

# Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

## CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

Volume 3, Issue 1, March, 2008

<http://webpages.charter.net/ppddnn>

**Our Izzo** by Michelle Robinson

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### Happy Spring!

The days are longer and getting warmer. Whew, it looks like we've gotten through another winter. Everyone has a favorite season, but you can't beat spring for the feeling of rebirth and renewal. The days are brighter, the air smells clean, the moods' of those around us a little 'brighter'.

WWR has many things upcoming this year so I hope you take some time and read through this newsletter. WESTIEFEST 2008 is in the works, along with our Packer Ticket raffle, and our annual benefit thrift sale now held in Madison! All fun things for us humans that greatly benefit Westies and help us make a difference, one Westie at a time! Happy Spring everyone! ☺

### Elvis by Christine Sorger



*Elvis and his favorite spot!*

Greetings fellow Westie Lovers! I am so enjoying life with Elvis! It has been a little over a year since his adoption on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. We can't imagine being without him. He is the family favorite and everyone he meets he loves! He enjoys all of the attention he gets! He loves to play ball with anyone he can persuade to keep throwing the ball to him! He has made our life so happy!



We have been blessed for the second time with a wonderful Westie from the Wisconsin Westie Rescue!

This past December, our beloved Pearl, passed away. We adopted her from WWR in 2005, and had two wonderful years with her.

Laura Stafford, President of WWR, knew Pearl had passed and mentioned to me that she was fostering a wonderful, lively Westie. He had terrible skin issues and had chewed off about half his hair. We had been through this before with one of our other Westies, Lucy, so we felt comfortable dealing with it.

So, shortly after that conversation, and the pictures that followed, Izzo came into our home and our hearts. He is a wonderful, spunky, fun, naughty addition to our family. He is fantastic with my children and Lucy adores having a playmate.

Laura's vet had diagnosed him with a bacterial infection. Our vet also diagnosed him with a severe yeast infection. We treated both infections, added in another medication for itching/allergic dogs. We also changed his diet to a very restricted more non-allergic type food.

I am also pleased to report that he is now free from his infections and itching. His hair has grown back and he is a "normal" Westie.

We are so thankful that Pearl sent Izzo to us, to fill our hearts with joy. We also are so thankful to WWR for once again saving a Westie that needed to be saved, so that he could be adopted and be part of a family who loves and adores him.

*See editor's note on Pearl page 2*

**Editor's note on Pearl:**

Pearl was one of our special needs Westies that found a chance for a forever family with Michelle and her family. Pearl came into rescue February 2, 2005, after spending her first 6 1/2 years as a breeding female in a west central Wisconsin puppy mill. Despite her hard beginning at life, Pearl came into rescue a sweet, friendly little Westie but with a host of health issues that had gone untreated including a chronic eye infection that led to glaucoma and her eventually losing that eye, a very large bladder stone and a rectal polyp that required surgery. Also Pearl needed a full dental work-up including having several teeth extracted, all of her vaccinations, and had to be spayed. WWR paid for all of her vet bills but Pearl paid for the lack of vet care in a reduction in the number of years she had with the Robinson family. Although her time with the Robinson family was a brief two years, Pearl left big paws to fill and it looks like Izzo is the perfect guy to fill those paws!

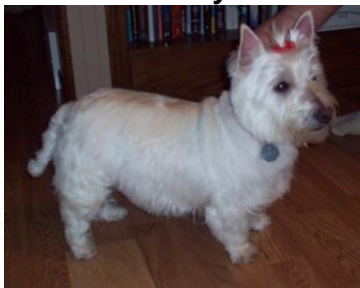
***Looking for a Forever Home***



***Opie (Ophelia)***

Ophelia Pearl (Opie) is a one-year-old female Westie who loves to play! She gets along well with other dogs and older children (10 and up), and is on her way to becoming completely house-trained. The previous owner had her “de-barked” – she does bark, but not very loudly. Her curly coat and one tipped ear give her a scruffy-but-cute look. Opie loves to run in the yard and spend time outside, so a fenced yard would be ideal. She knows the command “drop it”, but would benefit from an experienced dog owner who can work with her on basic obedience, such as sitting, staying and coming when called. She is spayed and up to date on shots, but requires “sensitive stomach” formula dog food to avoid digestive upset. And don't forget, you'll need lots and lots of dog toys! Opie is fostered in Appleton.

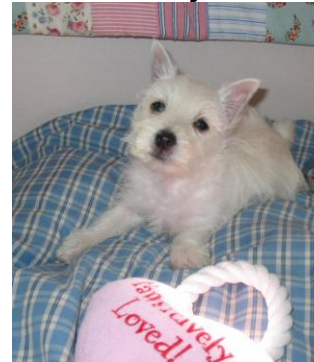
***Frosty***



Frosty is a wonderful little guy approx 5 ½ years old born 08/12/02. Also an owner turn-in, he is

small in size for a Westie, but makes up for it in weight! Currently on a weight reduction plan, Frosty loves his food and will sit up on his haunches and beg with his front paws bent. He is very good mannered-does not bark or paw or whine for food. He is very good at going in his kennel and sleeps all night without a fuss. He is very spunky and loves to play tug-o-war. He loves to be around other dogs and would really enjoy a canine friend at his new home. He is very quiet and just a delight. Frosty is fostered in Eau Claire.

***Ruby***



Ruby will steal your heart away! This 2 month old female Westie packs a lot of Westitude into her small body! Just arrived into rescue, Ruby appears 100% healthy and raring to go to a family that can handle an active young pup! Puppy Kindergarten would be a perfect start in her new home, and a fenced in yard a big plus! She is just starting house training and will need daytime potty breaks. Ruby is fostered in Eau Claire.

***Forever Homes Found!***

***Beethoven***, our little charmer from the last issue, is living the good life these days in Verona WI with his mom Donna! Our best wishes to you! Kay and Richard Strauman fostered Beethoven.

Izzo (Duke), a spunky little guy and owner turn in, finds himself with a family very near and dear to us! Michelle and London, previous adoptive family with WWR, found this little guy too hard to resist so he now makes his home with them in Ill with children Peyton and Brady, and doggie sister Lucy. See Izzo's story on page 1!

***Samantha (Sami)*** is a 9 month old Westie-Pomeranian mix surrendered to WWR due to Leg-Calve-Perth's disease. After her leg surgery and subsequent extensive rehabilitation, Sami made an excellent recovery and is doing quite well. She managed to not only have great care in her foster home, but also win their hearts as her forever home! Best wishes to Sami and her family, Pam and Mike in Appleton!

**Jingles**, appropriately named for a Holiday season adoption, found his forever home with his new family Jolene and Donald in Fitchburg. The Flemings fostered Jingles.

**Blue** isn't blue anymore now that he found his forever family! Blue joins Robert and Hope in Portage WI where we're certain he'll have all the love a Westie could hope for (not to mention toys and treats). Thanks to Susan and Greg Ver Plank for fostering duties!

**Joey** came to WWR as an 11 week old puppy. The person surrendering him bought him from a flea market because he looked so cold and sick. Poor little Joey came to us with kennel cough but also the sweetest disposition you could ask for! He had the good fortune to be fostered by Lori and Duane Tyson, and the good sense to choose them as his forever family! Joey joins his sister Widget in Superior.

**Truman**, a sweet little guy with special needs including allergies and severe ear problems, found his forever home with a person who cared and loved him so much as her foster dog she decided to make him part of her family. Best wishes to Truman and Ann Marie in Brookfield!

**Brody (1)**, an energetic little guy and owner turn in due to previous owner's health issues charmed his foster family, Michelle and Ryan so much that they decided he was meant to stay with them! No one can say these dogs do not have good taste! He joins his brother in Menasha WI

**Cassidy**, a 9 year old female came to WWR from a Minnesota shelter with a ruptured ACL requiring surgery. Cassidy and her foster mom knew they had something special between them and decided to change the term 'foster home' to 'forever home'! Congrats to Cassidy and Deirdre!

**Stuart**, a young male approx. a year old who came to WWR via the Adams County Humane Society, has made himself so comfortable at his foster home, Sue and Bill decided he should make it his forever home! Good choice Stuart!!

**Rosie (Snowy) and Roo**, our bonded pair returned to WWR after family hardship, found a new beginning with Deanna and David in Belvidere Ill. Congrats to the family and a big thank you to Jennifer Ipsen for fostering these two darlings!!

**Rudi**, our darling little 6 year old has found her forever home in beautiful Bailey's Harbor with her mom Malin. Our thanks to Tom and Kris Thommesen, and Wilson for fostering Rudi!

**Lucky**, lived up to his name when he found his forever home with Joan and Ed in Neenah WI where he runs a doggy daycare business with his new mom. Lucky was fostered by Anne Plouff in Milwaukee.

**Watson**, the darling 1 year old stray from the Rusk Co. shelter went from stray to hurray when he found his forever home with Kristi and Jeff in Argyle WI. The Pedens fostered Watson.

**Brody (2)**, a 2 year old owner turn in, didn't stay in rescue very long! Bev and Ray from Rhinelander were waiting for a handsome little guy and wasted no time making him theirs! Julie and Tom Risen fostered Brody.

**Skipper**, a 3 month old male Westie pup turned in from a mill near Thorp, found someone to shower love and affection on him when Kim made him an offer of a forever him he just couldn't refuse! Skipper and Kim live in Green Bay! Duane and Lori Tyson, with help from Widget and Joey fostered Skipper.

**Tinkerbelle**, our own little 'pixie', has found happiness in her new forever home in Madison with new mom Deb. Congrats to you both and thank you to Bob and Maureen for fostering Tink!

## 2007 In Review

Rescue groups get mostly males, almost never get puppies and most dogs in rescue are over three years of age. Right? All those things used to be true but in 2007 WI Westie Rescue found our statistics turned on their ears. We had a total of 43 dogs in rescue in 2007. Of these, the males barely outnumbered the females (22 males to 21 females). A third were babies or adolescents (16 were under 1 year of age, 22 were between 1 and 5 years of age and 5 were over five years of age). Our oldest rescue in 2007 was 9 years old and she was adopted to her new home after less than two weeks in rescue.

Our youngest rescues were the 6 puppies born to Mia after she came into rescue. They were fostered until the adoptable age of 8 weeks. Six came to us as part of three bonded pairs. Forty were purebred Westies, three were Westie mixes. Nineteen of our rescues were turned in to us by their owners. Four were sent to us from Wisconsin or Minnesota shelters. Fourteen were retired from the breeding mills and 6 were born to us in rescue.

Reasons for owner turn-ins ranged widely: financial hardship, divorce, health of owner, health of Westie, military deployment, failure to get along with small children. Some Westies came to us with severe allergies or requiring expensive leg surgeries, others just needed a few

vaccinations or a good grooming. Some dogs came to us with many cherished possessions: toys, beds, blankies, and rhinestone collars. Others came to us with a rope around their necks. We welcomed them all and changed their lives one Westie at a time.

Fostering, transport, home visits, reference checks, telephone follow-up calls, picking up dogs at animal shelters or at homes of surrendering owners. Each Westie in rescue represents hours of volunteer time. Thank you all for the time, love, care, and money you invested in 43 wonderful dogs in 2007.

## Is it A Puppy Mill or Reputable Breeder?

The term 'puppy mill' is in the news a lot lately but what does the term really mean? Many of us have a picture in our mind of what we think a puppy mill might be but is it an accurate picture?

Recently I attended a training seminar on effective lobbying techniques for pro-animal legislation put on by the Humane Society of the US. Everyone in attendance was 'pro-pet' although not everyone in attendance was there because of dog legislation issues. During the Q & A session following the presentation, one person in attendance asked the HS speaker 'what is a puppy mill'? She went on to say she had bought a puppy from a 'reputable breeder', but was appalled at the conditions of the facility her puppy came from. She went on to say how many other breeds this 'reputable breeder' dealt in (dozens), the way the dogs were housed (in a barn), and the condition of the puppy she bought (smelly). So how did this lady know the breeder was 'reputable'? The breeder told her so!

So is the question really what are puppy mills or is it what makes for a reputable breeder? If we better understand what a reputable breeder is, maybe we can better tell who the puppy mill people really are.

First of all, a reputable breeder specializes in one or two breeds of dogs, not dozens! They know the breed and not just how to whelp puppies. Secondly, a reputable breeder is happy to have you come and see their kennel and will proudly show you their dogs and talk 'Westie' at length! A reputable breeder will want to know YOU first before they place a puppy in your home. A reputable breeder knows the temperament of the breed and will help the family decide if the breed is right for them. Most reputable breeders require that you fill out an application before they approve of you as a home for one of their babies. Also, the reputable breeder will have you sign a spay/neuter contract before placing a puppy with a family. Does a pet store, an Amish farmer or a back yard breeder do this?

What do you get when you buy from a reputable breeder? A reputable breeder knows the health and genetic background of the dogs they breed. The puppies from a reputable breeder are not just cute, but pre-screened for health issues. A reputable breeder tests for genetic diseases that the AKC parent (Breed Club) recommends. Remember, a puppy being vet-checked is NOT the same thing as being pre-screened!

A reputable breeder won't offer to meet you at the 7-Eleven to sell you a puppy or hide from you when you have a question or concern about your dog! They will provide a full written health record for the puppy, and your puppy will be well-socialized before you bring him or her home. No breeder dealing with dozens (or more) breeds can possibly socialize all of those puppies!

You will probably have to wait for a puppy from a reputable breeder because they plan and pre-sell their puppies to approved homes. You will need to wait until the puppy is at least 8 weeks old before taking him home. If for some reason you cannot keep the dog, a reputable breeder takes back their dog because they care about what happens after the sale too. A reputable breeder's puppies are a labor of love for the breed and not just a 'sale'. These puppies matter to them!

Although most dog owners say they aren't looking for a show dog for a pet, reputable breeders often have champions in their lineage and pedigrees to back it up. When making a lifetime commitment with a puppy, it makes sense to know the dog comes from good stock and a part of that is knowing how her lineage "conforms to the standard" of the breed. This is done through AKC regulated events such as "conformation" Dog Shows. It takes a lot of money and is a labor of love of the breed.

Reputable breeders belong to their local or National AKC breed clubs, and while it's important to note that not all AKC registered dogs are all of good quality or approach the breed standard, red flags should go off for any dog that is not AKC registered. AKC papers do NOT guarantee a healthy dog. However, the AKC does regulate breeders and visits multiple litter kennels. They have rules and some of the larger puppy mills have been stripped of AKC privileges for noncompliance of these rules, hence the sudden rise of 'designer dogs' that skirt the AKC and have kept several mills in this state doing a brisk business. American Pet Registry (APR) and Continental Kennel Club (CKC) will send you a piece of paper for your dog which is meaningless.

Many of the dogs WWR has available for adoption probably originally came from a puppy mill since they don't have a reputable breeder wanting to take them back, but that does NOT make them

less adorable or less valuable to those of us who love them! My first Westie I bought almost 20 years ago came from a pet store in Eau Claire and had been born in Missouri!: home of some of the worst puppy mills! I hadn't even heard the term puppy mill until years after I bought Rosie! However, she was the light of my life and started my love of the breed. She died at age 12 from cancer, perhaps due to her 'poor breeding'. It's a shame she didn't live longer, but those 12 years were wonderful with my goofy little 'white devil'!

Currently I reside with 3 delightful Westie girls, the eldest I got from a friend from another state before I even heard of WWR, the 'middle child' comes from a reputable breeder (our own Lynn Sawyer), and the youngest is a WWR dog who according to her paperwork from her original owner, came from a Minnesota puppy mill. I love them all equally and wouldn't trade them for the world!

Why care about puppy mills if the dogs are all equally 'lovable'? The answer is simply these dogs are being bred without regard to their health, their parents' health or without regard to the terrible conditions they are living in. Whether the puppy mill is a large breeding facility, an Amish or Mennonite farm, or someone's back yard under the guise of being a 'hobby breeder', the bottom line for any mill is making money at the expense of the dogs. In the end, often these dogs pay for their beginnings in these mills with health issues that can show up at anytime in their lives. We love our dogs and they in turn love us unconditionally. We should care about where our dogs come from and how to make necessary changes to positively influence the health and well-being of those dogs living in mills. It matters for the health of the breed and the health of our finances to care for the dogs we live with. Being born in a windowless building, a barn, or a building 'out back', is no way to start a puppy's life, or to live your whole life as a breeding dog. Don't believe the people who do business this way and say that they are the 'reputable breeders'. Call them what they are: puppy millers.

### Ham & Swiss Dog Biscuits

1 C Instant Oatmeal	1 Beaten Egg
1 C Hot Water	¾ C Corn meal
1 TBS Ham Soup base	2 ½ C Flour
1 TBS Sugar	1/3 C canola Oil
½ C Skim Milk	½ C Shredded Swiss Cheese

Dissolve the ham soup base in hot water, add the oatmeal and let soak for 5 minutes. Add sugar, oil, milk, egg, corn meal and cheese. Mix well. Add flour and turn out onto floured work surface. Knead dough and roll to about ½ inch thickness. Cut into shapes and bake 35-40 min @ 350 degrees. Can use whole wheat flour too. Yummy!!

## Upcoming Events

### *Green Bay Packer Ticket Raffle!*

WWR member Brenda Dillenburg has generously offered 2 of her Green Bay Packer season tickets to one of this season's Packer games as our main prize for our 2008 WWR raffle!! We are waiting for the team's schedule to be announced but Brenda is choosing a September or October game date for our prize! Other football related prizes include a Packer jacket and gift cards to the Packer Pro Shop and Brett Favre's Steakhouse. For the not-so-football inclined, we have a custom made onyx & hematite bead necklace, 2 Guthrie Theatre Tickets, and several Westie themed prizes including several custom painted art items. Tickets are \$10.00 each and will be available for purchase starting in April. Watch your mailbox for more details once we get a date for the game! Here is YOUR opportunity to see a Packer game at historic Lambeau field!!

### *2008 Thrift Sale!*

Annette Nichols is taking on our Annual Thrift sale, historically one of our biggest fund raisers each year, and bringing it to a new location in Madison!! She is taking donations of new or gently used toys, books, tools, gardening supplies, pet items, kitchen ware, and nicer clothing items for this sale.

The Thrift sale will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, May 30-31. To arrange to donate your items or to volunteer to work at the thrift sale please contact Annette at 608-222-1194 or at 608-577-7895 or email her at [humafish@sbcglobal.net](mailto:humafish@sbcglobal.net).

### *WESTIEFEST 2008*

Back by popular demand!! Hold the date of Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> for Westiefest 2008 (WF08). Owners of Westies and Westie mixes are all invited whether a rescue dog or not! Lynn Sawyer has generously offered to organize our fest for this year. The location is back in Nekoosa and we will have games for the dogs, a rescue parade and a day to talk Westie! The Packer Ticket raffle drawing will be held that day as well (you need NOT be present to win).

This is a great event so if you've never been to a WF, try to make it! It's so much fun. For those traveling a distance, the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids allows pets. Details on WF08 will follow with the raffle mailing. Volunteers are needed both before and during the event! Currently we are looking for people to make Packer bandanas for the rescue dogs! Please contact Lynn at [weehaven@wctc.net](mailto:weehaven@wctc.net) if you can help either before or on the day of the event!

## **WWR Odds & Ends**

### ***2007 Holiday Bazaar Results!***

**A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone involved in our annual Holiday bazaar.** We had a wonderful turn out both in items donated to sell and with items bought! We broke all records with over \$2000.00 raised in two days! A special Thank You to Maren Books and Jan Doud for giving up several days' business at the Grooming Hut so we could hold this popular event at their location!

### ***eBay 2007 Holiday Sales***

Thanks to everyone who donated items or purchased items offered during our eBay holiday sales. We netted a little over \$300.00 for the season!

### ***2007 End-of-the-Year Appeal***

Another round of thanks goes out to everyone who sent in donations from our last newsletter's End of the Year appeal. We have THE most GENEROUS members in the world! THANKS!!

**WWR Newsletter  
1332 Armstrong Place  
Eau Claire, WI 54701**

## **We ♥ Hearing From YOU!**

Got a cute story about your rescue dog? Want to tell other Westie loving people about your furry family? Write on! Photos welcome and add so much to your story! Jpeg photos work nicely or we will scan your photo to use and return if you wish. Please send stories and photos to Barbara Peden at 1332 Armstrong Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701, or by email to [59barbie@charter.net](mailto:59barbie@charter.net). Deadline for next newsletter is July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008. ☺

### **Thanks!**

We'd like to thank Christine Sorger, Michelle Robinson, Lynn Sawyer, Annette Nichols, and Cheryl Cutsforth for their writing talents in this issue of our newsletter! ☺

