

December 2024

# WISCONSIN WESTIE RESCUE

CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

## HAZEL ADOPTION

Another success for WWR! In early January we were approached by Cairn Rescue USA in Iowa. They had rescued a Westie female (Hazel) who following whelping her first litter at 18 months, developed extreme allergic reactions – severe hair loss, constant itching. Cairn Rescue took great care of Hazel and secured her initial treatment. They decided that Hazel would have a better outlook if surrendered to a Westie Rescue group and as such contacted WWR. We took Hazel into our foster and adoption program on 1/28/2024. She continued to need extensive veterinary care, including courses of expensive drugs and special food. Whitney and Dan Kieffer of New London agreed to foster Hazel and nurse her back to health.



Dan and Whit had previous

experience with fosters, Irish and Charlotte, who had much same of the health issues. Once healed, were adopted by a wonderful Chicago couple. Given the effort and expense required to treat Hazel, WWR agreed with Dan and Whit that the foster care of Hazel would give them right of first refusal to adopt when Hazel was sufficiently recovered. As of 5/16/2024 WWR adopted Hazel out to Dan and Whit as her forever home. She will continue to need expensive medicines and special food, but Dan and Whit know what they are signing up for and are delighted to finally add Hazel to their family. A picture tells a thousand words – see the pictures of the “new” healthy Hazel when she visited with us a couple of weeks ago. She is an absolutely delightful dog and so friendly. She is pictured with my own westie, Paddy. They became good buddies in minutes.

*By Jim Jeffernan. WWR Adoption Coordinator*



at

## Odie's Adoption Story *By Sue Easterday*

We are Sue and John Easterday, from Fitchburg. Odie is nearly seven and an owner surrender to WWR just after Labor Day. We adopted our eight year old mini-schnauzer, Zinzi six years ago. Zinzi brightened our hearts shortly after our beloved 10 year old WWR Westie Peyton died unexpectedly. We had been thinking a second dog as a companion not just for us but Zinzi too. Like most dogs placed by WWR, Odie's story is complicated.



As you begin his story you may wonder what there is to love. We can say, up front, there is much! Who doesn't support the "underdog?"

Odie likes to cuddle and wants to please. He has lots of energy and keeps us on our toes! He has that noticeable Big Dog in a Little Package bark which should give intruders pause. It is such a contrast to the pitch and volume of our Mini-Schnauzer's warnings. He does not leash-pull on walks which is something we struggled with regarding Zinzi. Despite all the energy he exhibits, he likes to slowly amble and sniff rather than charge ahead on his walks.

Odie is naturally very anxious and driven so there is little reason to place blame about his former situation. He experienced much time alone before we adopted him and has chewed a few holes in Zinzi's bed and toys. He barks at unfamiliar sounds and becomes anxious when he encounters people and pets on his walks.

The biggest challenge is that without a belly band, he would have accidents in the house multiple times daily. He's been medically cleared twice regarding this problem. If we are away from home, which is infrequent, he easily settles in his crate without accidents. We walk him 45 minutes a day so he can burn off energy and do his business here, there and everywhere. Despite this, he does soil his belly band several times a day. This is another anxious behavior that will require much time and attention for any hope of eradication.

Yet there is hope, as some behaviors have improved. Odie is adjusting; we (and Zinzi) have adjusted to our environment as well. There have been a couple dog fights, but Odie and Zinzi are in a mostly harmonious relationship.



While their owners sleep, nervous little dogs prepare for their day.

In our search for training information we've found dog trainer, Susan Garrett's website and podcasts provide the best information about dog behavior and training. Garrett is a World and North American champion agility competitor who has brought excellence to that field while working humanely with her dogs. She offers insights and advice about shaping new behaviors in dogs, always with kindness, so that they are more confident and better adjusted to our world. Her motto is "Dogs do the best they can in the environment they are placed with the education we have given them." We must "react" to Odie not with frustration, but with understanding.

Below are the links to the training information we are absorbing. If you are curious but don't want to follow links, do an internet search for *Susan Garrett Shaped by Dogs Podcast*, *Dogsthat.com* or *Susan Garrett*.

<https://dogsthat.com/podcast-all-episodes/> and <https://dogsthat.com/>



## Stewart and Frazier Adoption



Stewart and Frazier, a bonded pair of littermates, have been adopted by Rick and Robin Hopkins. Rick and Robin previously adopted Simba from WWR. WWR rescued these young dogs from the Fox Valley Humane Society after their owner was taken into permanent memory care. Stewart and Frazier were 2 years 7 months old and in excellent health at the time of adoption.

### *Update from Robin Hopkins:*

Fraser and Stewart are doing really well. They have adjusted quickly to their new home and get along well with our 2 senior dogs. They love to play and go for walks. They enjoy snuggles and couch time. They are just the sweetest little guys and we love them! They recently celebrated their 3rd Birthday!!

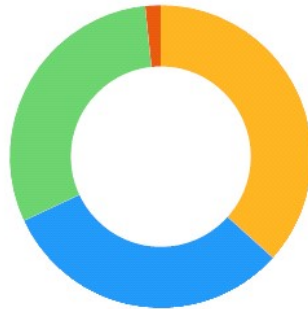


## Financial Update

2024 has again been very quiet. We took in 5 new rescues and placed 4, leaving us with only one dog in rescue. We received \$886 in donations, which is not surprising since we have very little activity. Our main expense category was veterinary expenses for the rescued dogs. Our net cash position declined by \$2,274 for the year. The rescue still has a very strong financial position which will enable us to continue helping Westies in need.

### Income

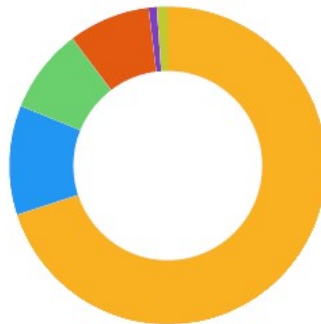
This Year  
**\$2,829**  
in all categories  
Percent of total: 100%



Adoption Fees	\$1,040.00	36.76%
Donations	\$885.75	31.31%
Fundraisers	\$864.01	30.54%
Interest Inc	\$39.66	1.40%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,829.42</b>	

### Spending

This Year  
**\$5,103**  
in all categories  
Percent of total: 100%



Pets	\$3,572.64	70.01%
Fees & Charges	\$575.00	11.27%
Newsletter	\$442.96	8.68%
Bills & Utilities	\$413.52	8.10%
Shopping	\$50.27	0.99%
Postage	\$48.83	0.96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,103.22</b>	



***Thank you to the Josheff Family  
for their generous donation to  
WWR in honor of Beautiful  
Maizie who was seven weeks  
short of her 18th Birthday!***



## WWR 2025 Calendar Available Now

Wisconsin Westie Rescue is having its **Annual Calendar Fundraiser** to raise funds to support our organization in providing veterinary care and placement of our rescued Westies in forever homes. The calendar project is one of the few annual fundraisers our organization has and 100% of the profits from our 2025 calendar sale go to support the rescued Westies.

The 2025 Wisconsin Westie Rescue calendar contains many of our rescued Westies that have placed in their forever homes. The calendars make great gifts for family and friends and a nice calendar to have in your home and work areas.

Calendars are \$18 each and postage is \$4 for shipping single calendars and a shipping cost of \$8 for 2 or more calendars on the same order going to the same address.

To order 2025 calendar(s), please send your name, address and check payable to Wisconsin Westie Rescue to:

Wisconsin Westie Rescue 2025 Calendar

% Lana Olson

251 Glen Eagle Circle

Naples, FL 34104

Questions about the 2025 WWR Calendar can be emailed to [lanasolson@gmail.com](mailto:lanasolson@gmail.com). ***Thank you for supporting the WWR 2025 Calendar Fundraiser!!***



## KEEP UP WITH WWR

If you have not visited the WWR Website (<https://wisconsinwestierescue.com>) recently, please take a look. You will find information about adopting and surrendering, available dogs, current news, information and lots of Westie pictures. If you have a picture of your favorite Westie that you would like to see on the website, please email it to [wwrnewsletter@wisconsinwestierescue.com](mailto:wwrnewsletter@wisconsinwestierescue.com). We will add it to our photo gallery. Please note, we do not use photos that include people.

Also, visit us on Facebook at "**Wisconsin Westie Rescue**".

## **In Memory of Laci** by Lana Olson

We lost our beloved WWR, Laci, on September 18th after battling cancer for five years. Laci was just shy of her 16th birthday. Laci's journey began with her mother, Louise, a rescued mill dog from Thorpe, Wisconsin. In Fall of 2008, after being abandoned by a puppy mill following a dog auction, Louise was saved by WWR. Unexpectedly, Louise was pregnant and gave birth to five Westie puppies in November 2008. Laci, the third born, was adopted by Tom and Lana Olson in January 2009.



The Olson's were thrilled with their new family addition and Laci quickly started to adjust to her new forever home. One of her first car rides after being adopted was to the veterinarian in Madison. Laci was diagnosed with a PDS heart murmur and congestive heart failure. At less than 10 weeks Laci underwent heart surgery at the UW School Veterinary Medicine to repair her heart. Lacy quickly sprang back from her heart surgery. She was a bundle of energy and loved playing with her adopted Westie sister, Cricket.

Laci came to rule the Olson household during her adolescence and early adult years. She was a star attraction at the annual Badger Kennel Club dog fair in Madison where WWR had a booth to promote WWR and the Westie breed. Laci patiently allowed adults and children to pet and fawn over her at the fair. Laci became known at the WWR picnics as the first Westie to usually occupy the "jail" X-pen for a timeout for naughty Westies.

In late 2019, Laci was diagnosed with thyroid cancer after a lump appeared on her neck. She underwent thyroid and parathyroid surgery followed by chemotherapy and bounced back quickly, giving hope that the worst was over. In 2020, however, Laci developed a new issue with her right eye, initially thought to be an infection. When her eye began to protrude, the vet discovered a tumor behind it. Before starting radiation therapy, her eye ruptured, requiring emergency surgery to remove both her eye and the tumor. Chemotherapy began to have adverse effects on her kidneys, leading to discontinuation of treatment. In 2020, her prognosis was she would have 6 to 12 months to live.

Laci, the ever strong trooper, sprang back from multiple surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy to live another four years, surpassing everyone's expectations. By early 2024, her energy began to slow down and she began sleeping more. The vet discovered that cancer had spread to her abdomen and remaining thyroid gland. They advised against further treatments. Despite her health challenges, Laci never showed signs of pain and continued to be her loving self until the end. In September, her heartbroken family bid farewell as she peacefully crossed the rainbow bridge. We will be forever grateful to WWR for allowing us to be Laci's forever family, sharing the last 15+ years with her and allowing us to receive the unwavering love and affection of our dear Laci!

***If you have a Remembrance Story you would like to  
share, please email***

**[newsletter@wisconsinwestierescue.com](mailto:newsletter@wisconsinwestierescue.com)**

## **Positive Benefits in Pet Ownership**

Research consistently shows that pet ownership has positive impacts on both mental and physical health, along with overall wellness. Pets like dogs and cats help reduce stress and anxiety, with studies showing that even brief petting sessions reduce cortisol, a stress hormone. Interaction with animals also releases oxytocin, which promotes feelings of comfort and bonding. Pets help reduce loneliness by providing companionship, which is especially beneficial for people living alone. According to the University of California, Davis, having a pet brings a sense of purpose and structure, as the responsibility of caring for a pet encourages healthy routine.



Physically, pet ownership promotes a more active lifestyle, especially for dog owners, who are more likely to meet recommended exercise guidelines due to regular walks and playtime. The physical activity associated with dog ownership can improve cardiovascular health by reducing blood pressure and cholesterol levels, thus lowering the risk of heart disease. The American Heart Association has also recognized the cardiovascular benefits of pet ownership, finding that pet owners typically have better overall health.

In therapeutic settings, animals play a crucial role in supporting individuals with mental health conditions. Animal-assisted therapy (AAT) is widely used for veterans with PTSD, elderly individuals with dementia, and children with autism, providing a calming and stabilizing influence that reduces anxiety and encourages social interaction. Studies from the University of Arizona highlight the positive effects of therapy animals on veterans with PTSD, showing reductions in symptoms and increases in self-compassion.



The benefits of pets extend to family dynamics and child development as well. Pets can foster empathy, responsibility, and social skills in children, and early exposure to pets may even boost immune health and reduce the risk of allergies. For older adults, pet ownership can combat feelings of loneliness and provide motivation for daily activities supporting healthy aging. Overall, pets contribute to a richer, healthier, and more connected life, helping people across various stages and circumstances maintain wellness.

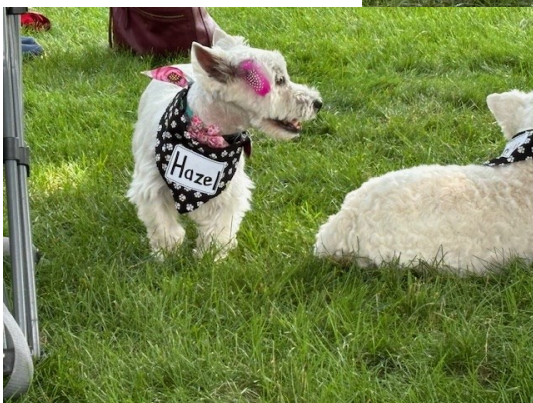


## **WWR 2024 Picnic**



On July 27th the annual Wisconsin Westie Rescue picnic was held in Altoona. WWR adopters, volunteers, friends and family were all in attendance. However, the stars of the day were the Westies!! The dogs had a great time sniffing, running and playing with each other. Some just enjoyed hanging out on their parents' lap watching the action. The humans enjoyed conversation, food and watching the fur kids. The best moment was the dumping of the "toy bin". The Westies absolutely loved it!! It has become a picnic tradition. Thanks to all who attended for making it such a great day!! Everyone is already looking forward to next year.

***A Big Thank you to Julie and Tom Risen!!!***





***Save the Date***

***WWR 2025 Summer Picnic***

***Saturday, July 26th, 2025***

***Hosted by Ron & Janell Westimayer***

***In Minocqua, WI***

***Look for more information in the WWR Spring Newsletter!***

***“Thank you to all WWR volunteers! It makes events like these possible!”***

**Butter Bean’s Scrambled Words:**

1. RBAK
2. NRU
3. AYLP
4. AWLK
5. LABL
6. HASCE
7. URRESQILI
8. PHIMCUKN
9. ETTASR
10. IGD
11. AYOLL
12. PSNA
13. NUFYN
14. BUTBRUNS
15. WTISEE
16. HWCES
17. YTSO
18. DUDLCE
19. RITLRORIARI
20. SYSSA



***Unscramble each word to discover activities or traits of a West Highland Terrier!***

**Wisconsin Westie Rescue**

c/o Marilyn Kallimanes

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