



2022 NEWSLETTER

The year 2022 was yet another year in which **Westie Rescue Michigan** took in mostly sick, senior dogs – with the exception of one young Westie also needing medical treatment. Because all the dogs surrendered needed immediate medical attention, our expenses remained high. We had one dog with diabetes, three with skin allergies, two with stomach issues, one with kennel cough, one requiring a strict prescription diet, three needed sterilizations, and all dogs required dental cleanings.

Add to that, all our foster dogs needed complete blood panels, vaccinations, microchips, grooming, frequent trips to the vet for monitoring and maintaining their health, and LOTS of love and diligent attention in their foster home. Our youngest foster boy also required additional training and behavior modification, as he was hyper sensitive to touch and a bit of a “wild child” due to a lack of socialization to other dogs, humans, and new environments.

Our geriatric foster dogs required constant specialized care and monitoring by their diligent foster families, and many other foster folks would not have persevered. It was not uncommon for some foster moms with a critically ill dog to have a vet appointment every day. We had one vigilant foster mom whose foster dog was so ill with kennel cough that she had to nurse him back to health for two months before he finally regained his health.

It should be worth noting that our foster families often put their own dogs at risk – when bringing home a sick foster dog. Not only are numerous trips to the vet required for a foster dog needing constant vet care, but a quarantine of dogs in the home is exhausting for the foster family, as it means constant vigilance in keeping the dogs separate from one another, and this feat also greatly impacts the foster family’s home and lifestyle. Sometimes life happens, and a foster mom or dad become ill, have a family emergency or a previously planned event, but OUR foster families step to the plate, and always keep their foster dog a priority.

We want to thank our foster families publicly because behind every dog adopted from **Westie Rescue Michigan** is one compassionate, dedicated foster home! One of our most experienced foster moms took in three foster dogs throughout the year, including a sibling pair. Even bringing in one new dog to your home can be a challenge, so imagine when you now have three Westies! We still struggle to find available foster homes when dogs are surrendered. So, would you please consider fostering? This will help us to take in more Westies when our current foster homes are filled. You will have lots of support while fostering and even a mentor in this very important and critical job at **Westie Rescue Michigan**. **Feel free to contact Susan Bloomfield at (810) 399-8388 if interested in becoming a foster home.** Remember: if we do not have foster homes, we cannot save dogs. Fostering is truly saving a dog and giving back in the world. We also appreciate that many applicants are open to adopting older Westies, and even adopting those with medical needs. Unfortunately, for our large group of approved applicants, we have fewer dogs being surrendered to **Westie Rescue Michigan**. One of the reasons is due to the “re-homing” for unwanted dogs on sites like Facebook.

Finally, we are so very grateful to people who are willing to help us pay for the medical costs of those dogs we place in **Westie Rescue Michigan** foster care. Without your financial support, we would not have been able to provide the medical treatment for all the surrendered Westies that came to us this year! You will see those dogs in the following pages. Half of our foster dogs were in foster care for 2-4 months receiving constant medical attention, and the other half still needed basic vet care like vaccinations, dental cleanings, blood work, sterilizations, heartworm meds, and flea/tic preventatives.

Thank you if you see the work we do as important, and then please help us by making a donation to Westie Rescue Michigan. We ALL can make a difference to help save a Westie in need. From all our foster dogs, foster families, and volunteers at **Westie Rescue Michigan**, we want to wish you **Happy Holidays and a heartfelt “Thank You”!**

2022 FOSTER DOGS

(1/1 - 10/31/22)

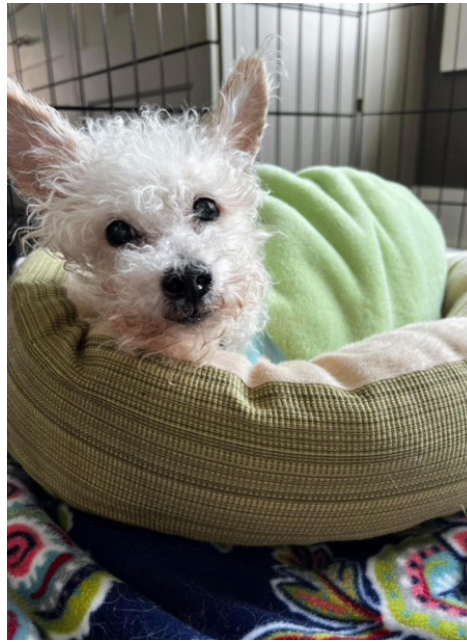


CULLY - AGE 1

This young boy was just under a year old when he was surrendered to Westie Rescue Michigan. He was not getting along with the older dog in the household and was just too much puppy to handle in a third floor apartment. Like many dogs acquired during the pandemic, his exposure to social situations and regular activities were curtailed. Cully had never been neutered, groomed, had his nails trimmed, or finished with his vaccinations. He was also not house trained and a bit of a snarly little guy when people touched him. He was a terrier in charge and in need of an “alpha” to teach him about life as a dog.

House training started on day one in foster care, and he quickly learned what outdoors meant. Being food motivated is a good thing when you have a dog to train and luckily, Cully LOVES cheese! He needed to be muzzled at the vet, and may need that additional security long term, or at least until he develops trust. Once the handling and testing was over, he was all wiggles and loved the vet. We did determine that it was best for him to have some drugs pre-treatment and for grooming, just to make it less difficult for him, and the vet or groomer. He went from a shaggy dog to one handsome dude after his grooming appointment and then he began to meet friends and neighbors at his foster home. He spent a week at another foster home and quickly learned how to use a wooden crate to climb on furniture and was very interested in his new foster sister. House training progressed quickly once his neuter was completed.

Cully met his new dad – thanks to seeing his pic on a Facebook post. Once they met, it was obvious that this was THE match. These two had wonderful adventures over the summer, including time they spent swimming in a pool. Cully loves the water and playing with his new dad. They make a great pair and as the say goes: **it was a match made in heaven.**



SANDY - AGE 10(ish)

Westie Rescue Michigan received an urgent call from Detroit Animal Care (thank you!) to come pick up a little 11-pound male Westiepoo that was sick with kennel cough. He was a stray picked up on the streets of Detroit, and was given the name Sandy by his foster mom. He was so ill from his potent meds that he slept most of the time, had little appetite, and even less energy. After several weeks with kennel cough and a slow recovery, Sandy continued having tummy upsets, and was still lethargic.

His very experienced and dedicated foster mom had him at the vet quite often trying to find the cause of his lack of appetite and lethargy. Then it was discovered that his tummy upset may be due to intolerance of the protein chicken in his food, and so his diet was changed.

Sandy's foster mom had a planned vacation for some time, and so he was transferred to a second foster home. After several months in foster care, Sandy was finally perking up, chasing squirrels, and doing zoomies. No surprise his second foster family fell in love with this sweet boy and adopted him. His new mom says Sandy is a little doll and has quite a personality. What an astonishing change from that sick little guy who barely moved when surrendered. **Another happy story for us at WRM!**



PIERRE - AGE 9

Pierre came into Westie Rescue Michigan at 9 years old. He had recently developed diabetes and was getting insulin injections daily, but was surrendered because his family was unable to provide the care he needed.

His first vet examination after arriving in foster care showed he had dry eyes, ear infections, and that his sugar was way out of whack. In his first few weeks at his foster home, he had separation anxiety when his foster mom would leave him. But, with patience as he became more secure, he conquered this anxiety. His insulin dose was adjusted to get his sugar in the normal range and medication was prescribed to manage his dry eyes and cure the ear infections.

Pierre had a young Schnauzer foster brother, Jack, and Pierre did well in keeping up with him. The two “boys” ran like the wind in the fenced-in yard, and played well together too. Pierre was a sweet boy from the start and loved everyone!

As luck would have it (or some would call it fate), Pierre’s future mom saw him on Facebook and wasn’t even fazed about his insulin injections and schedule. When his foster mom talked with Pierre’s adopter (before the adoption), she said that even if not chosen to adopt him, she still wanted to help by donating to his medical care. Throughout the adoption screening process, Pierre’s mom was already putting plans in place for day care on her long workdays, and even took off a week of vacation to be home right after Pierre’s adoption. Pierre also lives with his mom’s sister and her Westie, named Hudson.

What a perfect match! Those of us at Westie Rescue Michigan who foster know that the right family is always out there; we just have to wait patiently until they find US. **Happy tales/tails to you, Pierre!**



MURPHY - AGE 9

Murphy found his way to Westie Rescue Michigan due to his elderly owner no longer being able to care for him. Murphy weighed 29 pounds, having been overfed with human food at every meal, including cookies, donuts, and handfuls of dog biscuits. In addition to being morbidly obese, he had chronic paw and eye issues, and in the middle of a round of antibiotics for a draining lymph node behind his rear thighs when moving into foster care.

The first trip to the vet upon arriving in his foster home, Murphy was scheduled for a dental cleaning - the first one in his life; he had swollen gums and two molars that were extracted. His new vet said he was on too high a dose of Apoquel for his itchy feet and that dosage was cut down. Murphy had a torn ACL in 2021, but the owner's vet said it had healed. His irritated feet were actually due to interdigital cysts and he had a large skin tag removed under his left ear while in surgery for this dental cleaning.

Murphy's foster family, along with the vet, devised a healthy plan to help Murphy lose that excess weight and they began a walking regime, feeding him senior kibble, only a couple of treats daily, and no human food! In sixty days, Murphy dropped six pounds and no longer morbidly obese.

In spite of all these medical issues, his foster dad said Murphy is a lover boy and a cuddler. Every week Murphy's foster mom and dad had nothing but praise about Murphy: how well he walks, how quiet he is, and how funny it is when Murphy watches TV. So, no one in our foster group was really surprised when we learned Murphy was not going to another home, but staying with his foster home pack! His foster family officially became "foster failures" and Murphy's forever parents. **Welcome home, Murphy!**



PATSY CLINE - AGE 10

Patsy and her brother, Charlie Pride, came into Westie Rescue Michigan after their owner passed away. As most often the case, the family could not take this pair. Patsy had a number of medical issues and needed to be spayed, but she had infected ears and itchy skin, so those were addressed first. Patsy absolutely loved her baby, named Lambchop, and carried him everywhere in her foster home – even outside in the fenced in yard! Her foster mom calls her “Miss Personality” and said the love between Patsy and her brother is lovely to watch. Patsy was always looking out for her little brother and rarely left his side. Because Patsy and Charlie were such a strongly bonded pair, her foster mom only considered applicants where two Westies were wanted.



CHARLIE PRIDE - AGE 10

Charlie was a very sick boy when surrendered. He had intermittent diarrhea and vomiting, and the vet ran numerous tests. After switching his kibble from chicken to a new protein, Charlie began to feel better. His gut issue improved and then, once he became stronger, he needed to be neutered and in dire need of a dental cleaning. Once he was healthy, he was neutered. Then after that he finally had his dental cleaning and 14 loose teeth were extracted! He also had a mole above his eye removed while in surgery. After almost 4 months in foster care, Charlie and Patsy’s foster mom now feel they are strongly bonded pair and will see that they are adopted together. As often happens in Rescue, the perfect family for Patsy and Charlie came forward. When the couple came for their first visit, Patsy jumped into her mom’s lap and Charlie climbed on the couch right next to his dad, and would tap his hand when he stopped scratching Charlie’s neck. This is the magic of seeing a new family form right before your eyes. Thanks to a remarkable foster mom and Westie Rescue Michigan, **two bonded siblings were saved and even placed together!**

2022 FINANCIALS

INCOME JANUARY 1, 2022 – OCTOBER 31, 2022 = \$20,858.00

INCOME INCLUDES:

DONATIONS: \$16,621

SALES: \$3,682

COMMISSIONS: \$555

Donations are higher this year because one very generous donor donated \$10,000.

What a lifesaver that was!!

Our sales income includes garden flags, collars and leashes, kilts and misc. Westie items.

Commissions come from Amazon Smile and Kroger rewards programs.

EXPENSES JANUARY 1, 2022 – OCTOBER, 31, 2022 = \$20,594.00

EXPENSES INCLUDE:

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES: \$3,935

VETERINARY EXPENSES: \$13,140

FOSTER HOME EXPENSES: \$364

SALES EXPENSES: \$3,005

DONATIONS: \$150

- Administration expenses include taxes, insurance, and website maintenance
- Veterinary expenses are all the medical costs for our foster dogs
- Foster home expenses are supplies for foster homes and dog grooming
- Sales expenses include the purchase of sale items, Ebay fees, Paypal fees and sales shipping
- We made one donation this year to Westie Med.

SO FAR THIS YEAR WE HAVE MADE A SMALL PROFIT OF \$264. THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE GENEROUS \$10,000 DONATION WE RECEIVED IN JANUARY.

WE RELY ON DONATIONS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO HELP THE WESTIES!!!

Please help us, help our Westies!

**MAIL RESCUE DONATIONS TO:
WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN, INC
12460 Pamela Court
Hartland, MI 48353**

PayPal: Use **westierescuemi@yahoo.com** and choose the "Personal" option to avoid fees; this is approved by PayPal.

Westie Rescue Michigan is a Federal 501c3 Organization

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

So MANY people and businesses have helped us throughout the year in so many ways. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and thank the following:

VETS WHO HAVE CARED FOR OUR WESTIES:

Harper Woods Veterinary Hospital

Harper Woods, MI 48225

313-881-8061

Georgetown Animal Hospital

Hudsonville, MI 49426

616-669-3612

Lake Lansing Rd. Animal Clinic

Lansing, MI 48912

517-484-8031

Grand Traverse Veterinary Hospital

Traverse City, MI 49684

231-946-3770

Town and Country Hospital

Brighton, MI 48114

810-220-1079

GROOMERS WHO GAVE US DISCOUNTS OR DONATED GROOMING:

Klasy Klip (Lisa)

Waterford, MI 48329

248-673-5151

Petsmart (Amanda)

Grandville, MI 49418

616-406-3344

Melissa's Best In Show

Traverse City, MI 49686

231-922-2213

Maple Lawn Kennel (Virginia)

Eagle, MI 48822

517-626-6025

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- FOSTER HOMES and other VOLUNTEERS.
 - ALL DONORS.
 - Our behaviorist, Deb Duncan (<http://www.thedogspeaks.com>)
 - These business locations:
 - Animal Medical Center of Troy & Timberstone Vet in Sylvania, Ohio.
 - The various vendors who give us a commission of sales.
 - So many others who help in many ways, some of whom wish to remain anonymous.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

SHOPPING AT AMAZON - (Amazon Smile) <https://smile.amazon.com>

Please go into Amazon Smile and choose Westie Rescue Michigan as your charity.

WALK YOUR DOG - Earn funds for Westie Rescue just by walking your dog.

Get the smartphone app at <http://www.wooftrax.com>

Choose **WESTIE RESCUE MICHIGAN** as your shelter.

KROGER COMMUNITY PROGRAM - Earn funds for Westie Rescue by registering your Kroger Awards Card for the Community program. Sign up online by choosing Westie Rescue Michigan. (This must be renewed every year.) This does not impact your gas points.

FUNDRAISING:

Most of these items benefit Westie Rescue Michigan. Some benefit our local Westie Club (and will be noted as such) or Westie Education which is part of Westie Rescue. Most items can be found from 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
- Collars and Leashes
- Other misc. items as we find them

FACEBOOK RESCUE PAGE: Flash sales of misc. items. <https://www.facebook.com/WRMich/>

SHOP AND BENEFIT RESCUE:

ART (including Custom Paintings). These businesses donate a commission back to Westie Rescue. Mention us to the artist so they will know to send us a commission.

- Gina McCormick's Creations email: fivegina22@yahoo.com
- Denise Randall <http://www.gooddogjack.com>
- Mary Sparrow Smith <http://www.marysparrowsmith.net/>

BEHAVIORIST SERVICES:

Deb Duncan is the behaviorist who services our foster dogs. She also has an EBook which we highly recommend. Deb donates many, many hours of her time to help us help our foster dogs. <https://www.thedogspeaks.com>

BEQUESTS:

Occasionally someone asks us about setting up a bequest in their will. We have received a couple of these bequests and they really, really help. If you are interested, please look at our website: <http://westierescue-mi.com/donations/> for more information.

STILL WAITING FOR YOUR FOREVER PUP?

In the last few years we have had very few Westies coming into Westie Rescue Michigan, when they do come, they tend to be older and have more medical needs. Fortunately, our waiting list includes many who are interested in adopting older Westies and willing to deal with medical issues. This says a lot of good things about our adopter base! It is a true “rescue” when the dog is truly in need.

For those who have waited so patiently, we want to suggest some alternatives to your search efforts.

- Watch online for Westies to rescue. One good source to watch is [Petfinder.com](https://www.petfinder.com).
- Go to www.westieclubamerica.com There you can find a list of breeders who are National Club Members and who have signed a Code of Ethics. Many times, breeders have older dogs who they no longer wish to use in their breeding programs. In this case they are likely to be willing to sell the dog for much less than a well-bred puppy would cost. They also stand behind their dogs and may have a Westie who has been returned for some reason. They will be looking to find a home for these dogs. Contact the breeders and if they don't have any themselves, they might be able to refer you to another breeder who has an available dog.
- Talk to folks at your vet's office and let them know you are looking. They might not have anything immediately but might remember you if another client with a Westie needs help to rehome their dog.
- Check your local shelters and check them often. Not all use Petfinder. Look at this list... you will be amazed how many shelters there are, that you aren't aware of https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdard/documents/animals/animal-shelters/animal_shelters_list_by_county.pdf?rev=9410257197bc484dbadb6eb691b48d99. You may want to check the website of your local shelter(s) periodically.
- Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates!!

If you adopt a dog from elsewhere, please let us know so we can cancel your application.
We thank you for your patience and continued interest and support.



*From all of us at
Westie Rescue Michigan,
we wish you a very
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!*