



# Maryland Westie Watch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MARYLAND WESTIE RESCUE, INC.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2008

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*Maryland Westie Rescue, Inc., (MWR) was assigned Employee Identification Number (EIN) 26-0612180 by the IRS on August 3, 2007. MWR filed its Articles of Incorporation with the State of Maryland on August 13, 2007. Our IRS Form 1023 (Application for Recognition of Exemption - Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) was prepared on November 26, 2007, and is pending.*

## For the Love of Westies

Maryland Westie Rescue was founded in 2007 by a small, all-volunteer group of people dedicated to saving West Highland White Terriers (Westies) in Maryland and the surrounding states. In the short time we have been in existence, we have assisted nearly 80 Westies — thanks to the love and dedication of our volunteers, foster families, and those who have been willing to open their hearts and homes to a rescue dog.



Unfortunately, often through no fault of their own, a Westie needs to find a new home. We receive Westies from puppy mills, surrenders or strays who end up in animal shelters, families who could no longer care for them. Whatever the reason, many happy, loving

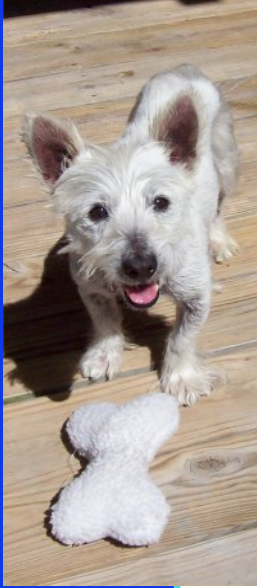
Westies need to find a new “forever” home. That’s our mission.

Maryland Westie Rescue does not have a shelter facility. Westies in our rescue program are housed in various foster homes or boarded at our vet's office. We review ALL of our pending applications to make the best possible match between the dog's needs and the prospective adopter's preferences. Our process is focused on the welfare of the Westie, as the needs of the homeless Westie are our primary concern. Our goal is to place each dog in an environment appropriate for that dog's background, personality, temperament and needs.

## Become a Founding Light!

Because rescued Westies often require medical attention as many have not had any recent medical attention in their previous situation, we are always looking to raise funds for veterinary care. Last year we rescued nearly 40 dogs at a cost of over \$27,000 in veterinary care. (See Page 2 for Ethan's and Colby's stories.)

With a \$100 donation prior to June 2008, you can serve as a Founding Light for the Maryland Westie Rescue. With your permission, as a Founder, your name will be permanently posted on our Website, published every year in The Westie Watch, and you will receive a special Founder's memento.



## Buddy's Buddies

Hi, my name is Buddy. I came into Rescue in May 2007. My previous owners gave me up because I was suffering from a condition the Doggie Doctors at Greater Annapolis Veterinary Hospital (GAVH) called "Malassezia." All I know is that it made most of my fur fall out and my whole body itch. As you can see today, thanks to Maryland Westie Rescue, most of my fur has grown back and I'm busy de-stuffing toys, but enough about me.

I want to introduce you to my new column. Each month you'll meet a Westie in

foster care or still undergoing treatment by the nice vets at GAVH.

This month's Westie is Ethan who came into Rescue in January 2008. Though Ethan's former family loved him dearly, they were unable to afford his treatment for Atypical Cushing's syndrome, diagnosed by GAVH and the endocrinology veterinary lab at the University of Tennessee.

After almost three months with a wonderful foster family, Ethan was recently adopted by his "forever family."

### Of Note:

Special thanks to donor **Bob Bahm** for sponsoring **Buddy's medication** for the past several months.

**Maryland Westie Rescue Board of Directors:**

**Angie Gittles, President**

**Vickie Claflin, Vice President**

**Diane Pelton, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Rescue Coordinator: Ann Piesen**

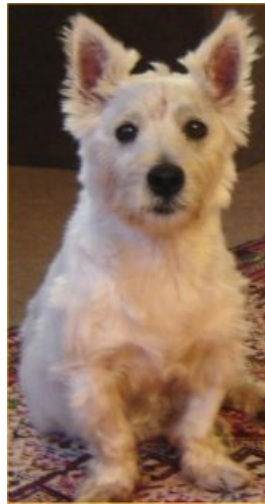
**Newsletter Editor: Phil Margolies**

## A Rescue Story

Each month we'll present the story of a rescued Westie who is now living with his or her forever family.

Maryland Westie Rescue got a call from an animal shelter in southwest Virginia concerning a stray male Westie with what appeared to be an old gunshot wound to the head for which they did not have the funds to treat.

Through the efforts of several wonderful volunteers, we brought Colby to the Greater Annapolis Veterinary Hospital (GAVH) for much needed treatment. While multiple x-rays did not reveal any objects in the wound, the wound was very deep and the infection reached into his sinuses. It constantly drained despite the best efforts of the staff of GAVH who cleaned his wound multiple times every day. Shortly after it appeared to be healing, it began showing



signs of drainage and infection again. Time for an MRI to get to the bottom of this. The MRI showed a deep infection and identified a foreign object in his sinuses (which the x-rays did not reveal) which would require surgery to remove.

Through all of this, and despite his apparent pain, Colby maintained a friendly and affectionate disposition. So much that after several months at GAVH, he was adopted by one of the staff members who fell in love with him during his long stay there.

Colby is thriving in his new home. He is very lucky to be alive, and we want to thank everyone who drove for hours to pick him up and help transport him to Maryland; the vets and staff of GAVH; his adoptive family; the Chesapeake Bay West Highland White Terrier Club, our donors; and WestieMed ([www.westiemed.org](http://www.westiemed.org)) who helped us pay for Colby's \$5,000+ veterinary bills.

# Mission Possible: 24 Dogs, 14+ People, 3 Days



The mission was simple, originally: retrieve four dogs rescued from a puppy mill in Pennsylvania. Then, Maryland Westie Rescue (MWR) learned of 20 more Westies coming in from a puppy mill in Iowa. In the 10 days before the actual "mission" (dubbed "Operation Wild White Rose"), we began arranging foster and even permanent homes for the incoming Westies, coordinating people and schedules, and coordinating with Greater Annapolis Veterinary Hospital (GAVH).

On Saturday, March 1, MWR sent three cars to retrieve the dogs (to western Pennsylvania, not all the way to Iowa, but still over 500 miles round trip!). Vickie Claflin, John Giamalva, Ann Piesen, and Phil Margolies arrived to pick up the dogs about 7 p.m., then started the trip back. Volunteers Don and Durie White would bring the remaining four back on Sunday. The first 20 Westies, including two puppies, arrived about midnight, disoriented and scared, at "Mission Central" (the home of Angie Gittles and Kevin Wil-

liams, who were out of the country) .

With the help of Jill Sopko-McCormack and KJ from the Companion Animal Rescue Alliance (CARA), the dogs were bathed and their dirty, matted fur clipped. About 3 a.m., Jill and KJ left with three of the Westies, and three exhausted MWR volunteers went home to sleep, leaving 17 dogs to spend the night with brave but sleep-deprived Ann. One demanding Westie girl, named Missy by the volunteers, became "puppy mommy" to our two puppies: Merry and Pippin. Of the others, one girl and the two boys spent the night in crates, while the rest were grouped into several X-pens.

The next morning, Phil took four of the dogs to Frederick, Maryland, to transfer to Mary Ann Kalwarski of Westie Rescue, Inc., and met Don and Durie bringing four remaining dogs from Pennsylvania. These four, plus four from the group that stayed overnight, went to GAVH. Meanwhile, we conducted our first home visit for a prospective foster family.

Back at "Mission Central," volunteers Gwen Law (an expert groomer) and Tara Wiktor-Linne groomed the remaining nine dogs, while Vickie and John provided water, clean pads, and

lots of love to the Westies. That night, Phil stayed with the remaining nine dogs.

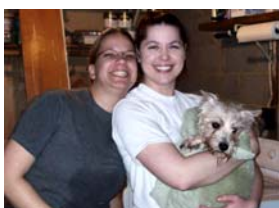
On Monday morning, Vickie and Ann returned to help care for the Westies until their afternoon appointments at GAVH. Volunteer Bob Kjellberg arrived at GAVH to help out as Drs. Elizabeth Daher and Norma Woodburn (and many of the veterinary assistants) examined the 17 dogs. By late afternoon, our first two adoptive families arrived to meet and adopt their new Westies, Missy and Slinky. Bob took twin sisters Macy and Capri to foster, while Vickie brought the two puppies to Gwen for fostering. Three of the dogs (having recently given birth and thus not able to be spayed) went to the Kennel, while the rest stayed at GAVH for a few days.

By midweek, nearly all the remaining Westies were at the Kennel. The following Saturday, March 8, Phil and Angie Gittles met two more adoptive families and several foster families at the Kennel. Both Bianca and Gwen went to their forever home, while the rest went to foster homes. Thanks also to our wonderful foster families: Barb and Tom Hoffecker, Lisa

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



*The first 20 Westies, including two puppies, arrived, disoriented and scared, at "Mission Central" about midnight.*



**KJ and Jill with a newly bathed rescue (left). Whisper poses for her picture (right).**



**Some of the 24 rescued Westies from Puppy Mills in Iowa and Penn.**



## Daisy Dishes



Daisy writing her column on her laptop Computer

We welcome your stories and pictures.

Address your comments, inquiries, and suggestions to [editor@marylandwestieresue.com](mailto:editor@marylandwestieresue.com)

My Name is Daisy and today I make my debut in the **Westie Watch**. In this column, I will dish to readers my thoughts, philosophies on life, and occasionally impart a tidbit of useful information.

I was thinking how apropos it is that that I should first publish at this time, as I attain my fifth year on March 22. If a Latina girl can celebrate a Quincinerra on her fifteenth birthday, can a Celtic lass have her literary coming-out on her fifth? I was curious to know what the Celtic word for "five" is, so I Googled it and learned that in Ancient Celtic, the word is "kwenkwe." I am hard pressed to improvise "kwenkwe" into a noun as festive sounding as "Quincinerra."

A brief bio: My people

adopted me in 2004. My "sisters" Chanel and Mystic, and my people, Don and Durie, comprise my pack. Both Chanel and Mystic are also rescues. I used to have a sister named Chivas (not a rescue), but she crossed the rainbow bridge in 2006. She was the erudite one of the pack. She occasionally speaks to me as a ghost-writer when I need a literary Muse. Chanel is the party animal of the family. She refers to our family of five as "one shy of a six-pack." Mystic's major distinction is her bark, which sounds like "a-roo."

Speaking of parties, this is quite the social season for us Westie Rescues. Recently, we attended a Mardi Gras party at the Clafin-Giamalva residence in College Park. Dougal, Lucy and Idgy were our Westie hosts and tried to show us

how to use a doggie door properly. All the invited Westies and their people were decked out in purple, green and gold Mardi Gras Regalia. In between the excellent Cajun food and beverage, we paraded around the local streets as the "Mystick Krewe of College Bark." Always the party girl, Chanel rode in our Radio Flyer wagon, which was decorated as a Mardi Gras float. We hear that the Maryland Westie Rescue members enjoy a good party almost as much as Chanel, so we are looking forward to similar events at which to schmooze. You may read about these events in other society columns such as the fashionable **Barkers' Bazaar**, but you read it here first.

Your dishing diva,  
Daisy

## Mission Possible (con't)

and Phil Lehner, Don and Durie White, Bea and Rich Greenberg, Kristen Tenney and William Chernicoff, Steve Tenney, and Irene and John Garner.

Today, most of the Westies have been placed into permanent

homes, including Cassanova (pictured left) whose foster family recently adopted him.

Since "Mission Possible," MWR has rescued 10 more Westies, including 9 from another puppy mill. So far this year, we have rescued over 40 dogs (compared to 39 between May and De-

ember, last year).

Despite the cost (over \$5,000!) and the time and effort required, thanks to the help of many volunteers and foster families, and the assistance of GAVH staff, CARA and WRI, MWR rescued 24 Westies who are now (or soon will be) in loving, "forever" homes.



# How can I volunteer?

**Foster a Westie:** Fostering involves caring for a rescued Westie in your own after its initially examination at Greater Annapolis Veterinary Hospital (GAVH) and when they go to their forever home. It is usually for a period of a week or two until the adoption can be arranged, though Westies with special needs or medical issues can remain in foster care for several months.

**Transport:** Many of our Westies come from outside the suburban Washington/Baltimore area, including Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and elsewhere. Often, we need to go to the Westie's location or meet the person delivering the Westie at another location, then bring the dog to GAVH for a check-up.

**Sales Table Help at Dog Events:** We sell Westie Memorabilia at dog shows, Celtic Festivals, and Dog Expos throughout the year. We also inform people about Westie Adoption and hand out brochures and applications. It is a great opportunity to show off your Westie and to meet other Westie enthusiasts.

**Creativity:** If you are craft savvy or can write a short article about your experiences with fostering or a rescued Westie, we can use your talents to create fundraising crafts and to contribute to the newsletter.

**Spreading the Word:** Help us to educate the public about the dangers of purchasing Westies or any breed from pet stores or non-reputable breeders. A pet store purchase supports puppy mills and often, non-reputable breeders who do not adhere to the breed standards (which keeps breeding-related health problems in the Westie population...a key reason Westies are given up).

## A Foster Mom's Adventure

By Lisa Lehner

You know the scene, the little kid standing on the doorstep of their home with the matted, scruffy mutt sitting next to them. "It followed me home, can we keep it?" That was me, I brought them all home. All with the promise of finding them a home, but they never left mine.

Then about 6 years ago I saw a show with these funny little white. That Christmas my husband surprised me with my first Westie pup, Max, and that's where my love obsession began.

For me, deciding to foster was easy. I loved Max so much I couldn't imagine not helping one of these little guys. After my first foster I was hooked.

Her name was Betty. She was so scared and timid. Everything was new for her. It was so neat to watch her evolve from this scared little puppy-mill dog to a sweet spunky little couch potato. Everyday she came a little further out of her shell, and she was just so happy to lay on your lap and be loved. Affection was something she knew little about, but eventually she tolerated the love and began to enjoy all the fuss we made over her.

The saddest day was the day she went to her new "Mom." I knew that to be able to help more rescues, Betty had to go to another forever home, but it was no less painful. I immediately asked for a new foster to fill the void. I can't imagine not having one in my home.

### How can I help?

1. Volunteer to provide Foster Care for a Westie in transition.
2. Help with transporting a Westie.
3. Volunteer your time at events (see the calendar for the list of upcoming activities)
4. Make a donation via PayPal or mail a check
6. Make In-Kind donations. (heartworm, flea/tick preventatives; x-pens, postage stamps, copy paper, etc)
7. See if your company or organization matches donation funds.

### IN MEMORY OF

**Marcie** (December 2007) - Lyme Disease not detected or treated by previous owner.

**Homer** (January 2008) - Pulmonary Fibrosis ignored by the puppy mill from where he came.



## Maryland Westie Rescue, Inc.

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**It's all about the Westies!**

## Get Involved, Join the Fun!

- April 27**      Basket Bingo at Bowie Elks Lodge #2309 (1506 Defense Highway, Gambrills, MD 21054). Doors open at 1 p.m., games start at 2 p.m. Cost is \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door. Call 301-474-0838 or email [capital-paws@yahoo.com](mailto:capital-paws@yahoo.com) for more information.
- May 4**          Wine & Fleas II at Linganore Winecellars in Mount Airy, Maryland. Visit <http://www.marylandwestierescue.com/wineandfleas> or e-mail [info@wineandfleas.com](mailto:info@wineandfleas.com) for more information.
- May 10**        Frederick Celtic Festival at the Urbana VFD Fairgrounds in Urbana, Maryland. Visit [www.sasmm.com/festival.html](http://www.sasmm.com/festival.html) for more information.

Check out all our events at <http://www.marylandwestierescue.com/calendar.htm>