
WISCONSIN WESTIE RESCUE

CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

[WISCONSINWESTIERESCUE.COM](http://www.wisconsinwestierescue.com)

WWR Auction Returns in November

Join us November 4 through 14 for the online WWR Auction. Funds raised will be used to help cover the costs of fostering and providing veterinary care for our Westie rescues.

The auction format will be different from previous years. We are using the site Better Unite to host the auction. As the date gets closer, you will receive an email from Better Unite that will tell you how to sign up to participate. For those who do not use email, there will be information on the WWR website that will have all the sign-up information (www.wisconsinwestierescue.com). Each guest will have their own unique campaign link where they can participate in our auction. Credit card preregistration is required in order to place a bid. Bids are automatically updated so you will always know where you stand when you are trying for that perfect item. There is also an option to make a donation to WWR without placing a bid.

Thank you to all who have donated items for the auction: gift baskets, Packers items, Marquette basketball tickets, artwork, Westie-themed items, jewelry, quilts, and more! All the great items that have been donated in 2020 and 2021 that are not used in the auction will be safely stored and used for future sales to benefit WWR.

Get Your 2022 Benefit Calendar



Wisconsin Westie Rescue 2022 Benefit Calendars make great holiday gifts! 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 are \$16 each with a one-time \$4 mailing charge. Postage costs for two or more calendars on the same order will be \$8. If you are interested in ordering 2022 calendars, please send your name, address and check to:

WWR 2022 Benefit Calendar
c/o Lana Olson
15213 W Union Dane County Line Rd
Brooklyn, WI 53521-9301.

Walking Him Home

There is a concept in Rescue called Walking Him Home. It means adopting or long-term fostering a senior dog who may not have many months or years left to give. Those who choose to give a final forever home to a senior Westie are very special people indeed. They understand that elderly dogs still have love to give, can still relish a tummy rub or an ear scratch, a slow walk to the end of the block, a little dish of ice cream, the warm sun on his tummy, a car ride to the drive-up bank where, hopefully, the treats dispensed are soft ones. They have the compassion to share final months or a few last years caring for a Westie in need.

The reasons senior Westies come into rescue are many. Sometimes an owner has died or entered a nursing home leaving behind a broken-hearted Westie. Sometimes the reasons are not so understandable: the owner simply doesn't want to spend the time or money that an old dog may cost and, in some cases, the Westie may have developed a chronic disease like diabetes, Cushing's disease, or Addison's disease. As a Westie rescue, we have always felt that we need to be here not just for the young, healthy Westies that are easily placed, but also for the older dog or the dog in need of surgery or medication or both, and, in turn, offer them the best quality of life.

In past years we have taken into rescue senior Westies ranging in age from 9 to 15 years. They have had Addison's disease or diabetes or Cushing's disease. Some have vision or hearing loss. Some are just a bit stiff and arthritic and need help to get up on the couch. The number of senior Westies and Westies with chronic diseases coming into rescue seems to be increasing each year with many coming to us because either the family was unable to afford treatment or unwilling to make needed accommodations like a mid-day potty break for their aging or ill Westie.

Most new adoption applications we receive are for Westies that are middle-aged at best and under age 3 preferred. Few of them are willing to consider the Westie with some infirmities like hearing or vision loss, or chronic health concerns. The truth is that we are usually the last hope these dogs have and trust us when we say that having to say "no" to a Westie, knowing we are her last chance, is a heartbreaking thing to do.

We know those of you reading this are the compassionate audience we need to reach. Many of you have been through the trials as well as the joys of a senior-age Westie already. We want to actively recruit those of you who would consider adopting a senior Westie. You may never have considered taking a 12-year-old Westie into your home. You may have expected to live out your own Westie's golden years with him and never even considered the possibility that every year WWR is confronted with decisions regarding an aging Westie who is suddenly homeless.

This is our appeal: please help us start a resource bank of people who would consider special needs adoptions. If you would consider adopting a senior Westie, if you have experience with dogs with Cushing's, Addison, or insulin dependent diabetes and could offer her a forever home please let us know. We need approved applicants we can call and say, "We have this wonderful Westie who just came in. We need someone to walk him home. Would you be willing to do that?" ---Cheryl Cutsforth

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

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

Adoptions

- Butter Bean, our 9-years-young Westie boy, is at home in Cudahy with Emma. Anne Plouff fostered Butter Bean.
- Freddie is out of the puppy mill and living in clover with Jana and family in Fontana, WI. Holly and Bob Schoenecker fostered Freddie.
- Lucky really IS a lucky boy living with Frank, Lori, and Ariana in New Holstein. Anne Plouff fostered Lucky.
- MacGyver, a Westie adventurer just like the guy on TV, has joined the Fleming family in Appleton. Lydia and John Parlow fostered Mac.
- Smalls, our 10-years-young Westie boy, is whipping the pack into shape with Carrie and Kelly in Winona, MN. Smalls made the rounds of foster homes, through no fault of his own. Thank you to Amy Wolfgram, Connie and Jerry Wolfgram, Julie and Tom Risen, Sue Smith and James Peterson. It took a small town to bring this boy to his forever home.
- Daisy a pretty 7-year-old retired mill mama, has moved to Minnesota with Cheryl and Todd. She was fostered with Julie and Tom Risen.
- Milo, age 5 and retired from the puppy mill, has joined Renate and Raymond in Kronenwetter, WI. Milo was fostered by Susan Jacoby.

Adoptions Pending

- Foxy is 5 years old, a very outgoing, friendly retired mill mama fostered with Connie and Jerry Wolfgram. Foxy has an approved application pending.
- Maddie is 5 years old, a sweet little retired mill mama fostered with Maureen and Bob Wilson. Her approved forever home is waiting for her as soon as she completes her veterinary care.
- Meadow is 5 years old and so very shy, but getting better every day. The puppy mill where Meadow lived until now left her fearful of so many things. Anne Plouff is fostering her and we are processing an application for her at this time.
- Pearl is 5 years old, retired from a puppy mill and getting along great in her foster home with Cindi and Jerry McMullin. Pearl's forever home is ready as soon as she has her dental cleaning done in October. She has significant issues with her teeth, not uncommon, unfortunately, with adult dogs from puppy mills.

Meet Butter Bean! By Emma Rudd

Hi, everyone! My name is Butter Bean! With my twilight years upon me, I'm taking off on a wild adventure with my new owner, Emma. I first met her when she was dog-sitting for my WWR foster mom, Anne. My name made her laugh, and I quickly stole her heart with my goofy nature (I like to Rambo crawl on all fours to scratch my belly on the carpet!) and spunky, loving personality. She told me she couldn't believe I was 9! When she took me for a walk the first time, I jumped in her car just to show her how ready I was for adventure!

I'm now settling into my new digs on the south side of Milwaukee where I get to go on lakefront walks and long hikes through the woods. I also get to spend lots of time with my Westie friends, Bingley and Tillie, who are my "Papa and Gigi's" dogs. I'm so grateful for this new adventure and every day I continue to prove that age is just a number and senior Westies really are the best!

I can't wait to see what the future holds, and in the meantime, I'll keep rolling in the grass, enjoying long weekend hikes, lots and lots of belly rubs, and games of fetch with my favorite toys.



Our “Lucky” Day by Frank Anderson

For no discernable reason that I could think of at the time, I was perusing the Wisconsin Westie Rescue’s March 2021 newsletter. We were already a proud Westie family having “rescued” our boy “Sparky” from a less than desirable situation that he was living in back in 2013. Sparky was 5 years old when we brought him to live with us in his forever home. Though Sparky was in relatively good health, in the back of my mind I knew that Sparky was getting on in years.

The newsletter had an article titled “Looking for a Forever Home.” The article introduced Smalls, a cute little boy who was soon to be offered for adoption. Since we were not in the market at the time to adopt another Westie, I never gave it a second thought, and I never mentioned Smalls to my wife. Until. . .

May 1st, 2021 our Sparky unexpectedly crossed the Rainbow Bridge. It was very hard on all of us. Like many pet owners who lose their “fur babies” that couldn’t possibly be replaced, we were torn on seeking a substitute for Sparky. Without letting my wife know, I contacted WWR to see if Smalls was available. Cheryl told me he was already promised to another family, but would keep us in mind if the adoption didn’t work out.



Time passes, and you begin to miss the little things you’ve grown accustomed to with having a Westie around. . .the cuddling, the clicking of his paws on the hardwood floors, his expected morning massages. . .I could go on and on. Days turn into weeks, his toys and food donated to our local Humane Society. We had Sparky cremated and brought him home for the very last time on May 15th, 2021.

Now here’s where things get interesting. My wife, Lori, and I were sitting on our patio enjoying the day reminiscing about Sparky and how much joy he brought us. It was a bright sun-shiny day, without a cloud in the sky. All of a sudden, a gust of wind came out of nowhere unexpectedly. We both laughed and remarked that it was Sparky letting us know that he was home with us then! It made our day.

Soon after, I went inside and checked my e-mail. I was surprised to see that there was an e-mail from Cheryl at WWR, titled WI Westie Rescue Adoption Application. Was it karma, serendipity, by chance, or did our Sparky let us know that it would be OK to adopt another little boy into our home? Cheryl told us in the e-mail that “Lucky”, a 2-year-old Westie boy, will be looking for an adopter soon!

Now remember, I have not told my wife about any contact with WWR prior, but this opportunity was too good to pass. Not knowing how she would react or if she was even keen on the idea of adopting I approached her cautiously. I mentioned that sudden gust of wind and how much we both missed our boy. I then told her about the e-mail. She was very excited, and wanted more information on Lucky, of course. Cheryl responded with a very detailed explanation of this guy’s ordeal and the need to rehome him in a suitable home and environment.

We immediately filled out the application and promptly returned it. It wasn’t long before we were approved and had our home visit and went to meet Lucky at his foster home. All went very well and we (me, my wife, and our daughter) immediately formed a close bond with Lucky. June 1st, 2021 was our “LUCKY DAY” when he was indeed welcomed into our home.

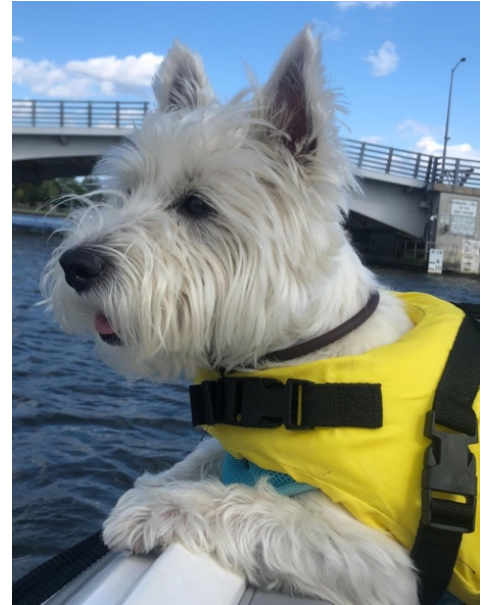
MacGyver by Amy Fleming

Hi! My name is MacGyver, but my new family calls me Mac when they're all serious, like they need me to come inside or they need me to sit. The rest of the time, when we're just goofing around, I'm Mackie, Macaroni, Big Mac, etc. etc., and sometimes just Dude.

Back in August, in just a few weeks' time I went from my original home that I'd known my whole life, to foster Lydia, to my new family, the Flemings. It was a lot, but I am finally relaxed and don't need to follow my new people all around the house all day. Now if I'm on my favorite chair in the front window looking for squirrels and my mom leaves the room, I barely notice! I still have some separation anxiety so they take me almost everywhere with them... for now. Outdoor dining? Yes, please! Boating with a life jacket? I'm still deciding. We are starting to work on short times where I have to be home alone, and I don't like it yet. But I love squeaky toys, my fenced in yard, meeting other dogs on my daily walks, and cheese (though mom only gives me small pieces).

I need to thank my new neighbor and rescue volunteer, Pam Nabbefeldt. She's the one who saw my pic and told my new mom about me! My new parents were still sad about losing their previous Westie, and were dragging their feet about getting a new dog, but Pam decided it was time! And she was right!

A huge thank you to Westie Rescue and all the volunteers and donors that have made it possible for me to have a new home!



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 wwnewsletter@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!

Check Out Our New Website

Wisconsin Westie Rescue has a new website. 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.

Smalls by Kelly Kirby

When we were filling out our Wisconsin Westie Rescue application, we paused at the question, "What do you do for discipline?" "We don't have any discipline," my wife, Carrie, said. "That's why we're applying." While I knew that she meant that we probably shouldn't be seeking out a fourth dog to go with our brood, I also took it to mean that we didn't currently have any discipline because we did not have a Westie.



Smalls (nee: Bode) is our first Westie boy. We'd previously had only girls - including two at a time for a few years which was harrowing - and we lost our most recent one, Ava, last October. Indeed, our house has been in unorganized canine chaos since she stopped telling us what to do, where to sleep, when she would eat, etc.

"Do you think boys are the same?" I asked her and she shrugged. "I'm just not sure we want to disrupt the boys we've got," she offered.

We picked up Smalls on August 17 thanks to his dedicated foster parents, Sue and Jim. Everyone was prepared for an adjustment period as our three introduced themselves. Slider (age 12, half Westie, half Shih Tzu), Harry (age 1, Scottie/Bernese mix), and Dodger (age 1, 14 breeds) are exceptionally friendly with no true alpha (see: Ava) and we genuinely had no idea how the roles would break down. Smalls did not waste any time letting everyone know he'll be alpha, but he will be the most laissez faire alpha in dog history. He growls like we are threatening to attack him and all of his ancestors when we pick him up, then he nuzzles into us and stays on our laps until we have the sheer audacity to stand up, at which point he will again audibly express his displeasure. Other than this vertical-induced crabbiness, he essentially makes no noise.

Indeed, he runs with his brothers, wrestles with them, and LOVES children. And, of course, he loves children - they shower him with the nonstop adoration and dropped food he deserves. He will sit on my lap in the mornings and I will rest my book on his back for a good hour or so. And like every Westie before him, he has carved out his place on the back of the couch where he will snore and dream to his heart's content.

He is a model citizen for older Westies with one exception: we've never seen a dog more interested in the pursuit of candy in our entire lives. Though we have not experimented, I am quite convinced that we could set a steak and a box of gummi worms side by side and that guy will go for the worms. We've even taken to calling him Milk Dud after a certain incident where he may or may not have helped himself to a bit of a snack.

Smalls is a pleasure to have in our life and we feel quite fortunate to have found him. We are honored to be his retirement home and love our roles as his servant adoptive moms. Thanks to WWR and Cheryl for helping to make it possible!



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

c/o Jean Anderson

4325 Tottenham Road

Charlotte, NC 28226