



Hi!

Welcome to Westie Rescue, Inc.'s volunteer program. Being an advocate for rescue Westies is a rewarding experience. Our rescue Westies are fun, loving Terriers that have been neglected, misunderstood and abandoned for a variety of reasons. Westies can make the perfect companion when they connect with the right family. Your work with Westie Rescue, Inc. will assist us in educating potential Westie owners about the breed and our program.

Westie Rescue, Inc. takes a progressive approach to retaining and recruiting volunteers, ensuring that all are doing jobs that they enjoy. You don't have to foster homeless Westies to participate. Westie Rescue, Inc. needs accountants, lawyers and veterinary assistant's, in addition to volunteers that provide foster homes.

Westie Rescue, Inc. was organized to provide rescue to homeless Westies, secure permanent homes for them, educate the public about the breed and responsible dog ownership.

We understand that your time is a precious, limited resource and we appreciate that you spend some of it helping us.

This manual has been prepared as a reference guide. Please read it carefully and contact us if you have questions that have not been addressed here.

Thank you for spending some of your time and energy helping us help Westies.

Karen Spalding
President

GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR VOLUNTEERS

About Us

We are an all volunteer non-profit organization incorporated in Maryland. Westie Rescue, Inc. is listed as a rescue resource on the website of the West Highland White Terrier Club of America. We have signed and abide by the Code of Conduct and Ethics of the National Rescue Committee. Our territory covers Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, the District of Columbia, Delaware, parts of North Carolina, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Since our organization was founded, we have placed over 300 West Highland White Terriers into permanent homes. We are part of a National Westie Rescue Network in the United States and Canada.

The majority of our Westies come to us as owner give-ups for a variety of reasons such as owners who have died, the birth of a child, the Westie who does not interact well with children or other pets, owners who no longer wish or are able to provide the care that the Westie needs, divorce and moving. We occasionally hear from shelters that receive a Westie or Westie mix or who are strays.

Westies are in the Terrier family and are generally outgoing and energetic. They can be strong willed and need a loving but firm owner. They should always be kept on a leash, as they have been known to chase after squirrels, rabbits, deer, children on bikes, cars and other dogs if given the opportunity. They make wonderful companions that are smart and trainable. Some Westies will get along great with other dogs, cats and kids.

Volunteer Time and Attendance

Westie Rescue, Inc. depends on its volunteers to be reliable and effective during our events. Staffing events with our volunteers enables us to operate smoothly.

Volunteer hours are flexible and you can give as little or as much time that works for you. Most of our events operate in two (2) to four (4) hour shifts. If you are looking to give time regularly, ask about open committee positions.

Once you have made a commitment to volunteer for Westie Rescue, Inc. please ensure you arrive to the event in a timely fashion and ready to get to work. Once our volunteers make a commitment, we rely on them to come prepared to work at an event. When volunteers don't show up, we risk not being able to effectively staff an event.

Dress

All of our events are casual. Please show up in your favorite Westie T-shirt and comfortable pants/shorts. During Fall/Winter events, be sure to dress warmly. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes as you will be on your feet for much of the event.

Conduct

When volunteering for Westie Rescue, Inc. you are acting as a representative of our organization. As such, you should be polite and courteous when talking to event participants.

Prior to events be sure to know the mission and goals of Westie Rescue, Inc. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Volunteer Coordinator or speak with a Board Member present at the event.

Be friendly, courteous and smile because it leaves a great impression with anyone interested in helping us in any way. Kindness works, it is just that simple.

Accidents

Westie Rescue, Inc. works to implement measures that will prevent accidents before they happen. However, there is no way to eliminate them completely. If someone is bitten by a dog, falls or has any other type of accident, please get them help immediately. Once someone has come to their aid, contact the Board Member in charge of the event and explain what happened.

Adoption

Adoption application packets are available at events, hand the person one if they are interested in adoption. Brochures are also available and should be given to those interested in our program and/or making a donation.

The application is detailed and attempts to pinpoint applicant requirements. It is also available on our website (www.helpwesties.org). Individuals interested in adopting can print the application, complete it and mail it to the address on the fourth page. Our mailing address is Bluemont, VA. There is no physical shelter location to visit. An application fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00) is required and helps to offset postage, envelopes, copying and telephone calls during the application process. All applications should be mailed to our post office box. We do not accept emailed or faxed applications.

We match our Westies to applicants based on the Westies' needs. By using the information on the application and what is known about the dog when it arrives into our program we attempt to make a perfect match.

We look to our foster parents to offer love and support to our Westies. While in Foster Care, the foster parents are asked to provide an evaluation to the Placement Coordinator. This evaluation tells us how the Westie responds to different situations and stimulus. We rely on the foster parent to expose our Westies to conditions that their perspective owners may have and determine the dogs' reaction to those circumstances.

Each Westie is spayed/neutered and brought current on vaccinations prior to adoption. Any special medical needs are also taken care of.

In 2009 we began micro-chipping and registering each of our rescue Westies. Our rescues are registered with the American Kennel Club's (AKC) Animal Companion Recovery program. Registration information is provided to each adoptee.

We will check the applicants' references and require a home visit prior to or at the time the Westie is placed. Again, we want what is best for the applicant and our Westies.

COST TO ADOPT: Adoption fees range from \$150.00 - \$400.00 depending on each individual Westie. The average adoption fee is \$300.00. These fees allow us to continue to provide medical care to each Westie that comes into our program.

We encourage each of our adopters to take an obedience class with their new Westie to develop a bond and establish your relationship. Also, it will help teach the dog basic commands and provide socialization with people and other dogs.

Available Westies

When people ask if we have any dogs available, they can be told that we average between 2 and 4 dogs each month. The average age is between 3 and 7 years old. And yes, we do get puppies - BUT VERY RARELY. Our available Westies are listed on our website (www.helpwesties.org). We often take in senior Westies between the ages of 9 and 12 - encourage them to consider a senior.

There are usually at least 2 Westies in foster care—but if no dogs are currently in foster care you can then say that "dogs become available all the time. Currently there are none in foster care, but that doesn't mean we won't have one tomorrow."

We do not discuss specific dogs with people because then they feel like they have been promised "that" dog. Encourage them to complete an application as that is the ONLY way they will be considered for a Westie.

Further questions about the Westies should be directed to Karen Spalding at 540-554-2963. Our email and phone information is on the brochure. Karen Spalding is the President and primary contact person for the organization.

Donations

Donations are always accepted and appreciated. They will go toward providing medical care, food and supplies for our Westies. We also accept donations of copy paper, stamps and dog supplies.

Breeders

Some people will ask you about breeders. Advise them that reputable breeders DO NOT advertise in Newspapers or on websites. You can direct them to the West Highland White Terrier Club of America website www.westieclubamerica.com.

Foster Care

If someone is interested in being a foster parent refer them to our website www.helpwesties.org for an application and/or have them call our rescue line at 540-554-2963.

Fundraising Items

At your event, there will be items available for purchase. Cash is our preferred method of payment. No tax is collected. Checks should be made out to WESTIE RESCUE, INC. unless you are instructed otherwise. Keep a count of what is sold (how many of each item) on the event price sheet that is provided. Items available are T-shirts, sweatshirts, dog toys and other Westie or canine-related items.

Cash donations are also encouraged and a fish bowl is provided at each event for this purpose. We usually have pens, paw clips or other goodie available to hand out to those making a donation. If someone picks up a handful (children sometimes do this) and ask if they may take several of the items, say "with a donation please."

Share A Success Story

For example, I adopted a Westie and his name is Fred. You can read about us on the website. He is a great little fellow, who I love dearly and can't see my life without him. He is always ready for a walk, good with kids and other dogs and we are volunteering with Pets on Wheels. That is an organization where you visit nursing homes with your pet. It has been a great experience for me.

One of the quotes you can use is, "I have had NEW before and now I tried USED, through adoption. There is something so special about giving an animal a second chance that makes it so rewarding...."

Any questions that you cannot answer or the event Board Member is not available, hand the folks one of our brochures or a business card which has our phone number on it.

An Event With Westies

Some of the events that we participate at we are able to have our Westies. The Volunteer Coordinator will make you aware of this. Due to insurance liability issues we must limit the number of dogs that are present. If we have a dog in foster care, that dog would have priority over a volunteer's dog since the object is to secure placement for these dogs. At the Super Pet Expo the limit is 3 dogs at one time...preferably 2. The dogs must be friendly with people and children. The dogs should also be well mannered and NOT barkers. The dogs must be on a leash or in an x-pen. You will be expected to provide your own crate and/or x-pen for your dog.

Never have a dog spend too much time in this environment. Walk the dog outside and/or around the event.

Always have water and treats available.

Never let ANY person besides an Event volunteer walk away with the Westie.

Watch the dog closely around children. Don't permit children to "poke" at the Westies through the x-pen.

Always have the Westie on a leash or in crated area.

In closing, Westies are great dogs, but, they are not for everyone. Our goal is a "win-win" situation for the Westie and owner.