



## 2024 NEWSLETTER

The year 2024 was an unusual year in that Westie Rescue Michigan took in mostly young, male dogs. It goes without saying that these pups were highly sought after to adopt, and the adoption applications came pouring in to us!

All the dogs needed some sort of medical attention; therefore, our expenses remained high due to our vet expenses for these seven dogs. We rarely have perfectly healthy dogs surrendered to us and this year was no different than most years. Our expenses ran \$1,000- \$2,000 per dog for their medical needs. Some of the dogs had skin allergies or skin issues, one needed X-rays, two were placed on prescription diets, all but one dog required a dental cleaning, and all seven dogs were vaccinated, micro chipped, given heartworm preventatives, and groomed. Some of the more serious medical conditions were: abscessed teeth, urinary track infections, ear infections, atopic dermatitis, and two of the male dogs were surrendered due to serious behavioral issues. Add to that, our foster dogs in Westie Rescue Michigan receive new beds, dishes, crates, and toys. But most of all, these surrendered dogs needed LOTS of love, monitoring, care, and diligent attention in their foster home. Two foster dogs required behavior modification and serious training, due to their lack of socialization and/or training in their original homes, and both the one-year olds and two-year old boys demanded active foster moms!

It should be worth noting that our foster families often put their own dogs at risk when bringing home a sick or poorly socialized foster dog. We don't always have complete background knowledge on the surrendered dog – or sometimes their less than favorable behavior is not always shared with us. This past year, one young foster boy punctured his resident foster sister on the neck while they were playing tug with the same toy. Though they had played nicely together for a month prior to this incident, these kinds of accidents may crop up after the foster dog has settled into the foster home, and attempts to assert himself/herself as the dominant or Alpha dog in the home. This is why we keep our foster dogs for a MINIMUM of one month, so we can continue assessing our foster dog's behavior and temperament in a variety of situations, like feeding and playing with our own dogs, as well as exposing the foster dog to many interactions with people outside the foster home, such as vets, groomers, and foster home neighbors and guests.

We want to thank our foster families publicly in this Newsletter, because behind every dog adopted from Westie Rescue Michigan is one, sometimes even two compassionate, dedicated foster homes! Fostering is truly saving a dog and such a striking, compassionate way of giving back in the world.

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 and, subsequently place in their forever homes. Without your financial support, we would not have been able to provide the complete medical treatment for all the surrendered Westies that came to us this past year! You will see those dogs and their stories in the following pages. This is a wonderful time of year to make a donation because you are a dog lover, share life with a Westie, adopted a dog from Westie Rescue Michigan, or want to honor a person by giving a donation in their name to help us continue our work saving Westies.

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"!



**To donate by**

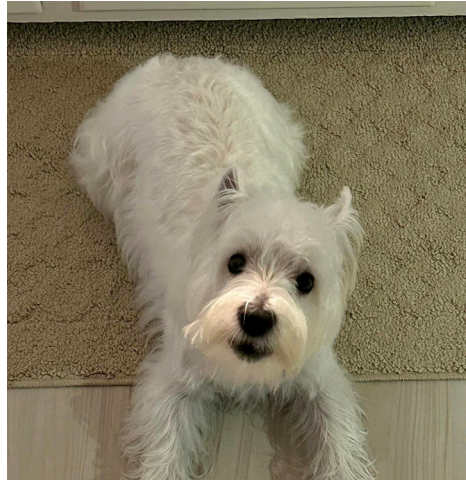
**Check: Send to Westie Rescue Michigan, 12460 Pamela Court, Hartland, MI 48353**

**PayPal: Choose "Personal"; Email address: westierescuemi@yahoo.com**

**(This is approved by PayPal)**

## 2022 FOSTER DOGS

(1/1 - 10/31/24)



### FINNY

Finlay Elliott Duncan, whose nickname is Finny, was surrendered six days before his first birthday on 11-21-23. His mom had undergone two foot surgeries and was preparing for an upcoming third back surgery, and no longer able to care for Finny any longer. Even bending over was causing her excruciating pain, and she did the right thing by calling Westie Rescue Michigan. Finny was up to date on all his vaccinations, groomed, and well loved, but he did have itchy paws and needed some vet care after arriving to his foster home.

Finny got along beautifully with his foster sister, Mia, who just happened to be a Cairn terrier. Finny had no problems in deferring to his foster sister and fit into his foster home quite nicely. Finny was a typical pup: sweet, vocal, curious, energetic, playful, and a snuggler. The applications for Finny came pouring in and he was a popular guy on our Facebook page. He was placed mid December 2023 (after our 2023 Newsletter was published), and into a home of new Westie parents. Needless to say, they were, and still are smitten with their new boy! Best of luck in your new forever home, Finny!



## COCO

Coco was a mixed terrier who came to us after his human dad passed away and his human mom went into assisted living. He was little guy at 10 lbs and was 7 years old. Coco was an only dog whose humans doted on him. He loved going anywhere with you. He was not much of a barker, but would let you know if someone is outside. He was shy and needed to build confidence. He started to play with toys as he became more comfortable in his foster home. He loved going for walks with his foster mom and foster brother. Coco was given a clean bill of health from the vet and did very well at the groomers. Coco was adopted by a woman who lost her Westie last year. She saw Coco on our Facebook page and knew he was the one. Coco is now happily living with his new mom and has a big yard to run in. He went up to northern Michigan this summer, went on boat rides (wearing his life jacket), rode in a golf cart and just had the best time with the whole family. We are happy you are living the good life, Coco!!



## SNOWFLAKE

Snowflake was a 9 year old female who was given to a shelter after her human mom died. We got her from the shelter and brought her into foster care. She was a Wheaton Scottie, not a Westie. Snowflake loved going for walks and got along with her foster brother. When she had her dental exam, eight teeth were removed, seven of which were severely abscessed. Once everything healed, Snowflake felt so much better. She was adopted by a couple and now lives the good life in the country. She has lots of wildlife, including deer, to keep in line. We are so happy for you, Snowflake!!





## KILTIE

Welcome, Kiltie. Kiltie came to us after his human mom and dad passed away and the family who took him in realized a 9 year old Westie wasn't good with their 3 small children, ages 2, 4, and 6. He was never aggressive to the children, but he was grumpy and they were concerned he might be. Kiltie had allergies and has taken Apoquel and Cytopoint shots. He didn't seem to be bothered by allergies anymore. Kiltie and his foster brother got along just fine. Being an only dog, Kiltie didn't know how to play with another dog and didn't understand "Westie tag". Kiltie was very loveable and liked to cuddle on your lap. Being raised by elderly humans, Kiltie got what he wanted by barking non-stop. His foster home worked with him on barking and by the time he was adopted, his barking was very much improved. Kiltie needed a forever home that would give him lots of attention and continue to work on his barking. We found the perfect home. Kiltie is now living in a multigenerational family with a mom and dad, their son and his teenage sons. He has a big yard to play soccer in. Soccer is his favorite game. He has traveled to northern Michigan and taken walks on the Lake Michigan beach. His foster home considers Kiltie and his forever home one of her best successes. Love you, Kiltie.



## ZIGGY

Ziggy, a sweet, smart, active 11-month-old male Westie, came from a loving family who didn't have time for an active pup because of their busy schedule lifestyle with children in sports. Though Ziggy was not neutered, he accepted his Cairn foster sister as the Alpha leader. Ziggy soon learned his Doggie Manners 101, like sitting politely before eating his meal and sitting quietly at the door before going outside. And Ziggy LOVED the fenced in yard in his foster home because he could play ball – his favorite game ever! After a month in foster care, it became apparent that Ziggy needed to be an “only child (dog)” due to his inability to share his toys. His new mom has a fenced in yard, loves to walk trails, and will be happy with one dog. So, another happily ever ending and new beginning. Happy tails to you, Ziggy!



## OLLIE

Ollie, came to Westie Rescue Michigan because he wasn't getting along with visiting children and sometimes even the household children weren't respecting his boundaries and he became snappy. He settled into his foster home and got along well with both his foster brothers. He blossomed into a very happy secure two year old. He loved barking at squirrels outdoors. He had a couple of favorite toys, especially his large lambie. He loved cuddling with his foster mom. He loved riding in the car and meeting new people. Ollie was adopted by a couple who have adopted from us before and have been waiting to adopt again for four years. Ollie will be a very much loved only dog. Have a happy life, Ollie.





## FERGUS

Fergus just came to Westie Rescue Michigan the beginning of October. He was surrendered to us because he was aggressive to his human dad when in the same room with his human mom. Fergus is two years old. His foster home is finding Fergus gets anxious with anything he is fearful of things like vacuums, leaf blower, even the garden hose. We learned the TV remote is a trigger also. He is settling into his foster home and getting along with his two foster brothers. He's a sweet loving boy who loves attention. His foster home is working on the triggers that bring on anxiety. When he gets excited, he needs to learn to settle himself. As of the publication of this newsletter, Fergus is still in foster care. Hopefully, he will find a forever home soon.

## 2024 FINANCIALS

**INCOME NOVEMBER 1, 2023 – OCTOBER 31, 2024 = \$21,773.00**

INCOME INCLUDES:

DONATIONS: \$15,657.00

SALES: \$5,617.00

COMMISSIONS: \$499.00

Our sales income includes garden flags, collars and leashes, kilts, fleece coats and crate pads. Commissions come from Kroger rewards program.

**EXPENSES NOVEMBER 1, 2023 – OCTOBER 31, 2024 = \$22,933.00**

EXPENSES INCLUDES:

ADMINISTRATION: \$5,304.00

VETERINARY: \$14,730.00

FOSTER HOME EXPENSES: \$503.00

SALES EXPENSES: \$2,396.00

Administration expenses include Professional fees, taxes, insurance, and website maintenance. Veterinary expenses are all the medical costs for our foster dogs. Foster home expenses are supplies for foster homes, microchip fees, and dog grooming. Sales expenses include the purchase of sale items, Ebay fees, Paypal fees and sales shipping.

***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 [westierescuemi3@yahoo.com](mailto:westierescuemi3@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:**

**Town and Country Hospital**

Brighton, MI 48114

810-220-1079

**Beverly Hills Veterinary Associates**

32831 Southfield Rd.

Beverly Hills, MI 4025

248-646-5655

**Euclid Veterinary Hospital**

Bay City, MI 48706

(989) 684-4700

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**GROOMERS WHO HAVE MADE OUR DOGS LOOK BEAUTIFUL:**

**Animal Crackers**

Hartland, MI 48353

810-632-3344

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- FOSTER HOMES and other VOLUNTEERS.
  - ALL DONORS.
  - Our behaviorist, Deb Duncan (<http://www.thedogspeaks.com>)
  - 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

**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:**

All fundraisers benefit Westie Rescue Michigan, Inc. Fundraisers can be found on our website : <http://westierescue-mi.com/fundraisers>. Our Ebay store also has lots of fundraisers.

CAFÉ PRESS STORE: Choose <http://www.cafepress.com/westierescue>

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](mailto: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, and 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](https://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. Not all use Petfinder. You can Google Animal Shelters and Rescues in Michigan for a list of shelters.
- 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!*