

YEAR 2013

WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN, INC.



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CALENDAR 2014-SEE WWW.CAFEPRESS.COM/Westierescue**

The past year was relatively quiet from the standpoint of numbers. We had a smaller influx of dogs than normal....until fall when we were really hit hard. They have continued to be older on average than in the past and that often translates into longer foster care stay as well as high costs.

We continue to wait for the IRS to process our filing for 501c3 status. The last we heard, they were working on April 2012. We filed in November 2012. They simply tell us they are short staffed and behind. The government shutdown probably did not help the situation. However, we are legally able to operate as a 501c3 while we wait. (See later in this newsletter for information from our accountant on how this might impact you as a donor.)

This year marked a change in our Officers. Beth Widdows resigned as President after 15 years as head of this rescue group. She will continue working with Rescue as a foster home, fundraising, webmaster, newsletter editor and other areas as they come up. Julie Risch is the new President, bringing with her a new energy. Many responsibilities have changed hands within the group but all areas continue to be covered and the transition has been smooth.

Several new foster homes have come on board and some of the original homes have retired and moved into other areas. As always we could use more foster homes since most are periodically unavailable and we still sometimes run short.

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 4 dogs listed as "in care", and only 1 of these was placed. Here are their updates:

TOBY, age 5.5, 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.

BAILEY was an older dog who became a permanent foster. During the year he passed of an old age related illness.

DUFFY was also unable to find a home due to age and health. He passed during the year also.

DIGGER, age 9, was adopted by his foster mom when he was unable to find a suitable home who was willing to deal with his medical issues. Digger spends his time visiting his "grandma's" nursing home and taking frequent trips up north to camp out.

2012 FOSTER DOGS (Arriving between 11/1 and 12/31/12)



Katie (Fostered 12 days in 2013)

Katie, age 7, came into foster care because her mom and dad had to go and live with their son. The son has a big dog and two small children, one of whom doesn't like dogs and had begun to kick Katie. They knew they needed to get her out of this situation.

Katie is a very nice, happy little girl. She "aaroo's" with the best of them! She gets along with other dogs and is very friendly. She rides well in the car; not a sound out of her crate on the transport to her foster home. She went to live with two foster sisters and did very well **and has now been adopted.**



Wesley (Fostered 2 days in 2013)

Ava, age 7, and Wesley, age 8, came into foster care together. They are brother and sister. Their dad worked 13 hour days and had trouble giving them the care and attention they needed. Then he lost his home and had to surrender the pair. Unfortunately, Ava and Wesley had to be separated for the first time in their lives and were fostered in two different homes. They lived separately for 2 months.

Happily, **they were adopted** and REUNITED in a fantastic, loving forever home where pats, ear scratching, belly rubs, long walks and games of fetch are plentiful and they are never separated. They are even groomed at adjacent stations! Ava and Wesley are happy and healthy! Their reunion was captured on video tape and can be viewed on YouTube, under the tag "Wesley2".



Ava (Fostered 12 days in 2013)

Ellie came in at about 13 weeks old. Her owner surrendered her to Rescue because she could not afford to test for or repair a suspected ectopic ureter. This means that one of her ureters did not go into the bladder as it should but instead by-passed it. That meant that urine trickled out continually. This puppy was never going to be housebroken and was going to have continual infections from the constant dampness. It is a birth defect that just happens randomly in dogs and people too! We did some research and found that the odds of repair covered a wide range (30-70%) and no one could narrow this down for us without doing the surgery because there is always a possibility of hidden defects beyond just the ureter. We decided to take a chance. After quite a lengthy foster care stay to recover, **her foster home adopted her.** She is doing well now. There was a scare that occurred when they found the little stinker had been hiding her pills instead of taking them. But now that she is back on her meds, she is doing well again.



Ellie (Fostered 45 days in 2013)

FOSTER DOGS 2013

(Note: Days fostered are for Year 2013 and end 10/31/13 so we can produce the newsletter.)



Sydney (Fostered 85 days)

Sydney, age 12, was our first new foster of 2013. She was surrendered by a couple who were moving to a smaller place. They gave up Sydney because the two other dogs in the home bullied her. They said she is a bit hard of hearing but otherwise healthy. She was very nervous in the shelter so we took her as quickly as we could. The shelter saw no aggression. We found her to be a dog who loved attention. She adjusted well and **found a new home.**



Izzy (Fostered 101 days)

Izzy, age 3, came into foster care because her owners decided to divorce. They each took one dog and gave Izzy to their daughter who didn't really want her. Izzy was living uncomfortably with 2 larger dogs and 2 children. The owners had never taken her to a vet. Izzy came into foster care with some behavior issues which resolved when she began to feel secure. She **then found her very own family** where she was really wanted and is loved.



Emmie Lou (Fostered 128 days)

Emmie Lou, age 6, arrived in foster care with Addison's disease. Her older, retired owners had their own health problems including hospitalization, and loved Emmie very much. It was a heart-breaking decision for them, but they did what they knew was best for Emmie and surrendered her so she could find a new home that would be able to give her the medical care and attention she needs and deserves. Emmie Lou is a sweetie – all 15 pounds of her – and she did great in foster care. She twirls and spins when she is happy or ready to eat, "aroo's" when she is hungry or has to go potty. She behaves beautifully at the groomer and the vet, and enjoys meeting people, particularly children. Emmie is also very smart and could pick out the correct toy when asked to go get her puppy, dragon, moose, ball, and Kong. She loves going for walks, playing ball, riding in the car, staking out a spot in a window for squirrel alert, and of course, chasing those pesky rodents! Emmie got along nicely with her foster sister - something many Westie "girls" can't always manage successfully.

We worked hard for several months to get her meds reliably established. She is a beautiful little girl with a lovely coat and pearly white teeth. After quite a long time in foster care, **Emmie Lou was able to find her forever home.**



Mason (Fostered 102 days)

Mason, age 8, arrived in Rescue after an incident with a toddler when he and the toddler were left unsupervised. The 13 month old had been bothering Mason, pulling hair, etc., as toddlers do. Mason had not responded in the past but apparently in this instance, he let the child know he had been pushed too far. Rather than take any further risk, his family decided to surrender him.

(We hope everyone will realize that dogs and children should not be left unsupervised together even for a minute. If you can't watch them, please put the dog in a crate in a room which is off-limits to the child. This protects them both from unfortunate dog/child interactions until you can return your attention to them.)

Mason was a hard dog for the foster home to give up but they did when **just the right family came along for him.**



Bogart (Fostered 54 days)

Bogart, age 8, came in to foster care when his owners encountered serious health issues. They are moving to an apartment which will allow one dog. They chose to surrender Bogart because their other dog is a special needs dog and they felt Bogart would have a better chance at finding a new home. They were very sad to see him leave but knew it was in his best interest.

Bogart did well in foster care **and found a great new home** where he is loved.



Daisy Mae (Fostered 8 days)

Daisy Mae, age 2, came from a shelter. She was placed by them a couple of times but she always came back. She finally came to us. We thought she would do well but, as was the case in all of her previous placements, her good behavior deteriorated and she became aggressive. It became necessary to make a very difficult decision to let her "go to the bridge" because she just wasn't going to be a safe dog to place.



Bebe (Fostered 57 days)

Bebe, age 1, is a Westie Mix who was in a shelter. Because she was so timid and shy the shelter contacted us for a transfer. Our rescue is an approved humane society transfer partner. She had no known health issues.

Bebe had a lot of fun in foster care and got accustomed to a lot of new experiences which helped her become less shy and timid. After some time, **she was able to find a wonderful new home.**