



Westies Were A Wee Bit Irish On March 1



Over 55 Westies and their owners made the Alexandria, VA St Patrick's Day parade a success. Westies came in from far and wide: **Maryland** (even the **Eastern Shore**), **New England**, **New Jersey**, **Pennsylvania**, **Washington DC**, and all points of the compass in **Virginia**.

On every turn in the parade route, the crowds would clap and cheer when Westies came into sight. The dogs wagged, pulled, and rushed to meet and greet the hundreds of children lining the streets along the way.

Even 17-year-old **Fergus** who was being pulled by his mom in his St. Patrick's decorated "**Geezer Wagon**," had women laughing and yelling out "**Hey Fergus, You're a stud muffin!**" Fergus later remarked, "**Not everyone has a fan club to cheer them on but I guess I am a bit of a beefcake.**"



Several WR Alums joined us, including **Finn, Stella, Bonnie, Malcom, Charlie #2, Alec, Alex, Bella, Bruno, Miss Abby** (who has now gained weight and a perfect white coat making her unrecognizable from the sick bony little one who came into the program back in 2023), and many other Westies.

It is always great to see them again, healthy, happy, and tails wagging with their proud moms and dads. It is truly amazing what good food, a safe homelife, and lots of love can do to make our best buddies shine. For the all the efforts of the adopters, Westie Rescue is forever grateful.



"In spring, the world laughs in flowers,"
Ralphie Westie Emerson

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In this issue, read about where Westies will be frolicking, learn about dog behavior and signs of stress and fear, discover a fun Westie game for humans, and find out what Westie Rescue volunteers have been doing.

CRINGE AND GROAN WESTIE JOKES

What did the Westie say to the tree?
"You're all bark and no bite!"





Westie Rescue News



Is it still 2025? Westie Rescue is so busy that sometimes it seems like a lot more time must have passed.

On The Home Front

- Here in the midAtlantic area, Westie Rescue took in and placed 30 Westies this spring.
 - They originated in 6 states (DE, NJ, NC, PA, SC, and VA) and Washington, DC.
- We also answered 12 inquiries about "all things Westie," including dog itches, toys, events, and the amount of necessary exercise.
- WestieRescue.com, our website, provided information to over 239 people wanting to know about Westie behavior, training, grooming, and healthcare.

- On May 17, we put up our tent at the Montpelier Celtic Festival, where we showed off the best dog breed in the world and asked people to help homeless Westies.

The reasons Westies find their way into a rescue to find a new home include dog owners having medical problems, moving or being transferred, or dying and dogs being "retired" (dumped) by a puppy mill, becoming a stray, or needing training or medical care.

The Westies we recently helped are superbly represented by Angus, Bubbles, Frosty, Ralphie, Tucker, Roxie, and Plum in the photos below. As you can see, some dogs come to us ready to go to new homes and some need a bit of help before finding their forever families.

Assisting Westies Elsewhere

- We helped 16 Westie owners in locating a Westie Rescue group closer to them so their dogs could get help.
- Our volunteers forwarded 156 adoption applications from our website to rescues in other regions to help connect potential adopters with needy Westies there.

Yes, our volunteers have been busy but it is always well worth our effort to see how Westies blossom in their new homes with loving Dads and Moms.



SOME OF OUR RECENTLY ADOPTED RESCUE PALS



Angus



Bubbles



Frosty



Ralphie



Tucker



Roxie



Plum

Is There A Westie Rescue Group In Your Region?

You can find out where Westie Rescue groups are located in the United States and around the world on WestieRescue.com. Under the front page heading "Westie Rescue USA," you will see a tab bar where you can click "Rescue Groups."

Once on the group page, choose **International Westie Rescues** (outside the US) or **Local Westie Rescues** (within the 50 US states).

If you choose "Local," a page will appear with a list of states. You can then click on various states to explore rescue group options in those areas.

2025 WESTIE EVENTS

Montpelier Center Celtic Festival
Saturday, May 17
11:00am - 03:00pm

Virginia Scottish Games
Sat, Aug 30 and Sun, Aug 31
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Daily

Scottish Christmas Walk Parade
Sat, Dec 06
9:00 am - 1:00 pm





WESTIE BEHAVIOR

Fact Or Myth? "Dogs Love Being Hugged"

If you learn your dog's language, you will see that positive attention that it *likes* pays off with greater joy for your dog. Then, you will have shown how much you really care.

It's completely natural for humans to hug someone to express affection. It's perfectly natural for dogs to sniff rear ends to greet another dog.

Of course, people don't share dogs' acceptance of sniffing behinds. To the same degree, dogs do not share our love of hugs.

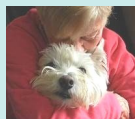
We speak different languages and use different behaviors to communicate. In fact, misreading your dog and hugging them can even stress a Westie to the point of biting.

FACT: MOST DOGS DO NOT LIKE HUGS

If you watch dogs interact, you'll notice they don't "embrace" each other. They might pin each other to the ground, but it's in only one of two contexts: play fighting or real fighting.

So, when you hug a dog, he doesn't really understand why the person he trusts is restraining him. If the hug scares him, his primary feeling is that he cannot escape your grasp.

Dogs sometimes interpret staring as aggressive. So, pairing a hug (restraint with a squeeze) with staring could cause the dog to feel threatened. If the stress level from a hug is high enough, the dog could bite. The hugger's face is right next to the dog's face and, therefore, their teeth. It puts whoever is hugging the dog at risk of serious injury. A biting dog can face serious consequences in a community.

**Westie Photos Chosen Randomly From The Internet**

- Each person seems to really be enjoying the hug. Do the Westies look like they are enjoying it?
- Which dogs look like they are having fun?
- Which dogs look unhappy, uncomfortable, or like they want to flee?

As part of a research study, a veterinarian looked at 250 photos of people hugging their dogs. Although all of the people were smiling and happy, he noticed 81% of the dogs showed body language signs of extreme stress.

You might believe your dog adores your hugs. After all, you do it all the time and your dog doesn't complain. However, it's far more likely your dog is simply *tolerating* your behavior because he trusts you. Although a few dogs do not seem to mind, most dogs display stress signals when hugged but their owners are unaware of the signs.

TEACH DOGS TO TOLERATE HUGS

For safety, prepare your dog for unexpected hugs from well-meaning strangers or children by teaching it to tolerate them. Although hugging will never be a dog's natural instinct, its negative associations with hugging (restraint) can be modified to relaxed acceptance.

Teach tolerance by:

- Start by pairing touch with treats or reward.
- Slowly increase the invasiveness until you are gently restraining your dog (e.g., loop your arm loosely around the dog while it is sitting beside you and receiving a reward).
- After several sessions, lift the dog and increase the firmness of your embrace, while continuing to reward your dog after each hug.

DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION DOGS LIKE

You can hug your Westie. Just be alert to signs it is stressed. If it is, switch to an activity dogs do love. It is especially important for children to learn to interact with dogs in other ways besides hugs, such as

- Pats (*just avoid the top of your dog's head. Most dogs don't like to be thumped on the head any more than they like hugs.*)
- Slow gentle scruffs on their backs or tummies, behind the ears, or their favorite itchy spot.
- Playing games like fetch or hide-and-seek
- Even training, combined with positive reinforcement, can be mentally stimulating and fun for dogs.

Signs Your Westie Is Stressed, Afraid, or Uncomfortable In A Situation

Some signs of stress in dogs, like growling or baring of the teeth, are obvious. Others are more subtle and require paying attention to every part of your dog. Understanding the following behaviors will help you see when your dog is feeling afraid, uncomfortable, or stressed.

Head Turned Away— Dogs will not make eye contact when they are uncomfortable, so they might turn their head away from you, sometimes also closing their eyes.



Raised Paw— When a dog is uncertain about something, they will often lift one front paw off the ground.

Nose Licks— This can be a very quick flick of the tongue, and it shows your dog is uncomfortable.

Lowered Ears— A stressed Westie will lay its ears back against the side of their head.



Stiff Body— If your dog stiffens or becomes still when you hug them, they are not enjoying the experience. A happy dog is loose and relaxed.

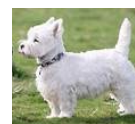


Whale Eye— Also called half-moon eye, this is where you can see the white of your dog's eyes.



Learning the signs before a bite happens will greatly benefit both your Westie and you!

Tucked Tail— An unhappy dog will lower its tail or even tuck it under their belly.



Westies Take Over The Big Apple

Rain gear was the attire of the day as the weather was damp enough for Scotland. Noses were wet. Toes were wet. However, humans were grinning and the **Annual NYC Tartan Day Parade** was a great success.

Westies from all over Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and even Virginia braved the weather to show thousands of people lining the streets that Westies are the 'Best Import from Scotland'!

The **Tartan Day Parade** organizers set up the parade to have all the Dogs Of Scotland in one large contingent with each breed group and organization having their own banners. Westie Rescue sent out invites to all Westies to come and march in this annual event as it gives Westies a chance to meet and greet furry attendees who look just like them!

It was great to see Westies who have been adopted and were showing off their new Moms and Dads who are



now part of the Westie Family. Westies who were once afraid, required extensive Vet care, or needed a wee bit of socialization, are now nothing but happy tails. It is truly a wonder to meet them once again and see the changes first hand.

Westie Rescue would like to say thanks to all who braved the rain and came out to support our efforts of rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming West Highland White Terriers.

A big group of local Westies were behind the Westie Meet Up NYC banner. They too braved the rain to enjoy the day meeting new two- and four-legged friends.

Please, plan on attending next year as Westie Rescue will, once again, be in attendance to celebrate everyone and everything Scottish, especially WESTIES!

Westie Game Corner



Meet **Daisy**, the **Best Doggone Game Host** in ALL of Gamedom!

"**Tidy Master**" is a hidden object game with the goal of clearing out clutter in some pretty messy rooms around the globe. She guides and encourages players as they clear out teenagers' rooms, hobbyists' lairs, manic chefs' kitchens, stores, dorm rooms, and man caves.

Each scene has 4 levels of objects needing to be removed. If you cannot spot an item, you can zoom in and look! It is not a timed game, so take your time (but Daisy will be watching).

Available for Android, iOS, and Windows. Rating: 4.9 It's said that a **Westie Rescue** volunteer has cleared over 200 scenes. Just a rumor, we're *pretty* sure.



Last but certainly not least...

March 20th is always a Very Important Date.

It's **NATIONAL WESTIE DAY!**

As was appropriate, it was celebrated with great fanfare (plus treats and gifties for wee doggies) by Westies and Westie Rescues around the globe!