

# Behind the Scenes Who Are We?



Karin Parish – I am the Rep for Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue, I take on the hard to handle cases, or the extremely sick dogs that need extensive nursing care, shots, etc. Rescue has become a full time job and our group is 100% volunteer. I rescued my first Westie in California in 2002 by raising money for a little Westie found in Wendy's Parking lot in Iowa –I have since helped to rescue over 500 dogs in the state of Washington and Oregon as well as Idaho, since 2005. I became the Westie/Scottie Rescue Rep for SPDR (Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue). I also am the Rescue Rep for WHWTCA (West Highland White Terrier Club of America). I also recruit foster homes, interview people who are surrendering dogs, schedule vets, do all the paperwork, keep track of statistics, submit forms for statistics to SPDR, buy the supplies, keep my finger on the pulse of the foster homes, and help them sort out situations, coordinate pick up and adoption out, and raise funds for rescue money. We are solely funded by your donations. Vet bills were \$13,335 this year

and supplies/food/mileage and meds were \$7583 (total expended \$20,918).

We adopt our dogs out through SPDR (Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue) which is a 501c.3 organization and makes your adoption donations – tax deductible. We have grown into a wonderful group of people who work together like a well-oiled machine. I am a heavy task master, and the workers under me are the Best of the Best and we are so lucky to have them. Rescue is not for the faint hearted. All my foster parents are as versed as I am in the rescue arena and they can pick up the ball and run with it in my absence, so I am happy to say we have no single point of failure. That is a lot to be said for all of us. We are a TEAM and we operate like a team. I live on Whidbey Island and I own three Scotties and two Westies. I compete in agility as well as Earthdog and now we are training in K9 Scent detection. All the dogs visiting always have fun at “camp parish”. I am also blessed to have Judy Lane as my co-rep so we can share the load.



Judy Lane – Co-Rep: Judy joined us in 2009 as co-rep to help me out and divide and conquer. Judy (and her husband Lyle) live in Maple Valle, and have been invaluable in helping me pick up, drop off, interview, and foster sick dogs. Judy covered for me totally in 2010 when I had to leave for 5 months due to a family emergency. She is amazingly resilient and is the “ying to my yang”. Judy and I concur on different situations, and bounce ideas off each other. Judy has gone beyond the call of duty, picking up and adopting dogs to locations in eastern Washington, and Oregon. Judy has five dogs which include two Westies, two Yorkies and a Lhasa. She is very calm and nurturing and I am more demanding and assertive, so we really balance everything out. Since Judy has arrived our intake on rescues has soared, and if I didn't have her, I could never handle the load and demanding stress and unusual situations. Judy enjoys fishing and camping and also holds down a full time job at Pemco. I am blessed to have her help.



Lyle Lane – Lyle is Judy's husband and he does a lot of hands on work. He handled our diabetic dog, giving him his shots and home cooking his low glycemic diet. He builds areas for the home that will accommodate all the dogs. He has even taken the rescue dogs on vacation camping with the family. He helps with fund raisers and takes photos. He is always behind the scenes so people don't even know he is around. We are truly blessed to have him.

Judy & Lyle On vacation



Barbara Mitchell: Barbara has been with rescue since about 2006. She was one of my first volunteers. These days she does my telephone interviews so I can handle other problems such as transport and logistics. Barbara also does inhome visits and is invaluable in giving me more time to do other business. I depend on her so much.

Christine Corbley Christine grew up with Westies. Christine works full time for the school district. She also helps mentor adopters to learn how to train their Westies. She specializes in the elderly dogs and is one of the four homes who can deal with severe allergies. She loves them. She is also a great groomer and gets them prepped for their petfinder photos. Christine is instrumental in just stepping him and taking over, when I need to go off and do other things. I can hand off the adoptions or entire process, and she steps in and takes care of business. Like I say, you just can't have enough alpha females around!



Charlotte Corbley

Charlotte is instrumental in fostering older Westies. Charlotte has probably owned Westies since the 60s. She too is adept at handling allergies Westies. Charlotte is always our ace in the hole when we are running out of foster space. Her limitation is one rescue as she has two of her own. She has taken them to and from vets that were not in her area. We are always grateful to her for the assistance because we know when the dogs leave her home, they are all well-mannered, and behaved.

June Taylor's Indian name is "she who drives further than the eagle can soar". She is the Oregon Coordinator for our rescue group. She has made numerous trips back and forth between Portland, Salem, Idaho, Whidbey, Port Orchard, Olympia. She has also been instrumental in moving dogs out of shelters in Oregon and handling the southern part of Oregon. She also holds down a full time job and does a lot of air travel for her job. She also has 3 of her own dogs, and several rescue horses. She gives until lit hurts, and then some. In Taylor's past life she has been a dog show handler. She is excellent with allergy problems and a great groomer! We are fortunate to have her on our team because life would be unbearable for me!



Maryann Guerry-Buck has been a cornerstone in rescue. I do believe she has been with me the longest. She works full time in the Lake Stephens School District and she also volunteers at Noah in Stanwood. I call her the Night Rider, because I am always sending her out in the night to go pick up another surrendered dog as soon as she can. She is always cheerful and off in her vehicle for another rescue. She drives to Bellingham and Snohomish picking up dogs and interviewing prospective applicants. She also is the Everett Shelter Checker for SPDR. Maryann kindly stays at my home once a year, so I can get away on vacation.



DeDe Harris - has been a tremendous asset to us when we were in a pinch and she also helps take dogs to and from the veterinarian. She is great at behavior training, and preparing a foster dog for adoption. She lives in the Northgate area of Seattle where she has her own doggie daycare. She has a lot of experience with different breeds and hands on daily in her doggie day care. She lives with her Scottie and Yorkie and also pet sits. DeDe is also a foster for Scottish Terrier Rescue NW and is also a member of Washington State Scottish Terrier Club. She is also seen at many of our Westie functions and she also dog sits some of our rescue Westies that were adopted. Her hobbies interesting hobby is basket weaving.



Tim Davidson – Is our back up foster for older dogs. He has helped us with foster care for several years. He has done a stellar job and has even wound up keeping some of the dogs because no one wanted to adopt an older dog. He is very good at training the dogs and socializing them with his other Westies and his cat. He is also becoming an expert at allergies. We are very grateful to have him.



Mike Roberts– is our newest volunteers to members. Mike has been invaluable in helping train our fosters as well as interviewing the best match. Mike has been our back up when we were really crunched for space and he took on more dogs. He has driven to pick up and drop off, and just done everything. He is an excellent trainer and just very reliable when we are up against a timeline and no more space. Mike had extensive neck surgery this year, and still worked fostering, along with a neck brace and pain pills. He is truly a TROOPER. A lesser man would have told me to \*talk to the hand\*. We are so blessed to have him. He is one of the top foster homes we have.

Dee Thompson is the other half of the household with Mike. She is an integral part of organization and strategizing transport/pick up, phone interviews and numerous other problems that arise. Dee also works full time and is on the Board of Directors of West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound. She handles meet and greet tables and a variety of other issues. We are again blessed to have them.



Holley Andrews - lives in Astoria, Oregon and she ironically was referred to me by a coworker who adopted two Westies from me. She has since retired from the Post Office, and she has some time to help us in rescue. She is a real asset covering the Portland area up to Kelso, WA. She has is new to our team and I enjoy her a lot. I nicknamed her Holley Berry (not sure why). She always makes my life happy and follows all directions well. She is a dream. Her rescue experience was sort of baptism by fire. We had to work through Westie Allergies, and I spent a lot of time educating her on the ways of Westie ailments and treatment. Thank goodness she follows directions easily and sticks to the program. She is becoming proficient at skin allergies. She is also a great trainer, and since she has a cat, she works with the terriers and cat. She is my "Ace" in the Hole in Western Oregon. I am elated to have her on our team.



Shawnie Zaheiser - Shawnie works full time at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Clinic. She does all the inhome visits and interviews in the Seattle area which is a huge area to cover. She has also picked up dogs in need when transports are coming in from Spokane to Seattle. She is our "bed and breakfast" stop. She keeps them over night, the we pick them up. Shawnie has two Westies and participates in Earthdog. She is also on the Board of Directors of the West Highland White Terrier club of Puget Sound. Shawnie and I discuss the needs of each dog in foster care, and she assists me in matching them up with the appropriate family. She has also been my sounding board when I am annoyed and she seems to level me out.



Jim Moore: Jim Moore is a new member of our team and he has been covering transport from Olympia area to Portland. He is our only volunteer to cover that big gap we have. If we didn't have him we would have to turn down many more dogs. Jim volunteered with us after he adopted Denny from us. We are very happy to have him. We couldn't ever cover the territory without him.



Call in the troops! (no photos) Our back-ups for both breeds are Kaleen McWilliams who is the Scottie Rescue Rep for Washington State Scottish Terrier Club, and Denise Gossett who is also a Scottie Foster home. Jeannie M of Scottie Rescue Oregon has picked up several Westies from shelters and transported them to us from Vancouver, Troutdale, Clackamas, and Portland. Deb Bowen of Oregon Dog Rescue has kindly taken my overflow of Westies when I had nowhere else to turn. I am grateful, I know they are overloaded with dogs as well.

The Families: Not only do these people give of their time and hard work, but foster families also forego a normal life and deal with the sacrifices that come with rescue. The easiest part of rescue is your donation dollars. The hardest part is the hands on fostering and dealing with people. The foster families work is the hardest part and the most labor/mental/emotionally intensive. Devoted foster families rearrange their lives, their day and put rescue up at the top of their priority list. At times I feel like I need wall size electronic spreadsheet and a laser pointer to keep all the balls in the air at the same time.

If the spouses were not onboard with what we do, it would make our job impossible. They tolerate, no dinner, change of plans at the spur of the moment, transporting on holidays, and all sorts of things we constantly encounter in rescue. These families also have to work through dog fights, urine, sick dogs, lots of hands on care for skin disease, special meds, shots, and a number of other issues. Husbands repair gates and make them "escape proof", pick up an inordinate amount of dog poop, fill in holes, and we won't mention the neighbors complaining about our barking dogs. Most of our lives are feet in motion - just point us in the right direction.

The Dogs: We not only have to impose on our families when we take in new foster dogs, but we also impose on our dogs. It takes away quality time we spend with our own dogs. Our own dogs must share, tolerate the "crazy ones", be patient with the sick ones, share their toys, beds, yards, crates and be put aside while training the "new bees". Our dogs are also instrumental in training the new dogs who come in. They can train a dog 10 times faster by example than we can by 10 days of training. I find the males are the "greeters" to the new dogs, and the girls are the "mom's" or trainers. They don't tolerate bad behavior and they show the new dog how to go through the doggie door, the lay of the land, and have enormous patience. It's quite amazing to watch.

Our Goals: We have learned from years of experience, that we must be very particular about who we adopt dogs out to. Dogs are in rescue for a reason. We don't want them to wind up BACK into rescue. Many dogs are there due to behavior problems or health problems. In all cases we evaluate temperament, ailments, care, evaluate cost of care, and personality, energy level, and socialization. If a dog is not suitable for someone due to cost of care, or if a person is quite elderly and I have a dog that needs baths 3x a week it's just not responsible or logical to place them with that person. We want the connection to be successful, and we want the dogs to fit into the household and not be returned back into rescue. Therefore, we do a thorough evaluation on the right fit. It's never about someone pining for a Westie. These are joint decisions. We have a telecon with the foster mom, and Judy and I. We bounce off scenarios and ask the foster mom/dad how they feel about this placement. These foster moms/dads have a lot of time invested in training and care. We also invite the fosters to interview the prospective person on the phone and or do a meet and greet. In almost all cases I defer to what the foster home feels is a good fit.

Most of the Westies or other dogs in rescue, are there for a reason, it's not because they were a great dog. About 25% of them are there for either biting children or fighting with the resident dog. Fifty percent seem to be there due to allergies, 20% are old age, and health issues. Lots are in rescue for behavioral problems (soiling the house, habitual barking, etc) because no one had time to train a dog that has now become obnoxious. Everyone fostering also does training. We share training techniques, and at times consult professional trainers for advice.

Fostering isn't just bringing in a dog as sweet as the dog you have, and babysitting it. There are temper tantrums, there are dogfights, there are escapees, and very messed up dogs, through no fault of their own, land in rescue. All dogs can be trained if they are not overtly aggressive. Even a 9 year old dog can be trained. Ironically the older ones catch on faster, they have a better attention span and they want to learn. All dogs want to please you and don't want to be in trouble or punished. Once they come into a new foster home and know the rules, they blossom. This doesn't happen with a magic wand, we all work hard at it. I won't even go into mill dogs and their issues. Therefore, your foster dollars is the easiest part of rescuing dogs. We do all the hard labor.

Due to the economy we have had so many dogs this year. If we didn't have the rescue dollars you donate, we would have to euthanize and turn down even more dogs than we already do. We thank you for supporting us so that we can do wonderful work.



**Our Vets** – who make it possible by giving us discounts and preferential treatment in emergency situations and we could not carry on without their rescue discounts.

Dr. Shannon Smith from the Bothell Pet Hospital, always returns my calls, takes my "question of the day" and works with me on constant Westie Skin Care and problem solving. She has cared for at least 100 Westies since I have started. We have grown in the field of skin care because we had a lot of dogs to test! She was beginning to think that all Westies were this bad with skin issues. I had to ask people with "well" Westies to show the vets they weren't all this tragic! We have also worked thorough horrendously sick and filthy dogs from bad situations. The staff always accommodates me and I don't think I could have the stamina to do this if I didn't have such a dynamic clinic to work with me. They have bathed dogs for me who were not happy campers, some even needed sedation. I couldn't have done it alone at home with all the other dogs

around. We are very blessed.



Dr Kovar is the head surgeon at Bothell Pet Hospital and she has done all my luxated patella operations and other knee injuries for us as well as Legg Calves Perthes operations. I recommend her highly, I sure give her enough experience! She done at least 12 surgeries for us, and I have also referred her to other Westie Owners. She is always cheerful and fun, and always comes out to chat with me and calls me after each operation. I love her to pieces. Again – I lucked out! She is a graduate of Tufts University.

Dr. Hsu (no photo) Is also another vet we use for dental and spaying and skin issues. She is our back up when we can't find Dr. Smith. I have worked with her for at least 5 yrs. All three Doctors confer on issues and so we are all on the same page.

The entire staff at the Bothell Pet Hospital has been instrumental in my ability to cover costs, and we recommend them to you if you need wonderful vets. There are a staff of four Veterinarians, and large office staff. The owner is Dr. Cleveland who has allowed us big discounts. It's always fun to go there! <http://www.bothellpethospital.com/>

We thank **you** all for your giving hearts, and support to our cause. There would be no \*US\* without YOU. We also thank everyone who opened their heart to adopt a rescue dog. We know they all come with issues, and it takes a special person to reach out and touch a little terrier heart.

Other Vets we need to acknowledge and encourage you to support these veterinarians who take care of our rescues as well as giving us a rescue discount, besides they know Westies and Scotties quite well!

#### **Bothell Pet Hospital**

Drs. Shannon Smith, Kim Hsu, Lesley Kovar  
9708 Ombreck St Bothell, WA 98011-3349 (425) 486-3251

#### **Animal Hospital of Maple Valley**

Dr. Karla Mooers  
26824 Maple Valley-Black Diamond Rd, Maple Valley WA 98038 (425)432-2999

#### **Linn Veterinary Hospital**

Dr. Ben Braat  
6011 Pacific Boulevard Southwest, Albany, OR 97322 (541) 926-0291

#### **Columbia Veterinary Hospital**

576 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
Astoria, Or 97103

#### **Selah Vet Clinic**

Dr. Mike Beksinski  
151 McGonagle Road Selah, WA 98942-9420  
(509) 697-6111

***Thank you for enabling us to exist***

Written by: Karin Parish  
Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue – Rescue Rep (Westies/Scotties)  
West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound - Rescue Rep  
Washington State Scottish Terrier Club – Rescue Coordinator  
West Highland White Terrier Club of America – Regional Rep (WA/OR/ID)  
WA State Scottish Terrier Club – Rescue Committee

*----stop me before I volunteer again!*