

## Featured Adoption Story



### 2017 January/February Issue

#### Adoption Story

*Joss – A Blessing Beyond Expectations*

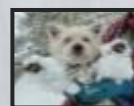
A Letter From the President of WRN

A Tearful Goodbye to a Special Friend

Special Thanks To Our Donors

#### Westie Health

*6 Tips to Keep Your Westie Healthy During the Winter  
Wet Months*



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2017 Calendars & Note Cards

westie rescue network



## Welcome to the New Year

A new year has begun and Westie Rescue is well positioned to continue our mission to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome West Highland Terriers.

With this New Year we have a new look to our Newsletter – but will continue to showcase

Westies looking for their forever families and follow-up adoption success stories.

If you would like to tell your Westies adoption story, please contact us at:

[Westie@westienetworkrescue.org](mailto:Westie@westienetworkrescue.org)



### Joss – A Blessing Beyond Expectations

Joss hit the jackpot with a fantastic forever home, and found a new best friend with Little Girl Westie named Annie. From the moment Joss and Anne met it was as if they had known each other all their lives. They play non-stop. Joss usually let's Annie be the Alpha, but can turn the tables sometimes in the throes of their play. They truly enjoy each other's company and the companionship it provides.

Annie has also been a great little mentor to Joss and Joss a great little student. "Joss quickly learned to go thru the dog door and to climb the dog stairs to reach the top of our bed where we often find them sleeping close to each other," says Howard, Joss and Annie's pet parent. Often before feeding the two will gather in the kitchen sitting side by side until the bowls hit the floor. When Joss is not following Annie around he is at Howard's or Christie's side and will quickly move to the sofa or the Lazy-Boy chair if either one is sitting there. Christie says that "Joss has become a member of our family seemingly overnight."

When Joss first came to Howard and Christie he was diagnosed with a liver condition. "Since Joss came into our home, we had him examined by our vet and other specialists, had numerous tests, and complicated diagnoses. The cause of his condition has yet to be defined. The good news is that Joss does not have Leptospirosis, however the Vet has not ruled out any of the following: 1) hepatitis, 2) copper hepatopathy, 3) cirrhosis or 4) cancer". Christie says that "if you had not known Joss had a condition, you would never know." Gordon and Christie have put Joss on a new diet of Royal Canine Hepatic, sweet potato, brown rice and salt-free chicken broth (low sodium, fat and protein) which he loves and devours each morning and evening without issue. They have also begun giving him a new medication to further support his liver functions.



Joss & Annie

Although Dr. Donelson indicated on his chart of 10/16/16, that Joss "would not be a good adoption candidate," Howard, Christie and Annie feel blessed to have adopted Joss and make him part of their family. In the coming year, Joss will undergo more testing with a possible laparoscopic biopsy to further define the condition if his liver enzymes. Howard and Christie are dedicated to ensuring Joss has a happy and healthy life. Needless to say, Joss has won the ultimate prize with such incredible, loving Pet Parents.

Howard and Christie both say they are so pleased that Westie Rescue has seen them as having a loving home and trust that they will do the right thing as adoptive guardians.





# *A Letter From The WRN President*

## *- Gene Bourque*

### ***Dear Friends of Westie Rescue,***

I hope your Holidays were filled with family, friends and fun. From all of us at Westie Rescue Network (WRN), Happy New Year!

2017 will mark our 27<sup>th</sup> year in operation. Founded by Martha Smith and other members of the West Highland White Terrier Club of Greater Denver (the Club) in 1990, WRN has rescued, rehabilitated and rehomed over 920 Westies. 2017 looks to be a most challenging year for us.

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**Continuing a trend that started in 2013**, almost all shelters and rescues in Colorado are continuing to see a steady reduction in the number of dogs that are coming through their doors. WRN is no exception; our 2016 surrenders being at their lowest level in many years, 16 dogs. The number of dogs we adopted out in 2013, '14 and '15 was 34, 26 and 20, respectively. During this 4 year period the average age of the dogs received has been older with a consequent increase in the average veterinarian costs to get them ready for adoption. Fortunately, due to our incredible unselfish donors, we have been able to maintain our high standards for veterinarian care and increase our cash reserves for expected future medical cost increases. With so few Westies being surrendered in Colorado the average wait for one of our dogs is approaching one year. Over the last 2 years the number of inquiries processed for each dog placed is between 5 and 6. The major task our Board faces going forward is finding more dogs for the many high quality inquiries we receive. I will keep you posted through the year on the steps we are taking to reduce the waiting time for our dogs.

With only 16 dogs surrendered to us in 2016 the current need for more foster homes is reduced. Consequently, the project to update our foster training program has been delayed as we are blessed to have a core group of very experienced foster families who took care of last year's needs. But, creating an updated training program based on the latest media technology remains an important goal for us. I can assure that work on a new foster training program will continue.

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**On a more positive note** we continue to make

progress on the installation and use of file sharing software that provides us with a repository (the "cloud") to store all our documents in an electronic format. For example, we have been able to break the Adoption Inquiry process down into several well defined steps, each handled by a different volunteer. This reduces the workload for any one volunteer and provides us with the current status of any inquiry as soon as a file is updated. Over the coming year we expect all our other corporate records to be added to the system as we define the necessary access and other security controls.

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**We have strengthened our Board and our Operations team** with some wonderful additions /changes. Martha Smith has been able to give up her Adoption Coordinator duties because Mary Westdorp finally decided to retire and take over the Adoption duties. Thanks to Mary, Martha can now concentrate on Government and Shelter Liaison. Colorado continues to enhance its animal protection laws and Martha remains on the advisory committee that works with the state legislature.

Sarah Doud, our newest Board member, is our new Intake Coordinator and gave up her duties as our Facebook Administrator to Marlene Armfield. Sarah and Marlene are both doing a great job and we are blessed to have them both. Happy to report that Lori Searls remains our Newsletter Editor.

Please understand there are many more wonderful and dedicated volunteers I have not named in this letter. They are spread out from Wyoming to New Mexico and from Delta to Rye Colorado and many places in between. They all play a valuable role in making WRN the success it has become. I can't thank them enough as I am regularly overcome with emotion for the care and love they give the dogs that come into our care. I can assure you that WRN is in good hands, is in a good financial position and that the entire WRN team is keenly aware of the public trust we must maintain.

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***Thank you all for being part of the WRN family.***







## *In Memoriam*

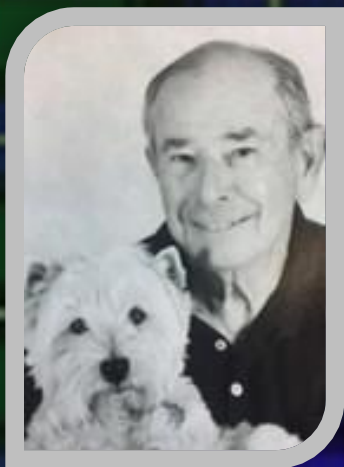
### *A Tearful Salute to a Special Person*

*Edited from The Daily Camera on Jan. 13, 2017*

On January 9, 2017, the world of rescued Westies' and other breeds lost a great friend, Edwin Harris.

Ed was 91 when he passed away earlier this month. Originally from Brooklyn, NY. he served in the Signal Corps of the Army during World War II. Back home, Ed spent his career in management at Ball Aerospace. Ed and his wife Elsie shared a loving and rich life together until Elsie passed away in 2000.

Ed and Elsie traveled the world together and shared their love of life, friends and the companionship of their beloved dogs over the years. Ed had a great love for animals. He volunteered with Westie Rescue Network and adopted dogs from the rescue and the Humane Society of Boulder Valley over the years.



## Edwin Harris

Ed and his dogs were always side by side, he took them everywhere and gave them all an incredible life of love. Ed is an inspiration and will be missed.

All Westie Rescue Members

A dog judges others not by their color or creed or class, but by whom they are inside. Ed, you will be sorely missed.



*We Thank You So Much!  
For Your Donations!!*

**Without Your Generous Financial Support, Westies Just Like These  
Would Not Have Found Forever Homes Filled With Love!!**



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*Thank you for your Donation*

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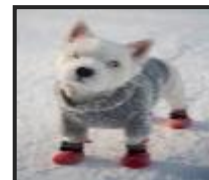
## 6 Grooming Tips - To Keep Your Dog Healthy During The Cold, Wet Months

There's a common misconception that dogs don't need to be groomed, or only groomed minimally, over the winter months," Alyssa Hill, DogTown Groomer, told iHeartDogs. Hill says none of this is true, In fact, in many ways, grooming over the winter months becomes even more important to the health of your dog than at any other time of the year. Long, wet, matted hair easily makes a cold, wet, and infection-susceptible dog."

So what kind of grooming should you be doing right now to keep your dog healthy? Hill provides these 6 Tips to help your Westie through the cold winter months.

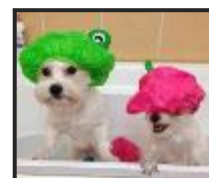
### #1 – Protecting Dog Paws From Winter Weather

You can minimize problems such as cracked pads, irritation, infections from snow, salt, mud, rain, low temperatures, and gravel simply by wiping the feet dry after every outing. Keep a towel handy by the door, and make feet wiping routine. Be especially watchful for snow or mud balls between the pads.



### #2 – Winter Bath Time

Dogs sometimes need more grooming in the winter. Longer, fluffier coats tend to mat, and walks through mud and snow are messy. If your dog is indoors to keep warm, you may be especially eager to bathe him to keep "doggie" odor to a minimum, but that is a personal preference. The dog must be completely dry before going outside, because a wet dog is more likely to become chilled. This is especially true of small breeds . Prolonged exposure to cold results in a drop in body temperature, or hypothermia, and it is most likely to occur when a dog is wet. If you normally allow your dog to air dry, consider blow drying to speed the process.



### #3 – Winter Haircut

Some owners believe that giving a dog a haircut during cold weather compromises the dog because it needs its coat to keep warm. While this is true, it's also true that most pets don't live outdoors all the time (nor should they!); they're usually snuggled up with an owner in a centrally heated house. House dogs don't need to rely on long fur and a thick undercoat for warmth, as wild animals do. It is all right to give your dog a haircut in winter. If you're concerned about your dog's being cold on outings, consider a longer trim or a doggie sweater.







## 6 Grooming Tips - To Keep Your Dog Healthy During The Cold, Wet Months

### #4 – Moisturizing Baths!

Bathing your dog regularly is one of the most important things you can do for your dog in the winter, as a clean dog is a happy, healthy dog. During the cold winter months, many of us suffer with dry, chafed, and scaly skin due to the combination of cold air, wind, and interior dry air from our forced-air heaters. Even though they're covered with a layer of fur, our dogs also feel the drying effects of winter, so it's even more important to use a non-drying, highly moisturizing, gentle shampoo and conditioner. The dry heat found in many homes throughout the winter season can be tough on our skin and hair, so apply dog-friendly lotions and conditioners to ease the scratchiness and irritation.



### #5 -Brushing

For untrimmed dogs, an extra-thick winter coat needs regular brushing. Keep your dog's coat in top condition by brushing daily to remove tangles, dirt and dead hair, and to increase skin circulation and distribute oil.

A dog's winter coat can hide trouble, such as lumps, bumps or sores, which is another good reason to keep brushing regularly. As you brush, feel and look carefully for signs of illness. Call your veterinarian if you see anything suspect.



### #6 – Nail Trimming

Your Westie's nails will most likely need to be trimmed more regularly since they aren't outside running and romping to wear them down. Check weekly, and once you hear that "click-click" on the bare floor, you'll know it's time to trim.



These tips will help keep your dog beautiful and healthy,  
no matter what the season!

Adapted from [Kristina Lotz](http://iheartdogs.com/6-grooming-tips-to-keep-your-dog-healthy-during-the-cold-wet-months/), iheartdogs.com

<http://iheartdogs.com/6-grooming-tips-to-keep-your-dog-healthy-during-the-cold-wet-months/>

All images from Google Images

## *It's A New Year!*



*The 2017 WRN Calendars & Note Cards  
Are Available for Sale!*

**Who Doesn't Love a Westie and Who  
Doesn't Love the 2017 Calendar and  
Note Cards.**

The New Year is here and WRN  
Calendars and Note Cards (set of 12)  
are always in season. For only \$15 each  
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today!!



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[www.westierescuenetwork.org](http://www.westierescuenetwork.org)**

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## *Your Donations Save Lives And Gives Life*



*Missy*

Missy was a breeder dog that was rescued from a puppy mill last year. She spent most of her time locked in a cage and was used to sleeping sitting up. Never knowing what green grass or snow was, she now delights in running in the back yard and giving herself snow baths in the winter.

Thanks to the Westie Rescue Network, Missy now has a wonderful home, loving pet parents and a zest for life.

### Contact US

P.O. Box 884  
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720-36-1212  
or visit us @  
[www.westierescuenetwork.org](http://www.westierescuenetwork.org)

### WRN Board Members

Gene Bourque

Jan Humphrey      Linda Clibon

Hollie Hunter      Martha Smith

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