

Wisconsin Westie Rescue, Inc.

CHANGING LIVES ONE WESTIE AT A TIME

Volume 5, Issue 1, March 2010

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Thank You Thank You Thank YOU!

By Cheryl Cutsforth

Sometimes the Westies in rescue make us cry. When we see a broken mill mama for the first time we cry. When we meet an older Westie bewildered at losing his home and finding himself among strangers we cry. When we see a puppy caked in filth and terrified we cry.

Sometimes the adopters make us cry. When we see a 13 year old girl thrilled to find the love of her life. When we see a family that lost a beloved old Westie open their hearts to one of "our" Westies. When someone fails fostering 101 and adopts the Westie they fostered because they realize they just can't live without him.

In our supplemental newsletter we tugged at your heart strings to replenish the coffers so we could pay our veterinary bills. It worked! You replenished so generously. You made us cry again! Thank you for that. With donations of dollars and items for raffle prizes, silent auctions, bazaar sales, we are able to face the remainder of 2010 with heads, hearts and hopes high. What extraordinary Westie lovers you are. On behalf of the dogs we thank you!

Lily

By Sharon Malfroid

Lily, formally known as Ella, is our 4 year old sweetie. We picked her up from Eau Claire the end of April of 2009. She is so special words cannot describe her. She loves to cuddle, go for walks and go in the car. She sees us get our jackets and she sits by the door. She barks when people come over, but within minutes she wants to give them kisses. Lily follows me everywhere but she is terrified of the basement steps. She has no problems with the upstairs steps which are carpeted. She races up those steps after our granddaughters. She gets so

excited when they come to play! She loves to play with her pull toys.



Lily was fostered by Carol and Cheryl Cutsforth who did an excellent job. It only took Lily about a month to feel that our home was her forever home. I am so glad I looked into WWR. Lily is such a happy dog. She makes me smile all day long ☺

Mia and Company

It's hard to believe but it has been 3 years already since Mia came to WWR as a scared, pregnant mill momma from one of the infamous Thorp auctions. Laura Hager and her family fostered Mia and helped her bring 6 little puppies safely into the world. As it turned out, it was a very good thing

Mia found WWR for her final litter because her last delivery sent Mia to the vet clinic for an emergency spay; something she never would have had in the mill she came from. Today Mia and her pups have all found wonderful forever homes and live very happy lives. Here is an update on Mia and several of her offspring.

Mia



By Anita Ryan

June 2007, I adopted Mia! She had been fostered in Appleton by a wonderful family. I cannot imagine the life Mia had in the puppy mill. She had gone from surviving to thriving, much of it because of her foster family. Mia was pregnant with seven puppies when she left the puppy mill. She had six live

puppies & needed help from the veterinarian with the seventh one. She also had an emergency spay. Of course, there was a time of adjustment for Mia and me. She followed me around all the time at first. But, it wasn't long until she was exploring the house on her own. Mia is curious and we enjoy exploring outside. She likes most people right away, but it seems big men need to earn her trust. I suppose this is a leftover from her days in the puppy mill. Mia loves children. (After all she was a good mommy.) My grand daughters and Mia are now member of the "Mutual Admiration Society". Mia continues to have stress issues; I suppose this too is from her first two years in a puppy mill.

The reason I wanted to rescue a dog was because my husband passed away November, 2006. I found my home quite lonely and still. I knew a dog would brighten my life. Mia has certainly done that!

I had two concerns about leaving her when I couldn't take her with me. I haven't left her in a kennel; I prefer to ask my family and friends to take her into their homes. This has worked out beautifully. They too love Mia and really want to have her.

She enjoys playing with her stuffed animals and lying in the sun. She also likes to sit on my lap when I'm reading or watching TV. She doesn't like baths so much, but loves to be combed. I think she knows she's beautiful when she's all done.

Mia has come a long way. I like to say, "I rescued Mia and she rescued me". ☺

Mia's Little Miss Widget



By Lori and Duane Tyson

What can we say; she's been a God send since the day we drove 6 hours to pick her up. From the first time we laid eyes on her to present day she brings pure joy to each and every day. She's everything from a little rascal, a best friend, or a nurturing mother to every foster we bring home. Besides being an Alpha queen, she knows no fear, which is not always a good thing. At the training center one night my wife tripped over a wayward dogs leash and Widget went right on the offensive to protect her mother. And her small size does not deter her, she thinks she's 110 lbs and bulletproof. On her

tender side she loves to snuggle, nurture our other Westies and even loved our cat Samurai (an 18 pound Siamese that Widget thought was the perfect play toy when she was still tiny).

Running and play, she's got that down, we have the Westie 500 in our home and yard as Widget and Gizmo Joey (our other Westie) chase each other round and round. She's an excellent role model for our foster puppies, and has accepted every one into our home. She's helped teach them to play, chase squirrels, bark at rabbits, and showed them that us humans aren't too bad, in fact if you get on our good side there are a lot of good benefits, rubs & scratches, treats, good food and hey, don't be afraid of them. Just don't forget, I'm the queen of the house, Widget.

Did I mention she loves to travel? We rode 16 hours on a trip to a family reunion in Kansas and she was super, never complaining once. She also loves to go on walks, often wearing us out as she would walk all day if we could keep up. Ah yes if she could talk, she'd probably say, "Life is grand, I have two loving, well trained parents, a nice yard, my buddy Gizmo Joey, and hey they even bring other Westies over once in a while to visit for a time. Thank you Mia for bringing me into this lovely world."

Izzy

By Pam Hartling

Isabel (or Izzy as we affectionately call her). Where has the time gone from that tiny puppy that was lovingly placed in my arms almost 3 years ago? Today she is queen bee and big sister to our other rescue dog, Sophie. From the time she came into our home she has learned to love to travel. At the tender age of 8 weeks flying to Alaska snuggled in her car carrier underneath the airline seat to today...the sound of jingling car keys will have her running from anywhere in the house. Both girls love the beautiful fenced in dog park just minutes away from our house. They begin squealing with anticipation of seeing all their new playmates as soon as we pull into the park. One word describing Izzy: affectionate. More "cat like" in her habit of curling up around either my husband or my neck or sharing space with her sister at the foot of our recliner when we watch TV. We love sharing our home and hearts with our girls.

A Letter from Tucker

Dear Wisconsin Westie Rescue,
I am writing this letter for my mommy because I would like to tell you firsthand what a happy, happy boy I am. As soon as I joined the Kostreva household, I knew that I would be OK because I had

3 Westie brothers besides a new mommy (who I absolutely adore), & a new daddy (who I also love).



Tucker

Every day is an adventure with the pack. Mommy and daddy work from home, so the pack is together most of the time. We live in the woods so we are very busy chasing squirrels and chipmunks, with an occasional catch. We boys work well as a team. We go for walks every day in the woods, and we even have a pond. In the summer we go kayaking with mom and dad (we each have life jackets) and just like to hang out at the beach and chase each other up and down the shore.

I especially like winter because mom and dad take us snow shoeing with them, and we also go sledding and try to catch them on the sleds. We especially like to roll in the snow and deer poo. We boys are good buddies. Sunny is the oldest at 13 and ½ years old. Dexter will be 4 years old in March, and we are not sure how old Harry is, but he might be 3 years old. We were each rescued and we each have a story to tell about where we came from. We are so happy we were adopted and that we have each other to play with. Dexter and I play chase outside, but Dexter can't catch me because I am smaller and faster than he is. I like to get real close and then veer off at the last moment. It is very funny.



Left to right; Harry, Tucker, Dexter and Sunny

My best buddy though is Harry. Harry and I were best buds from the start. We cuddle together and like to do what mommy calls the "Westie Wrestle". We roll around and mouth each other and have great fun. All three of us like to play tug of war with the many stuffed animals that lie around the house. Sunny would rather just relax, though he does go for walks with us. Every chance I get I cuddle into mommy or daddy's lap. All four of us boys share the bed with mom and dad at night. I especially like to curl up real close to them.

I love my pack. Thank you Westie Rescue for giving me such a great start in life. Without you I wouldn't be enjoying the best life a Westie could have. Say hello to my first mom and siblings. God bless you, Tucker Kostreva

Brisbane

By Michelle Tonies

Our family adopted Mia's male puppy, Brisbane (pronounced Bris - bin, after the city in Australia) in June 2007. At the time we already had an older Westie, Sidney, who was also a rescue dog. When Brisbane was six months old we fostered a four month old Westie, Brodie. With only two months between the two puppies they became inseparable and it became clear to us that it would be too difficult to give up Brodie.

Brisbane is smart, high energy and is a very good watch dog who will alert us of any animals or people in the vicinity of our property. A few months ago, our older dog, Sidney, passed away and Brisbane has enjoyed becoming the alpha dog in our house. Brisbane loves chewing on rawhides, destroying stuffed animals, taking walks with the family and wrestling with his Westie brother Brodie.



Brisbane, Brodie and Sienna

In October 2008 we added a baby daughter, Sienna, to our family. My husband and I were uncertain of how the dogs would feel about the new baby. After Sienna began to crawl, Brisbane became very hesitant of the baby that was now able to chase after him. However, after a short time, Brisbane came to realize that Sienna was a very good source for getting food handouts, since then he is always following the baby around waiting for the next morsel to fall.

At seventeen-months, our daughter, Sienna loves our dogs and can even tell our two similar-looking Westies apart. However, since she is still learning to talk, she currently refers to both dogs as "Brobo," which is her combination of Brisbane & Brodie.

We all love having our Westies as part of our family and we are so grateful that we were able to adopt from Wisconsin Westie Rescue.

FOSTER NEWS

If you have been sitting on the fence wondering if it's time to add a new Westie friend to the family, don't wait much longer! Starting April 1st adoption fees are going up. Vet costs per dog last year averaged around \$500 so we are raising our fees to fall in line with other rescue groups. The new fees are as follows:

- \$350 for puppies 8 week-13 months old
- \$300 for dogs 13 months-3 years of age
- \$250 for dogs 4-6 years
- \$200 for dogs 7-9 years
- \$150 for dogs 9-11 years
- \$75 for dogs 12 and up

Bonded pairs of Westies are as follows:

- \$250-275 Adults up to age 9 (depending on the age of the dogs)
- \$100 Seniors age 10 and up

The good news is we have quite a few available dogs right now and we can honor the old fees through April if you indicate your interest in adopting a dog in rescue by April 1st. If you have previously adopted from WWR you need not go through the application and home visit portion again. Contact Cheryl at 715.839.7831 or by email at cutsfocl@uwec.edu and let her know you are interested in adopting. Cheryl will be able to give you an update on the dogs in rescue and then pay the old fee at the time of completing the adoption.

Looking for a Forever Home *Adoptions Pending*

These two dogs have adoption applications pending. Please contact Cheryl for their current status.



Kelsey is a young female Westie retired from a breeder in Wisconsin. Born Jan 2008, Kelsey is petite and pretty. Kelsey came to WWR in heat and thus her spay had to be delayed. Kelsey is fostered in Madison.



Willis is our 4 year old Westie male with a healthy dose of self-esteem! Willis came to WWR from a

shelter that was out of room so to us he came! Willis is fostered in Eau Claire.

Looking for a Forever Home



Sasha is a sweet 5 year old female special need Westie. Sasha was retired from a puppy mill last fall and came to WWR with reoccurring ear and foot infections. Sasha is under the care of the UMN vet clinic. Her infections have cleared up while her foot infections are still being treated. Sasha will be seen again by the specialist mid-April. Sasha is a darling girl with tons of love to offer the right family. She is fostered in Superior.

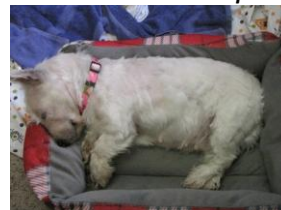


Royce, a small male Westie is estimated to be a year old. Also turned over to WWR from a mill, Royce is still learning how to be a family member but is getting the hang of things! Short and stout, this handsome boy will be a great addition to a Westie-lover's family. Royce would do well with a doggie sibling. He is fostered in Oshkosh.

Macy just entered rescue this week from the same mill as Kelsey after weaning her last litter of puppies. Also quite young, Macy is getting settled in her foster home in Mauston.

Maggie is a 4 year old female westie just turned into rescue as the newsletter went to press. Maggie is fostered in Green Bay.

The following three dogs recently came to WWR from a mill closing in the Thorp area. We are accepting applications to adopt, but none of them will be ready to go to their forever homes until mid- April or early May.



Ally says ' Time for a nap'!!

Ally is a 7 year old female new to rescue. She came to WWR from a mill closing earlier this month. Ally came into heat the day after coming into rescue and need to wait to be spayed in April; however, she is anxious to meet her special family so she can go home soon after her stitches are removed. Ally is fostered in Appleton.

Frankie is a 7 year old female Westie from the same mill as Ally. Frankie has been spayed and had to have all of her teeth removed due to rot and poor diet. Frankie is suffering from hair loss but a good diet is helping. Frankie had a cancerous tumor removed from her back leg but the vet gives Frankie a good prognosis. No further treatment is planned for her. Frankie is fostered in Eau Claire.

Johnny is a 7 year old male Westie from the same mill as the previous 2 girls. Johnny has 13 teeth left after his dental. He also suffers from hair loss and has one ear canal closed due to untreated ear infections. Johnny is fostered in Altoona.

Forever Homes Found!

Jake found his special forever home with Jean in Kenosha where he has a cute stuffed turtle friend. Carol and Cheryl Cutsforth fostered Jake.

Leland joins his new mom Connie in Milwaukee. Stephanie and Mike Stenz fostered Leland.

Sarah had successful surgery in March and has now found her forever family, Deb and Jerry in Minocqua. Thank you to everyone who donated to Sarah's surgery! Anne Plouffe fostered Sarah.

Benson (Deuce) found Molly and her parents, Ken and Karen and now calls Salem home. Tom, Kris and Wilson Thommesen fostered Benson.

Harvey (Duncan) joins Dave & LeAnn and westies Colt and Truman Too in Mantorville, MN. The Schepke family fostered Duncan.

Kate joins her new family Paula and Ralph in Portage. Jerry and Connie Wolfgram fostered Kate.

Candy calls West Bend home and Todd, Cheryl, Becky, and Adam her new family. Lana and Tom Olson foster Candy.

2009 in Review

By Cheryl Cutsforth, WWR Volunteer Coordinator
In 2005 we changed the lives of 23 Westies. That wasn't so long ago. And yet, by 2009 we had doubled our intake for the year. In 2009, the Westie girls outstripped the boys with 53% of the

incoming Westies being female and 47% being male. We had more babies than ever in 2009, with 33% being one year old or younger. Two to three year olds accounted for 20%, four to six year olds made up 38%, seven to nine year olds 15% and 9 to 11 year olds 4%. The largest category of Westies coming into rescue? Adults and even some puppies from the breeding mills accounted for 54% of our intake. Another 34% came from owners surrendering their Westies for reasons ranging from understandable to unbelievable. The remaining 12% of the Westies came from overcrowded and underfunded shelters desperate to find alternatives for a few of the dogs swamping their resources. The increase in females came from the increase in retiring Westie mill mamas. Old before their time, with rotting teeth and infected gums, ear infections and bad skin, they limped, cowering, into rescue and left for forever new homes with a sparkle in their eye and a wag of the tail. Thank you for the hours of time and tons of patience the foster families exerted to make that happen.

Why so many babies? Some came from mills that found the market falling for puppies. A bad economy, high unemployment, too many puppies available nation-wide and the news getting out about just what an ugly industry it is meant puppies just didn't sell like they used to. Some came from impulsive shoppers who bought that darling Westie in the window, then discovered that puppies pee, poop, cry in the night, chew up your stuff, and generally are not as easy to live with as a Westie Beanie Baby. Thank you to the foster families who took puppies anyway, despite knowing all that and having cheerfully been through it all before.

And as we said in the last newsletter, 2009 brought a record number of special needs fosters who required surgeries, physical therapy, special diets, twice weekly baths and multiple medications. Thank you to the foster families who offered to foster a dog for a few weeks only to hang in there as the months rolled by and the dog was still under vet care and not yet adoptable.

And to every foster family who fostered just a regular Westie but who fostered regular Westie after regular Westie, sometimes virtually back-to-back, thank you. You are the ones who made them feel special no matter why they had been tossed out on their cute little ears.

Not a one of you gave up, complained, had a temper tantrum, made a fuss or said "I can't do this anymore." I know you often cried when your foster Westie left for his new forever home. But you always came back for more. You are very special people and if the Westies weren't quite so self-centered, they'd be writing this instead of me.

WWR 2011 Benefit Calendar

Thank you to everyone who submitted photos for our full color 2011 WWR calendar! The pictures sent to us were amazing and it was difficult to whittle the number down to just 12 dogs plus our front cover collage. The calendar is at the printer now and we expect delivery the first week of April. Calendars are \$15.00 plus \$2.50 for First Class mail and can be ordered one of three ways:

1. By mail send a check payable to WWR % Lana Olson, 15213 W. Union Dane County Line Rd, Brooklyn WI 53521-9301.
2. Via our WWR Website. Go to <http://www.wisconsinwestierescue.com/donate.htm> and make a donation of \$17.50 per calendar ordered. *Please indicate the donation amount is for a WWR calendar in the 'note to seller' and email us at Lana's email address below to confirm the sale. We must have the information that the donation is for a calendar and not a for other rescue efforts.* Calendars will be mailed 3-5 business days after purchase.
3. At Westie Fest in Nekoosa. You can email Lana at ланаolson@wildblue.net to order your calendar(s) and pay at the time of delivery. No postage will be charged for calendars picked up at Westie Fest!

We are already planning for 2012 so send those photos our way! All photos must be a jpg file and in landscape format. Do not compress your files if possible! Many really cute photos could not be considered for a full-page this time because the resolution of the photo wasn't high enough when enlarged to the full 8.5 X 11 size. You can send photos or questions to 59barbie@charter.net.

WWR Sports Raffle!

We have some awesome prizes collected for our WWR sports-themed raffle including the Grand prize of 2 tickets to a Green Bay Packer home game! Other prizes include;

1. Aaron Rogers Football Jersey size XL
2. Brett Favre Vikings Jersey size L
3. Badger Men's Windbreaker Jacket size XL
4. Minnesota Wild Men's Jacket

Plus many more Green Bay Packer, Wisconsin Badgers, Brewers, Twins, and Cubs prizes to be awarded in the drawing. Over 24 prizes will be given away this year! Raffle ticket information will be arriving in your mail boxes soon so stay tuned! Drawing held at Westie Fest, June 19th, in Nekoosa WI. You do not need to be present to win.

Calling All Baraboo 11 Adoptive families!

We are soon coming up on our 1 year anniversary of our intake of 11 dogs from the huge 2009 puppy mill closing and we are looking for updates from all of our adoptive families! If you adopted one of the Baraboo 11, please send us a brief (or longer) story on your furry family member along with a photo. We'd love to hear how everyone is doing!! Send your stories to us at either the newsletter address or email at 59barbie@charter.net. Deadline for submission in the next newsletter is July 10th, 2010.

Upcoming Events

WWR Benefit Thrift Sale Madison

A thrift Sale to benefit WWR will be in Madison on June 11 & 12th. Good, clean and re-sellable items will be accepted. Feel free to pre-price your items. Contact Annette Nichols @ anichols81@gmail.com or my cell phone 608-695-9426, where a message can be left for more information.

WESTIE FEST 2010!

Westie Fest will be June 19th at Riverside Park in Nekoosa WI. Check the flyer out in this newsletter and send in your RSVP ASAP! Westie Fest costs \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per family and includes doggie prizes, beverages and Julie's famous picnic lunch! Mail the RSVP form on page 7 by June 10th and include a check made payable to Wisconsin Westie Rescue for you and your family to

Julie & Tom Risen

928 Windsor Forest Drive

Altoona WI 54720

Scheduled activities for Westie Fest include doggie games, general sales table, a doggie caricature artist, a bake sale and a fantastic Silent Auction! Some of the silent auction items include;

1. Autographed Donald Driver Jersey (yes it is autographed by THE Donald Driver)
2. Twins 50th Anniversary signed print
3. Westie Clock
4. Westie china set

And more fun sports and Westie-themed items!

We are accepting items for our bake sale table. If you have a summer weather-friendly baked item you'd like to donate, please bring it along the day of Westie Fest. You can pre-price your baked goods or we will have tags available at the event as well. See you at Westie Fest!!!

Hotel Mead for Westie Fest

Remember if you are looking for pet-friendly lodging for Westie Fest, Lynn Sawyer has requested

a block of rooms for us at the Hotel Mead. The Hotel Mead is located at 451 East Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids, and reservation can be made by calling the hotel at (800) 843-6323 or (715) 423-1500. Rates for Westie Fest are \$84 per night for a double room, and there is an additional charge of \$15.00 per dog. Be certain to let them know you are with Wisconsin Westie Rescue to get the reduced rate. Please make reservation on or before May 28th, 2010 to take advantage of this room rate. We have 10 rooms set aside for Westie Fest!

We are also planning an informal get-together Friday night on the lawn area of the Hotel where we can have the dogs attend. If you'd like to join us, let us know ahead of time so we are certain not to miss you! You can either email Cheryl at cutsfocl@uwec.edu or Lynn at weehaven@wctc.net or call Cheryl at 715.839.7831 and let us know you are coming Friday night. Hope to see you there!

Thanks!

We would like to thank the following people for their contribution to this edition of the WWR newsletter; Sharon Malfroid, Cheryl Cutsforth, Anita Ryan, Lori and Duane Tyson, Pam Hartling, Janice (Tucker) Kostreva, and Michelle Tonies.

**WWR NEWS
1332 Armstrong PL
Eau Claire WI 54701**

If you'd like to write about your life with Westies, please do! The stories are the best part of the newsletter!! Get inspired and send your story to us! Stories and photos can be sent by email to us at 59barbie@charter.net or by snail mail to the newsletter address. Photos are encouraged! Our next newsletter deadline is July 10th, 2010. ☺

WESTIE FEST RSVP \$5.00 per-person or \$10.00 per family Includes doggie prizes and Julie's famous picnic lunch!	
Name _____	
Address _____ _____	
Phone _____	Number of People Attending _____
Number of Dogs Attending _____	Adopted from WWR? _____
Mail to: Julie and Tom Risen 928 Windsor Forest Drive Altoona WI 54720	

DON'T FORGET TO RSVP FOR WESTIE FEST TODAY! RSVP FORM IS INSIDE THIS ISSUE!!
