

Behind the Scene - Who Are We?



Karin Parish (Westies/Scotties/Cairns) – 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 600 dogs in the state of Washington and Oregon as well as Idaho and Montana, since 2005. In 2006 I became the Westie/Scottie Rescue Rep for SPDR (Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue). In 2013 we also took on Cairn Terriers. We do not get a lot of Cairn Terriers. We only did it to cover the Cairns who fell through the cracks and weren't covered by Col. Potter. I have had good fortune in having some great Cairns.

I am the Rescue Rep for WHWTCA (West Highland White Terrier Club of America). As a Rep I do so many things to keep this group running like a well-oiled machine that it's too much to mention. Luckily I like organization and I learned a long time ago that the secret to success is to surround yourself with great people. My key team can take direction, give direction, make good choices when I am not around, follow through and are utterly dependable. I suppose I was always been driven to do my best or don't even volunteer at all. We also care, perhaps that is the secret.

When our dogs get adopted out we feel a sense of fulfillment because we made a difference in the world, even if it just one grain of sand on the beach. We were the ones to make this happen, we were the ones who picked up a wretched dog from the pound or in a bad situation and gave it the opportunity to live the rest of their lives in a loving home with people who cared.

We adopt our dogs out through SPDR (Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue) which is a 501c.3 organization and makes your adoption donations – tax deductible. I live on Whidbey Island and I own three Scotties and one Westie I rescued who has severe allergies. 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 (Westies/Cairns): Judy joined us in 2009 as co-rep to help me out and divide and conquer. Judy (and her husband Lyle) live in Maple Valley, 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. 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 has become proficient at caring for diabetic dogs and helping transport as well as going to and from the vet. We are truly blessed to have him.



Kaleen McWilliams - Co-rep (Scotties): Kaleen has been a rescue rep for the Washington State Scottish Terrier club as well as a regional rep for the Scottish Terrier club of America over 12 years. Due to the benefits of moving our dogs under the umbrella of SPDR, we opted to unite for the benefits of the dogs. Kaleen has marvelous dog training skills as well as vet Tech licenses, and she is our go-to-person. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and solid foundation in rescue and medical training. Kaleen also rescues horses as well as two Scotties and a few cats. She is the household for kid test/cat testing! Her husband is a physician who works in tri-cities and he has moved many a dogs for us back to Selah to get moved by Kaleen to Seattle. She has transferred a lot of Westies for us.



Charlotte Corbley - 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. She has also picked up incoming dogs from SEATAC for us. 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.



Vicky Ray -Superstar- has been my rock!!! Vicky has made numerous trips to the shelter for pick ups and has been a hot bed of foster care this year. We are so grateful to her. I think Vicky is a clone of me with a nicer personality and much more attractive. She just handles everything.



from her home and

band and works part time and owns two Westies and a mixed dog she rescued. She is running hither and yon picking up dogs. She piles everyone in the car, and off they go. Dogs, kids and groceries. I include the grandchildren because they spend the night and work with the dogs as well. The children walk them, sleep with them and get them used to being around a busy active family life. They don't back off from snarky dogs either, they work through it calmly. So we can kid test as well! The dog above is a typical scenario in Vicky's car.



Sammi Carlstrom: Boy am I glad you retired! Sammi covers Olympia area to Portland. She has done at more than 20 trips picking up dogs in Portland area and she is another one that says – give me the address and she is off in a blaze. She also cares for her elderly father who has dementia and he goes with her. Her words to me on the phone are “No problem. Dad get your hat – we are going for a ride, get in the car”. She has a Westie and two Scotties. I honestly could not do all the Oregon dogs if I didn't have her. That would be 19 dogs I couldn't rescue this year without her help. I am so blessed to have her and she is a stellar foster home as well.



June Taylor- Oregon Territory: June was hit by a layoff a year ago and had to regroup and find a job so we were without her for a year. This year she has her job and she only has weekends off. She drives from Albany to Portland to work which is a hike. She has been an integral part of our team and has driven further than a truck driver to get dogs and move them, hold them, foster them, and get them to adopters. Oregon is a HUGE state, and she seems to cover it from end to end. She has driven to almost the California border, all the way to Bend and back. She even comes up to Olympia. She and Sammi are our Tag Team for Olympia to Oregon. She is passionate about her horses, and her Yorkies. She used to be a professional dog handler, and she is very dog savvy and a GREAT Westie groomer. She currently has Two Yorkies and a Westie.



April McCartney: I fortunately can recruit my friends. April has been moving dogs and picking them up for me and bringing them to the Island when I am in a pinch. She also recruits her boyfriend in Spokane to do inhome visits. She has picked up an enormous amount of Westies for me and assisted with legs of the trip to get them moved across the states. She also listens to me when I am unsure of a judgment call, and she talks me through it so I can make a good decision without being emotional. I guess you can say she is *Free Therapy*. She also comes over and takes care of the dogs if I am in a pinch for a dog sitter. I met April when I adopted a Scottie from SPDR in 2011. We like the same things, and love to do things together that are crafty as well as dog competition. She works full time as a dental assistant and office manager in Shoreline. I am so grateful to have her for a friend and to help with rescue. She always helps me and I am so grateful. There is never a problem we can't solve together, and she always plans ahead like I do. It's a pleasure working with her



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 is our “bed and breakfast” stop. She keeps them over night, and then brings them to Whidbey. Shawnie has two Westies and participates in Earthdog. 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.

OTHERS- it takes a village: I have had many other people help me on occasion but the people above are the ones in the thick of things, they take the brunt of the work. Fostering 48 dogs a year (and we have a slow year) with only three main foster homes is a LOT of work. However, I couldn't do it without the help of friends and other folks I call on for rescue.

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. These foster moms/dads have a lot of time invested in training and care.

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 also 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 and have a better attention span. 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.



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 120 Westies and Scotties since I have started going to her in 2005. She was beginning to think that all Westies were this bad with skin issues. 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. 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 20 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. Kim 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 8 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/>



Dr. Jean Dieden, Animal Hospital by the Sea, Langley, WA

I've known Jean for years because she is in the Earthdog club, and does so many sports with her dogs as well as host 3 annual earthdog events on her property. She has stayed open late for ME.. Friday and Saturday nights past closing when I had nowhere else to go so I could get treatment for a dog in need. God bless her. She is quite an amazing woman. She won the AKC lifetime achievement award, is a breeder. She is a tracking judge, Earthdog judge and field judge. Quiet an amazing woman. She recently opened her own clinic on Whidbey. <http://www.animalhospitalbythesea.com/>

Other Vets we need to acknowledge and encourage you to support these veterinarians who take care of our rescues. We go here because they are good, not just for a discount.

Bothell Pet Hospital (425) 486-3251 Drs. Shannon Smith, Kim Hsu, Lesley Kovar	Animal Hospital of Maple Valley (425)432-2999 Dr. Karla Mooers
Selah Vet Clinic (509) 697-6111 Dr. Mike Beksinski	River Road Animal Hospital (253) 845-7525 Puyallup
Value Pet Clinics – city wide	Tumwater Veterinary Hospital 360-754-6008 Tumwater, WA
Dr. Jean Dieden Animal Hospital by the Sea (360) 331-8090 Langley, WA	Dr. Donna Kelleher Bellingham, WA



*Thank you for enabling us to exist
There is no "US" without "You"*

Written by: Karin Parish
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