



Happy
Holidays!

2022 November/December

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Published 11/1/2022
by Marlene Armfield
marmfie@gmail.com



WRN Board Members

Gene Bourque
Jan Humphrey
Hollie Hunter
Martha Smith
Sarah Doud

Contact US

P.O. Box 884
Lafayette, CO, 80026
720-360-1212

or visit us @
www.westierescuenetwork.org



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

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SARAH DOUD

GENE BOURQUE

JAN HUMPHREY

MARTHA SMITH

BETH HALL

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CINDY WARDLAW

NEAL ARMFIELD

LANIA BRYANT

GERRY CHRISTON

MARLENE ARMFIELD

TERRY SHOAF

SARA MILLER

SHAWNA MILLER



2023 Calendars

are here!!



There are some great rescued Westies featured in our 2023 Calendar. Please support WRN with your purchase. \$20

They make great gifts for all of your friends. Click on the QR code, or the link below to purchase. Buy several. Thanks.



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

please note: this link may show 2022 calendar, but rest assured, it will get you one for 2023



Happy Tales

Recent Adoptions



Bo

I don't know where our Westie, Bo, started life but he had four homes (that we know of) before he came to us: the kennel where he was born, the pet shop in which he was placed, the home of the people who purchased him, and finally, the foster home in which WRN (very fortunately for Bo) placed him.

After a long drive from Santa Fe, we met him in his foster home. He was a most affectionate, excited, and healthy three-month old! Totally irresistible. I couldn't believe our good fortune to be given the opportunity to adopt this lively, little dog. Although we entered into the Westie Rescue program with the thought of adopting an older, more sedate Westie, we couldn't say no when we were offered this chance to start fresh.



It's been almost three months since that day and Bo has squirmed his way into almost every part of our lives. The house is strewn with his toys, we've learned to stow our shoes and socks out of his reach, and we've become acutely aware of what sounds can set off his barking. Who would have guessed that Velcro opening would make Bo a little crazy?

Speaking of crazy, we have special names for Bo's moods. If something like the Velcro sets him off, that's BoZo. When he's staying mellow, that's CalmBo. When he's acting out and ready to fight, that's RamBo. When he starts strutting his stuff around the house, that's BoDacious. No doubt he will earn many more nicknames as time goes on.



In the meantime, we've watched him double his weight and grow more confident that this is his permanent home with two people who love him and will always give him the best of care.

That's Bo's story and he's sticking to it.

~Nancy

Dolly

It has been a month since we welcomed Dolly (formerly known as Bella) into our home. From the start, she has been fun and loving, getting to know our family and especially our 12-year old son. They like to run around the house, switching off who is chasing who. She also quickly discovered her work is cut out for her. There are so many squirrels and bunnies to chase out of the yard. It's a full-time job and she often spends entire chunks of her afternoon at the bottom of various trees, making sure the chattering squirrels can't come down. Stairs have been a challenge, as well as walking on a leash and saying hello to other dogs in the neighborhood, but she is getting more comfortable and learning every day.

We lost Harley, our 14-year old Westie in December (adopted from Westie Rescue Network in 2011), and missed having a dog terribly. Dolly has quickly won our hearts, and brings smiles and laughs to our family every day!

~The Beasley Family





Happy Tales continued



A LOVE STORY.

This is the story of a good dog with a bad reputation who avoided a terrible doom, and found his forever home. It is the story of how I proudly earned the title of 'failed foster'. It is the story of Westie Rescue Network at its best. It is a love story.

Casper

To be sure, I have fallen madly in love with all of the Westies I have fostered. What's not to madly love? We all know these dogs change our lives... but Casper, my third, made me rearrange mine to make a home for him when it was doubtful another could be found.

When Casper came to WRN, he had some strikes against him. He had attacked the other dogs in his home, and bitten one of his owners. No serious harm had occurred, but his people decided to let him go, in order to keep their other dogs safe, and their one-year-old child as well. I had time to offer my home and love to a new foster... Casper and I arrived simultaneously at the top of the lists.

What a prize! A 14-month-old male, a real beauty! Curly coat, well-muscled, in perfect health, crate trained and 100% housebroken. Best of all, Casper liked to be petted a lot, the first Westie in my experience that really loved physical attention. He bonded to me in about 3 days. I was already in love with him and I could not understand why his people gave him up!

I wanted to keep him, but I wasn't sure it would work, since I work as a house and pet sitter, and he would have to accompany me on the job... no way. Casper needed a home like mine, with one person and no other dogs. If no such home could be found, the alternative might have been euthanasia.

Casper remarkably improved steadily. WRN hired a trainer, Isaac Reeve, of Loving Leaders Dog Training. This training was the key factor in helping Casper. We learned to establish my authority over him, and to teach him to tolerate other animals and pets without instantly seeing them as threats.

I continued to love him with all my might, and took him to a job (with 3 other dogs) for 2 weeks... no dogs or humans were harmed. I adopted Casper just after we finished the job.

When Casper and I aren't working, we are walking. We both love to be outdoors. Casper makes sure that all the rabbits and squirrels and mice are in their proper places. He has dog friends who come to visit him and to play and wrestle in the grass. His neighbors love him dearly and bring him treats and toys which are always his favorites. He comes to me for cuddly love many times a day. Casper is a good good dog!

This story is a testament to the power of people working together to spread love in the world. It is a privilege to work with Westie Rescue Network, and to have opened my heart and my home to this dog... heart and home are all these wonderful creatures need!

~John Rigg

On Sept. 9, 2022, our household was blessed to have sweet 7 year old Maggie Mae join us. 3 Westies again! Full House! Never say Never!

Maggie is such a joy....she is very laid back and affectionate. She came to the Rescue from a situation where she was an only dog. Unfortunately her owner had to relinquish her when it was necessary to change her residency to a place that did not allow dogs.....I can't imagine and hope I never have to experience it!

Our 2 resident pups, Clancy and Annabelle, have welcomed Maggie with open paws! I think she truly enjoys their company! We are thrilled to welcome Maggie into our lives and home and look forward to some future road trips with all 5 of us! Let the good times roll!

~Minnie

Maggie Mae





Spot the Westie



**TO THIS DAY, I HAVE
THE MOST FOND
MEMORIES OF SOME OF
MY OLD TOYS**

MICHAEL KEATON

From the Editor

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

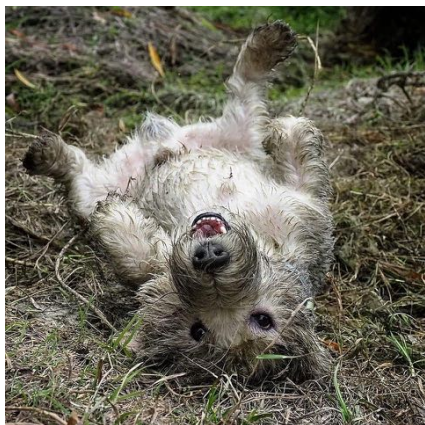
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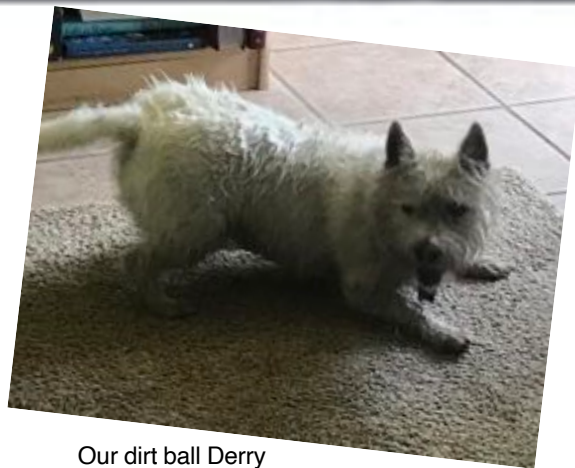
~from Karen Spinnler



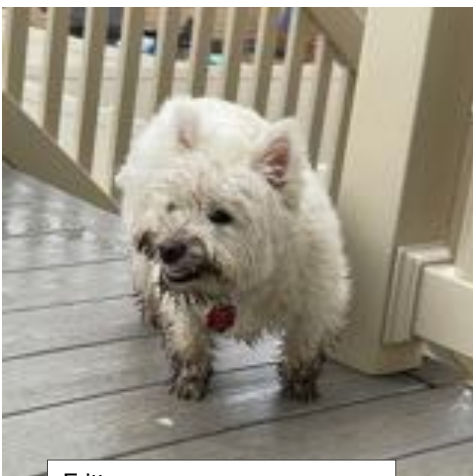
Dirty Dawgs



The Mud will
Wash off, But
the Memories
will Last a
Lifetime.



Our dirt ball Derry
~from Ellamae McElroy Byrne



Fritter
~from Miyako Boyett



This is my favorite picture ever taken
of my baby!, Peyton. I lost her in May
at 14.5 yo. I miss her so much!
~from Sharry Hitchens



From the Editor

Send your Dirty Dawg photos, and any
other pictures, stories, and ideas to

marmfie@gmail.com



DNA testing for Westies

Have you ever looked at your Westie and wondered if he/she was 100% Westie? Curiosity is just one reason to do DNA testing. When we got Maggie, we noticed she had a rather curly tail, which we found quite charming, but figured she couldn't be 100% Westie. One time we were walking with her, and met, Gibson, a dog that looked exactly like her, with the same curly tail. After chatting with the other dogs' folks, they told us they had done DNA testing, and the curly tail was Pomeranian. Interesting, and we thought-- "Ok, now we don't have to spend any money to find out about Maggie's curly tail."



Annabelle

Fast forward to 2022. Our friends, Minnie and Gene got Annabelle from a shelter, where she was listed as a "Westie mix." After looking at her, for sure she has lots of Westie, and probably a small amount of some other breeds--yes, a Westie mix. They decided to do a DNA test. It

came back with these results:

- 40% Poodle
- 20% Pomeranian
- 19% Chihuahua
- 9% Cocker Spaniel
- 5% Min. Pinscher



Maggie & Gibson

Really? There are two well known DNA companies, Wisdom and Embark. Minnie & Gene used Wisdom. Now I was curious. I decided to use Embark. It comes highly recommended. The company says its breed results are 95% to 99% accurate. Once you get the kit, it is easy, painless, and fast. It is just a matter of collecting a cheek swab; so we sent Maggie's saliva to be tested.. Maggie's results were:

100% West Highland Terrier!



Oliver

I joined a FaceBook group, *Embark Dog DNA Discussion*, and found more interesting test results. Angela Sokiol has cute Oliver, who looks like another Westie mix, but here are his results:

- 42.9% Chihuahua
- 40.7% Miniature Schnauzer
- 5.8% Basset Hound
- 4% Pekingese
- 6.6% Super mutt (made up of only small poodle)

Angela says, "He does have characteristics that do not belong to Westies (I used to be a Cairn terrier owner so they were easy for me to pick out)- such as a curled fluffy tail, light tan spots on

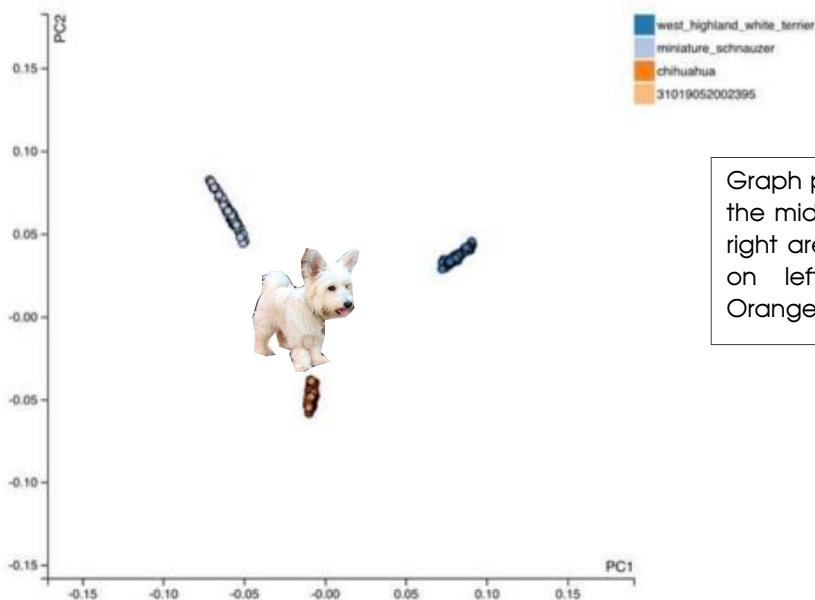
his coat, and larger ears. If he had Westie DNA, he would have trended towards the known Westies in the Embark database. However, he did not lean in that manner at all." (See the chart on the next page.)

And Dianne sent for Abi's DNA. She also used Embark. Those results show Abi is 98% Westie, and 2% Cairn. We know Cairn is a close relative of West Highland White Terriers. Dianne said "I always loved Toto from the Wizard of Oz. Toto was a Cairn, named Terry. It is documented that she was the hardest working member of the cast. Perhaps Abi has a little of Toto/Terry in her." 😊



Abi

DNA testing for Westies continued



Graph provided by Embark. Oliver is in the middle, the dark blue dots on the right are full breed Westies, Light blue on left are Miniature Schnauzer, Orange at bottom is Chihuahua.

At Westie Fest we were talking to Marion and Mark, who have Cooper, the biggest "Westie," you've ever seen. They adopted him from a shelter. Their DNA story is hilarious. He is supposedly 100% Westie. That test was from a Canadian company. Marion said, " We had to send a picture, which was already a "red flag" and the DNA test came back as 100 % Westie."

They did a second DNA Test with Wisdom Panel, which their vet had recommended.

That test result was:

25 % Heeler
25 % Husky
25 % Mixed Breed
12.5 % Lab
12.5 % Westie (Yeah!)

Marion says, "All of his behavior now makes sense. He can be "iffy" just like a Heeler, he "talks" like a Husky, he ate everything when he was a puppy like a Lab, and has a little bit of the look of a Westie. . . .By the way, we got a refund from the first company."

What do you think?

Minnie and Gene are considering sending Annabelle's swab to Embark, just for comparison. Stay tuned.... perhaps I'll have more to report on the Back Page of a future newsletter.

In conclusion, it is kind of fun and exciting to actually know our dog's DNA, but it doesn't really matter. After all, these are rescue dogs. We usually don't know their history. What matters is that we love them, and they love us!

~Marlene Armfield, Editor



Marion and Mark adopted Cooper from a shelter. They adopted MINI from WRN. She's their third Westie from WRN!



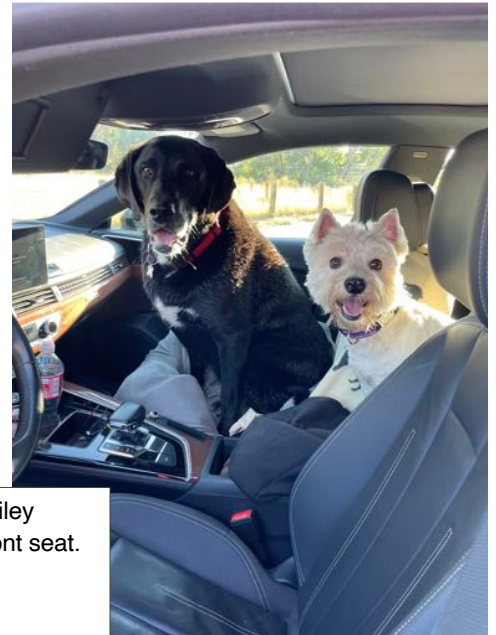
THE FASTEST
MAMMAL IN
THE LAND IS A
WESTIE
WHO'S BEEN
ASKED WHAT'S
IN THEIR
MOUTH.



This was posted September 15, 2022 on our FaceBook page and got 159 likes!

 Find us on
Facebook

I was dog sitting for my sister. Riley decided it was her turn for the front seat. The dog seat got squashed!
~from Mary Macentee



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