

# Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

## CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

Volume 4, Issue 2, July, 2008

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### Dog Days of Summer!

I just love summer even through the idea of enjoying the whole summer just lazing about went out several decades ago for me. However, just taking a half-hour here and there to just sit and 'be' is necessary to restore some balance to our hectic lives.



*Moment of Westie Zen*

Dogs have the right idea on how to approach life. My three Westies like to take nice long walks with no particular agenda (other than sniffing a hole in the ground where a gopher once lived), eat yummy snacks whenever available, and doze happily in a nice sunny spot to refresh their souls. I plan to take my dogs' advice this summer and just take a little extra time to enjoy life. Maybe this summer will feel a little less hectic and more balanced. At least I'll get to spend some nice peaceful time with my three favorite dogs. How much better can it get? Happy summer everyone!

### Beethoven: What a Classic!

*by Donna Decker*

I adopted Beethoven in November, 2007. He was 6 years on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. He got a new dog bed for his birthday, which he slept in for a month. He is a very special little dog. He loves treats, going to the doggie park and long walks, having his chest rubbed and car rides. He loves to chase anything from field mouse to herd of deer. He will follow me around the house until I take him to the

doggie park. He also makes little grunting sounds when he wants something. He only barks



*Beethoven is a perfect Love Match!!*

if he hears a strange noise or if a stranger comes into the yard. He never makes a mess or destroys anything. He sleeps anywhere he wants to, usually in the middle of the bed. It's fun to watch him fluff up the blankets with his front paws.

We took an 8 week intermediate training course where he met 3 new friends and learned some new tricks. He will do almost anything to please you. If I leave him, when I return he dances all around me and gives me many kisses. He is such a lovable little dog. I can't imagine life without him!

Doggies have little black noses like roses  
They have claws on their paws instead of toe-es.  
Doggies have feelings like you and me,  
They want to be fed and  
They want to run free.

### Stuart

*By Sue and Bill Bracken*

Stuart came into our lives in January 2008. We have been Westie foster parents for the past 3 1/2 years and Stuart was our newest dog to foster. We picked him up at the Adams-Friendship Humane Society where he had been turned in as a stray.

Stuart was very scruffy and very underweight. When we brought him home he did not eat well and was very lethargic.

After a check-up and treatment from the vet, Stuart started to gain weight and act more like a typical 2 year old Westie. Our youngest daughter came home from college on one of the weekends we were fostering Stuart and fell in love with him. She said we should think about adopting him. It

got us thinking, but we already had a 14 year old Westie named Minnie and we weren't sure about owning two dogs. Stuart won us over!!! After a couple of weeks of fostering him we put in a request to adopt and we were okayed.



Stuart (left) & Minnie (right)

We feel very lucky to have Stuart. He is such a wonderful little guy. He loves to play with his toys, go for walks and sit on our laps. He adds a lot of fun to our household. Even Minnie, our senior Westie, has become accustomed to having a youngster in the house. We failed fostering 101 and we're glad that we did!!!

### Tyson (Skipper)

*By Kimberly Shukosky*

Tyson came into my life a little less than 4 months ago. It may not seem like a long time, but the instant I laid eyes on him, as he ran around bossing the other puppies around, I knew it wouldn't take long before I wouldn't be able to imagine my life without him. I love every second I spend with him, even when he is wreaking havoc on my yard or my house.

It is so hard to pick one story to exemplify the day to day life with my little buddy. Would it be the first day he came home with me and crawled in the dishwasher? Or would it be his fascination with bathrooms (he tries to climb in the toilet, sink, and bathtub every chance he gets)? Maybe it could be how he will sit out in the yard stalking rabbits and squirrels until I drag him back in the house. Or maybe how much he loves the water?

He asks to go out every 20 minutes when he knows it is raining outside and then he just sits in the middle of the yard getting drenched until I make him come in and dry off before his next round. During the spring thaw, my backyard flooded and I had a couple of ducks that made my backyard a temporary home. Tyson would get so excited to go out and chase them that he would even wake me up in the middle of the night and pretend that he had to go potty so he could go play. This also resulted in him being soaking and muddy every time he came in from outside, but hey, what else are puppies for?

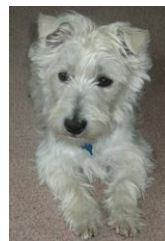
He is on the go 24/7. We take a 1/2 hour walk/run at lunch and then usually another 1 hour run/walk in the evening when I get home from work and he still has enough energy to drop his ball on my

face as I try to relax on the couch. Then he chews his bone or his ball for most of the night while I sleep. One thing I can say is, I'm never bored and I'm usually laughing when we are home together.

He is also the sweetest dog I have ever met (no bias here, I swear!) He never growls and rarely barks and will go along with just about anything.

When I get home, even with all his energy, he makes time to sit on my chest and clean my face.

He loves every person and dog that he has met while he has been with me. Walking him is always an adventure because he wants to say hi to EVERYONE. It also made his first vet visit quite the experience.



Tyson

I can't put into words how much Ty has added to my life. I doubt he would be the dog he is if the Tyson's, his foster family and namesake, hadn't taken him in. All the work they and their two Westie children, Joey and Widget, put into giving Ty the type of life he deserves are irreplaceable. I can't thank them enough. Ty can't wait to go visit them sometime and neither can I! ☺

### Special Report Westie Fest 08: A Grand Success!



The weather was perfect, the turn-out fantastic and the company was the best! Westie Fest 2008 hosted almost 100 people and 55 dogs at Riverside Park in Nekoosa WI this past June 21, 2008. In addition to the wonderful array of picnic goodies to sample, activities included a silent auction with many unique Westie items up for bid, a Westie grooming demonstration by Lynn Sawyer, a WWR parade of former rescue dogs, games for dogs complete with placement ribbons and prizes, and the drawing for the Green Bay Packer tickets! Many hearts were broken and hopes were dashed when the name of the grand prize winner, Anne Plouff of Milwaukee, was announced as our Grand Prize winner, but Anne promises to think of all of us when she attends the game this Nov with a friend! Anne is one of our volunteers who does so much for WWR including being a foster mom, doing doggy

transport, and doing home visits for prospective adoptive families. Congratulations Anne!

The complete list of winners and their cities include the following:

- Anne Plouff, Milwaukee: 2 tickets to a 2008 Green Bay Packer home game.  
Josh Schaub, Chippewa Falls: \$100 Guthrie Theatre gift certificate.  
Chris Anderl, Chippewa Falls: \$75 Packer Pro Shop Gift card.  
Ann Marie Lubert, Brookfield: Onyx & Hematite Ladies necklace  
Russ Stockel, LaCrosse: \$75 American Players Theatre gift card.  
Joe Clark, Milwaukee: Green Bay Packer Reebok Men's jacket size XL.  
Cort Jansen, Appleton: \$50 Brett Favre Steakhouse gift card.  
Ann Marie Lubert, Brookfield: \$50 Olive Garden gift card.  
Bev Keip, San Antonio Texas, hand painted Westie pendant, \$30 value.  
Amy Barrett, DePere, hand painted Westie pendant, \$30.00 value.  
Angelina Hoppe, Rhinelander: \$25 Petco gift card.  
Ron Lobner, Wisconsin Rapids: \$25 Famous Dave's Gift card.  
Missy Rudolph, La Crosse: \$25 Applebee's gift card.  
Ardena Sering, Wisconsin Rapids: \$20 Baker's Square Gift card.  
Mary Jones, Appleton: \$20 Perkins gift card.

Congratulations to all our winners, and a big thank you to everyone who bought or sold raffle tickets. We want to especially thank Brenda Dillenberg for the donation of the Green Bay Packer tickets! This has been one of our most successful fund raisers to date because of the interest generated by Brenda's gift! ☺

**SPECIAL REQUEST!! WILL THE PERSON WHO MADE THOSE ADORABLE WESTIE COOKIES FOR WESTIE FEST PLEASE SEND THE RECIPE TO THE NEWSLETTER? Requests for your recipe are pouring in!!!**  
Email [59barbie@charter.net](mailto:59barbie@charter.net) or call 715.832.6926!

## Foster news

### *Looking for a home*

**DOC** is a year-and-a-half old male Westie surrendered by an owner who needed more time to care for a sick family member. Doc is an Alpha-male plus and will need a family who can work with him on his behavioral issues. Doc will need obedience training and more work with potty training as well. The ideal home for Doc would be

one with a fenced in yard and NO cats. Doc is fostered in Madison WI.



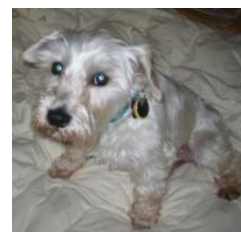
*Doc at Westie Fest!!*

**Reggie** is an 11 year old Westie male turned over to WWR when his former owner became engaged and wanted more free-time to travel. Reggie is a handsome boy who has had some adjusting to foster care. Despite being a senior, Reggie is quite healthy and hearty and appears much younger than his age. Reggie doesn't like vet visits or grooming visits but perhaps that will be less of an issue once he is placed in his forever home. Reggie is fostered in Altoona and his adoption fee is \$150 for a senior dog.



*Reggie*

**Julie** is a 4 year old Westie Schnauzer mix surrendered from a puppy mill. Pretty and petite at 11 pounds, Julie has several physical characteristics of the Schnauzer including her face and ears, but still a lot of Westie shines through as well. Julie will need a home that can work with her through her fears she brought to rescue from her tough beginning, but the effort will be rewarded by having this little snuggle-bunny to call your special buddy! Julie is 90% potty-trained so continued work on this is needed. Julie is fostered in McFarland WI.



*Julie*

## ***Forever Homes Found!***

**Buddy**, one of three Westies surrendered to WWR when the family faced financial hardship, found his forever home in a lovely historic home in Eau Claire. This adorable 2 year old male joins mom Ellen. Best wishes to you both! Buddy was fostered by Julie and Tom Risen.

**Sissy**, age 18 months, is the second of the 3 Westies surrendered together. Sissy found her forever home west of the Wisconsin border and is now living with her new family, Roger and Donna, in Red Wing MN! Sissy was fostered by Bob and Maureen Wilson,

**Tater**, 10 months and 'the baby' of Buddy and Sissy, charmed previous WWR adopters, Marlys and Bill of Homer Glen IL, into making him part of their family! Great work Tater! Tater was fostered by Carol and Cheryl Cutsforth.

**Daisy**, turned over to a shelter from a puppy mill has found 'forever home happiness' with her new mom Liz in beautiful Whitefish Bay! Daisy was fostered by Ann Marie Lubert.

**Frosty** found the perfect place for him to call home when he joined his new family, Doris and John in New Berlin WI. Frosty was fostered by Dawn and Mark Scheppeke.

**Laddie**, a Westie mix came to us from a shelter in MN. After a short stay in his foster home in WI, Laddie returned to his home state and is now making his forever home with Mary Ellen in St. Paul! Jennifer Ipsen fostered Laddie.

**Max**, the second of the year, scored big-time when he found his forever home with both kids and other dogs to play with!! Good choice Max! He joins his new family in Minneapolis, MN. Kris and Tom Thommesen fostered our pal Max-the-second!

**Trixie**, a little darling sent to WWR via another breed rescue group, knows a good thing when she sees it and convinced her foster family to make the living arrangement permanent! Congratulations Kay and Richard for finally failing fostering 101!!

**Ophelia**, our Olympic high-jumping champ, found her place in the hearts and (forever) home of Kathy and Dean in McFarland WI. Amy and Chris Fleming fostered Opie.

**Ruby**, another puppy surrendered to WWR this year, found the perfect family who will love her forever! Best wishes to Anne and Mack in Manitowoc on your new baby 'Lady Ruby

Tuesday'! Barbara, Blaine and Micaela pre-spoiled, I mean, fostered Ruby.

**Tinkerbell**, our petite little pixie, finds living in Madison with her new mom Deborah, a perfect place to make her forever home. Best wishes to you both! Maureen and Bob Wilson fostered Tinkerbell.

**Kimba**, another Westie pup surrendered to WWR, has found 'forever home happiness' with Kathy and Paul in Menasha WI. Kimba was fostered by Ann Marie Lubert who placed Daisy the night before picking up Kimba!

**Madison**, still another Westie pup, was found abandoned or lost in Northern WI. After a futile search by a vet clinic to find her owners, she was turned over to WWR where she found her forever home in Portage WI with new family Paula and Ralph. Laura Stafford placed Madison in her forever home.

**Henry**, another shelter turn in to WWR, came to us just starting treatment for allergies which caused major hair loss, a yeast infection in his ears and skin, and a gimpy back leg and missing back toe! If only he could talk we're certain he could write a book on his life! After starting on allergy meds, special medicated baths and a better diet, Henry started growing back his hair, was feeling better and ready to start looking for his forever home. Henry found it with his new dad Gary who was looking for a dog just like Henry!! Special needs truly do make special bonds! Henry was fostered by Carol & Cheryl Cutsforth.

**Max** the third! Max, a Westie Schnauzer mix, is finding life with John and June much to his liking!! Max now makes his forever home with them in Hartland WI! Max was fostered by Amy and Chris Fleming.

**Sophie**, the younger sister of Reggie, thought she was going to Westie Fest for the food but found her forever home too! Despite rumors Sophie was adopted by Donald Driver of the Green Bay Packers, it was actually Sandi from Washington Island just wearing Donald's jersey in honor of our Packer raffle!! Sophie was fostered by Julie and Tom Risen.

## ***In Memory of Honey***

*Editor's notes in italics: Most of our rescue stories end happily, however this story does not have a happy ending. Honey's story is heart breaking so proceed reading the following with tissues handy. Honey never got a chance at a typical 'forever home' through WWR, but thanks to Carol and Cheryl Cutsforth, he was granted release from his pain and did find a 'forever home' in their care and in their hearts. RIP Honey.*

## Honey

by Carol & Cheryl Cutsforth

WWR received an email from another rescue group asking if we could help a Westie at an animal control impound facility in MN. We contacted the facility and staff told us this Westie, found as a stray, had hair loss from untreated allergies, was underweight and was probably a senior. He had been seen by a veterinarian and was receiving medicated baths and treatment for ear infection.

The following Saturday, about three days after the first contact, we arrived to pick up this Westie. This poor dog looked like something from Animal Cops on TV. He was emaciated. Two thirds of his body was hairless and the skin looked like black leather. He was probably blind but had so much mucus in his eyes we could not tell for sure. His breathing was labored as if he had pneumonia.

We took this poor dog – who knew really if he even was a Westie – and took him to the U of MN emergency vet clinic where the veterinarian on duty confirmed what we suspected: he was dying. The last thing we could do for him was give him a name. We called him Honey. Carol held him in her arms while the veterinarian released him from his pain. We bathed him in tears and took him home to be cremated where his memorial box has joined those of the other dogs and cats who have crossed the rainbow bridge from our home. Honey came home.

May Honey be reborn to a home where he is loved and cared for as he deserved to be. My apologies if I have made you cry but Honey deserves our tears, in the end it was the only thing he had.

*Honey was a special case, and his dire condition should have been caught by the vet who saw him at the animal control facility. WWR has some of the best volunteers in the world. Many people working in shelters and other rescue groups comment on how quickly WWR responds to a Westie in need, but in truth, we wouldn't be able to pick up, transport and get the dog into foster care without committed, caring volunteers willing to step up and help when needed. While we cannot write the final chapter for any dog, we are always trying to do what is best for the dog even if it is, like in Honey's story, releasing them from pain and suffering. Quick responding, when we are called upon, saves lives and thanks to volunteers like the Cutsforths, we continue to write more happy endings than sad ones, and continue to make a difference, one Westie at a Time. ☺*

## Cool and Safe Summer Travel

Does your Westie just love car rides? Most Westies do! Taking our pal along with us in the car is a common way to spend a little extra 'quality time' and still get some of those weekly errands done. As you know, leaving a dog in a closed car on a hot day is never a good idea, but

did you know that leaving your dog in a car with the windows cracked open can also be deadly even when the outside temperature is a mild 70 degrees? A sunny day plus mild temperatures can cause a greenhouse-like effect in our cars that can lead to heat-stroke or even death.

A 2005 Stanford School of Medicine study investigated the effects of ambient heat and how fast temperatures rise inside cars. The study found that a car's inside temperature can rise as much as 40 degrees in one hour, and 80% of that heat builds up in the first 30 minutes. Despite cracking the windows open, the effect on the inside temperature was insignificant. How about running the air conditioning prior to parking the car? This study found using the air conditioning to cool down the car only delayed the temperature spike by approximately five minutes. Since a dog cannot cool down as easily as humans do, the dog will 'pant' to dissipate excess heat. If locked inside a closed car with only hot air to breathe, a dog can suffer from brain and organ damage in as little as 15 minutes! If the dog has a shorter nose, or is a senior dog, or in poor health, the damage from heat-related stress can occur even faster and can turn lethal sooner.

What are some of the signs of heat-stroke or heat-stress in dogs? Signs include:

- Rapid panting
- Glazed eyes
- Purple or dark red tongue and gums
- Lack of coordination (dizziness)
- Profound sleepiness
- Vomiting
- Excessive thirst
- Unconsciousness

What should be done if a dog is suffering from heat-related illness?

- Immediately begin steps to lower the dog's temperature by moving the dog to a cool place. If possible find an air-conditioned location. Begin applying cool ice packs or compresses to the dog's head, neck and chest area. You can immerse the dog in cool (not cold) water.
- Allow the dog to drink small amounts of water or lick ice cubes. Don't let the dog 'gulp' large quantities of water right away to help prevent vomiting.
- Get to a vet clinic ASAP.

The most important thing we can do though is be aware of the potential of heat-stroke even on cooler days. Don't be afraid to get involved if you see a dog in distress. Alert store managers, knock on doors or even call 911 if you see a dog in trouble. More importantly, get the word out before someone you know makes a tragic mistake and leaves their pet in a locked car. I know my girls will be a little miffed at me for leaving them

home more this summer, but at least I'll know they are safe in an air-conditioned home with the fan on for good measure! Keep cool and safe everyone! ☺

Information for this article from the HSUS and Stanford School of Medicine

## Upcoming Events

### **UPDATE! NEW DATE!!!**

This year's annual benefit thrift sale date has been changed to July 17<sup>th</sup>-19. Annette Nichols is handling this all-important yearly event in Madison WI. If interested in helping Annette, please contact her at 608-222-1194 or 608-577-7895 or email her at [humafish@sbcglobal.net](mailto:humafish@sbcglobal.net) .

### **2008 Holiday Bazaar!**

It's time to get those crafts ready for our annual Holiday Bazaar! We would love to have your crafts items to display and sell! The bazaar will be held Oct 31- Nov 1st at the Grooming Hut in Eau Claire WI. Contact Cheryl Cutsforth at [cutsfocl@uwec.edu](mailto:cutsfocl@uwec.edu) or 715.839.7831. ☺

## We ♥ Hearing From YOU!

Got a cute story about your Westie or a funny photo to share with our newsletter readers? Here is an example of a funny photo to get you going! My Westie Addy loves to chase birds and any

bushy tailed squirrel or chipmunk. Recently she learned to climb an apple tree in our back yard for a 'birds' eye view of the feeder! Was she a cat in a previous life?



How about you? Do you have a funny photo to share? Jpeg photos work nicely or we will scan your printed photo to share with our readers. Please send funny photos with a brief description of the picture, or if the writing muse strikes, full rescue stories to Barbara Peden at the newsletter address below, or by email to [59barbie@charter.net](mailto:59barbie@charter.net). Deadline for next newsletter is Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. ☺

## **Thanks!**

We'd like to thank Donna Decker, Kimberly Shukosky , Sue & Bill Bracken, and Cheryl & Carol Cutsforth for their writing talents in this edition of our newsletter! ☺

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