



Westie/Scottie Rescue - Bizarre Stories and Phone calls - 2012

We picked up a 4 ½ month old Westie puppy. The couple wouldn't tell us why they were giving the dog up however, the transport person left with the puppy and was livid that a 9 lb. puppy had on a pinch collar! So you think a puppy is fun. Transport person was home with the puppy and her two other Westies, and the puppy was like a tennis ball bouncing off the walls. Nine hours later the energizer bunny was still bouncing. I laughed and said, "So you know why I tell people over 70 not to get puppies? Heck if you are only in your 50s and this dog wears you out... can you imagine 20 yrs. older!"

Phone call was received in January to take a 10 yr. old female Westie. The telephone call went like this -
-Owner: Well we have a very sweet Westie that we have had since she was 9 weeks old. She bit our grandchild. Me: Why did she bite him? Owner: Well our grandson keeps bothering her when she is sleeping and this time she drew blood! Me: How old is this child? Owner: Eight years old and he won't listen. Me: Well in my opinion your dog didn't bite him hard enough! Owner: (no comment) Me/Owner: Is she nasty near her food? (No) Is she growly if you pass her (no)? Is she cranky if you are near her toys? (no) Is she housebroken (yes), is she barky (no), does she hate grooming? (no) ME: Fine get her shots up to date and a mini blood panel and I will pick her up. My thoughts: Owners need to be tossed out like they toss out their dogs. The grandson should have been put into an expen or a crate! I imagine if they can't control an 8 yr. old now, what's going to happen when he is 14! How can you get rid of a dog that has given you 10 yrs. of loyalty? It's a heartbreaker and something I can't comprehend. I suppose that is why there is rescue.

PHONE ring ring - We want to adopt a Westie. Our dog is 8 years old and he had prostate problems, and he had to be neutered. Then after he was neutered, he got allergies! I know his allergies came from the fact he was neutered! (Insert my facial expression) We also have a yard with no fence, but our dog stays with us and we watch him carefully because there are a lot of coyotes near our house. (Insert my facial expression)

Email: We bought a Scottie puppy off internet, which was shipped in from Missouri. She is 6 mos. old and not housebroken. We are going to breed her when she is 15 mos. because we figure that will get her housebroken (I couldn't answer, words escaped me). We are responsible people; we wouldn't breed her until her second heat, so I guess we have to wait until then before she gets "housebroken". (no comment).



Meet and Greet for adoption: I took a dog for a meet and greet to a senior apartment. Alas, the prospective adopter had installed new indoor/outdoor carpeting. The foster dog was on his back rubbing his back and butt on the carpet cause of the rigidity of the carpeting. The prospective adopter turned to me as she watched him wiggling on his back, and said "Do you know his history? Do you think he was sexually molested?" ... my eyeballs shot out like a looneytoon cartoon. I said NO... I couldn't add more because I was shocked at the question

Applicant: guy wants to adopt, didn't tell me he was renting a room in a home and didn't have a car or job. Alas... He told me he was a super hunter (in the day) and also a great dog trainer, better than Cesar Millan (boast boast) and that he actually taught a smooth coated Pekinese (a what?) How to point like a springer spaniel. (Don't springer's spring, not point? Don't pointers point?). I am glad I wasn't drinking my coconut water because it would have squirted out of my nose when he said a smooth coated peke... I used to own Pekes, they don't come in that coat.

Phone Interview: Have you ever owned a Westie? (I was going to go over their temperament and how terriers are different than Labradors.) She said she had never had a Westie before, but she wanted to

adopt one that smiles. (blink) She didn't care about anything else and didn't want to hear about grooming and dog food, just wanted a dog that smiled! I said I would call back.

Email: "Me and a few buddies are moving into an apartment together for next school year at WSU and we are considering getting a dog. I personally love Westies and have had one in the past, Murphy, he was a great dog. I'm also interested in other Terriers, mostly dogs that are good with people and are active because I will have a lot of roommates and parties. Please let me know if you have any suggestions". (Me: Yes - get a beta fish)



Email: "Our family is looking for a Westie. We'd like a white one or a silver one. I actually prefer silver because white gets dirty too easy. Do you have any? "

Ring Ring: I have to return the Westie. My husband leaned down to pet the dog when he was sleeping and he growled. My husband told the dog it was ok and kept petting him so the dog bit my husband. I need to give the dog back. I didn't know he was mean. I said – well he shouldn't be petting him when he is trying to sleep – he warned you with a growl. She said, "But our other dog didn't do that, I have to return him".

Phone: I have to return the dog I adopted three mos. ago. I think she doesn't like me and she frightens me when she growls at me. ME: Well did you tell her not to? Owner: No, I don't want her to get upset. Also a week after I adopted her she growled when I got into my own bed, so I have been sleeping on the sofa at night and its killing my back, so she has to go back.

Ring Ring: I want to adopt a dog. (After interview) Well I'd like to do an inhome visit. I can bring the dog for you to meet. Applicant: Oh no, I don't want you to bring her to my house because if I don't like her, and don't keep her, then she will get depressed cause I rejected her. (BLINK) ME: Well I'll just tell her that we are coming to visit Aunt Mary and she won't know what's up. Applicant Oh, okay. Note: LOL – she wound up not adopting she wanted a Boston terrier.

Application: Wanted young Westie. Other dogs in household: two wolf hybrids and a cat, young female Westie and three cats.

Application: Wanted Westie female, rent room at a house, no car, no job and, limited income. Want to take the dog with me when I go on the bus, or have coffee, or go to the bar to visit my friends.

Application: Wanted to adopt, border collie, corgi or a Westie. No fenced yard, a cat, and three small children under 6 yrs old.



Phone Interview: Me: The Westies I get into rescue are not good with cats, especially if they haven't grown up with them. I have had Westies returned because they will kill a cat when you leave, and the cat gets stressed out and starts marking all over, so right now I don't think that Maggie is a good match. Applicant: Well! My Westie got along fine with my cats, and I am very upset that you would be fostering cat killer dogs! I have never heard of such a thing. I don't want to get a dog from you! (hang-up)

Email Applicant: I want to adopt a Westie puppy. I love terriers I live in an apartment and I owned a Chihuahua terrier that was 4 lbs., so I love the temperament. Me: (shaking head) A Westie is different than a 4 lb. Chihuahua, even if someone told you it had terrier in it. They are larger, barky and need grooming, and they have high energy levels. You live in an apartment and your neighbors will go crazy with the barking. Applicant: Well I work at a company that will let me take my dog to work. I said, well young ones have a bundle of energy. I don't have young ones, why don't you try this other rescue out of Portland that has mixed terrier puppies?

Applicant: I used to own a Poodle but it died. I live on a large plot of land that overlooks the water in Mukilteo and we are off a bluff. We do not have a fenced yard, and we have four cats and some chickens. Me: Well 95% of the Westies I get in rescue don't like cats and can harm them. Since your yard isn't fenced, the dog will bolt out the door and can fall off the bluff. They dart out the door when they want to chase a squirrel or a chipmunk, and over the edge it will go. I know you want a girl, but they are even more alpha than the boys and they love hunting and chasing and killing, and they are jealous. Applicant: Well I can't believe that, my friend owns a realty company and has two Westies. Her dogs NEVER run out the door and that is why I want the breed, I don't know why you are saying this bad things. Her dogs are perfect. Me: (why do I try and explain these things)... Ok, well we will keep your application on file Good-bye.

Ring Ring: My daughter likes Scotties because she thinks they are cute. She lives in an apartment and I want to buy her a Scottie for Xmas. Do you have any I can come and see? Me: Nope, I don't have any.

Email: We bought two Westies off Craigslist. I should have figured out something was fishy when she made us wait in the rain on the porch to see the dogs. She also didn't know their names. The dogs were Orange and she said it was because she put them on cedar chips outside because they had fleas. Then we took them home and we think they are puppy mill dogs (dah). We called her back to give the dogs back because these dogs sit in their urine and feces and have no clue of what a house is like. We called them back and their phone is disconnected. We took the dogs back to the house and someone else answered and said that no one by that name lived there? Can you take these dogs? I work two jobs and I am gone 12 hrs a day but we are great dog owners. Oh and the female has a lump on her neck. Me: Are they intact? Owner: I don't know. Me: Ok I can take them but we are backfilled right now, can you keep them another 2 weeks? Owner: yes. Two weeks pass. Me: Ok I can take the dogs. Owner: Oh, well we gave the dogs to our friend who has Aides and is ill, we figured the dogs would keep him company and give him something to do it keep his mind off his illness. He gave them back after two days and said too much – he can't handle it. Can you take them today??? Oh and, the male is protecting the female and she is snippy. Oh and we think she might be pregnant. PICK UP - Dogs arrive.. and I picked up the girl and she is in heat, and the male is going looney to mate, and she has a mammary tumor (cancerous)! GREAT as well as a tumor on her neck. GREAT! Figured she was five and he is a yr. old. We separated them, and neutered and spayed, removed the tumor and both were adopted out – but what a wild ride! We Love craigslist



Ring Ring – We have a Westie Maltese that we bought off craigslist. He is 3 yrs old and he bites everyone and fights with all the dogs. He bites people who come near me and my grand children if they walk past him. I have had him 6 wks. We can't keep him – he comes with Papers! Can you take him? Me: Nope – take him back to whence he came! Owner: But he has papers! Me: No

Email: I have a really nice Scottie I need to rehome because I am losing my house. He is really cute, he is black and white with a curly tail. He's kind of spotted with a great silky coat. Me: Can you send me a photo? (photo sent) Me: This isn't a Scottie, it's a shih Tzu/Lhasa something mix spaniel. Owner: OH, but it came with papers! I have the papers! I paid \$500 for him. Me: Sorry take it to PAWS.

Ring Ring: We have a Westie we have to rehome. It used to belong to our friend, but he died a year ago and his girlfriend let the dog out and it was rambling around, so we took it home. We wouldn't give it back to the witch. We called animal control and they said to post it lost for three days and it would be ours. We have had it a year, and now we are moving to Kentucky and we have to give the dog up, we can't take it with us. Me: Do you have any vet records? Owner: no we have never taken her to the vet. Me: How old is she? Owner: I don't know maybe 10 but really sweet, and I think she is a bit deaf. She

is a good dog. But we are only taking our pug with us, and we can't take her. We are being evicted on Saturday so she has to be rehomed tomorrow. Me: Can you drop her off in Port Orchard at a foster home. Owner: Sure, no prob. *Fast forward*: Owners arrived, dropped off the dog and asked the foster mom for gas money because they had no money to put into their truck to get home, so she gave them \$10 LOL. Welcome to rescue! The dog was very cute and got adopted.



Ring Ring: We have to rehome our Scottie. He bit our baby. Me: What happened? Owner: Well the baby is a year old and keeps grabbing a handful of hair and the dog doesn't like it... the baby won't leave him alone and my new husband wants the dog gone. I have had the dog since it was a puppy, he is 7 yrs. I have been married 2 yrs, and my husband said the dog has to go or live in the back yard. Me: Sure I will send someone to pick it up.

Email: I need to rehome my Scottie – It's actually my mother's dog and she died. My children are 2 and 3 yrs old and he has bit them several times. Yesterday my two yr old was running down the hall looking back and tripped over him and he bit her three times in the leg, so he has to be rehomed. I don't know why he is so nasty to the children! He doesn't like it when they sit on his back and play pony! Me: Give me your address and I will send someone to pick him up. *Happy ending*: Dog was AWESOME, well behaved, and great with other dogs. He was so easy to adopt out, and so grateful not to be my little pony! Super well-mannered, great with other dogs.



Ring ring: We have to give up our Westie. She bit our baby in the face. Me: Why? Owner: Well, she has an ear infection and the baby pulled on her ear. It actually smells really bad, and some blood is coming out of it, but she isn't crying so I didn't take her to the vet. Me: (eye rolling again – thank god I don't Skype!) Owner: we make her sleep in the other room because her ear smells so bad. Me: Where did you get the dog from? Owner: Well it's like this. One of our friends stole her from someone's yard about three years ago because they weren't taking good care of her. We love her but we have to protect the baby. She growls at the baby. Me: If you love her so much why haven't you taken her to the vet, especially if her ear is bleeding! Owner: Well ummm - but she isn't crying and we put in ear cleaner! Me: Is she microchipped? Owner: No. Me: What yard was this dog stolen from? Owner: I don't know they moved and my friend is gone, so we don't know what happened to the original owners, but they didn't take care of the little dog. Me: (insert facial expression) I will meet you at the mall to pick her up. Bring vet records. Owner: Well we don't like the vet cause they keep making us buy medication and I don't think they are solving the problem. Me: Just bring the dog and shot records.. I am taking her to the vet. Outcome: Dog had such a raging ear infection that the skin tissue was actually dying and rotting in her ear and the ear canal was closing up. Another two weeks it would have just closed up and she would have had to have a complete ear ablation and lost her hearing. Amazing... she was on super antibiotics, and regained her hearing back and it took two mos. for her ear to open up again. It was so closed up I couldn't even get drops down it. She also wound up having a luxating patella and she had knee surgery as well. She was adopted to a lovely family – no babies.

People just don't know what we go through. I am the most visible because my phone number is on a google search for emergencies. On that note, I do have an economy size of Excedrin from Costco. These are all true stories. Thank you to all the adopters, and thank you to all our supporters and volunteers.



Our year end write up for 2012 is on the website. The Rescue report starts on page two. The stats are on page one.

http://www.whwtcops.org/rescue/2012/2012_Rescues_writeup.pdf