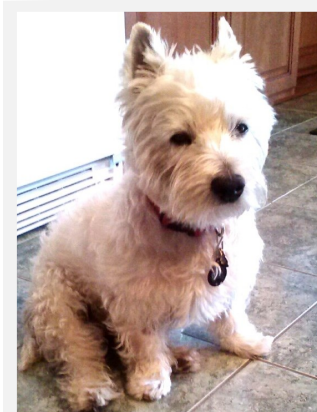




Happy New Year from Westie Rescue Network. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with friends and family. We have already had our first adoption for 2014! Twelve year old Rocky was relinquished by his family to a local shelter. The shelter contacted us because along with his age, this senior suffers from chronic dry eyes and will need to have daily eye drops for life. Rocky went to a foster family in Colorado Springs to allow him to adjust to the change in his environment and give us an opportunity to learn as much as we could about him. Although the foster family was not looking to add an older dog to their family, Rocky just fit in so well and seemed to know that he had already found his forever home. Happy New Year to Rocky and his new family!



We want to take the opportunity to share some year-end information and look forward to some plans for 2014. Our largest expense, 87%, continues to be veterinarian care for our dogs. Every dog that enters our program receives a veterinarian check up including vaccinations, spay/neuter, dental if necessary and ensuring they are microchipped. Many of the Westies in our program last year needed surgery, suffered from extensive skin allergies or needed other extensive medical care before adoption. We saw a decrease in the number of dogs that entered our program last year and that decrease has been seen in shelters and other rescues in Colorado.

As you can see from the information below, each dog we place leaves a shortfall of \$208. We are so thankful to our generous donors who continue to offset the cost of medical care.

Dogs placed: 26

Average medical cost per dog: \$495

Average adoption fee (varies based upon age, health): \$287

Many of you asked for more communication so we hope you enjoyed the increased number of newsletters in 2013. We have also added several new veterinarian clinics to our network to make it more convenient for our foster volunteers. This year you can expect to see a new and improved website and we are completing extensive revisions to our database. We are also excited to reveal our new logo which was created by one of our own, Denise Pachello. No doubt you saw that adorable Westie face at the top of this newsletter. Denise donated her time and talents and we are quite pleased with our fun new logo. Shortly we will be giving you information on how you can order shirts, tote bags or even a shirt for your Westie with our new logo.

## Continued from page 1

The board strives to make WRN a vital and strong organization and we are so thankful for all of you that support us by volunteering and donating to our cause. As the authorized Westie Rescue in the Rocky Mountain region we continue to remain focused on our mission to rescue and rehome the Westies in our care.

Wishing you the best in 2014!



## Pets on Craigslist

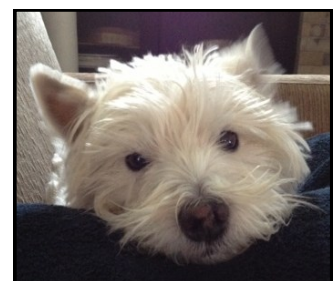
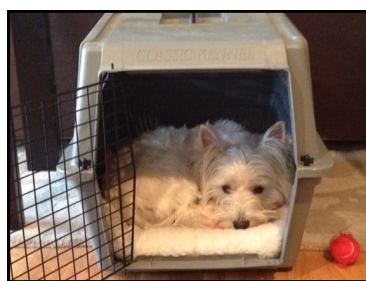
As Craigslist has become increasingly popular as a vehicle to find new owners for a variety of items, many pet owners are also using it to rehome their pets. Thanks to some of our volunteers, we are notified when someone in our area places a Westie on Craigslist. We contact the owner immediately to let them know that we are here just for that purpose and are willing to assist them. The owners can find themselves inundated with phone calls and emails which can be overwhelming. We give them a way to ensure their dog finds a qualified home.

Quote from a dog fighter: "The hardest thing is to get enough dogs and cats to use as bait during training. One good source is to check the local newspapers for ads that offer a pet dog or cat for free...My wife dresses up neatly and collects them for me. If that source is running dry, ...I just hire some local gang kids to fetch me dogs and cats. They scour the backyards and alleys and take whatever number of animals we need. They make sure that they leave the doors or gates open, so people just believe that they accidentally left them unlatched and that's how their animals got out and got lost." --

Unfortunately there are some individuals out there who are taking advantage of finding free pets on Craigslist for other purposes.

If you know of someone who needs to rehome a pet of any kind, please encourage them to contact a local rescue or shelter instead of placing the pet on Craigslist. This quote also reminds us that we need to be watchful of our pets at all times to ensure their safety.

## Candid Canines





## Who Do We Adopt?

An important function of WRN is to educate folks about our rescued Westies and to help ensure successful adoptions. Rescue has changed through the years and we want to ensure you are equipped with relevant information on our program and our dogs that you can share with those you meet who are interested in adopting.

The average age of a rescued Westie with WRN in the last year was 5.9 years of age. Adult dogs make wonderful companions but so many people that contact us are only interested in adopting a very young dog (2 years and younger). Many people contact us after they have recently lost a beloved pet and they want to ensure that they don't repeat that experience any time soon. Although we completely understand this and would love to be able to adopt out young dogs, the reality is that WRN receives very few very young dogs each year.



Westies find their way to WRN primarily from relinquishments by their owners. Of the 26 dogs placed last year, 22 came to us through their owners. This fact underscores the importance of reaching out into our communities to let people know of the important work of WRN.

The remainder of the Westies in our program were transferred to us from local animal shelters. We maintain important and close ties to our area's shelters to ensure that the Westie that might not otherwise be adopted can still have the opportunity to find their forever home.

Our recues are relinquished for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons are:

Behavior issues	48%
Health of owner	26%
Financial hardship	13%
Other	13%

These percentages are important in understanding that some of our Westies, while wonderful and loving additions to our families and lives, might take a bit more attention than the average dog. Our adopting and foster families all know, however, that the attention is worth the effort as our Westies desperately desire your love and affection.

Another important fact we want to share with the community is that we understand that owners may need to relinquish a Westie and we want them to contact us. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donors we are able to take in these Westies, give them the best care possible and find them a wonderful home. Our adopters have completed an application with us and have been interviewed and received a home visit before a dog is placed.

Thanks for helping us spread the word about our wonderful Westies.

## Westie Rescue Network Photo Album



### Making Proper Introductions

Several of us from WRN recently participated in a webinar produced by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) regarding multiple dog households for shelter and rescue workers. The webinar speaker was Dr. Patricia McConnell and was filled with great information for anyone that plans to add another dog to their home, fosters dogs or even already has a multiple dog household. The focus of the webinar was the importance of making proper introductions between dogs. A recording of this 90 minute webinar is available on the [ASPCA website](https://www.aspca.org/training-and-research/training-and-research-services/webinars). Click on Training and then Recorded Webinars.



Mark your calendar and join Westie Rescue at the Colorado Springs St. Patrick's Day parade on March 15th. Please contact Mark Ianacone at [mark.ianacone@gmail.com](mailto:mark.ianacone@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



COLORADO SPRINGS ORIGINAL

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE DOWNTOWN COLORADO SPRINGS

# Join the Fun!

**West Highland White Terriers  
and their people!**



**Saturday,  
March 15th, 2014  
Downtown Colorado Springs  
Parade starts at Noon**



Come march with the WRN, the Parade starts at Noon at Tejon & St. Vrain Streets, runs South on Tejon, and ends at Vermijo where we will disband.

1. Please keep everyone off the lawns in the Staging area. We are intruding on these residents and we want to leave a good impression!
2. No Alcohol allowed. This is a fun, family event!!
3. No Throwing of Candy or other items from parade carts.
4. Bring a plastic newspaper bag and please pick up after your own dog.

We will inform you as to our order number and where we need to meet and line up when we get that info, sometime around the 1st or 2nd week in March.

*Please contact Mark to let him know who and how many are joining the fun:*

[mark.ianacone@gmail.com](mailto:mark.ianacone@gmail.com)

