



## Bizzare Rescue phone calls for 2011 Westie Rescue - Seattle

- We adopted a male Westie out and he shared the household with a 5 mo. old Lab. They played fine the first day and the second day the Westie stole all the Lab's toys and sat on them and growled at the Lab. The Lab went off to her toy box and brought the Westie the rest of the toys and dropped them at his feet. The husband (who owned his beloved lab) was fit to be tied. The wife adored the Westie. The next day the Westie got on the bed and banned the Lab from the bed. Sadly, the wife called and said she must return the dog because the husband felt the Westie was too mean to his Lab. He was rehomed and he is having a great time.
- Received two emails from someone to call her regarding adopting a Westie. I called, and asked what did she want? Does she want to surrender a dog or adopt one? She said adopt, she wanted a service dog. I said do you live in a house? Ans: no. Do you have a fenced yard? Ans: no I asked have you had a Westie before? Ans: No I asked, "What kind of service do you want it to perform." She answered: "Well I live in the shelter at night and I want something to pet because I am depressed and homeless." (Do a rewind on my facial expression)

I said my dogs are \$300 and you cannot afford a dog to groom or feed them. She said "\$300! I can't afford that. You should give me one for \$5." I said "\$5, who is going to give you a dog for \$5? Do you know how much dog food cost, vet, shots, and rabies?????" (Now I am angry) Ans: "Well the dog pound will give me a dog for \$5." I said, "No they won't! Then go to the shelter and get one". (I am SOOOO annoyed by this time). She said, "Well I don't want a dog from a shelter; because those are homeless dogs and yours are rescue dogs! (Do another instant rewind on my facial expression – you know that "are you NUTS look"). I said, "They are all rescue dogs, mine are just purebred. I can't give you a dog, you can't even take care of you, how could you care take for a dog! Sorry I, goodbye" Wonders never ever seem to amaze me!

- Gentleman called me to arrange for me to have his Westie picked up. He was devastated having to surrender it but he was being deployed. As usual I ask the questions for the transition/intake of the dog. Are the shots up to date, what kind of dog food and how much, is he crate trained, what frightens him, etc. He informed me that his dog is a vegetarian, and only give him turkey jerky for treats, and he is on bison and sweet potato – and it's because he is a vegetarian? (imagine my facial expressions) I said ok. He also said he has severe allergies, and he didn't realize that Westies had allergies. He had taken him to the vet and he had a reaction to fleas. He has had the dog several years, and it's the first "allergy" the dog has ever gotten. He was itching so bad, he put a cone on him. Finally he went to the vet and they gave the poor dog a Comfortis flea med, and he had some relief. (oh my – I sometimes feel like I live in OZ and there isn't anyone as sane as the scare crow to talk to)
- Another lady called me to adopt one of the Yorkies. I told her she must have had an old Petfinder ad, because she was adopted out. She said well she never had a dog before, but she wanted the type of Yorkie that had a medium coat, not a long coat or a short coat. I explained they all have the same coat... it grows, like hair! She again said, but I don't want one with a long coat, I want one with a medium coat, can't I have that kind? I explained. AGAIN. Their hair is like our hair. If you don't cut your hair for a year it grows to your shoulders. Well with Yorkies, if you don't cut their hair for 6 mos. it grows to the floor. She said OH MY – does that include their facial hair? I said yes. (I should view these opportunities as a reality show? Am I alone out here on the Planet? I need an answering service.)
- Received an application to adopt a Westie.... inquires former Breed owned Ans: Bijon Frese/Loso opsa for 10 yrs.
- Handwritten application, no computer, applicant works part time at an animal clinic in Portland. She explained to me that she adopted two Westies and one died. She also has two other dogs, a mixed lab and a standard poodle and a cat. However she has to keep the standard poodle and mixed lab in the garage because the poodle isn't trustworthy with the Westies and will hurt them, and she wants to eat the cat. She also explained to me that she doesn't want to drive anywhere, because her car is not trustworthy and breaks down. She also said she feeds the dogs Purina One. I said, "Don't you have enough dogs?" She said, "Well I wanted to give a dog that is older a

home. " I answered that I had one who is 11 yrs. old and she said, well she wanted one that was five! Note to self: Sometimes I feel like I am on a Jerry Springer Show.

- I was just curious about the puppies. Some people think it's good for a female to have a litter. She was obviously well taken care of as she's very responsive and loving. What is your opinion?
- Woman applied for a Westie. As we are Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue, we cover several breeds. Some breeds do not have reps. The woman applied for a Toy Fox Terrier or a Westie, and in comments she said she preferred a Chihuahua but we didn't have a breed rep. (blink)
- I had a first... this lady from Canada, wants a deformed purebred Westie puppy so she can get it for cheap. Maybe one with a bad leg, or one eye missing?
- I just received an application. They have indicated that they will not allow a home check. In their words, "It is not appropriate to have strangers in our home since we have a child and our good name should be adequate."
- Owner called to surrender her 8 yr. old Westie. Her excuse was that they were relocating to Arizona and he won't like Arizona! So she wanted him rehomed and within a week, because they were moving. We talked her out of it, and said he will be fine in Arizona – they have air conditioning! Watch out for rattlesnakes.
- We found a dog three weeks ago and the owner said she didn't know to go to the shelter to find her lost dog (she is 55 and minus stupid and works at a local aerospace company. Short version was that the dog was at the shelter for 10 days and they turned it over to Westie Rescue. She had not registered the phone number on the HomeAgain microchip, nor had a valid ID Tag, nor had she told her past vet her new phone number. So in a lot of research we couldn't find her, but we found out the dog's name and age. She saw the dog's photo on Petfinder and she convinced me to give her the dog back. She bombarded the hotline and my email box pleading for the dog back. She had the dog since it was a puppy. I told her she had to get it a buckle collar and phone numbers on it or I was not going to give her the dog back. (It had already been over 12 days)... she did it.... yesterday we got a call from microchip company because she never put the new phone number down.. and the people who found her call the phone number on the tag, and one phone number was disconnected and the other one went into voice mail (do ya love it)... so HomeAgain called my foster mom, who went and picked up the dog. She emailed the lady at work.. she came and got the dog again. Foster mom asked why she never answered the numerous phone messages left on her phone? Answer was: "Oh, we never learned how to retrieve voice mail." Next time I am not giving her the dog back.
- Clackamas Oregon Shelter called us to pick up a Westie who wasn't doing well at the shelter, he was out of control, and we worked with three people to get him up to Maple Valley to be fostered. At the shelter it took three people and a catchpole and a rope to get him into the crate. He turned out to be a Westie/Eskimo dog mix and not so much a Westie! We found this out after we saw him in person and paid everyone for transport. ARU-GHHH. He sure looked Westie from a sitting photo which they sent us.
- Got called from Idaho to take an 11 yr. old Westie who was deaf, partially blind and had severe arthritis, and I turned it down. Unfortunately we do not have nursing home facilities for dogs.
- Got a call from Portland to take two 10 yr. old Westies because they are moving out of the country and leaving Saturday (lol) I said nope, can't do it. (Aren't you proud of me?) I have no space, and I can't get to Portland to day – it's a five-hour drive each way. Call Oregon Dog Rescue or take them to the shelter? Why did you wait until today to call? Ans: Well it was on our mind, but we didn't act in a timely fashion.
- Rec'd call from someone in Bremerton and they don't think they want to keep their Westie because he is tethered outside to pee, and he doesn't like to poop on the grass, and prefers the porch and the husband does not like him pooping on the porch so they want to give him up. I get this email every 2 mos. Then she falls off the radar, and emails me again. I suspect they sold him.
- AND THEN....I received a hysterical call on Sunday night @ 9pm. The couple had bought an 11 mo. old Westie boy from a Craig's list ad. They took him home to their house close to the Canadian Border (3 hrs. from home). Ironically they have a 16 mo. old cairn girl and figured she needed a Pal. They brought him straight into the house and WWII broke out and they were in shock. The Cairn girl apparently didn't want a playmate. They



called me to ask me what to do and didn't know Westies were this mean. I couldn't muffle the hysterical laughter on the phone.



I asked why they hadn't taken their Cairn to meet him? Is your dog socialized, I asked. They said, "What does socialized mean?" I said your dog is angry because it's her house and her area, and he is fighting back to protect himself. She said, "If I put him in an expen the Cairn to go over it to kill him and he is fighting with her. I said well because she wants to kick his ass! She said "OH". CLUELESS flashed across my forehead. So then I said well take them outside for a long walk to get some of the piss and vinegar out of both of them, and I said what are you going to do tomorrow when you both go to work? You can't leave them alone... she started crying... and handed the phone to her husband... Whatever, he got pissed off at me and said... well you act like we aren't good dog owners! I laughed and said, you called me, I didn't call you - I don't know you from Adam, I am only trying to pull out some techniques out of my pocket to figure out how to get you thru the night. He said, well will you buy this dog from us for \$300? I said NO, and he hung up. LOL, I guess they drove the dog back to Oak harbor.

- SATURDAY - someone calls to tell me they have a Westie/Papillion mix at the shelter in Everett, and did I think that dog would get along with his Westie? (blink) I said well take your dog down to the shelter and find out, what are you calling me for? I don't know your dog or the dog at the shelter. (My super powers cape is in the cleaners).
- Lady wanted to adopt Elly the Westie who is a bolter, and 9 yrs. old. She wants a dog to sit outside in the front yard with her family and friends - like her neighbor's Boxers and socialize, because that is what they do all summer and fall! I informed her that a Westie wouldn't sit outside in the front yard w/o a leash and not take off if he/she wasn't on a leash? She was shocked. She said that wouldn't do, she needs a dog that will sit outside and be loyal like the Boxers? (blink)
- Lady called me on Thanksgiving night. She was looking for a dog for her daughter, and while I was cross examining her on what to expect from a terrier (since she never had one) , she said she had to hang up and call back because her daughter's dog was dying and she was dialing on the call wait line to give her the update. (eye rolling) I suggested she have her daughter call me when she is ready and give her a breath to grieve?
- I am looking to adopt a Westie very soon. (Preferably a female puppy) I have a few weeks off of work coming up in December and ideally would like to get it at the beginning of that time period. (Dec. 23rd) How many do you have and can you send a photo.
- Dec 23: Phone rings – I am looking for a rescue Westie for my granddaughter for Christmas, she is 4 yrs. old. Can I come and see some of your dogs? Sorry I don't have any dogs, and I don't think you should buy a dog for a four year old; you should wait until she is six. Especially a terrier, they aren't toys – they have teeth. (dial tone)
- I would like to adopt a Border Collie, West Highland White Terrier or a Labrador Retriever. I rent and we don't have a yard, but I will walk it a lot and we have a nice igloo home in the yard.
- Person applied for a Rottweiler, a Newfoundland or a Westie?
- I would like to adopt a Westie or a Labrador. I have only owned Retrievers and an Aussie and a German shepherd.
- I would like to adopt a Westie, mine died. I don't have a fenced yard. (Karin goes into a detailed explanation of why we require a fenced yard, because the dogs have a tendency to bolt and not come back) Caller: My husband refuses to fence the yard because he doesn't like fences. My last dog got out the door and ran into the woods and the coyotes got her and gutted her. (sobbing) Me: This is the reason we require a yard. I am sorry for your loss. Caller: Yes she squeezed through the door when my husband opened it and she got out. But it will NEVER happen again, I can tether her to the clothesline. Me: "Well that won't do any good if coyotes come, then she is shish kabob on a rope! Caller: (sobbing). Oh I didn't think of that.
- Application mailed to me: My first choice is a Shih Tzu, and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice is a Westie. I am retired, have only owned a cocker spaniel for 9 yrs. Fenced yard. I would like a small dog, and color preference is "any black poodle". Do you have any Black Westies? Ans: No they don't come in black.

- Woman called me about a 16 wk. old puppy. The owner was 92 yrs. old and went out and purchased an 8 wk. old puppy from our local puppymill. As puppies do, he pulled at the woman's robe, and she lost her balance trying not to step on him. She fell down and actually crushed her cheekbones and broke her nose. The caretaker found her on the floor and the social worker demanded the immediate removal of the puppy who was now 16 wks. The caretaker thought a darn cute Westie puppy and took it home. After three days of peeing howling and chewing everything in sight – she couldn't keep it so she gave it to her niece who was about 26. After a week of howling, chewing, crying and aggravating her 10 yr. old mixed dog, she decided perhaps rescue should have the dog. Since she now wanted to remove it "quickly" she was at the mini mall she works at – and was going business to business asking if anyone wanted a Westie puppy. By the time I got her she was going to talk to a lady in the hair salon (two doors down) who had two pugs and maybe she'd like the puppy. It took my amazing powers of persuasion to wrestle her down to get the dog, and I had to alight out of my house and onto a ferry in 10 minutes flat, to get to a meeting point to get the puppy. He was eventually adopted out to a wonderful family.



- The stealth Westie. I would like adopt a Westie, but I want one that doesn't bark, and doesn't have high energy, and it has to be housebroken and not run around. I don't want one who digs holes or plays with toys. I don't want to pick up toys all over the house.
- We have a really sweet Westie who is 3 years old and he is outside in a kennel run with his doghouse, he is very lonely so we want to get another Westie or a Scottie to put in the dog run with him. Do you have any available dogs? Ans: nope
- I have a pair of 2 yr. old twins and I'd like to get them a puppy, do you have any dogs available? Ans: nope
- I want a Westie that will get along with my 4 yr. old child. I explained that Westies don't do well with small children. She said, "I won't tolerate any dog that harms my child. My cat scratched my child and I had it euthanized for that".



**Karin Parish**, Westie/Scottie Rescue Seattle