



Westie Rescue Update

February 2013

It Takes a Village

Although I am not a fan of overused phrases, there is no more concise way to describe how a rescued Westie finds a new forever home through Westie Rescue Network (WRN) than *It Takes a Village*. So much work goes on behind the scenes and we are so thankful to have the wonderful and dedicated volunteers who each play a vital role in the process.

Brady was purchased by a grandmother for her young grandchildren who soon tired of the novelty and responsibility of a puppy. Brady was relegated to the backyard and was deprived of the loving and caring home he so deserved.



Fast forward 4 years to a call from a Newfoundland rescue volunteer. She had come across a Westie that badly needed our help. Ruth Stricker, our intake coordinator arranged for him to be picked up by Hollie Trow, one of our transportation volunteers, and taken to the veterinarian for a complete medical evaluation.

This poor little guy had on a heavy choke chain, needed to be shaved down because he was so matted and required several baths because he was so filthy. The medical evaluation revealed that he had whip worm, needed dental work and was in need of a healthy meal.

Foster parents, Gary and Geri Christon, picked up Brady the week before Christmas and began to nurse him back to health. They discovered that despite the fact that he probably had never been on a leash, he did quite well and absolutely loved going for daily walks. He also enjoyed playing with his

two Scottie foster siblings. Gary said that Brady was very smart and easily learned new routines such as sitting by his crate and waiting patiently for his night time cookie.

About the same time, Jim and Robin Anderson, who were recent empty nesters, decided to add a dog to their family. They did their research and decided a Westie would fit their lifestyle. A coworker of Robin's suggested they contact WRN. In their initial email to us Robin wrote, "We are looking for a dog that can share in our lives, that will be smart and alert, and active. We have room in our hearts and our home for a special dog that needs some love."

Multiple volunteers are involved in processing applications including those who conduct phone interviews, reference checks and home visits.

WRN thought that Brady would be a great fit for the Anderson family. A few days later Jim and Robin met Brady, his foster parents and foster siblings. Brady went home that day to start his new life in his forever home.

Jim and Robin tell us that when he first got to them, he was a bit skittish. It seemed apparent that he had been physically disciplined before



and they needed to earn his trust. That has happened and he is a happy dog now. "Brady especially enjoys his daily walks and exploring

the neighborhood. He loves to play with us and his toys (anything that squeaks are his favorite). At night he is content to sit between us on the couch and watch tv. He fits in so well with the family that it feels like he has always been here. We love him!"

Continued on page 2.

Thank You Carolyn For Your Many Years of Service

Carolyn Foley, one of the founding members of WRN, is retiring from the Board after countless hours of service. The organization and the multitudes of Westies she has helped are all fortunate to have had her on their team. Although Carolyn may be retiring from the Board we are grateful that she is still going to assist us in a volunteer capacity. I talked with Carolyn recently about Westie Rescue's inception and the changes she has seen through the years.

By virtue of being a member of the West Highland White Terrier Club of Greater Denver I was

approached to help "rescue some dogs, including 3 Westies, from El Paso county, where they were trying to close a puppy mill. The possibility of helping was brought before the club, it was decided it would be worth trying, thus Westie Rescue was initiated by a few members in 1990. In 1992 we felt it necessary to incorporate and form some guidelines. Martha Smith, Joe Downey and myself were the officers of Westie Rescue Network, Inc. We three, with occasional help from others who were also interested in Westie welfare, proceeded to undertake the tasks of receiving, transporting, fostering, and placing.

I am sure many of you can relate, some of this work was fairly easy and some quite difficult. This has been a learning experience, as Rescue has evolved from 3 to well over 70 dogs some years, the need for more volunteers, as well as more

structure to manage a growing "business". Though, I don't care for that term in referring to re-homing our little white friends. One must face progress. We are fortunate to have many more caring volunteers, with many qualities of expertise to take on the computer age, and the seemingly ever growing need. Many miles have been traveled and many hours spent, with the reward of feeling, in some small way, I have been a part of providing some Westies an opportunity to live out their remaining years in a new, loving, well cared for environment.

Meeting people with the same interest has been rewarding, as well.

Remembering a few of the dogs Bob and I fostered and/or placed, Finnigan was a paper thin little waif, who wanted to play ball every waking moment. Sugar, who's Mom shed many tears having to give her beloved Westie up for adoption. Of course, there was Bubbles, ie Fergie, who came from a "dog collector", who was most difficult to place in a

new home. After several weeks of fostering she also became most difficult to part with. She was a delight, and went to a wonderful new home.

I prefer not to dwell on the few we've been unable to "save" and focus on the many who have been helped. As I retire from the Board, it is with my gratitude to the many loving volunteers, including the Board of Directors, in the hope that Rescue will continue to thrive and flourish as long as there is a need.

Carolyn Foley

**Thank you Carolyn
for the passion,
leadership and
dedication you
have brought to
Westie Rescue for
over 20 years!**

It Takes a Village, continued from page 1



We also can't forget those villagers who generously donate the funds to subsidize the medical bills for each dog that comes through our program. Maybe it was not an entire village that was involved but as you can see it takes many folks and their talents for each and every dog we place.

Thanks to all of you for helping get Brady and many other homeless Westies in their forever homes!

Hello to Westie Rescue!!!

Mary and I wanted to send a couple of pictures of our Rescue babies playing in the snow near our cabin in Southpark. We rescued Andy (3 years) and Lucy (formerly Lacee, 1 year) this past fall. We could not have asked for two better pups...they have become best buddies, and we are so grateful we made contact with Westie Rescue!! Thanks again!!!

Allen Henson



Thank You Donors!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations!

Tom Carriere & Margot Bradley
Jeffrey & Gayle Crawford
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Thank You Donors!

WestieclubofAmerica.com

This website contains extensive breed information as well as valuable behavior and training advice.

Westiefoundation.org

The Foundation focuses on Westie health concerns.

Cafepress.com

Anything you want emblazoned with a Westie you can find here. Items include cards, clothing, art, jewelry, drinkware and much more.

SAVE THE DATE - May 31st

For the annual Westie Rescue Parade

The annual parade takes place during the WHWTCGD Speciality Show in conjunction with the Flatirons Kennel Club show at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont. Westies will be judged starting at 9:00 a.m. and the rescue parade will take place around 10 a.m. All participants in the parade will be asked to submit a short biography for their dog. We will send out more detailed information closer to the parade. WRN will once again be hosting the hospitality table if you are interested in helping organize or staff the table please contact hollietrow@earthlink.net.

WHWTCGD will be hosting a dinner on the evening of May 31st to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the club. The dinner will be held at the Best Western Plaza Hotel in Longmont. The evening will consist of cocktails, dinner and a live auction. For more information please contact Dixie Sutton at dixiesutton@aol.com.