

WISCONSIN WESTIE RESCUE

CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

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WWR Calendar Sale Update

As many of you know, one of WWR's major fundraisers is our annual calendar sale where many of our adopted rescue Westies are featured from photos submitted by their WWR families. We usually debut the upcoming year's calendar at our annual picnic in June where calendars can be purchased to avoid postage/shipping costs. Due to another year of Covid, our annual picnic was cancelled last summer. As a result, we decided to have 2022 calendars printed and orders filled in the fall of 2021. We had another successful year with the 2022 calendar sales. The net profit and extra donations received from our 2022 WWR calendar sales amounted to \$1,681.

If you are still looking for a 2022 calendar, we have a few left for sale. We are offering them at a discount of \$12 each plus shipping and postage cost of \$4 for single calendars and \$8 for two or more calendars ordered. Checks should be made payable to Wisconsin Westie Rescue and mailed to WWR 2022 Calendar, c/o Lana Olson, 251 Glen Eagle Circle, Naples, FL 34104.

We will soon begin work on our 2023 calendar in anticipation of WWR's annual summer picnic. Please send hard copies of your photo(s) of your rescued Westie to Barbara Peden at 1332 Armstrong Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701 or email jpg files that have not been compressed to aroooo@charter.net. It is better to have many larger files emailed to Barbara than ones compressed for easier bulk emailing. Deadline is May 28th, but send them anytime you have a cute photo of your Westie! We include at least one Westie photo submitted by our WWR families in the calendar, so folks, get your cameras out and snap some great shots of your Westie(s) for our 2023 calendar.

2021 Auction Update

Our online auction held through the Better Unite website was a great success! Thank you to all who donated items for bidding and to all who participated. Many thanks to those who made generous monetary contributions. Shipping costs were covered by two of our WWR members which certainly helped our bottom line. We had over 50 registered bidders and raised over \$4700 to help care for our Westie rescues.

Wisconsin Westie Rescue is a 501(c)(3) federal non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Wisconsin State License # 503731

Intake Summary 2021 by Barbara Peden

WWR has seen a dramatic drop off in new dogs coming into rescue over the past several years and other Westie rescue groups I've spoken to echo this trend. While it is hard to know why this is, some suggest that pure bred dogs are less in favor than once was the case, with people gravitating to designer mixes. The doodle trend seems hot and not slowing down any time soon. Whether it is the designer trend or just fewer Westies being bred, we are not seeing dogs surrendered at the rate we did not too many years ago.

2020 was an extremely down year, with only 4 dogs, 2 owner turn ins (OTI) and 2 mill retirees, coming to WWR. Given the pandemic, and everyone and their brother seemingly looking to adopt, buy, or rent a dog, this wasn't too surprising. However, to date, this trend isn't reversing.

2021 saw an uptick with 13 dogs total coming to us, although the majority were the last of a mill release from Clark County. For 2021, 4 dogs were OTI, 2 came from MADACC, and 7 from the mill release. Of those dogs, only 11 were placed by WWR. One, an OTI, a Welch Terrier, was transferred to a breed rescue for that breed, and one from MADACC sadly passed away from pulmonary fibrosis while in foster care.

For both 2020 and 2021, all OTI were males. Both dogs from MADACC were also males, and 2 of the 7 mill dogs were males. All of the females we have gotten over the past two years are retired mill mommas.

All of the OTI were younger adult dogs that reportedly were not good with kids, or their owners moved into assisted living and could not take the dog along. The mill dogs were firmly in the adult dog range, ages 4 to 7. Our MADACC dogs were seniors, estimated at 10 and 13 years of age, and were abandoned together.

What will 2022 bring us? We wish we had a crystal ball, but one can assume we will not see many, if any, mill dogs given as we have gotten all from the mill release. Any mill dogs will need to be from a new contact, and we are not aware of any Westies being bred in Clark County. If trends hold, that also means few females coming to us as well, but time will tell!

2021 Financial Summary by Greg VerPlank

The last two years have been challenging for all of us. I am proud to say the rescue has weathered the storm and has come out in a stronger position than going into 2020. For the year 2020, we had total vet expenses of \$11,951, while our fundraising efforts generated \$4,693 and donations received were \$5,598, leaving a yearly deficit of \$1,660. We had very little fundraising in 2020 due to the lockdown, so this is not surprising. We faced the same challenge in 2021. Knowing our fundraising opportunities would again be limited, we made a plea to our rescue community in the March newsletter. To say the least, I am amazed at the response. Over the course of two months, we received over \$14,000 in donations! This was almost three times what we received for all of 2020. Adding the on-line auction and calendar sales, total income for 2021 was \$20,253. Thank you to everyone for supporting the rescue. With our vet expenses holding relatively steady at \$13,715, our surplus for the year was \$6,538. I look forward to another year starting with a strong financial position.

Seeking Volunteer(s) to Host a Fundraising Rummage Sale

WWR is looking for a volunteer(s) interested in hosting a fundraising rummage sale this spring or summer. WWR has a cache of donated items set aside for this sale, but has no place to host it. Anyone interested can contact Anne Plouff at 612-889-2848 to discuss. Anne will be responsible for transporting the items currently stored in Eau Claire, WI to your home. Should no one be available, the items will be donated locally.

Check Out Our Website

Wisconsin Westie Rescue updated its website last fall. If you have not visited, please take a look. You will find information about adopting and surrendering, available dogs, current news and information, and lots of cute Westie pictures. If you have a picture of your favorite Westie that you would like to see on the website, please email it to wwnewsletter@gmail.com. We will add it to our photo gallery. Please note, we do not use photos that include people.

Adoption Applications Suspended

Based on the limited intake of dogs over the past two years, the WWR Board has elected to temporarily suspend accepting new applicants. This suspension will be lifted when circumstances change.

Recent Adoptions

- Pearl found her forever home with Cindi and Jerry in La Crosse, WI. Cindi and Jerry also fostered Pearl.
- Maddie is home forever with Maureen and Bob in Onalaska, WI. She was also fostered by Maureen and Bob.
- Foxy moved to her forever home with Melinda and Stan in Shorewood, WI. Connie and Jerry Wolfgram fostered her.
- Meadow found her forever home with Mary Beth and Donovan in Milwaukee, WI. Anne Plouff fostered Meadow.

Freddie by Jana Hite

We adopted Freddie at the end of August. We decided to keep his name because he seemed to already respond to it and he kind of looks like a Freddie to us. On the very first day when we picked him up and brought him home, Freddie was excited, but utterly terrified at the same time. We gave him a safe spot and he started sleeping in bed with us that first night. He would wake up from nightmares and he would be sitting in the middle of the bed looking around not knowing where he was. He soon realized how safe and cozy life was going to be and sleeps on his back quite often now; he is known to snore loudly.

We have another rescue named Sunny who showed Freddie the ropes of how easy life was going to be in this house. Sunny was happy to show him how to find all the chipmunk trails and sniff all the good sniffs in the yard.

Freddie is filling out nicely and with lots of scrubs, baths, and grooming he is looking like the true Westie he is. He is learning how to sit now and we are working on sit stay, but that's a bit hard. He is even coming when we call his name. My mother had surgery in November and when she came home in December Freddie was more than happy to cuddle in bed with her when she was resting.

With December came snow and Freddie seemed like he had never seen it. Being in a mill for seven years, who knows if he ever got to play in the snow. He watches Sunny roll from one end of the yard to the other and looks at us like what in the world is he doing. He is starting to dig his snout around in the snow and I am hoping one day he will fully enjoy a fresh snow roll.

Freddie is a stealthy thief and we call him Fast Freddie when he is stealing something from someone's room and dragging it to his toy pile. He has quite the personality and provides endless entertainment as we watch him drag toys from one room to another so that no one takes them from him. We love him so much.



Gus by Renate & Ray Wisniewski

We adopted Gus in September 2021. We had no idea what to expect, never having rescued a dog before. Once we were approved, we were so excited to go meet him at his foster home. We were super excited, taking our little dog Reuben along to meet his brother! They got along well right off the bat.



Gus had a lot to learn, but caught on to the house training, going up and down the steps, and our general routine very quickly. He was so fearful at first, but once we earned his trust, things moved along smoothly. We had to realize many of the things we were exposing him to were all "firsts" for him--riding in the car, going for a boat ride (and watching him run into the water and enjoy swimming!!), walking on a leash, even playing!! He is still learning, as are we.

There is so much satisfaction and joy when you get a rescue, and they become "yours." When they look to you for affirmation, when they learn something new, when they get excited when you come home and they run circles in the living room, when they overcome a fear. Mostly, when they snuggle up to you and give you kisses and you realize we are his people, his family. Gus is home. ❤️

Daisy by Cheryl Holt

My WWR dog, Miffy, is getting elderly, turning 16 in March, so I wanted to start planning for another Westie. Miffy is still doing well.

In the spring of 2021, I reached out to WWR and inquired about adopting again. I was lucky that they were just receiving in some mill dogs soon, so I waited to hear. I was informed that a female dog (mill mama) was available and close to where I live, so in July 2021, I got to meet her and fell in love. Her name is Daisy and she was 7 years old. (She turned 8 the end of January.) We got to take Daisy home in September 2021 and she fit into the family well, except she was very afraid of men.

Daisy LOVES her sisters, Miffy and Molly (lab mix). The foster mom for Daisy told me that Daisy was a dog's dog and I believe it. She does love other dogs. I am so glad that I got Daisy now when Miffy is still lively enough to help Daisy adjust and teach Daisy the ways of being a "pet." Miffy has helped a lot.

Daisy is very affectionate to me now, but still wary of my husband and other men in the family. She is getting better/braver, and it will just take more time.

Daisy puts her "big" sister in place when needed and they all get along great! The three of them share the couch and dog beds, ride well with each other in the car, and enjoy going on walks together. Daisy likes to snuggle with Miffy at night. 😊 Daisy has started to play with Miffy's dog toys now, too. She has learned to squeak them, play with me with the stuffed animals, and she carries them around the house. She sometimes snuggles with them on the couch, as well. She is a very loving dog.

We are honored to give Daisy a forever home.



Meadow by Mary Beth Geraci

My husband, Donovan, and I are so happy that our wonderful Meadow chose us in November of 2021. We had just lost our beloved Monty at 14.5 years to Westie Lung Disease. I was beyond devastated after losing my best boy in October and wasn't sure if I was ready.....but Meadow.....she absolutely captured and stole my heart.

Meadow has so helped to heal our hearts and brings us so much joy. She has worked so hard every day to fit in and learn how to be part of a family. I am so very thankful to her foster mom, Anne, for giving her such an amazing start. I have had 3 rescue Westies, but all boys and none from a puppy mill situation, so I wasn't sure what to expect. Anne and Cheryl were so kind and helpful to explain to me what to expect.

Meadow is our little miracle.....she is so incredibly smart. She learned so fast and watched every move her big brother Melo made. She adores Melo, who is her 10-year-old Westie brother, and loves to follow him everywhere. She now enjoys walking in the neighborhood, as long as she is with her big brother! She likes to try to snuggle in the beds with him, much to Melo's dismay! They have bonded so well.....she really helped him after Monty passed. Melo was so sad and not eating well. Meadow has perked him up and keeps him on his toes.



Meadow is just the best little girl! She keeps me company all day while I work from home, and rarely leaves my side! She is the BEST cuddler now and falls asleep in my lap with her little tongue hanging out. (She had to have a lot of teeth removed sadly, but that has not stopped her.) She LOVES her toys and sometimes her tail wags so much she nearly falls over! It is hysterical to watch her. In the past few weeks she has started getting the "zoomies"....she runs at TOP speed all through the house, picking up and dropping toys along the way. Sometimes we all just have to back up against the walls and just let her go so we don't get run over!

Meadow LOVES to be brushed and then walks around the house like she is on the fashion "runway"! She also loves to wear her bright pink winter coat! It is so wonderful to watch her grow and explore more and more every day. We can't wait for summer to come so she can explore the lake up north. We are hopeful that she will like to ride on the pontoon boat with us all. Her brother Melo loves to paddle board with me, so we'll try that and see what she thinks. She has a brand-new life preserver ready for her. She really warms up

quickly now when we have anyone over (really not many with COVID, just family) and she is so adorable trying to cuddle and play.

We feel so fortunate to have our dear little girl, and look forward to spending many years spoiling her and helping her to live her very best life!

Send Us Your Stories

Given our lack of rescue dogs, we will need some stories from previous adopters for the next newsletter. If you would like to see your pup featured, please send a few paragraphs about your pet and include a recent picture. Thank you!

Pearl by Cindi McMullen

Pearl is not our first rescue but certainly the most rewarding. Pearl came to us a very broken "little" girl. The challenges we had with her have been very different than our others. She was afraid of everything and had several medical issues. Once she started feeling better, she caught on to the "good" life quickly with the help of her dog siblings. You would never know she was the same dog that came to us in August.

She loves to cuddle, loves toys and loves her dog siblings. She is still learning to trust us when we introduce new experiences and we see more of her personality come out as she gains confidence. We can't wait to see the future Pearl.

We are grateful to Wisconsin Westie Rescue for the opportunity to care for and nurture this special girl.



WWR Picnic-- Save the Date!

Saturday, July 30, 2022- Julie & Tom Risen hosts!

We're back! After stepping back for COVID-19 concerns, we're on again this summer at Julie and Tom's house, 928 Windsor Forest Drive, in Altoona, WI. A fenced-in yard will allow Westies and their owners to relax and mingle!

Watch your mail in early June for more information, and your RSVP! Let's get ready to party with our Westies!!

Make Sure You Get Your Newsletter

If you move or change your email, please be sure to update your mailing and email addresses with Wisconsin Westie Rescue. Changes can be sent to wwrnewsletter@gmail.com.

We strongly encourage you to get the newsletter via email as it helps us save trees and postage, as well as time.

Keep your mailing and email addresses up-to-date. Thank you!

Westie Fun Facts

- Westies were bred from the white offspring of Cairn and Scottish Terriers in order to create a hunting terrier.
- They made their first well-known appearance at a London dog show in 1907 and were registered by the AKC in 1908.
- The breed has been in the United States since the early 1900s and was recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1908.
- Like the dachshund and other burrowing breeds, the Westie has been bred to have an extra sturdy tail used to yank him out of holes.
- Ownership of West Highland White Terriers has fallen to just a quarter of the numbers owned a decade ago, according to new research carried out by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC).
- Male Westies are more likely to be diagnosed with ear disease than female Westies. Female Westies are more likely, however, to develop dental disease.
- Black and White Scotch whiskey uses Westies on their bottle labels.
- The movie director, Alfred Hitchcock, owned a Westie named Sarah.



UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Why Do Dogs Get Bladder Cancer?

Bladder Cancer in Dogs: Environmental Risk Factors

The Study

Bladder cancer in dogs can lead to blood in the urine, pain on urination, and urinary blockage. The underlying causes in dogs are not well understood. Bladder cancer in humans can be caused by toxic chemicals in the environment. We are looking to see if the same is true for dogs. The aim of this study is to determine whether urinary exposure to certain environmental chemicals contributes to bladder cancer risk in the dog. A second part of this study is to determine whether owners of dogs with bladder cancer have similar urinary chemical exposures.

Who Qualifies

Any dog diagnosed with bladder cancer (transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder or urethra) confirmed by tumor biopsy, genetic (BRAF) test, or examination of urinary cells, or any dog that is identified as an unaffected matched control. There is an option to enroll yourself as an owner of one of these dogs.

What Happens

You collect a voided 25 mL urine sample (about 2 tablespoons) from your dog using a kit that we provide. You will also be asked to fill out a questionnaire about your dog's household environment. It is optional for you to also provide a urine sample from yourself and to collect household dust, drinking water, and air samples from your home using materials that we provide.

Why Participate

The results of this study may help us understand what causes bladder cancer in some dogs, and whether owners of these dogs share exposure to certain chemicals in the environment. Our goal is to find better ways to prevent bladder cancer in dogs and people.

More Information

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Torrey Tiedeman at ttiedeman@wisc.edu or Dr. Lauren Trepanier at lauren.trepanier@wisc.edu at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

Wisconsin Westie Rescue Newsletter

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