



2020 November/December

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At this season of Thanksgiving, we are thankful to all of those helping Westie Rescue Network:
Our Board members, volunteers, foster homes, groomers, and Veterinarians!

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Update on 3 WRN dogs



Annie and Leo

Annie and Leo (“Hugs” and “Kisses”) came into our lives in 2010. Our dog sitter, knowing of our desire to adopt, directed us to Westie Rescue where a good friend of hers, Jan, had relinquished her two beloved Westies when she entered hospice with terminal cancer. After going through the thorough application and vetting process for adopting these two little three-year-old wonders, we were thrilled to be allowed to adopt. When we brought them home from their foster mom, all four us, human and canine, felt as though we had been together forever. Although we had hoped to be able to visit Jan with the two dogs so that she could be at peace knowing that they were loved and cared for, she died right after the adoption. We thanked her in spirit that they came to us well-loved and cared-for, confident, and with engaging personalities.

We were new to Westie world and fell deeply in love with our two and with the breed. Littermates and best friends, Annie and Leo delighted us with their curious and playful antics, their cuddly attentiveness to us and everyone, and their huge, yet very different, personalities.

Annie was the alpha of the two, although much smaller, directing their activities and barking the first alarm whenever she saw a rabbit, deer or other “varmint.” Spirited and lively, she was not only a “mouser’s mouser,” but she always wanted to be the center of attention. The exact opposite, Leo was content sitting back and not intruding on Annie’s bids for stardom and was mellow and solid. We joked that Leo’s motto was “why stand when you can sit; why sit when you can lie down?” Annie hated dog parks and avoided other dogs, while Leo enjoyed hanging out with any dogs he met. Annie never met a human lap that she didn’t crawl into uninvited, while Leo was a bit more circumspect, waiting for an invitation. They did everything together, and Leo was Annie’s wingman who followed her without question and always had her back. One night Annie’s varmint sniffer led her too close to a window well in their dog run, and Leo rushed to Christie’s study, uncharacteristically barking agitatedly, turning in circles and running to and from the door of the room, urging her to follow him to the dog run. There we found Annie, scared and alone, waiting to be rescued, led by our very own “Lassie.” Lots of praise and treats were bestowed on both dogs that evening, and the window well was quickly covered.

When Leo died in a tragic drowning accident in 2016, we were all bereft. Annie grieved and became subdued, quiet and timid. It turned out that Leo had been the source of much of her courage and she had depended on him more than either of us knew. We contacted Westie Rescue but were told that we would probably need to wait at least a year for another rescue Westie. Annie rebuffed our attempts to introduce her to shelter dogs, and we waited for her to let us know when she was ready to consider adopting a new friend. Just when we had decided to look elsewhere for another dog, Westie Rescue miraculously called with the news that they had a boy Westie, just 6 months older than Annie.

Joss (“Josh”) was placed with Westie Rescue after his owner died. It was revealed in the vet records that he had liver issues of unknown origin and severity, and a vet determined that he was unadoptable. We wanted to meet him, though, and his first meeting with Annie at our home was instant love at first sight, for us and for Annie. She had never warmed to any other dog but Leo, but she immediately invited him to play and followed him around as he explored our house and yard. We adopted him and have never regretted it, although getting to the extent of his liver disease and treatment needs was expensive and time-consuming. At nearly 10 years old, he needed special kibble and canned food, many vet and internist visits, tests, and trials of various medications before finding the combination that seemed to control his liver disease. Watching the two of them together as Annie taught Joss many tasks of daily dog living that most dogs his age should already have mastered, such as maneuvering stairs and anticipating dropped food in the kitchen, was amazing. An alert and smart little guy, Joss very carefully watched what Annie did and imitated her, quickly falling into the routine of our household. He didn’t really like to be cuddled, petted or touched, but he slowly opened up to us as he learned to trust us and Annie. Joss was highly anxious and afraid of other dogs, but he loved Annie from the first and became her willing follower and playful companion. Unlike Annie, who was a picky eater, Joss loves mealtimes and jumps in excitement to get his special, yet very-boring, hepatic food. Joss loves people and is gentle with children and especially loves little girls. He wants to please us and, until he became deaf, always listened carefully to anything we said. Since we know nothing about his background, our time with him has been an adventure of discovery.



Annie and Joss

In the early stages of the 2020 pandemic, Joss was diagnosed with inoperable bladder cancer, that we have chosen in consultation with his oncologist to treat with an oral chemotherapy regimen. A couple of months later, our perky little Annie was diagnosed with kidney failure that did not respond to medications. She peacefully died unassisted on her own terms in Christie’s arms in August. Joss now was the dog left behind, confused and missing his best friend. However, in the time since Annie’s passing, he luxuriates in having the undivided attention of both of us for tummy rubs and loving up. He is doing well on his chemo regimen, but we know that his days with us are numbered. Every day with him is a blessing.



Annie being lazy

Annie, Leo and Joss, our three Westie angels-in-dog suits, have taught us about unconditional love, acceptance, curiosity, and trust. Westie Rescue gave us the gift of parenting these three sweet beings. Thank you, Westie Rescue!

~Christie Coates and Howard Gordon



2021 Calendars

are here!



There are some great Westies featured in our 2021 calendar, including 2 different dogs named Max! This is our primary fund raiser! Please support WRN with your purchase!

They make great gifts for all of your friends. Click the link or QR code below, and buy several. Thanks.



<https://westierescuenetwork.org/help-wrn/cool-stuff-to-buy/calendars-stickers>



2020 Pandemic goes to the dogs

Problems with supply and demand during the COVID-19 pandemic have led to shortages not only of items such as hand sanitizer and toilet paper, but in many places, also in pets available for adoption.

You may or may not know that Westie Rescue Network does not operate like a shelter. We do not have a building that houses the dogs. As soon as a dog is surrendered to us it goes straight to one of our many wonderful foster families. Following a wellness check from a veterinarian who might possibly do a spay or neuter, the foster does a behavioral assessment, and after time for adjustment, our Adoption Coordinator looks at the long list of folks who have filled out an adoption request to find the best match. If the prospective new parents say "yes," then that Westie goes to their new home.



Westie Rescue Network only had 5 dogs come into our system during March through October. At the beginning of the Pandemic, when layoffs were skyrocketing, and some people were hospitalized due to Covid-19, we expected to see more people relinquishing their dogs, unable to care for them, but that hasn't been the case at all.

I wondered what the situation was for shelters. It turns out that shelters have seen substantial increases in adoptions because of the COVID-19 crisis.

On March 26th Governor Jared Polis issued a Stay at home order. Only essential businesses were allowed to stay open. Animal shelters were not considered essential. So what happened to the animals there? Most had to temporarily suspend their adoption program. Fortunately, most shelters were able to find emergency foster homes for the dogs and cats at the shelter before the order went into effect. Many of these shelters moved into crisis mode.



Headlines across the country have highlighted a so-called pet shortage, fueled by the pandemic and people spending a lot of time at home. But here in the Denver metro region, apparently it's easy to find a cat or a dog, just not a Westie. 😊

In some communities, the response has been overwhelming. Shelters are reporting that a record number of animals have been adopted or fostered since the pandemic began. On April 8, at the Denver Dumb Friends League, The Foster to Adopt (FTA) program was launched after a survey revealed that more than 2,000 patrons were potentially interested in fostering animals. They have been able to place 1,968 animals into homes through their Virtual Adoption program.

Other organizations like Animal Rescue of the Rockies, a nonprofit based in Aurora that works to provide an alternative to shelter environments, helped 1,201 pets find a forever home from January until July.

Now that we are at Level 2 to prevent the spread of Covid-19, shelters have been able to resume in person visits. Using social media, they've made pleas to their communities to foster pets until the pandemic is over. Some are live-streaming adoptable animals. Skype meet-and-greets are growing in popularity. There are even drive-through pickups for foster families where staff bring out a pet, give the family a bag of food and then away they go.

For shelters like Littleton's Humane Society of The South Platte Valley, the pandemic means heightened cleaning measures and a limit on volunteers, but they stand ready to facilitate adoptions — now by appointment.

I have enjoyed my own Westie more than ever these past months. She doesn't seem to know there is a Pandemic, and with a Westie around life is never boring. We have both enjoyed more walks, which has been healthy for both of us. For some of you working from home, now every day is *Bring your dog to work day*.

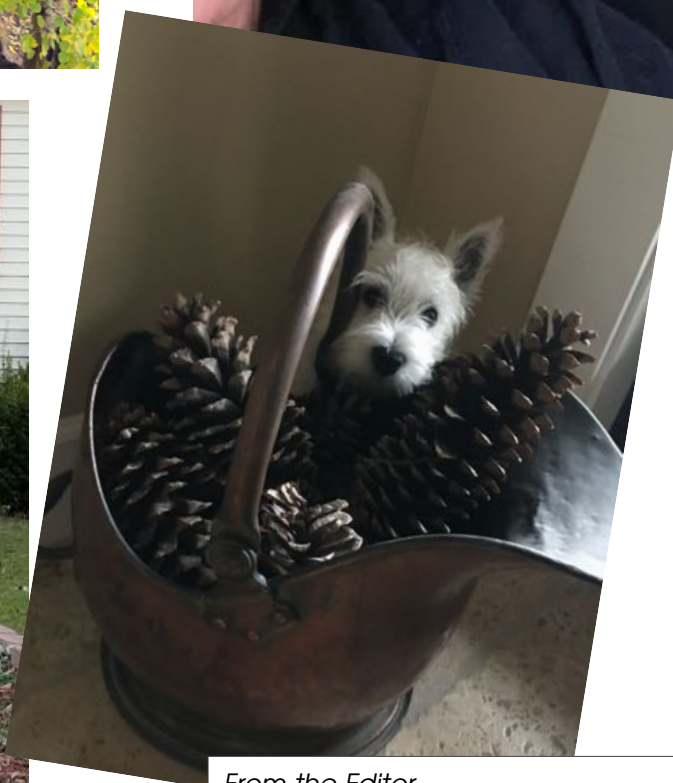
The prolonged hibernation spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic has introduced weary residents to a new phenomenon: pandemic pets!

🐾
Quarantine has me realizing why my dog gets so excited about something moving outside and going for walks and car rides.

I just barked at a squirrel. 🐾



Spot the Westie



From the Editor

Send your Spot the Westie photos, and
any other pictures, stories, and ideas to

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from Dr. Bob Luckin and Murphy **Enjoy the Old Days**

Most of my days are older now. The young ones passed awhile ago.

Old days have fewer corners. They don't claim to be something they're not. They don't make as many promises, and the ones they keep aren't more important than ones they don't.

Old days have wrinkles and bumps. They don't slip by unnoticed, and they do not require lots of attention. In the afternoon of an old day, you can take a nap for as long as you want, and the day will rest alongside you.

Old days aren't for people in a hurry. They aren't for people who measure the value of their accomplishments. Old days care about the number of times you smile, laugh, take me for a walk and watch me catch a frisbee.

Old days bend time and memory. They are long enough for a symphony, a slow dance, a glass of wine and a dish or two of ice cream. Old days, like old socks, have holes that don't matter. The comfortable way they slide on the foot and feel is silent poetry.

Old days don't have to shine. They don't have to start at sunrise or end with the moon at night. Old days are the gift of a lifetime. Enjoy as many as you can.🌀



Count the gifts of the rare old days.
They bend time and memory. They share
rest and laughter, love, and compassion.



Happy Retirement Myra Bates



After 24 years working as the Accounting Manager at Good Times Hamburgers, (and sharing PawBenders with WRN dogs) Myra and her husband and Westies have moved to Fruita, Colorado. She distributed the WRN calendars for WRN for the last 5 years! We will miss her. Thank you! Enjoy your retirement!



When you shop at Amazon Smile a portion of the purchase price goes to WRN

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

Step 1: On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, select Westie Rescue Network, before you begin shopping.

Step 2: Amazon remembers your selection, and every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

November 1 -Cook for your pets day

Maggie's Peanut Butter Banana Dog Treats
Prep Time: 5 mn Cook Time: 20 Total Time: 25

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cup uncooked Oatmeal
- 1 mashed banana (1/2 cup)
- 1/2 cup peanut butter, with NO xylitol (poison to dogs)

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees
2. Using a food processor or blender, grind your oats until they're powder.
3. In a bowl, beat together the banana and peanut butter until smooth. A few small chunks of banana here and there is ok. The dough should stick together, but shouldn't be sticky.
4. Reserve about a tablespoon of ground oatmeal and put the rest into the banana peanut butter mixture and mix until combined.
5. Dust your surface with the reserved ground oatmeal and roll your dough to about a 1/4 inch thickness.
6. Cut into desired shapes and place on a parchment paper lined cookies sheet.
7. Bake treats for approximately 15 minutes, or until the edges start to brown.
8. Cool completely before storing in an airtight container for up to a week.

