



## 2018 January/ February

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by Marlene Armfield

westie rescue network



### WRN Board Members

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Jan Humphrey   Linda Clibon  
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# a Westie love story

## Mary and Annie

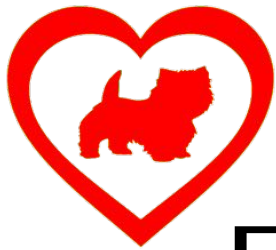
Mary Westdorp is the Adoption Coordinator for Westie Rescue Network. In 1997 she contacted WRN, to adopt a rescue. Martha Smith was the sole person at WRN at that time. Six weeks later, Martha called to tell her about Bruce, the perfect dog! He was 4 then, and the Westdorps had him until he passed at age 13. At that time Mary thought, "I'll not get another dog, but I will help foster." Sure! **Mary has had a total of 12 fosters**, and several "foster failures." The next dog after Bruce was Duncan. They had him only six months, when he died quite tragically, choking on a chicken bone that had been thrown in their backyard. After that, Mary said "I am not going to get another Westie, just foster!" And she meant it, but along came Maggie, and just at the perfect time too. Mary had lost a good friend to cancer, and Maggie had lost her owner to cancer as well. So they adopted Maggie. Next was Rosie, a crazy puppy that Maggie helped train to be a Westie, showing when to sit still and stare at the squirrel, and when to pounce or bark at it, as well as all of the other things that make Westies unique. **"Yes," says Mary, "I've had many "foster failures" but I've loved each one."** :) When she and her husband Gary ended up with three dogs of their own, they took a break from fostering. . . for awhile.

In 2016 Mary retired from teaching and wanted to get back to fostering; so she contacted WRN. Gene Bourque contacted her with an interesting proposal, the position of Adoption Coordinator. After much thought, she accepted, and placed her first dog at Christmas 2016. She says "I love to get input from the foster people. I take to heart what fosters say. . . I feel they have the right insight, and I love matching the right dog to the right home."

Along those same lines, and with the theme of "a love story," Mary has recently had another "foster failure," Annie. Last April Gene asked Mary to foster this special little Westie. She had serious environmental and food allergies, and a skin condition known as atopic dermatitis. Mary says she looked like a hairless dog, bald, and underweight, and had been under the veterinarian's care at Aspen Commons for two months. This was going to be a fairly long term foster. Mary researched online, and talked to folks in the Westie network to find out about this disease. She started Annie on daily bathing with special shampoo, special meds, and a special diet. At first Annie was very shy, but as she began to feel better she started to socialize and play more. In July, they were camping and someone in the campground admired her and said they had a Westie named Annie. Annie means favor, grace, prayer. The name seemed to fit much better than her foster name: so they started calling her "Annie," and started talking about adopting her. They adored her! And now their older Westie, Rosie was helping train Annie, just as Rosie's big sister had done with her. Everything was falling in place, When all 8 of Mary's grandchildren came for a visit there was another "test." One little granddaughter, Julia, was afraid of dogs; so they weren't sure how Annie would do. No worries! They totally bonded. In fact Julia would not leave Annie alone, and Annie let her pick her up and love her!

"How could we not adopt her?!!" asked Mary. They officially adopted her September 29, on her 2nd birthday. She went from a little sick dog to a forever home with a new name. "She looks like a real Westie now!" Yes she does!





# another Westie love story

## Ellen and Kya

Kya is the sister to Annie (previous story). Here is her story from her foster mom, Ellen.

Calla came to us as a hairless little girl that had already spent several weeks at the veterinary clinic. She was a very scared sweetheart. I had fostered a previous Westie for 8 months that also had allergies, but not nearly as bad as Calla. She had a very intensive care regime with daily baths, lots of meds, and watching for any scratching and biting. When she first came to us she was nothing but thick scabs all over. I started off putting baby socks on her feet, and made several sets of pajamas for her and her sister, Annie, in Loveland. They worked great and were really cute. She made herself at home with my two male Westies, and started using the doggie door to be outside.



It took us several days to figure out how to pronounce her name. After checking with Martha Smith, who did the intake for her, we found out it was pronounced "Kya" which was the Hindi pronunciation. She really responded to us when we got it right!

She decided she loved her new mama and would lay on my chest as I watched tv in my recliner, but would go straight into her kennel when I said it was bedtime. During the 8 months we had her, she had a few setbacks, but as she began to stop scratching and her hair grew back, we started to look for a forever home. I really felt we needed to find a home that had dealt with a needy puppy since she would require a lot of care for the rest of her life. We had a couple in mind that has adopted from Westie Rescue before; so we set a get together date. I had started fostering for Westie Rescue with a mind set that I already had my two Westies, and wanted to place the fosters in the best permanent homes possible. Though I fall in love with every one of the fosters and cry when they leave, Kya just seemed to crawl into my heart more than any of the others. The closer it came to meeting the new parents the

harder it became, and I was very upset about having to let her go.

During this time we had a Westie Rescue get together and I took all three of "my" Westies to visit the other rescues. While talking with everyone and telling them Kya's story, I cried when everyone said I should adopt her! My husband, Brad, and I had been talking about what was required to be able to keep her. I went home that evening and we talked about it. It was fate. She was meant to be a member of our family. So our foster home has grown by one and everyone we are a happy family!



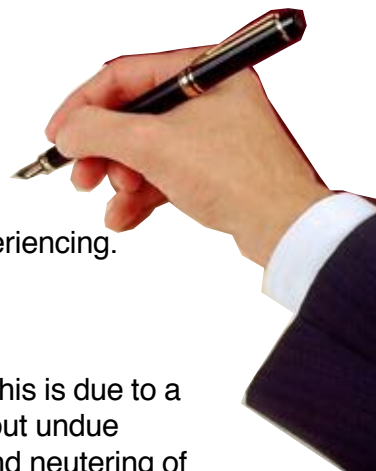
Annie and Kya met again  
at a Westie event



# A letter from our President ~Gene Bourque

Dear Friends of Westie Rescue,

As Westie Rescue Network (WRN) enters its 27th year of service please accept the sincere wishes of our Board of Directors and all our wonderful volunteers that you experience a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018. The purpose of this letter is to share with you the "State of WRN" based on the key metric trends we have been experiencing.



As regard the dogs that come into our care we see three dominant themes:

- The number of dogs we are rescuing has been steadily decreasing. We think this is due to a generally better economy that allows people to maintain ownership of their dogs without undue financial pressure. In addition, Colorado legal requirements, regarding the spaying and neutering of canines, continues to reduce the number of dogs needing rescue. The average annual number of dogs we adopted out in the 2005 to 2009 timeframe was 53. The comparable number for the 2010 to 2014 timeframe was 47. The comparable number for the 2015 to 2017 timeframe is 15.

- The age of the dogs coming into our care is steadily increasing. In addition, because older dogs (greater than 8 yrs.) typically take longer to place, the amount of time in foster care increases. We actually need more fosters to insure that we can give fosters a break between dogs. Fosters are the life blood of WRN. The approximate average age for the dogs adopted out in the 2005 to 2009 timeframe was 4.2 yrs. The comparable age for the 2010 to 2014 timeframe was 4.9 yrs. The comparable age for the 2015 to 2017 timeframe is 7.5 yrs.

- As the average age of our dogs increase so do the related veterinary costs. Our average veterinary cost per dog for the period 2005 thru 2009 was \$367. The comparable cost for the 2010 to 2014 timeframe was \$639. The comparable costs for the 2015 to 2017 timeframe are expected to be approximately \$1,180. The primary reasons for this increase are the nature of the tests we regularly run on older dogs and the physical condition of these dogs when they come to us. All older dogs are routinely given a full blood panel and an ultrasound (seeing too much cancer) in addition to their heartworm, fecal and urinary tests. In addition, over 90% of all the dogs we receive require a full dental. And we can't forget their inoculations and the microchip. 2015 to 2017 time period has also seen us performing a number of expensive major surgeries that can result in lengthy and expensive rehabilitation regimens. We are able to provide excellent medical care for our dogs due to the professional and generous Veterinary professionals who work with us every day. We cannot thank them enough.

Finally, we cannot do any of our work without the amazing donors who come forth year after year providing the financial support that allows our incredible volunteers and Veterinary professionals to do their jobs. WRN is so blessed to have such wonderful people who love and support our efforts for these amazing little white dogs. As WRN moves forward please know we hold dear the trust and confidence you have in us. Thank you for believing in our mission and our people.

Warmest personal regards,  
Westie Rescue Network, Inc.  
Gene Bourque  
President

# Spotlight on Volunteers

## Dianne Veno

### Our Own Calendar Girl!



The Westie Rescue Network 2018 calendar is the 3rd one Dianne Veno has put together. She has a degree in journalism, and says "I like the creative process." However, true crime is her first love, and she is a victim advocate for the sheriff's office. She currently doesn't own a Westie! However, she is a dog lover, and has had six dogs (2 Westies). She currently owns Chester, a Dashaund/Maltese mix. "I do love Westies," she says. And that is obvious when you see the calendars. I think she is non biased when she makes the selections.

Becoming friends with people through the pictures submitted and getting their story is the most rewarding aspect of her job. The worst, is disappointing people because their photo wasn't chosen, often not because it wasn't a great shot, but because it wasn't in focus, or was the wrong size or format, or submitted late. She has been known to go to their home to take the picture for some folks, rather than disappoint them.

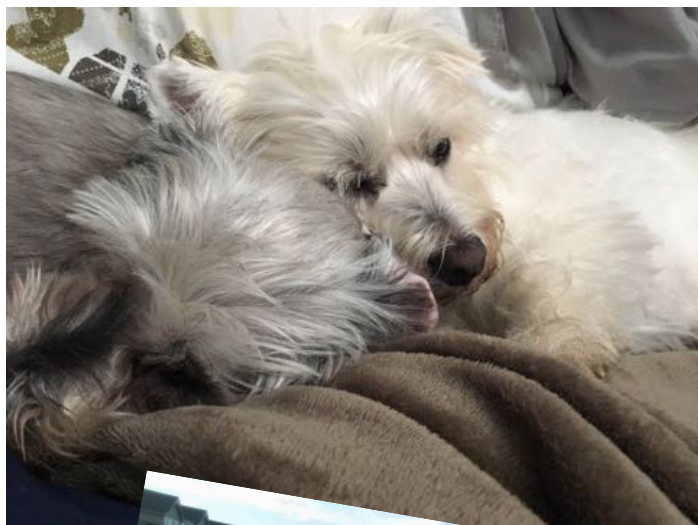
Start snapping away for next year's calendar now! Dianne will be accepting photo submissions for the 2019 calendar all year. Send to [contessa5360@aol.com](mailto:contessa5360@aol.com) Be sure they are in landscape format (wider than it is tall) and high resolution.



***It is not too late to order a 2018 WRN Calendar.***  
Go to <http://www.westierescuenetwork.org>  
choose Fundraising/ Calendars



# Westie love stories from Facebook



## Westie Nation

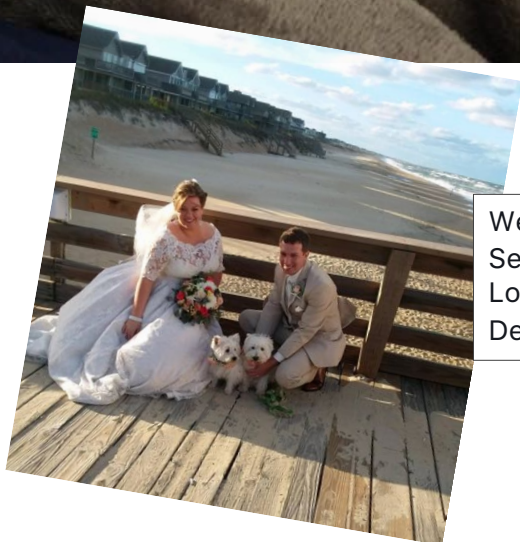
From Molly & James from Millburn, NJ

Here's a story for everyone:

Two years ago, I lived by myself and decided to adopt a dog. I came home with the most pathetic submissive senior schnauzer at the shelter (debarked, missing fur and teeth etc). Took him to the dog park everyday. On the fifth day of having him, into the dog park walked this little white princess followed by her rather handsome walker. After three weeks of "accidentally on purpose" going to the park at the same time, I went over for a puppy play date.

Now the Westie is going to be my flower girl and the Schnauzer my ring bearer. Tava the Westie has taught Jaeger the schnauzer to be a dog again.

It really is all about the little white dog.



Wedding Paws is a Pet Service - Event Planner.  
Located on the beach at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina



Dougal (a Westie) that lives in Livingston, West Lothian in United Kingdom has his own Facebook page and recently on Westie Nation he shared his special wedding to Kizzy.

From Dougal's Mum: *In June this year Dougal was diagnosed with Westie lung disease. And I joined another group wld Facebook group. That's when I discovered that there was laser treatment and inhalers etc. I also met Kizzie's Mum on that group as Kizzie has wld as well. It turned out Kizzie came from Scotland the same as me. And there is only one clinic that does the laser treatment. So I met up with June, Kizzie's Mum at the clinic. And the idea came from there. Putting Kizzie and Dougal together. The full story is based on fact and fiction. My main idea was to raise awareness about Westie lung disease.*



From Sue a foster for Westie Rescue of Missouri



# Spot the Westie



Thanks to:  
Mary Ellen for her photo of  
Derrick on the stairwell, and  
Louise for her photo of  
Alf at River Run



## From the Editor

Send your Spot the Westie photos, and any other pictures, stories, and ideas to [marmfield@aol.com](mailto:marmfield@aol.com)

May/June issue will include a special page for our Westies that have gone over the Rainbow Bridge. Send names and/or pictures for submission.

**JANUARY****Walk Your Pet Month**

Dogs get both physical and mental stimulation from walks, while you get a dependable walking buddy to help with your New Year's get-healthy resolution.

**FEBRUARY****National Pet Dental Health Month**

Do you brush your dog's teeth? Vets recommend it--on a *daily* basis if possible. Plaque and tartar build up in your pet's mouth just like they do in yours. Schedule routine dental cleanings with your veterinarian to help keep your pet's teeth in top shape year-round.



## You shop. Amazon gives.

Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Westie Rescue Network, Inc. every time you shop--at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), they will donate a portion of the purchase price to WRN.

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