

# WISCONSIN WESTIE RESCUE

CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

[WISCONSINWESTIERESCUE.COM](http://WISCONSINWESTIERESCUE.COM)

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## **2020 Adoption Update**

by Cheryl Cutsforth

Westies have been a bit hard to come by in WWR so far in 2020. The year is well past half over and we have had only four Westies come into rescue. Needless to say, as long as the current waiting list is, all four of them were placed very quickly. Here are the Happy Homes:

- Frankie – This sweet girl was adopted by Patrick and Nicole in Green Bay and now calls herself Fiona, a name fitting for a former puppy mill mama now a Princess. Thank you to Julie and Tom Risen for fostering Frankie.
- Roscoe – We rarely have puppies in foster, but this little guy did decide to move on early in his career! Surprisingly, it is often difficult to find anyone to foster a rambunctious Westie puppy, but Karen and Jonathan in Oak Park, IL both fostered and adopted Roscoe.
- Sugar – This sweet, shy puppy mill mama is learning to enjoy walks and games in her new home in Sheboygan with Dan and Marilou, previous Westie adopters. Thank you to Connie and Jerry Wolfgram for fostering Sugar.
- Winston – This cute little Westie guy came to us from a family overwhelmed with human medical issues. Annette in Fall River, a previous adopter and also a former WWR foster person, both fostered and adopted Winston.

And we don't want to forget our permanent fosters: Maisie remains at home with Dawn and Mark in Eau Claire, WI. Georgie is our newest permanent foster, living with Jane and Peter in Hortonville, WI.

Maisie and Georgie each have significant health issues that mean it would be irresponsible of WWR to try to adopt them into new homes. Yet each of them is a valued member of the WWR community and we are grateful to the families who are willing to care for them and love them as if they were their own.

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

Donations are tax deductible. Wisconsin State License # 268578-DS

## Get Your 2021 Benefit Calendar

Our WWR calendar fundraiser is in high gear. Wisconsin Westie Rescue 2021 Benefit Calendars are still available for sale. The high quality, spiral bound calendars contain photos of many of our rescue Westies that have been placed in their forever homes in recent years. The calendars make wonderful holiday gifts. The calendars are \$16 each with a one-time \$4 charge for mailing any number of calendars on the same order to the same address. If you are interested in ordering 2021 calendars, please send your name, address and check to:

WWR 2021 Benefit Calendar  
c/o Lana Olson  
15213 W Union Dane County Line Rd  
Brooklyn, WI 53521-9301.



## 2020 Holiday Bazaar Canceled

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual Holiday Bazaar has been canceled. The location of the bazaar, the Schlegelmilch House, a house owned by the Chippewa Valley Museum, is not available for rent during the pandemic. In addition, the majority of our volunteers and shoppers are over the age of fifty and in the high-risk category. Therefore, we felt it best to skip the event entirely this year and not look for a different venue. Hopefully, next year we will be able to schedule a holiday fundraiser for WWR.

If you have been saving items for us to sell in this year's bazaar, we ask that you consider donating them to another organization that is able to use them now. We have little storage space available in our homes for holding items for over a year. Thanks for your support!

## New Applications to Adopt Closed

Currently WWR has a high number of applications to adopt while at the same time seeing a low level of intake which extends back to since the last half of 2019. For this reason, we have closed our rescue to new applications to adopt until we can reasonably expect that any new applicant has a chance to adopt a dog from our rescue.

If you are a previous adopter from WWR and have activated your application to adopt, you do not need to do anything at this time. You are actually in a better situation than others on the waiting list who still need to complete a home visit or reference checks as you have already gone through all steps to adopt. Be patient and we will let folks know as new dogs that meet your criteria come into rescue.

The high number of applications to adopt is apparently quite common with other Westie rescue organizations. Many are also experiencing a high volume of applications and have fewer dogs available to adopt. We will have to wait and see whether the economic fallout due to COVID-19 ushers in more owner turn-ins to rescues, but for now, we expect the low number of dogs coming into rescue to continue.

## **Adoption in the Time of COVID-19**

WWR is taking the COVID-19 situation seriously in regard to adoptions and intakes. We will follow state guidelines whenever adoptions occur.

Currently, there is a statewide mask mandate which we ask our foster homes to abide by when dealing with an adoption to a family. Please feel free to ask for more details if you are a family waiting for a Westie and have concerns about adopting during the pandemic. If you currently have an application on file and wish to withdraw until a later date, please contact Cheryl at [cutsfocl@uwec.edu](mailto:cutsfocl@uwec.edu) and we will put your application on hold.

## **Volunteer Needed**

WWR is looking for a volunteer to coordinate details for our WWR booth at the Badger Kennel Club (BKC) Dog Fair that occurs annually in Madison at Dane County Expo Center in early November. While the 2020 BKC Dog Fair has been canceled for this fall, we need a WWR volunteer coordinator for the BKC Dog Fair scheduled in early November 2021 and beyond. The BKC Dog Fair is a one-day event where WWR has staffed a booth providing information to the public about our rescue organization and interesting information about the Westie breed. If you would like more information about what coordinating this event entails, please send an email to Lana Olson at [anaolson@wildblue.net](mailto:anaolson@wildblue.net), and she can provide more detail about coordinating this event.

## **Keeping Track of Your Westie** by Anne Plouff

Pet microchips are small transponders the size of a grain of rice. They contain very simple information, usually ten to fifteen digits, that can be read by a scanner. In dogs they are placed under the skin between the shoulder blades. A microchip is the only form of pet identification that is permanent with a unique number that cannot be altered. Today in the United States only three to four per cent of dogs arriving at US shelters are microchipped.

Here at Wisconsin Westie Rescue, we are firm believers in the value of microchipping the Westies that come through our foster homes. All dogs brought into WWR are scanned for a chip by a veterinarian. If a chip is not found, WWR will provide one for the foster family to have implanted and registered with the chip company. No dogs are adopted out from WWR without a registered chip in place and the new family knowing its number. This is because WWR believes microchipping is essential in reuniting dogs, especially those found without collars, with their rightful owner.

There is, however, a limitation in having a microchip in your Westie. Should they be separated from you, the Westie will need to be taken to a veterinary office or animal shelter to have their chip read and the chip company called. Therefore, WWR also strongly recommends a collar with the dog's name and the cell phone number(s) of the owner(s). This is because some of our Westies slip away from us to go adventuring. Nowadays almost everyone walking around has a cell phone on them. It is much quicker for a good Samaritan to stop an ownerless Westie, read its tag, and call the owner's cell number. I personally have had a few experiences with my own dogs where I am walking the neighborhood calling their names only to receive a call on my cell phone! It has always been under twenty-five minutes and less than five blocks away.

The combination of an implanted chip and cell phone tag on your Westie's collar is the best way to ensure if you are ever separated from your Westie, they will be returned to you!

For more detailed information on microchipping, please visit the American Veterinary Medical Association: <https://www.avma.org/microchipping-animals-faq>.

## Wisconsin Westie Rescue

c/o Jean Anderson  
4325 Tottenham Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226

## WWR Summer Picnic

On August 8<sup>th</sup> Westie lovers gathered in Altoona (near Eau Claire, WI) at Tom and Julie Risen's house for the annual Wisconsin Westie Rescue summer picnic. This year was a little different as we navigated COVID. None of the Westies or their non-Westie friends wanted to do anything about social distancing! They all played and chased each other around the yard. There were even a few "friendly" spats. Overall, a fantastic time was had by all! Thanks to all who attended. Can't wait to do it again in 2021.

