

August 2016

Dear Foster Home,

Now that we have become an independent Corporation and considering the imminent political pressures we see coming into play, as a group we must find a way to put our organization above reproach. Some of these pressures and high standards of corporate accountability for WRMi are listed below:

- We are now an official corporation with corporate type responsibilities for recordkeeping.
- We are a 501c3 which requires a much greater level of financial accountability.
- We are registered with the State to be a registered charity which puts us in line for possible audits, both financial and non-financial.
- We have signed insurance statements that claim we have certain contracts and certain statements in contracts etc.
- We need to have documentation to defend ourselves in court in case of any dog claims. We know that organizations such as HSUS, PETA, even Michigan Pet Alliance are working in Lansing to get regulations in place. Their goal is ours (elimination of bad rescues and puppy mills) but their approach will make things very difficult for good breeders and good rescues. This isn't speculation. We are watching these efforts take place in state after state.
- Organizations such as MPA made up of Humane Societies largely, see us as competition and see enough bad rescues that they have little trust in us; they want detailed paperwork. This is similar to the government getting gangsters who commit murder, not on murder charges, but on tax evasion charges. They know that it is difficult to put a puppy mill out of business based on how they care for the dogs but they can get them on poor paperwork more effectively. Unfortunately, they can get us also.

This binder is a tool we designed to make everyone's paperwork, documentation, and record keeping as simple as possible. When you follow the Binder page by page, step by step...it will basically take care of all the things we need from you. It will require that you use the Binder requisites **"in real time"**. This way, it will take a matter of minutes to complete each phase. This is rather than trying to retrace steps and do it all at one time when you really would have trouble finding an hour to sit down and do it all at one sitting. Moreover, we never know when a dog will need to transfer to another foster home, even if temporarily. So, all of this must stay current.

This binder must stay with the dog. If the dog is moved anywhere, even temporarily, the dog's binder goes with the dog. Consider it part of their movement/transfer "gear" just like their leash and harness. This is one reason it is crucial that the binder stays current!

We have worked hard to make this new process as simple and least labor intensive as possible for all of our indispensable foster homes. Please use the binder and give it a chance to do its job. If you feel there are better ways to approach some items, please keep a list so we can discuss it and together we can make the program even better, easier, and more efficient for everyone!

**We do recognize that the care of the dog should be the top priority but we must be pragmatic enough to also realize that paperwork could cause us to lose all ability to help that dog.** Thank you for all you do in both areas.

Sincerely,  
Beth Widdows 248-879-2479  
(Representing the Board of Westie Rescue Michigan Inc.)

## DOG BITE POLICY

IF a foster dog inflicts a minor bite that does not require medical care:

- In most cases any bite that is a true bite and breaks the skin will result in the dog being euthanized. However, there may be special circumstances which we may take into consideration. Exceptions will be very rare.

IF a foster dog inflicts a bite which is serious enough to require medical care:

- The treating facility is required to report this bite to the authorities; at this point, the dog is legally a "biter". *(We do not check to see if they actually do fill out the paperwork.)*
- This will result in a contact by Animal Control and the dog must be tested for rabies. There are two methods to do this: euthanize immediately OR quarantine for 10 days, then euthanize. Our policy is always to euthanize and test after the fact; we do not quarantine the dog for 10 days and then euthanize. We do not give the dog ten more days during which the bite might be repeated.

This is our policy. You were informed of this policy when you signed the Foster Contract (or if a longer-term foster home, you were reminded of this policy on August 28, 2018). If, at any time, you decide you cannot accept this policy, please submit your resignation to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Westie Rescue Michigan Inc. August 28, 2018

Revised 9/6/18