



THIS NEWSLETTER - SEE [WWW.WESTIERESCUE-MI.COM](http://WWW.WESTIERESCUE-MI.COM) AND CHOOSE NEWSLETTERS

**To donate:**

- **Check - Send to Westie Rescue MI, 12460 Pamela Court, Hartland, MI 48353**
- **PayPal - Choose "Sending to a Friend"**
  - **Email address: [westierescuemi@yahoo.com](mailto:westierescuemi@yahoo.com) (PayPal approves this)**

The year 2020, despite a global pandemic, Westie Rescue Michigan still accepted surrendered dogs. Even as shelters and other facilities closed for the quarantine, we continued "business as usual." As in recent years, mostly older dogs were surrendered. Some needed immediate medical care, and one was terminally ill. So once again this year, our expenses remained high, especially for these geriatric dogs who needed extra medical addition beyond the usual blood panel, dental surgery, vaccinations, and microchip. Fortunately, we have dedicated volunteers who rose to the challenge by picking up surrendered Westies, transporting the dogs across the state, remaining as active foster homes, and getting the dogs groomed as soon as possible. We are an active, committed core group of WRMi volunteers, who support one another every year – but this year was challenging. We sometimes had a long wait for vet visits, dental cleanings, specialized appointments, and grooming, but our foster homes met this challenge head on.

We do not exactly know why fewer Westies are being surrendered and even fewer younger dogs, but we suspect the popularity of "designer" dog breeds has caused many less than reputable breeders to switch breeds, and the dwindling number of reputable Westie breeders in our state means there is a shortage of well-bred Westies.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of applicants who are open to adopting older dogs, and even adopting those with medical issues. Unfortunately, for this large group of applicants who really wanted a Westie to love, we had fewer of them available. We are very grateful to those folks who continue to be willing to help us pay for the medical care of those dogs that we do receive.

Although we have a dedicated volunteer group, we still struggle to find foster homes when dogs are surrendered. **PLEASE consider fostering. Contact Susan Bloomfield at 810-399-8388 to discuss becoming a foster home. The dogs truly need your help!**

## Rest in Peace:



**Hershey**, a stray, was estimated to be about 8 years old. An employee at the shelter reached out to WRMi because Hershey was in dire shape. This poor little guy had malassezia (severe yeast infection) and bacterial infections of the ears, eyes, and skin. He received good care at the shelter, but he needed us, and a quiet foster home to recover. His foster mom named him Hershey and he settled right into his foster home. Hershey had some tummy issues, but that is not unusual for when a dog comes into a new environment. Hershey loved being in his foster mom's lap, was house trained, and got along nicely with his foster sister. Hershey needed a dental cleaning, but his skin issues were paramount. A visit to the vet resulted in increased doses of his meds and another medication for his infections. Hershey was now on several medications for yeast and bacterial infections, as well as a new medication for dry eye. He was happy and loved sunning himself in the backyard and his nap times.

Hershey continued having tummy issues, and at the end of his first week in foster care, he became very lethargic and showed pain symptoms of shaking and shivering. His foster mom carried him into the vet's office and blood work was completed; the vet determined Hershey needed to go to MSU Emergency for supportive care ASAP. His liver values were dangerously high, and it appeared like he was having a reaction to the drug for fungal infections. Hershey did not improve much over the weekend. at MSU, and the hospital did an ultrasound and discovered a bile duct was partially blocked. Hershey improved slightly on Monday, but his liver values tanked by Tuesday. A CAT scan revealed a likely cancerous tumor in the bile duct, which has started to spread to nearby lymph nodes. Surgery for this outcome was complicated, with a mortality rate of 30%, a difficult recovery, and the possibility the cancer has spread even further. This precious little guy had just run out of luck, and it was sadly decided that we wouldn't put him through any more procedures, but would let him go, so he could be pain free and not suffer any longer. Hershey spent some time with his foster mom, enjoying ear scratches and neck rubs, and then went peacefully to the Bridge in her arms. Hershey's foster mom will always remember him as the foster boy that stole her heart.

Westie Rescue Michigan is fortunate in that we have generous donors, and we all work hard to maintain a reserve, so we can accept and be able to provide excellent medical care for really sick Westies - just like Hershey. A vet hospital like MSU and ER supportive care are expensive; Hershey's bill was over \$5,000, but when there's hope that WRMi can save a dog with a good quality of life, we don't hesitate to act and spend the money. We don't always have happy endings here in Rescue – no matter how very hard we try. Hershey's story was especially difficult for his foster mom who loved and cared for him; it was also hard for all of us because Hershey was

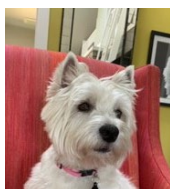
so sweet and melted our hearts. We hope our foster dogs will be given a second chance for a better life; we believe that with love and the best medical care, we can save them. Losing a dog hurts us all deeply, because we try so hard to save them, but sadly, it is not always in our power to do so. It is gut wrenching to be told a foster dog is terminally ill and we get a dog too late; an even tougher task is making that decision to let them go to the Bridge.

Please remember sweet Hershey's story and all our loving efforts to care for and save him – even when there was not a happy ending to share. Thank you so much for your financial support.

### *2020 FOSTER DOGS*



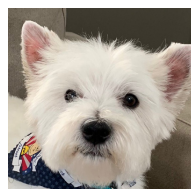
TJ



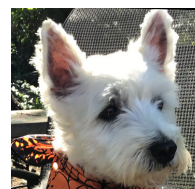
AVA



WINSTON



NEWTON



WYLER



ALLIE

#### **TJ – adopted 2-13-20**

TJ, age 14, was surrendered when his owner lost her home. He did not have any medical attention for many years, and he was badly matted. As soon as TJ was surrendered to WRMi and came to his foster home, he was examined by a vet and brought up to date on all his medical vaccinations. TJ was then taken to be professionally groomed short to help him feel better without all the mats and have the groomer also assesses his temperament while being groomed and to see the condition of his skin. For his age and the neglect, TJ was in remarkable shape and his blood panel came back nearly perfect. A woman with a young Westie adopted him. TJ and his baby brother got along really well, and his new mom got the “snuggle bug” she always wanted. We LOVE adopters who open their hearts and home to an older Westie!

#### **Ava - adopted 7-15-20**

Ava, 3 years old, came to us as from a parent who was moving overseas, and felt Ava would be better left here in the US with someone who could give her all the love and training she needed. Ava arrived in foster care on 5-22-20 and got along quite well with her foster brother. She challenged him a couple times, but he stood his ground and won. Ava never had a backyard before and the freedom to run, play, and explore. Ava's favorite things were hunting in the backyard and going for walks. She had trouble on walks at first and lacked the manners of a well-trained Westie, but she picked it right up. Ava was a true hunter and chased every critter out of the yard; she managed to get rid of two snakes and almost took out a rabbit. Ava picked out the perfect couple to be her forever family and she even has the nicest new brother to go on walks together. Ava is now leading a snowbird's life and travels to warmer weather in Florida by October. We wish Ava and her family many loving years together!

### **Winston, adopted 8-5-20**

Winston, age 9, arrived in his foster home on July 12, 2020. After his human passed away, he had lived with two different family friends. The last family didn't want three dogs, so they called us to find him a forever home. From the minute Winston came into foster care, he fit right in with his foster family. Winston's foster brother was only a year and a half old, but Winston was so patient with him. From the very first day, Winston ate well, never had a potty accident, and was crate trained; in other words, he was the perfect foster boy! After a week in foster care, Winston even started playing tag with his foster brother. Winston was healthy, but he had a couple cysts that needed to be removed, and really needed a dental cleaning. After the surgery, where the cysts and a number of infected teeth removed, he felt better and was ready to find his forever home. His soon to be adopted parents had lost their Westie a couple years earlier, and they fell in love with Winston's picture on Facebook. When they all met, the magic happened, and it was a perfect fit. Winston now lives in the Detroit area and summers in Sutton Bay. He's a lucky boy with a very happy ending!

### **Newton – adopted 10-3-20**

Newton, 10 years old, was relinquished by a mom with four children all under the age of seven. Newton was in dire need of a new home because he was showing teeth and growling at all the confusion in this noisy, hectic household. WRMi was called and we acted quickly to get Newton into a better situation and quieter home. Once in his foster home with a foster brother, he settled in and was no longer afraid. This was during the quarantine in Michigan, so it was very difficult to schedule a dental cleaning and address his bad breath and dental problems. During his dental cleaning, Newton had TEN infected, loose teeth removed, but he really felt better after the dental surgery and was just the sweetest guy imaginable. He didn't seem to dislike children; in fact, he was attracted to them. His favorite thing was going for a walk, and the longer, the better. Newton was a super cuddle bug and loved hanging onto his foster mom. This sweet boy picked out the couple he wanted for his forever family. They had lost their Westie and absolutely fell in love with Newton. He is now enjoying his new family with no children or other dogs and being spoiled with ALL their attention. On top of that, Newton is now a little "snowbird" that spends his winters in Florida going for long walks. Best wishes to Newton on a new beginning with his forever family and a brand-new life!

### **Wyler – adopted 10-27-20**

Wyler, age 10, was surrendered with his "sister," Allie. He is an energetic senior who loved to be in the yard and hunt for critters. His foster dad named him "Wylie Coyote" after the Roadrunner cartoon. Wyler is a very serious big brother and looks after Allie; he always circles in the house and yard to make sure she is near him. Wyler has a deep bark like a beagle and guards the front door, often announcing when another dog appears on his sidewalk. His foster family, who simply could not let him go, adopted Wyler. Sometimes, a foster boy doesn't even have to pack his bag, because the best home is his foster home – right along with his sister!

### **Allie – adopted 10-27-20**

Allie, 11 years old, came into foster care with her "brother," Wyler. Unlike many Westie females that display an alpha take charge attitude. Allie is a submissive, gentle grandma. She prefers being her foster mom's shadow when her Wyler is outside hunting and being an active boy. For not having any medical attention for several years, she was remarkably healthy for her age. Her foster family determined that it would be best if she were not separated from Wyler and was adopted by her foster family together. The bonded pair now happily resides in their forever home.

*2020 FINANCIALS THROUGH 10/31/20*

**We received: \$11,687**

*Rescue INCOME as of 10/31/20*

**We spent: \$19,830**

*Rescue EXPENSES as of 10/31/20*

**Net deficit: \$8,142**

**Please help us with our Westies!**

**SEND RESCUE DONATIONS TO:**

**Westie Rescue MI, Inc.  
12460 Pamela Court  
Hartland, MI 48353**

PayPal: Use [westieresecuemi@yahoo.com](mailto:westieresecuemi@yahoo.com) and choose "Sending to a friend" option to avoid fees; PayPal approves this.

*THANK YOU VETERINARIANS!*

**Animal Medical Center**

Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
248-852-9800  
<http://www.amctroy.com>  
(Winston)

**Lake Lansing Rd. Animal Clinic**

Lansing, MI 48912  
517-484-8031  
<http://www.Lansingvetclinic.com>  
(Hershey)

**Companion Animal Hospital**

Linden, MI 48451  
810-735-7857  
(Ava)

**Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital**

Harper Woods, MI 48225  
313-881-8061  
(TJ, Allie, Wyler)

**Michigan State University**

**Small Animal Clinic**

(<https://cvm.msu.edu/hospital/small-animal>)  
East Lansing, MI  
517-353-5420  
(Hershey)

**Town and Country Hospital**

Brighton, MI 48114  
810-220-1079  
(Newton)

**Some dogs are listed more than once. That is because they were seen by more than one vet, either due to a special medical situation or because of a change in foster homes.**

*THANK YOU, GROOMERS AND BUSINESSES!*

**This business gave us a grooming discount for our foster dogs:**

**Klasy Klip (Lisa)**  
Waterford, MI 48329  
248-673-5151  
(Winston, Newton, Ava)

## These businesses sell our products:

### Animal Medical Center of Troy

Troy, MI 48307  
248-852-9800  
(Handmade cards)

### Euclid Veterinary Hospital

Bay City, MI 48706  
(Handmade cards)

### Sylvania Veterinary Hospital

Sylvania, OH 43560  
(419-885-4421  
(Handmade cards)

### Timberstone Veterinary

Sylvania, OH 43560  
419-517-5042  
(Handmade cards)



### Claws-N-Paws Grooming

Madison Heights, MI 48071  
248-398-5539  
(Crate pads and coats)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

So many people and businesses have helped us throughout the year!

We would like to thank the following:

- Newsletters were proudly printed and donated by **ESP GRAPHICS** in honor of their Westie daughter, "Miss Poppy" (a WRMi Rescue in 2015) and in appreciation of the amazing hard work WRMi commits to helping and saving our precious Westies.
- **FOSTER HOMES**
- **DONORS**
- Our behaviorist, **DEB DUNCAN** (<http://www.thedogspeaks.com>) who donates many hours of her time to help us with our foster dogs and WRMi adopted dogs.
- The various **VENDORS** who give us a commission from their sales.
- **VOLUNTEERS** who help in so many ways and a BIG thank you to some who wish to remain anonymous.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP US

- **Shop at Amazon** (Amazon Smile) <https://smile.amazon.com>  
Go to Amazon Smile and choose **Westie Rescue Michigan** as your charity.
- **Walk Your Dog** <http://www.wooftrax.com>  
Choose **Westie Rescue Michigan** as your shelter.
- **Kroger Community Program**  
Sign up online by choosing **Westie Rescue Michigan**. This must be renewed every year and does not impact your gas points.
- Follow us on **Facebook** at **Westie Rescue Michigan, Inc.**
- Refer your Westie-loving friends to our website [www.westierescue-mi.com](http://www.westierescue-mi.com)



## FUNDRAISERS

Purchasing items (below) will benefit **Westie Rescue Michigan** and can be found using this link:

<http://westierescue-mi.com/fundraisers/>

### CAFÉ PRESS STORE:

Choose

<http://www.cafepress.com/westierescue>

### MAILING LABELS AND

### BELLY BANDS:

<http://westierescue-mi.com/rescue-fundraising/>

### EBAY STORE:

<http://stores.ebay.com/WESTIE-CLUB-MICHIGAN>

- Garden and House Flags
- Kilts
- Necklaces
- Collars and Leashes
- Other misc. items as we find them

## BEQUESTS

Occasionally someone asks us about setting up a bequest in their will. We have received a couple of these bequests and **they truly help!** If you are interested, please look at our website:

<http://westierescue-mi.com/donations/>

There's a deep sleep that only comes on the first night out from the shelter. As he settles in, he gives a great big sigh like a weight has been lifted off his shoulders. Then he sleeps, deeper than he ever has, knowing he is safe. You get a lump in your throat knowing how close he came.

Now he is safe.

Forever.

Because YOU fostered.



*509 Webb Dr.  
Bay City, MI 48706*