

2023 Annual Review

A Report From Westie Rescue Volunteers

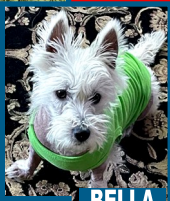


Check Out
Some Of Our Friends

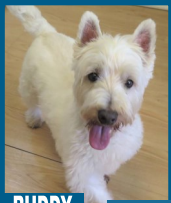
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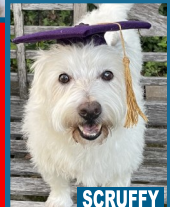
ABBY



BELLA



BUDDY



SCRUFFY

More Photos

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ALEXANDRIA
Scottish Christmas
Walk Parade



People Making A Difference In Westie Lives

As **Westie Rescue** starts its 33rd year, our volunteers want to wish each of you a happy and healthy new year!

In this **2023 Annual Review**, we will be taking a moment to look back at the dogs, people, and events which made the year special.

One thing remained constant last year. People and Westies needed help. Whether it was dog owners' questions about the best food for a Westie's skin problems, how to modify a dog's behavior, or who can help my fur friend find a new home, Westie Rescue was glad to help ... with the assistance of donors who supported our program.

Our program took in 74 Westies, which received veterinary care, behavior evaluations, rehabilitation (*if needed*), and, finally, a loving forever home.

As dog owners can attest, the cost of veterinary care has risen through the roof. Westie Rescue's vet expenses were **\$101,107** for 2023. That critical vet care was only possible due to your donations.

In 2023, 94.7% of our operating expenses consisted of veterinary fees. The other 5.3% paid for public outreach via the internet and special events.

Last year, **Westie Rescue USA** made an investment in the program's future ability



"Finally in my forever home"

to help Westies by improving WestieRescue.com, our website. The site receives "dogs in crisis" reports as well as adoption applications from across the US and forwards them to the local Westie Rescue for that area. We also added new features (*some in progress*) and made resource information easier to access by the people who visit daily.

We hope you will visit WestieRescue.com soon!

Westies Meet Their Supporters

Another way Westie Rescue endeavors to improve Westies' lives is by participating in public events where people can see and pet Westies and ask our volunteers questions in person. We provide educational materials to thousands of people through these events.

West Highland White Terriers (Westies) came originally from Scotland. Because people interested in Scottish events are more than likely interested in having Scottish dogs, we attend Celtic and Scottish

festivals, games, and parades. In 2023, Westie Rescue put up our tent at the Havre de Grace Winter Celtic Festival, Montpelier Center Celtic Festival, Virginia Scottish Games, Radford VA Highland Festival. For the 32th year, Westie Rescue also marched in the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.



West Highland White Terrier

2024 EVENTS

Click link above to see events in other regions

- Apr 27
Celtic Festival of Southern Maryland
St. Leonard, MD
- May 4
Montpelier' Center's Annual Celtic Festival
Montpelier, VA
- Aug 31—Sept 1
Virginia Scottish Games
The Plains, VA
- Nov 2-3
Richmond Highland Games
Henrico VA
- Dec 7
Scottish Christmas Walk
And Parade
Old Towne Alexandria VA

The Westies You Helped In 2023

In 2023, Westie Rescue MidAtlantic's volunteers took in **74 Westies** from Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington (DC), and West Virginia. The Westies who stole our hearts were **Abby** 8 yrs, **Angus** 6 yrs, **Austin** 5 yrs, **Bella** 2 yrs, **Bella** 10 yrs, **Bentley** 12 yrs, **Brodie** 11 yrs, **Brooke** 5 yrs, **Brooks** 3 yrs, **Buddy** 10 yrs, **Bruno** 10 mos, **Callum** 5 yrs, **Cam** 10 yrs, **Carla** 3 yrs, **Charlie** 8 yrs, **Charlie** 9 yrs, **Chase** 13 yrs, **Daisy** 11 yrs, **Daisy** 13 yrs, **Dodger** 10 yrs, **Duke** 8 yrs, **Dwight** 6 mos, **Elsa** 3 yrs, **Finlay** 8 yrs, **Finn** 1.5 yrs, **Friskie** 5 yrs, **Gracie** 12 yrs, **Howie** 13 yrs, **Jasmine** 5 yrs, **Jock** 3 yrs, **Junior** 1.5 yrs, **Leia** 2 yrs, **Lilly** 11 yrs, **Lily** 17 yrs, **Kobe** 2 yrs, **Koda** 5 yrs, **Malcolm** 7 yrs, **Max** 7 yrs, **Matt** 3 yrs, **Mickey** 4 yrs, **Moose** 13 yrs, **Na-Me** 3.5 yrs, **Naia** 4 yrs, **Noel** 8 mos, **Oliver** 9 yrs, **Payton** 12 yrs, **Peaches** 8 yrs, **Riley** 13 yrs, **Robbie** 10 yrs, **Rory** 12 wks, **Roxie** 6 yrs, **Ruby** 6 mos, **Sadie** 4 yrs, **Scooby** 6 yrs, **Scruffy** 9 yrs, **Snowy** 6 yrs, **Stuart** 7 yrs, **Tobby** 6 yrs, **Teddy** 7 yrs, **Tolkien** 12 yrs, **Tommy** 5 yrs, **Westley** 6 yrs, **Westley** 14 yrs, **Wilson** 1.5 yrs, **Winston** 11 yrs, **Zeus** 11 yrs, **Ziba** 1 yr, **Zoomie** 6 mos, and the 10 wk old litter, **Tater Tot**, **Indy**, **Cassie**, **Freya**, **Will**, **Kai**, and **Arlo**.

A Few Of Their Stories



ABBY, an 8 year old girl, who was temporarily in a boarding kennel had a stress-related diabetic crisis. She needed a new home where someone would have lots of time for her leisurely walks, lap sitting, petting, and daily insulin care. Abby went to a great home where she has become her new human's little shadow and best friend. They report they are enjoying their time together seeing the sights during neighborhood walks.

BELLA is a 2 year old who had skin issues and needed help with those in her new home. After a trip to the Vet, she is doing better and even has new fur growing back. Bella's beginning to feel like her beautiful self again. Although she appreciated the nice shirts to keep her warm, she is glad the new fur in this cold weather. Bella also found a forever home and says her new people are almost fully trained in doing exactly what she wants (*but don't tell them!*).



BUDDY, a 10 year old male, came to Westie Rescue due to illness of one of his owners. The changes in his home caused Buddy to have anxiety and be a bit hyper. He went to stay with Uncle Stephen (*Westie Rescue's president*) where he had a regular routine and so he could get back on track. Buddy was adopted and is going on car rides, playing fetch, and chair snuggling with his humans. He has definitely settled into his new routine and is enjoying life again.

SCRUFFY, a 9 year old and long-term foster, was discovered to have 2 large tumors when he had routine intake tests. He had 2 surgeries to remove them in 2023 and, recently in 2024, needed a lung biopsy. His surgical bills were \$13,400 in 2023. Scruffy has even tried to help raise money (*below with the "Please Help" sign*). Thankfully, donors are continuing to help with his ongoing journey to health! Read about him on [WestieRescue.com](https://www.WestieRescue.com) ([Blog tab](#))



PLEASE Help Westies Have More Happy Endings in 2024!



Westies Making Friends



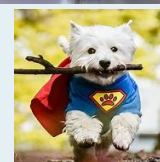
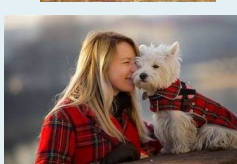
Westie Rescue pitched our tent at the Havre de Grace Winter Celtic Festival, Montpelier Center Celtic Festival, Virginia Scottish Games, Radford VA Highland Festival in 2023. We talked to potential Westie adopters, answered questions about Westies, and compared hilarious Westie stories with current owners.

For the 32th year, Westie Rescue also marched in the Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade (sometimes called "The Westie Christmas Parade" because of our large flock of Westies). Of course, the Geezer Wagon made an appearance.

These are a few of the friends we saw at the events. Yes, a Scottie or two slipped in but we're an amiable bunch! **Join us in 2024!** The events schedule is on the bottom of [page 1](#) and on [WestieRescue.com Events](#)



Everyday Will Be A Celebration With Your Westie In 2024!



The 2023 Numbers Behind Those Rescued Westies

74 Dogs rescued, rehabilitated, and rehomed in the Mid-Atlantic Region

37 Dogs rescued and rehomed in Florida - plus **2** permanent foster dogs

7 Dogs rescued and rehomed in North Atlantic states

5 Dogs rescued and rehomed in Alabama

21,654 Miles driven by Rescue Volunteers to pick up Westies and transport them to the Vet and new homes

(volunteers always pay their own expenses)

5 Public Events with Westie owners to show potential adopters how wonderful Westies would be in their homes

389 Donors helped pay the expenses of rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming these Westies

In 2023, **Westie Rescue USA** made an important investment in the future of the program with a major upgrade of WestieRescue.com website. The site serves three goals. 1) It is the main tool used in connecting our volunteers with dogs needing help and people wanting to adopt them in our region. 2) In addition, people across the United States can submit reports of Westies needing homes as well as applications to adopt. The website sends that information to local Westie Rescues in the areas where the reports or applications originated. 3) The site also provides educational information about Westies and their characteristics, dog health resources, and training information.

WESTIE RESCUE USA (WestieRescue.com)

1,200+ Site Visitors per day

52 Westie In Crisis Reports forwarded to other Rescue Groups

845 Adoption Applications forwarded to other Rescue Groups

487 Calls and Email Responses to requests from owners for help with Westie issues



Scruffy & Dr Justin Ganjei

Financial Summary

\$101,107.00 in veterinary bills were paid by your donations

(Including checkups, spay/neuter surgeries, preventative inoculations, and specialized care)

94.5% of every dollar spent went to pay veterinary medical bills and direct wellness support *(such as cold weather shirts for the Westies with fur loss).*

The **other 5.3%** paid for software updates, website hosting, PO Box/postal expenses, and, in some cases, a desperately needed grooming.

Our goal is to see each Westie has a Second Chance to be medically fit (or at least having issues identified and treatments started) and live in a safe and loving home. By the way, it sure does help your Westie self-confidence, if you sport a new collar and leash on your way to a new life!

From all of the volunteers at Westie Rescue, we wish you the best in 2024.

Stephen

Stephen Di Giulian

President

Westie Rescue Mid-Atlantic

P.S. Your gift of \$35 or more will go a long way to provide medical care to get Westies ready for their forever homes.

Please go to WestieRescue.com and choose the "Support Us" tab then "Donate" *(or click Donate here)* to make a secure donation online. You can also get involved by going to the website to [fill out an adoption or volunteer application](#)



Assisting West Highland White Terriers Find Loving Forever Homes Since 1991

Westie Rescue, P. O Box 282, Dunn Loring VA 22027

WestieRescue.com

Westie Rescue USA, Inc.

PO Box 282 Dunn Loring, VA 22027

Westie Rescue - MidAtlantic Region

PO Box 342 Dunn Loring, VA 22027



"Second-Hand Dogs Make First Rate Pets"

Contact: Stephen Di Giulian
Telephone: (703) 628-9441
E-mail: Stephen@WestieRescue.com
Web Site: WestieRescue.com
EIN: 86-1935078
Donations: WestieRescue.com

Westie Rescue USA at WestieRescue.com is the organization which assists Westies in crisis, potential adopters, and rescue volunteers from all over the United States to connect.

Westie Rescue MidAtlantic Region - serves Virginia (base area), Delaware, Maryland, (southern) New Jersey, North Carolina, (eastern) Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington DC, and West Virginia.

North Atlantic Westie Rescue - serves the New England states

Sunshine State Westie Rescue - serves throughout Florida

Westie Rescue Alabama - serves in the Alabama region

Plus 23 other independent Westie Rescue organizations in the continental United States which cover towns like yours

General Information

What Is A Westie?

The **West Highland White Terrier**, commonly known as the **Westie**, is a breed of dog from Scotland which was originally developed to hunt small rodents on farms. It is a medium-sized terrier with a distinctive white harsh coat and a softer white undercoat. The double coat of fur fills out the dog's face, giving it a rounded appearance.



Who We Are

We, the volunteers who make up Westie Rescue, provide education to the general public and Westie owners and rescue, rehabilitation, and re-home Westies in the MidAtlantic area, as well as support rescue efforts all over the United States.

Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Rehoming

Westie Rescue rescues dogs from various situations: strays, shelters, and direct surrenders due to the owner's illness or move or to dog issues. For over 32 years, owners needing help as well as state, county, and local animal control authorities receiving Westies have reached out to Westie Rescue.

Our volunteers act quickly to pick up the dog and drive it directly to a veterinary hospital to ensure that the dog receives a medical evaluation, preventative shots, and other medical care, as recommended by Westie-experienced Vets. These professionals have firsthand experience with every issue a Westie might have from simple to complex. Afterwards, the Westie is placed into foster care with one of our volunteers as we screen the Westie's needs as well as potential homes for a lifetime placement. A few Westies come into rescue needing a bit of medical or behavior rehabilitation. When deemed ready they go to their forever home.

After the Westie goes to its new home, rescue volunteers are *on call* to help owners receive accurate and current information so they can keep their Westie healthy, properly fed, exercised, and socialized, thereby allowing the dog to be their best buddy for its lifetime. We provide the same assistance to any Westie owner who has questions.

Education and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Westie Rescue's outreach and education services help ensure humane pet ownership by providing owners experiencing dog issues with educational information on potential health issues, getting medical care, humane training, and basic canine care. We participate in multiple annual public events where the public can interact with Westies and get firsthand information. WestieRescue.com is designed to be an asset which provides educational information and links to resources for owners and potential owners of Westies. The website also serves Westie Rescue organizations which seek to connect with people needing to give up their Westie to a safe local group or wanting to adopt a Westie in their area. People can fill out a [volunteer or adoption application or donate to help](#) too.