



2008 Rescue Wind Up

We have had one adventure after another this year, and our totals for rescued dogs has grown larger. We see so many things in rescue that it's hard to comprehend what we go through and deal with and see that we have no control over.

Stats for 2007:

Dogs processed: 42 Fostered: 21 dogs # of Foster Homes: 11
Spayed/Neutered: 2

Spent on Vet Bills in 2007: \$5,000

Stats for 2008:

Dogs processed: 68 Fostered: 58 in our homes # of Foster Homes: 5
Died: 3* Changed mind: 7 Unplaceable: 4**
Spayed/Neutered: 17 Allergies: 7 Returned to Rescue: 4

Spent on Vet Bills in 2008: \$17,079.00

* One died of heart attack before we arrived, one has Westie lung disease and is dying and one died of cancer

** One was rescued from Puppy mill in horrid conditions and cannot be placed, he is too volatile and you can't predict his biting and he bites and holds on. Two bit adoptive owners and are unpredictable and cannot be placed, we gave one to a foster mother to keep and one we gave a former Westie owner, we didn't adopt them out.

Well above stats will show you what I refer to as Mr Toads Wild Ride. We have had several repeated back yard breeder dogs come into rescue and it's the same dogs over and over. Snowden Kennels in Oregon and they are partnering with someone named Debbie who sells on Craig's list. One was raided out of Cottage Grove and the conditions of the dogs were terrible. One is slowly dying of Westie Lung Disease and with Michele as a hospice dog. One is so messed up mentally he can never really be placed, and may have to be euthanized. He is five years old. The other kennel out of Oregon is Sweetbriar. So far we have gotten 6 of our rescues out of those kennels. They were kept outside, or in a garage, or lawnmower shed in crates being stud dogs and brood bitches. If you buy dogs from those two people I will have to find you and throttle you.

Its easy to care for a sick dog, or train an untrained dog, but when you get these mill dogs, they are mentally messed up. They were deprived of socialization, taken from their mothers too early and kept in horrendous conditions. They were on occasion physically abused, and they have mental scars from it. These are the very hardest dogs. We not only put up with our own homes in an uproar, but we can also put our dogs in harms way. So the next time you see a for sale sign in a pet shop or a dog on Craigs list for \$150, or a breeder who says they will meet you in a parking lot – rethink that.

We had a lot of big challenges and fund raisers this year, and we could not have done it without the financial donations from our members and our friends who always give unselfishly for their breed. I don't know any other breed club who is so generous. We so appreciate it. It's the only thing that keeps us operational. This year we had two luxated patella operations, several extreme allergy issues with dogs who didn't respond and several elderly dogs.

Reasons for giving up the Westies range from elderly having dementia and/or going into assisted living and their adult children do not want to deal with the dogs. I have also had several who bought a puppy and no longer wanted the older dog. We have had young families who bought a puppy when their children were babies and as the children aged, the dogs bit or they were too much and the family was too busy, so off they chucked them out. I have had several we rescued from the shelter who were purchased as puppies by people in their 80s and after the first month they couldn't tolerate the energy level. Oh so many stories, I could write a book.

This year 4 dogs were returned from their adoptive families. Two found the perfect home and it was good for them to finally find the perfect owner. Two were returned for biting and unpredictability and we could not place them and were faced with euthanazia. One was ultimately taken in by foster mom from a year prior and his brother was taken by someone who received an email through a rush of please for help. A grooming saloon referred them to us, and he is doing great down in Lacey. We didn't adopt these dogs out , we just placed them with the understanding that if they didn't work out they would come back for euthanazia.

Our rescue fosters/transporters work endlessly, tirelessly and put their lives on hold to rescue and care for these dogs. I am very fortunate to have a dedicated group of people who just work out the small stuff later, and they are off like "speed racer" to the next dog in need. They also not only fostered 53 Westies but also 9 Scotties. Two of which were in crisis situations physically. I'd like to personally thank Barbara and Bob Mitchell, Barbara Kam, Michele Mariani, Christine Corbley, June Taylor, Nancy Swanson, and Maryann Guerry-Buck. We have moved dogs from Idaho and from Canada to Oregon. It's a lot of territory to cover. We not only have done that but have also rescued a Cairn Mix, a Scottie Mix, a Cairn Terrier and a Mini Schnauzer. These dogs were due to situations that we could not leave them behind.

Fostering is not for the faint hearted. I was sent to emergency with blood poisoning from a dog bite and also back on antibiotics for a serious infection for a second bite. Barbara Kam was off to emergency for stitches in her leg for standing in the wrong place during a dog fight. Bob Mitchell had puncture wounds and poor Christine was hobbling around on crutches (after a foot operation) breaking up dog fights with one of the dogs in foster care. Maryann had a good wound in her hand and she also is a shelter checker for SPDR for the Everett Shelter.

At this writing it is December 19, 2008 and everyone is adopted out!

Donations to : SPDR Westies or Scotties, PO box 3523, Redmond, Wa 98073-3523