



Westie Rescue

2024
Annual
Review



What Is Westie Rescue?

“Westie Rescue” refers to organizations consisting of people who volunteer their time to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome West Highland White Terriers (Westies) in the United States.

“Westie Rescue USA” is a national website for several reputable Westie Rescue groups in diverse areas of the United States.

The website is operated by Westie Rescue Mid-Atlantic Region, a nonprofit organization based in Virginia.



ROXIE

JAX



Our Core Values

TRUST

We strive to be the people you can trust to do our very best for the Westies which come into our care.

WESTIES BELONG IN HOMES

We believe that every Westie deserves a Second Chance in a loving, caring forever home.

OPENNESS

We approach conversations without judgment in order to learn about every dog's prior experiences so that we can support the diverse needs.

KINDNESS

The Westie Rescue program want to help every Westie get the care they need. We want to ensure medical issues are identified and a treatment program with a good outcome is defined. Our volunteers work to rehabilitate dogs through positive, science-based, force-free training and behavior modification methods.

OPTIMISM

A positive human attitude fuels resilience in Westies. We are committed to supporting Westies and their families with confidence as they achieve brighter futures together.

A Letter From The Volunteers Of Westie Rescue

Thank you for being Westie Rescue Heroes in 2024. You play a major role in our being capable of making life better for Westies. Speaking for the volunteers of Westie Rescue, we deeply appreciate your continued support and encouragement.

Westie Rescue had a lot of successes in 2024, Some large, some small. It was truly a great year for helping Westies find new lives and adventures with great new families all over the East Coast.

That is not to say we didn't face a few headwinds last year. Many of the Westies coming in had complicated medical issues which required specialized veterinary services and follow-up care.

Our program helps every Westie get the care they need to be ready for a new life. If the pain can be stopped, medical issues can be identified, and a treatment program can be outlined with a good outcome, Westie Rescue moves forward with treatment while raising the funds necessary to pay the bills.

Stories Behind The Stats

Our volunteers personally picked up, transported, and cared for each Westie we helped this year. Our foster volunteers expanded our ability to help more animals

by providing housing, hands-on care, and love for Westies who needed extra attention and time in care before finding their forever home.

We hope you see the heart behind every number in the pages ahead. Each animal helped and each donation made, makes a real difference. Every situation tells a story about lives improved. We want you to know more about us and our work so you can discover what your support meant to the dogs and people we worked with in 2024.

Impossible Without You

You remain a member of the Westie Rescue family and an essential part of everything we do. Every Westie Rescue success last year and in the years to come would be impossible without you. Your caring donations as well as encouragement via emails and our website yield positive results for Westies and the people who love them.

With gratitude,

Uncle Stephen

a.k.a. Stephen Di Giulian
Westie Rescue, President



WESTIE RESCUE'S IMPACT ON TWO LIVES



She came from an Ohio puppy breeding farm (puppy mill). The owner said she had "troubles with a litter." So, she was turned over to Westie Rescue and became "Miss Mills."

It's not surprising she had problems carrying a litter. When Dr Alison Edge and Dr Willow Mikulski of Greater Annapolis Veterinarian Hospital examined Miss Mills they heard a serious heart murmur and immediately referred her to CVCA Cardiac Care for Pets.

After several tests, Dr Matthew Boothe at CVCA recommended a **Balloon Valvuloplasty!** Due to the cost being over \$7,000, it was a very serious decision for a rescue which depends on donations. If nothing was done, her heart would fail and she would not make it past her 4th birthday. If we did the surgery, she would have an excellent chance at a full recovery and a normal life span. After starting life in a puppy mill, she certainly deserved a chance at having a great new life,

So, Dr Rick Cober performed the surgery at CVCA. After post-surgical observation, Miss Mills went for recuperation at Uncle Stephen's spa. Then, she went to her forever home in Williamsburg VA, where she reports her life is so bright she has taken to wearing shades. You can see in the photo how much she loves her new Mom.

Thankfully, Westie Rescue doesn't receive dogs everyday with such severe medical conditions. However, when we do and a good outcome is possible, we are glad **your support** allows us to help a Westie who, otherwise, would die.

2024 Financial Update

Westie Rescue receives **no** corporate donations. Every cent we receive comes from individual Westie lovers like you.

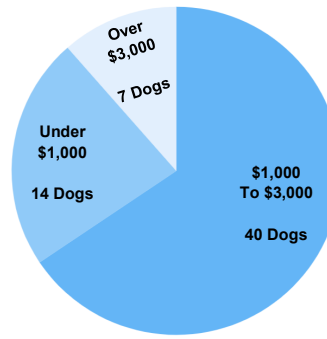
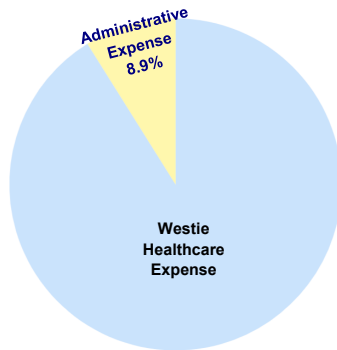
Westie Rescue has two basic expense categories, Westie Care and Administrative.

- Expenses related directly to dogs account for 91.1% of our donations. That category includes direct wellness and placement expenses, *such as collars, leashes, tee shirts for the Westies with fur loss*, and, in some cases, desperately needed grooming. As it was mentioned on page 2, veterinary care has skyrocketed in recent years. The average Westie's vet bill is over \$1,000. The vet bill for dogs with medical problems jumps up to \$3,000 or more.
- The 8.9% of administrative costs includes software updates, website development & hosting, postal expenses, and banking and credit card donation processing expenses.



All Westie Rescue volunteers pay their own expenses, including the cost of the 27,614 miles they drove in 2024 to pick up Westies and transport them to the veterinary clinics and new homes.

Westie Rescue Budget



Veterinary Expense Per Westie

HEALTHCARE

Each Westie which comes into our program receives a health checkup (see box on the right) and any needed treatment. Any medical conditions identified receive a treatment plan, which is started by Westie Rescue and continued by new owners with Westie Rescue volunteers ready to answer any questions or concerns.

These health checks demonstrate why our program is different from most rescue groups and why our medical costs run quite high.

- Some Westies arrive just needing a health check, blood tests, and, maybe, a few shots and are ready to go to their new forever home.
- Others have not received regular medical attention during their lives and frequently have highly treatable conditions that, unfortunately, were not addressed before they came into our program.

WELLNESS CHECKUP AND CARE

Each Westie -

- Has a full blood screening plus urine and stool tests.
 - SNAP test for heartworm and 3 tick-borne diseases
- Has its shots updated (as required)
 - Rabies
 - Distemper
 - Bordetella (Kennel Cough)
- Is examined for fleas, ticks, and internal parasites
- Has its teeth checked for problems and cleaned (if needed)
- Is spayed or neutered (if it has not been already)
- Is bathed and groomed, including trimming the nails (if needed)
- Is put on flea / tick and heartworm preventatives

WESTIE NECESSITIES

There are a few things Westies need to look their best when going to their wonderful new forever homes.

- You must have a new collar to sport your new rabies tag as well as a new leash.
- If you have skin problems with fur loss, it's always nice to have a warm tee to wear on cool morning walks. (Some super cool Westies wear tees, even if they don't have fur loss!)



WESTIES NEED YOUR HELP

The dogs we worked with in 2024 had more than normal health issues. In fact, Westie Rescue is still working to pay for Miss Mills' heart surgery cost of over \$7,000.00 plus several other Westies' specialized treatments.

We are asking for your help so we will be able to take in and care for Westies in 2025 (three just arrived).

The Heart of Westie Rescue: Our Volunteers

Westie Rescue has no paid staff. Not one. **Everything is done by unpaid volunteers.**

Yes, Westies feel they can rule the world.

However, we've found there are few things they can't do, such as get the treats



out of an upper cabinet, and shouldn't do, such as drive to the dog park. So, Westie Rescue (WR) enlists the help of volunteers.

Although Westie Rescue's headquarters (Uncle Stephen's basement) is in Virginia, we work with volunteers throughout the eastern United States.

HELPING WESTIES

Our volunteers strive to do whatever Westies need and to bring joy to people wanting to adopt one.

Most of what we do is directly with the dogs. Here's a list of the things we do:

- Pick up Westies from a shelter or the original owners
- Arrange for veterinary appointments
- Provide transportation to and from the veterinarian
- Give follow-up treatment at the foster home between vet visits
- Reassure the Westies that they are safe and loved with lots of cuddling and sweet talk (**yes, we talk to dogs**) It could be the first time someone has taken time to do so.
- Perform bit of grooming (and make it fun!)
- Walk and play with the dogs
- Maintain paperwork so the records for each dog are accurate and current
- Read hundreds of adoption applications to find the right home for each dog



- Do Basic Manners training
- Take Westies to their forever homes (*the best WR job ever!*)

WAIT, THERE'S MORE

Volunteers also perform essential work with people and computers, including:

- Follow up on calls and emails about Westies who need new homes or whose current family has questions about dog behavior or medical issues.
- Download and process applications from people wanting to adopt or volunteer. If an application comes from outside our area, we send it to a Westie Rescue near the applicant.



Monitor and update our website and Facebook page. We are continually adding new stories, events, and photos,

- Work with other animal rescues, shelters, and animal control groups in case they have a Westie needing medical help or a new home.
- Check the PO box, pay bills, and write thank you notes to our donors.

Along the way, all of us have a lot of fun sharing dog stories with each other and getting mega doses of Westie kisses!

If being a volunteer sounds like a fulltime job, it certainly *could* be. Luckily, the more volunteers; the less each person needs to do. **People do what they're comfortable doing in the time they can give to Westies**

Volunteers should always be appreciated and, at Westie Rescue, **they are.**

Want To Volunteer?

Go to [WestieRescue.com](https://www.westierescue.com)
At the page top, click "I Want To."
On the list which pops up, click "Apply To Volunteer."
We hope to hear from you soon!

Who Are Our Volunteers?

Westie Rescue has volunteers who specialize in one area, e.g., finances. Then there are the members of our Dog Support Team and long-term fosters who are hands on with the dogs and all doggy things. We love them all!

ALABAMA

Phyllis: 20 yrs WR, "Go to Person" for Westie rascals (behavior issues)

FLORIDA

Aggie: Florida Coordinator
Sun Shine State Westie Rescue

MARYLAND

Deanne: Dog Support Team
Jenny: Dog Support Team
Susan: Web Content Creator
Wendy:, 35 yrs WR, Veterinary Coordination for 1200+ Westies

NEW ENGLAND

Karen: Senior Westie Hospice
North Atlantic Westie Rescue

NEW JERSEY

Debra: Rehab and Placement

NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA

Anne: Dog Support Team
Diane: Dog Support Team

PENNSYLVANIA (Eastern)

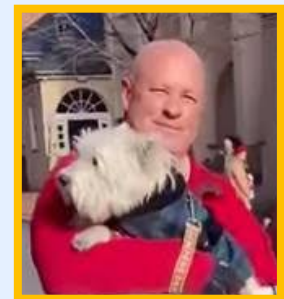
Tina: Dog Support Team

SOUTH CAROLINA

Sharon: Dog Support Team

VIRGINIA

Cynthia: 34 yrs WR, Publications
Heidi: Dog Support Team
Jim: 27 yrs WR, VP & Treasurer
Joyce: Foster Mom
Lucian: Foster Dad
Uncle Stephen: 30 yrs WR, Everything



Foster Dad Lucian holding Fergus (aka Fergus #2), his foster buddy, at the Alexandria (VA) Scottish Christmas Parade. We were very sad to hear that Fergus passed away recently.

2024 Events

VIRGINIA SCOTTISH GAMES



SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE



People watching the parade in Alexandria, Virginia, were astounded to see 95 Westies plus their families walking in the Westie Rescue group!



Recently Announced

2025 NEW EVENT

Westie Rescue and Friends will be walking as a group in the *Ballyshaners St Patrick's Day Parade* on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Westies will assemble their owners at 11 am in Olde Towne Alexandria, Virginia.
(Address TBA by email or on WestieRescue.com)

To check WestieRescue.com/Events.html for more details (*as we receive them*): Look on the right of the page for the red link to additional parade info. You can also sign up for the blog to get event updates emailed to you.



Our Website Is A Critical Tool



Westie Rescue USA

[HOME](#)
[ABOUT](#)
[EVENTS](#)
[BLOG](#)
[RESCUE GROUPS](#)
[I WANT TO ...](#)
[SUPPORT US](#)
[RESOURCES](#)
[LOGIN](#)
[CONTACT US](#)

The internet has significantly helped animal rescues and shelters. A website helps the public find a rescue near them to help their pet and helps rescues and shelters find adopters, volunteers, and other organizations with the same goals in other parts of the country. Westie Rescue USA website is a national gathering place for reputable Westie Rescue groups. Westie Rescue Mid-Atlantic funds and operates the site and offers the site's services to other Westie Rescues.

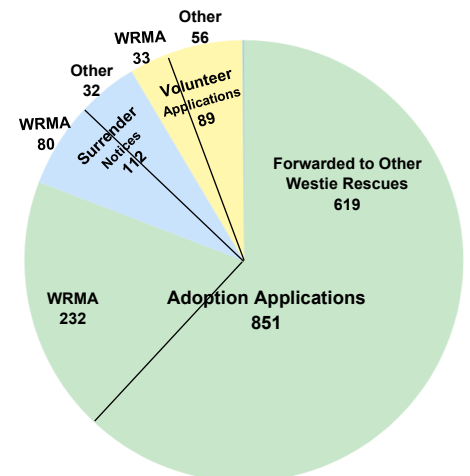
The website is the most useful tool Westie Rescue volunteers have. Most of the people who need to surrender their dogs find Westie Rescue on the web.

The website offers several ways to contact Westie Rescue. It provides our phone number, an interactive surrender form which goes directly to WR, and our snail mail and email addresses. In 2024, Mid-Atlantic was notified in the following ways by people who needed new homes for their dogs: 40 phone calls, 30 emails, and 10 surrender forms. Westie Rescue also received 487 emails and calls from people who had questions about behavior, health (especially skin issues), and training for their pets. We respond to every call, email, letter, and surrender form in the hope we can help the Westie and its family.

We also received applications from people who wanted to adopt and/or volunteer. If the person calling, emailing, or submitting a surrender, adoption, or volunteer form is outside our area, we send the information to a Westie Rescue in region where the request originated.

Our website also offers Westie owners information on the health, fitness, behavior, and training of their dogs. The blog is where you will find stories about rescued Westies and photos of events and dogs. We inform people across the nation and world about Westie events and activities in their region. The site had **1,200 visitors per day** in 2024.

We truly appreciate your support of this vital tool in helping Westies.



Website Productivity



For secure credit card donations, go to **WestieRescue.com** choose "Support US" and click "Make A Donation"

Donations Are Critically Needed

When Westie Rescue volunteers say they couldn't save Westies without you, we sincerely mean every word.

Each donation means a Westie can restore its health, find a wonderful, loving home, and get a second chance at a terrific life.

There are several ways to make a donation: By credit card on our secure website, by mailing a check to our PO Box, and by including Westie Rescue in your estate planning.

No matter whether you are an occasional, sustaining monthly, annual, or estate donor, every Westie would like to give you a kiss and say, "Thank You!"

We hope you will consider donating to our current fundraiser for Westies who have needed advanced medical treatment.