

IT'S A WRAP NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 Issue 1

MARCH 2017

IT'S A WRAP! This is the official newsletter of Westie Rescue and Placement (WRAP) of Northern California.

MESSAGE FROM THE WRAP PRESIDENT

Welcome to our March edition of the WRAP Newsletter. As you are reading this I must assume that you're already aware of and in support of our mission to rescue surrendered, abandoned or stray Westies and find them safe, loving and permanent homes. However, are you also aware that WRAP as an all-volunteer organization depends on caring people like yourselves to accomplish this mission.

Over the next few issues we would like to highlight and introduce to you the various volunteer activities essential to our mission in hopes that you will find one or more ways in which you can help. In this issue, we will highlight our volunteer foster parents.

WRAP is not a shelter. We do not have a kennel or holding facility. The Westies who enter our rescue program must be fostered and cared for in private homes until a new 'forever' home can be found through our adoption process. This means we have an ongoing need for foster parent volunteers.

A volunteer foster parent provides care, feeding and transportation, to and from the veterinarian, for the fostered Westie, while it is undergoing WRAP funded veterinarian care and treatments and until it is ready for placement. Depending on the dog's needs, this can be anywhere from a day or two to a couple of months.

It isn't hard to be a foster parent but it is a vital, indispensable role in the rescue process. And It is also rewarding as you experience how, with a small amount of your love, the dog you fostered evolves from a neglected, abandoned or abused animal into a loving, playful companion. In fact, it is not unusual for our foster parent volunteers to bond so closely with their foster dog that they end up adopting the Westie themselves.

So, if you have a little extra room in your home and in your heart, I encourage you to consider becoming a foster parent. All you need to do to get started is go to the WRAP website, download and complete the "Foster Care Application" and send it to us.

With a sincere thank you to all our volunteers and donors,

David L. Snook
President, Westie Rescue and Placement of Northern California



Dedication

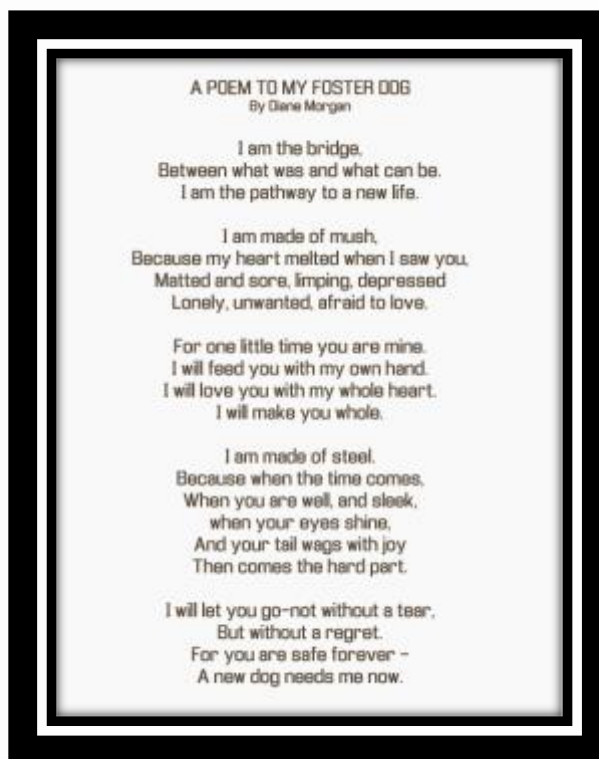
We are dedicating this newsletter to our foster parents without them it would be very difficult for us to get some of our dogs ready for adoption. Foster parents help to bridge the gap between their Westie charges old life, the shelter, and their new life in their forever homes.

Being a foster parent is not an easy job. It means sharing yourself, your time, your home, and your love with a homeless Westie. It means feeding them, bathing them, and doing whatever is necessary to make them feel safe and comfortable. It means helping them to learn skills they may not have; like walking on a leash or even potty training. It is making an investment in your Westie charges future. For some its a few days, or a week, for some it can be months.

The really hard part comes when it's time to say goodbye, and to move your Westie charge to a new home and new parents. Each Westie touches your heart. Thank you Janet, Linda, Nancy, Marilyn, Julie & David, Tracy & Alex only to name a few of our most recent foster parents. Thank you to all you others who have helped in the past and will in this coming year.



C



Rescue News

Maggie UPDATE Hi, My name is Maggie. My mommy and dad couldn't take care of me anymore so they gave me to Westie Rescue to find a new family for me. I somehow hurt my leg though and the doctor said I needed surgery. I am with a wonderful mom and dad now who recently adopted me. I love them lots... they took care of me when I had surgery on my bad leg. I was lame for weeks and weeks but now the doctor says my leg is doing really good. I have two Cairn sisters and a great yard to explore. I am very happy with my forever family.





Maggie



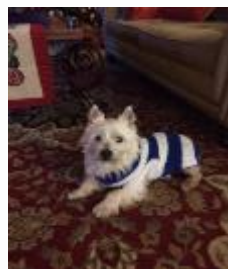
Hi it's me Miles in my new home!

Miles UPDATE- My name is Miles. I was adopted on December 29, 2016. I live north of Sacramento now and am very happy with my new forever mom. Mom and I have a new house to start our new life and New Year together. We go for long walks and runs most every day. We do lots of stuff together. I love my mom already.

Lucky Lucy UPDATE- I'm Lucky and I am from Northern California. I was used as a breeding dog for 9 years until the county people came and took me away. My skin was very bad and I am now getting some relief and help. I was in a foster home with a nice lady who was helping me adjust to life on the outside. I was happily adopted by my foster mom in late January. I couldn't be more pleased.



Lucky Lucy Shelter



My foster home photo

MacDuff UPDATE - Hi I am a very happy boy and I am Happy to be here. I got sprung from doggy jail just before Christmas after 3 weeks there. I am got treatment for my bad skin and ears. I am a Westie mix and a very sweet boy they say. I get along well with people and doggies too. I know I need a proper haircut but I will get one when I have been here a little longer. I went to my forever home in late January. I have a doggie Cairn mix sister and she is just my age. We both like to play with toys. I like to sleep in my new mommy's beds.



It's me MacDuff



Harley



Harley- Hi Harley here. I was a stray and was very sick and dirty when a Good Samaritan found me and took me to the shelter. I was there for some time before I was well enough to be released to WRAP. They got me all cleaned up and took me to the veterinarian for follow-up care. I was adopted in late January and have a wonderful new mom and dad and 2 canine siblings. I am so happy in my forever home. I love all the attention and beach walks.

Bryce- Bryce here I was a stray in the Central Valley who was very dirty and matted. My owner said she didn't want me when the shelter called her. They gave me to my breeder, who signed me over to WRAP to find me wonderful home. Now I have a fabulous Mom and Dad, lots of toys, a soft new bed and a great yard to run around in. We even go to the beach where I can walk and play.



Bryce

Maarten- Hi I am Maarten I lived in Southern California with my Mom and Dad for 10 years. Then they had a baby and I wasn't too fond of her. Mom and Dad worried I might hurt her so they gave me to Rescue. Now I live in Northern California in nice house with a huge yard and a really nice Mom and Dad. I am still settling in but I think I am going to like it a lot. I get chicken sometimes, I get to sleep in the big bed with Mom and Dad and I have a doggy door so I can go out when I want.



Maarten



Arnie

Arnie- I was living in an assisted living home with my Dad until he had to enter hospice. I don't really like young children and my owner's family could not keep me for that reason. I am 12 years old and Dad's family was desperate to find a place for me so they sent me here to WRAP from Las Vegas. The Veterinarian says I am a healthy boy except I need to lose weight and have a problem with one eye (which I could have told him). I am house trained and have my shots. I have Westitude and talk sometimes. I get along with other dogs but I have always been a only dog. Do you have room for me?

You have heard the term it "takes a village" and for Arnie it did take a village to save him. Thank you Pat and Tom in Sparks and Fredi and Debi in Las Vegas for helping us to get this boy.



DONATIONS

Any tax deductible donations can be made on our web page (on PayPal) at: www.westierescuenorcal.org or Facebook page using the Donate button. You can also send a check to: Susan Acevedo 32 Oak Knoll Dr. Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Please make the check out to WRAP or Westie Rescue and Placement of Northern California. Thank you for your support.

Do you shop on Amazon?

If so, then you can support WRAP by now using Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion (0.5%) of the purchase price to WRAP. Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com, and enter "Westie Rescue and Placement of Northern California" as your preferred charity. Thank You. Start shopping!



HELP WANTED

WRAP is looking for some volunteers who possess certain skills to advise the board (pro bono) on issues that may arise over time. We are asking for a limited number of hours, as needed. We are seeking an **Attorney**, a **CPA**, a **Veterinarian** and an **Animal Behaviorist**. If you would be willing to help us or want more information please contact:

Barbara Mordy at BarbaraMordy@westierescuenorcal.org or
Susan Acevedo at Susanacevedo@westierescuenorcal.org

WESTIE IN THE KITCHEN



Simple Poultry/Meat/Fish Treats (Wheat Free)

- 1 cup of diced meat, poultry or fish
- ½ cup of cooked rice
- 3 tablespoons of rice flour
- 1 tablespoon of parsley
- 1 egg.

Mix thoroughly. Pre heat oven to 350. Cover cooking tray in parchment paper. Spoon on cooking tray in desired size. Cook 20-30 minutes.



IN MEMORIAM

Let us take a moment to honor our wonderful four-footed friends who have recently crossed the Rainbow Bridge.



For future issues, we ask that you send your memorials to us at: bgmordy@comcast.net. Please send a photo, birth (an estimate is fine if you don't have the exact date) and passing date along with a short note to include in the memorial.

Looking for a few good men and women...

- Do you have fundraising and/or event planning experience?
- Do you have the ability to build strong relationships with new people and organizations?
- Are you detail-oriented with excellent time management skills?
- Do you have strong interpersonal skills?
- Do you work well independently and as part of a team?
- Do you have experience with Microsoft Word?
- Do you have some knowledge of Microsoft Excel?

If you replied "yes" to one or more of the above questions, then you could be who we are looking for to join the WRAP Fundraising Committee. We are always in need of more volunteers to help:

- Assist with the planning and management of fundraising events
- Assist with general fundraising activities (e.g., set up, registration, auctions, merchandise sales, beverage/ food, parades, contests, etc.
- Coordinate and follow up on donor requests, and mailings, as needed
- Assist with prospecting and soliciting donors
- Identify and approach potential business partners
- Help increase communications with supporters

Please contact Linda Snook(l_snook@att.net) or Susan Acevedo (susan.Acevedo@westieresucenorcal.org) if you would like to donate your time and talents as a volunteer to support fundraising for Westie rescue.

WESTIE HEALTH CORNER

LIVING WITH DRY-EYED WESTIES

Written by Mary Martha Young

Duncan, a wonderful Westie who lived fifteen and a half years provided my introduction to "[dry eye](#)" when he was eight years old. He was one of two Westies who lived with his companion, T.S., and me. They shared a big yard in North Carolina accessed by a deck from the house. Duncan stopped coming up the stairs to the



deck on occasion so our vet X-rayed him and nothing appeared to be wrong with his legs or back. His regular vet referred him to the North Carolina State Veterinary School for evaluation. I recall dropping him off on the way to work and thinking it would be a short appointment since they wanted him all day. The student assigned to his case kept going over him from stem to stern and I almost mentioned that his back end was sitting on the ground, not his head, when she started on his eyes. At which point she looked at me and said "Do you know that Duncan is going blind?" After explaining to me that his tear production had stopped and that his eyes had developed ulcers, the reassuring news came: it was not too late to scrape his cornea and allow the layer to reform. Daily medication would also be needed.

We started the process and it took several scraping treatments before the layer was smooth. Duncan bumped into furniture and walls during this time and had to be carried up and down stairs. He had fooled me by following close behind T.S. when they went in and out of the house. T.S. was the more athletic of the two and eventually Duncan could not see well enough to stay close enough to climb the stairs in T.S.'s paw steps. Many Westie owners think "more is better than one" and could miss this first sign of trouble.

The medication sequence that Duncan was prescribed is fairly typical. We began with a saline solution to wash his eyes out each morning followed by drops of cyclosporine dissolved in avocado oil formulated by the vet school. The next group that Duncan met at the NC State Vet School was dermatology. He was allergic to the avocado oil and big, black, scabby patches developed around both eyes -- sort of reverse panda in appearance. They consulted with his ophthalmologists and switched him to a cream-based cyclosporine ointment. It was less concentrated but still worked for him. Placing a strip of ointment on the eye was a level of difficulty higher than putting in drops, but he was quite cooperative.

Over the next seven years, his treatments became more aggressive. Eventually we increased the regimen to twice a day for the ointment and added a triple antibiotic ointment (NeoPolyDex) at night. He had started sleeping with his eyes partly open so his eyes needed the protection. At fifteen and a half, Duncan did not have great eyesight but he certainly could see well enough to go about living a high quality life until he died last February.

Duncan was hospitalized a few times in his last three years for pancreatitis and other illnesses. Vets do not always carry these specialized eye medications so it is important to take the medications with you if you expect to leave a dry eye Westie overnight. Provide written directions for application as some technicians will not have treated a patient with dry eye before. Once I had to make two round trips between San Francisco and San Leandro because I had forgotten Duncan's eye meds. Even if the specialists have the medications on hand, it will be a more costly hospitalization if you have to repurchase them.

After Duncan died, someone in Westie Rescue of Northern California, heard that I had lost my dear Duncan in 2000. They told someone else who knew about a couple of Westies who were looking for a home. Gail Krieger was fostering a darling girl who was rescued from the shelter in Martinez and there was another girl in the Carmel area looking for a new Mom. Both of these Westies had dry eye disease.



Annie and Tessa

My experience with Duncan was very helpful since I fell in love with them and had no doubt that I could handle their eye problems. Tessa came first and had eye discharge and obvious vision problems. Annie arrived four days later and her eye discharge was worse than any I had ever seen.

I took both girls to see Duncan's ophthalmologist, Dr. Cynthia Cook, at [Veterinary Vision](#) now located in San Carlos and San Francisco. I expected that she would start the scraping procedure and they would recover nicely, an optimistic belief on my part. Dr. Cook explained that their disease had not been caught in the early stages and their eyes were deeply scarred. Treatment would be medication only and some improvement could be expected but not dramatic improvement. We started out with the saline flushing. I was able to clean Tessa's eyes adequately but had to go back for further training for Annie. Her eye "gunk" was green and sticky and resistant to normal flushing. Dr. Cook literally flooded her eyes for minutes to get them clear.



enough for medication. It was the difference between hosing off the sidewalk with the hose and using one of the attachments to increase pressure and velocity. I used bottles and bottles of saline solution until finally her eyes started producing enough tears to preclude production of discharge. With Tessa it required about a month and Annie took about three months to return to that bright-eyed, brown-eyed Westie look. We used the cyclosporine in oil solution and also the triple antibiotic cream that I used with Duncan. Dr. Cook added a prednisolone solution after about a month and a half which significantly improved Annie's progress. She decided I should use it for Tessa too.

Tessa began producing tears and could see as well as Duncan could in his later years. Annie could see about a foot when she arrived. She was a very needy dog and wanted to be with me all the time. I had to put my hand a foot in front of her face to coax her to come (she was totally deaf) in the beginning. Soon she followed my progress around a large room. As with all new pets, I learned new things regularly. Unbeknownst to me, Annie liked to bark at and chase bikes. One day she was sitting on the sidewalk helping me sweep leaves when she barked at a cyclist and gave chase. A Mom has never been so proud of "bad dog" behavior. The cyclist was at least 15-20 feet away and Annie not only saw "something," she knew what she saw and acted like all good Westies with trigger points. Needless to say, her days as sweeping assistant ended that day and I began to make it a practice to avoid kids on bikes on the sidewalk when walking her.

All of this good news came with lots of attention paid to what Dr. Cook recommended. Duncan had trained me well for these girls but taking care of him was much less work. Annie and Tessa got eye wash, prednisolone solution, cyclosporine in an oily ointment, and Optimmune, a creamy ointment, THREE times a day, every day, seven days a week for the rest of their lives.

The technical term for "dry eye" is Keratoconjunctivitis and some Westie owners may be tempted to assume that the condition is similar to a human whose eyes feel "dry." In our human case, adding saline solution does the trick and our eyes feel better. For a Westie with dry eye, the saline only lasts for seconds and then your dog is in pain and could lose their vision without using the medications. Most importantly, after I experienced Annie's and Tessa's more advanced disease, I realized that my next two Westies, Phoenix and Skyrin, were nine years old and they had never been tested. I took them immediately to the regular vet and they both have excellent--ABOVE average--tear production. The test is real easy--the vet places a paper wick in the bottom eyelid and measures the distance the tears travel up the wick in a given time interval.

All Westie owners should make the tear production test a regular part of your dog's annual checkup. Start early enough, 6 or 7 years old, to get a good baseline tear production value and it will be easy for your vet to see changes. If your Westie starts to develop "dry eye" there will be time to reverse the disease before regular treatments become your only option. Also, there are surgical means to replace the tear ducts that can be used in younger dogs. The earlier the diagnosis, the fewer treatments per day will be needed to keep those bright eyes seeing you, and all those other critters of interest, as your Westie becomes a respected senior citizen.

Annie demonstrated the lowest tear production of any of my dry-eyed Westies and showed marked improvement in a year with the medication regimen. A year later her checkup showed only 3-7 millimeters of tear flow and Dr. Cook prescribed a new drug for her (Tacrolimus 0.02 % solution added last in the sequence); her eyes appeared to get clearer in a few weeks and discharge disappeared altogether. The positive results were confirmed when she was rechecked two months later and I saved the wicks showing 12-20 millimeters. Dr. Cook was ecstatic and renamed her "Double-Digit Annie." Her eyesight significantly improved to seeing me when I was 40-50 feet away. It was such a pleasure to see her look around for me and then make a mad dash in the correct direction from that distance.

As of this writing, I have yet another Westie with "dry eye." I was asked by Westie Rescue of Northern California to be a Foster home for a 3 month old puppy named Dixie who was surrendered. They told me I was asked since I used to volunteer with the San Francisco SPCA Hearing Dog Program and assisted with training our dogs to answer the door and alert for events of importance like a smoke detector sounding. After losing my dear Annie and Skyrin within two months at the end of 2005, I donated all of my things "dog" to the SPCA and kept the two original crates belonging to Duncan and T.S. in case they were needed for rescue. I



took little Dixie in February of 2006 as a Foster. After three weeks I was head over hills in love with her and asked the Rescue if they had a permanent home for her. They said they did and then said "That would be you, crazy lady, who thought she could live without a Westie." Then I called them in a week and asked if they might have a boy available as Dixie was the most active puppy in the land and she needed a playmate. And sure enough, along came Dudley who had also been an ill-advised Christmas present in 2005. And he too was 3 months old.



DUDLEY & DIXIE

My vets at VCA San Francisco Veterinary Specialists were so pleased that I took their advice of one word when I lost Annie and Skyrin: "PUPPY!" I could not wait to show them off as my new family members and of course realize now that no matter what, I will always have a Westie or two and always from the club Rescue Program.

It only took Dixie THREE YEARS to develop the dreaded Westie "dry eye" condition so off we went to see Dr. Cynthia Cook of Veterinary Vision again. If I had not had the aforementioned three Westies with this disease, Dixie could clearly have missed the critical early diagnosis since she was very young to have developed this condition. She also would have been more like Annie and Tessa than Duncan, since her treatment has started with the conventional and moved on to new medications. The constant is Neo-Poly-Dex antibiotic ointment or aqueous solution which is still prescribed for this disease but many dogs are quite comfortable with the addition of only the cream Optimmune ointment. Dixie quickly moved on to the 0.02 % Tacrolimus and then on again to a more concentrated 0.03 % solution which is prepared by a formulation pharmacy for Dr. Cook. And just this past checkup she was switched to a 0.03 % aqueous Tacrolimus solution that must be stored in a refrigerator. I had noted that she stopped being under control before the other Tacrolimus should have actually expired so they got the new cold storage version. She has also developed eye infections off and on in the past four years (she is 7!) that needed oral antibiotic treatment in addition to the Neo-Poly-Dex solution and Tacrolimus. Since she is seen every six months at Veterinary Vision, a very serious retinal blistering was observed and treated. The blisters were reduced to lesions using an aggressive Prednisone treatment. I was told she would likely go blind but she only experiences night blindness and is still very much on rodent and bicycle patrol from her window. When she is taken out for bathroom breaks after dark I use a flashlight and gently steer her to the door with her shoulders.

The good news is, the science is keeping up with this condition and treatments are being added and are still being invented to treat Keratoconjunctivitis. My advice has changed from including a tear production test in the annual wellness exam to having tear production checked whenever eye discharge of any color or consistency is observed regardless of age. Dudley goes once a year since Dixie was diagnosed and it is covered by my Pet Insurance.

I have had several Westies that I have rescued in the past two years who came with dry eye and some were being treated and others were not. Many vets are unfamiliar with the frequency of occurrence in Westies so do not hesitate to go to a Board Certified Ophthalmologist. And Veterinary Vision has assisted me by seeing some of these Westies at a discount for our Rescue which is enormously appreciated. Veterinary costs are far and away our highest expense when rescuing these precious beings that need forever home.

PIZZA PARTY FUNDRAISER PHOTOS





Great Pizza, Great Company, Great Silent Auction Items. Thank You Sandra & Chuck Burkitt and Willow Glen Round Table Pizza 1175 Lincoln Ave San Jose.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sacramento –late May 2017
Visit us online at <http://www.westierescuenorcal.org> for the latest news and updates.

WRAP Officers and Board of Directors for 2017 are:



President David Snook
 Vice President Mary Young
 Secretary Barbara Mordy
 Treasurer Susan Acevedo

The WRAP Committees for 2017 and some of the volunteers are:

Fundraising Committee (including Activities, Events and Sponsorships):

Linda Snook, Susan Acevedo, Rebekah Tervydis
 Vacancies

Program Operations Committee (including Surrender, Foster Care and Adoptions):

Mary Young, Barbara Mordy, Tony Devol, Susan Acevedo.
 Foster/volunteers Janet Kurnick & Christyne Johns Mills- Sacramento, Linda Levinson- North Bay, and Nancy Mathews- Vacaville area, Central Valley –Linda Stockle.
 Vacancies-North Bay, East Bay, Far North, Central Valley, Reno Area.....

Communication Committee (including Email, Website, Newsletter, Photography, Social Media, Liaisons):

Webmaster- Tony Devol
 Group Email- Tony Devol
 Newsletter- Barbara Mordy
 Photography- Bill O'Such
 Social Media-
 Facebook - Barbara Mordy (Facebook),
 Twitter- Vacant
 Snap Chat-Vacant
 Liaisons- Mary Young

Please consider volunteering your time by serving on one of the committees. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and to help shape the future of our organization. If you are interested, please contact any of the above Chairs, Officers or Board Members

IT'S A WRAP will be published at least four times per year in March, June, September and December. We encourage friends and supporters to submit articles, photos, brags, and other Westie related information that they feel would be of interests to our readers. Please send the material to the Editor by the first of the month in which the newsletter issue is scheduled to be published to allow enough time for the volunteers and Editor to do their magic! When submitting items for publication, please have all photos camera ready (.jpeg formats are preferred). All copy should be submitted in a widely accepted electronic format such as MS Word. If you are unable to provide in the preferred formats, contact the Editor Barbara Mordy bgmordy@comcast.net

All material submitted will be published at the discretion of the Editor and may be edited to fit the available space. Opinions are always those of the author/submitter and do not



necessarily reflect those of the Editor or Board of Directors.

Until next time.....IT'S A WRAP!!

