaviorist* to fix his issues or to hold him and love him while the vet puts him to sleep. Giving him to us will not prolong his life. We foster so that we can find these issues. And if we do, we do not pass them on to the next person. We do put these dogs to sleep. This isn't our job...it is yours. Don't make us do it for you. ***Note: We will help you find a behaviorist if you ask.**

Do understand that when we say "aggression" we do not include a dog that barks at squirrels or one who barks out the window at people going by. The Westie who will kill a mouse, rabbit, squirrel or bird does not disturb us. This is normal and what they were bred to do. Many Westies "mouth", that is, they lightly chew on your hand or arm in affection. This is a very gentle thing and is NOT aggressive. Puppies nip and "bite" but a six-month old puppy isn't "aggressive". We will take a puppy at that age and work with them. Westies WILL bark at the UPS deliveryman. But they don't BITE the delivery person or the casual visitor! **Most Westies won't tolerate a child who sits on them, or wakes them up from a sound sleep. But they shouldn't attempt to bite every child who walks through the door.** Westies don't have to be tranquilized to do the normal things in life! Talk honestly to us about your dog's aggressive behaviors. We don't want to reject a dog with normal Westie behaviors but we don't want to foster a dog that can't be safely placed.

We will work on less drastic behavior issues such as housebreaking or pulling on the leash. We will try to nurse a dog back to health if he has skin issues or many other medical issues. We will do what we can for these nice dogs that have problems their owners cannot or will not handle. But we are not here to solve the aggression problems that have built up over the years.

If you are thinking about surrendering your dog to us, please do the common sense things first. **If he isn't crate trained, start working intensively on fixing this.** You might find it will fix your issues to the extent that you can keep your dog. If not, your dog will not have to deal with separation from you AND the introduction of a crate all in one breath. And the foster parents will be able to concentrate on helping the dog in other ways.

Following are things we ask you to send with the dog:

- ◆ A filled out and signed Surrender contract which we will provide
- ◆ Medical records reflecting history including all shots, prescriptions and any other medical care that was required. (Your vet will provide this to you)
- ◆ A spay/neuter certificate from your vet
- ◆ A rabies certificate from your vet
- ◆ Belongings, e.g., crate, food/water bowls, toys, collar and leash, medicines. Heartworm prevention pills, some of the food currently being fed (at least a pound)
- ◆ AKC or other registration papers
- ◆ Microchip registration papers, signed to turn over to the next person (if the dog is microchipped)
- ◆ A donation is greatly appreciated. We will be spending money on your dog; please help us cover his costs and maybe some of the next dog's costs.

PLEASE BE HONEST WITH US. If you lie and tell us your dog is not aggressive when he really is, you are wasting our time and hurting other dogs that need the foster space. You are not helping your dog in any way. If you don't tell us about the dog's issues, we can't start working on those issues right away. It means he may not find a home nearly as quickly or he may be returned because the new family finds the issues instead of us.

Please sign and date this statement and return it to us along with the surrender contracts. Your signature indicates that you have read and understood our limitations and agree that your dog fits into the guidelines of the type of dog we will accept into Rescue. Further understand that if we find that your dog is not a dog that is safe to place, we will put the dog down without contacting you.

(Signature of surrendering owner)

Date