



## WILD PHONE CALLS OF 2013

**The real definition of Rescue:** We are but a grain of sand on the beach of life... it's exhausting.

**Ring Ring:** Lady from Moses Lake called, she just bought an 6 wk old Westie puppy yesterday. She called to see about the adoption process of a rescue dog. I told her she shouldn't get another dog until she trains the dog she has. It gets better...I told her you know your puppy needs to eat all day long when it is this young, until its about 3 mos old then it eats 3x a day until it is about 4 mos old? She said "really?". Also don't leave shoes and purses on floor or anything it might chew. I told her to get a nyla bone - she said "a what? "

I told her to get an expen - she said, "a what.?" I told her to get it microchipped. She said she was going to get him chipped when she got his second parvo booster. I said that is 16 wks old. DO NOT neuter him @ 16 wks. She said "why?" I sighed and said cause he could die under anesthesia! She said "oohh."



I said where are you going to keep him when you are at work? She said in the kitchen. I said well he is going to eventually chew your cupboards, and baseboards, and table, chairs and plaster, so you'd better get him an expen and a stuffed animal.

I said get a wet rag and twist it and freeze it for him to chew on. She said "why?" I said because his gums will get sore and he will be teething. She said "But he has sharp teeth." I said those are his baby teeth. She said "Oooh - he is going to get more?" I said "He will lose his baby teeth and get adult teeth.. she said OOOOHHH.

I tell you I was mentally exhausted after this phone call. I sent her a link on how to take care of a puppy.. holy crap. She is a teacher.. do you think she could crack a book???

I said, have you ever had a dog before??? She said well my parents had one but he is 13. (my thoughts: good luck dog don't die. Some people should only be allowed to own a goldfish. )

**Google Search:** I went out on google and typed up Westie breeders in Moses lake, and a slew came up... one mated a Westie and a Scottie and has some white dogs and black dogs. and call them designer dogs only \$700 each in Wenatchee... can we go shoot her?

**EMAIL:** Dear Sirs/Madams, We have been Westie lovers for many years but in October last year we lost our beloved Harry after only 5 years. He was diagnosed with a stroke at 3 -1/2 years which after several examinations it was discovered he had developed a brain tumor. We kept him comfortable and reasonably happy for another 18 months but we had to let him go when he didn't seem to have much quality of life left. Our previous Westie was almost 20 years old when we lost him (just to old age, deafness, blindness etc) I was recommended to you by an old friend and wonder if you have a Westie to suit my husband and I. We are both retired and although I have arthritis my husband is fit and well and misses the company and the walks and playtime with our much loved pets. Have you a little dog that would be suitable for us. We would love and cherish him/her. Please help



ME: After a couple of emails I noticed her email ended in yahoo.co.uk I wrote, her back after several emails and asked if she lived in the UK? She said "Why yes! Where do you live!" Me: USA. She said OH DEAR!

**Email:** We are interested in finding a Westie in need of a good home who is toy oriented, already has obedience training if possible (even if its just the basics), a dog that isn't hyper and needing activity around the clock and can chill out on his/her own with toys. Ideally, a westie with no severe health problems would be best for us at this time. Do you have one for us Me: hummm a Westie who is perfect and can amuse itself and noth bother the owners? Hum... let me see. YEAH I wish I had one?

**Email:** Inquiry to adopt a West Highland White terrier. I call her from my car while I on the Ferry. Me: Hello, this is Karin from Westie Rescue. I am responding to your email inquiry to adopt a Westie. Person (P): Who? Me: I am calling about your email to Westie Rescue. P: WHO?? Me: DOG RESCUE. You emailed a question, but I don't know what your question is? P: What kind of dog. Me: A WESTIE (making my eyes crossed and shaking my head and speaking loudly) – silence pause.... DOG RESCUE! , I yelled into the phone. WESTIE. P: Oh, I don't wanna Westie I want a Pug! Me: Well why did you select Westie? P: I don't know I used to babysit a Westie once, and I thought it was an option but you guys want too much money. I only want pay \$50. Besides I have always had a pug and I like them. Me: Good bye. Me: big grin. Gotta love rescue, never boring.



I know we all have rescue stories, but I feel like I get some unusually bizarre calls. I had a call from a back yard breeder, who is "retiring". She has three Westies left, and will give me the youngest who is 9 yrs. Her house burnt down so she is living in a trailer on the property and the dogs have been outside for 3+ yrs. I had to ask her a series of questions, i.e., how is it on a leash - never been on a leash \* how is it in the car - never been in a car. Is it housebroken. well its been outside in a goat run in an igloo. I said is it crate trained, or does it know a crate? She said "well my word, I wouldn't be cruel enough to put it in a crate!". I rolled my eyes - thinking - no but you'd leave them all outside for three years in igloo dog houses! So I said what's her name. She said well she doesn't technically know her name, we call them all Tuna cause my grandson can't tell them apart. Now at this point it was

hard not to burst out laughing. She also said she had a lot of BIRD CAGES she could give me... I told her I didn't want any bird cages. She has a lot of cockatiels - but she gave them away. Was I sure I didn't want bird cages? Also, all the Tunas have AKC papers, but she is keeping the 14 yr old and the male is getting neutered, and she hopes no one is preg. LOL.. none of the dogs have seen a leash or collar. (big exhale) None have ever been to the vet.

I emailed my vet and told her the story - and she said - well George Foreman named all his sons George... so would this be considered a school of tuna. We laughed... My foster mom said - lets call her alba - for albacore.. isn't that white? Another suggestion from fosters were: Ahi, Starkist, Charlie, Tuna Cassarole, HotTuna, Sushi, Jessica Alba Core, canned Tuna, Tuna on Toast. Oh adventures in Rescue... we should have our own series. The bottom line was she did love her dogs and she donated \$100 towards her spay. She was very elderly and on a limited income, so we really appreciated her donation given the situation.

**Ring Ring** – We are looking for an older dog to be with our Jack Russell. We just moved to the country and our Jack was attacked by Coyotes and the only thing that saved him was the shock collar on his neck because the Coyote couldn't get to his jugular. Me: Do you have a fence up now? Caller: No but we will be very careful. My husband was in the yard with him but he wasn't watching closely. Me:. But a coyote can swoop in and grab him by the collar and take off with him. I can't adopt out to you without a fence. Caller: My husband won't put up a



fence, he said to watch the dog when we are out there. Me: sigh – well I cannot adopt out to you, we learn from our mistakes. Caller: Well if you are worried about not having a fence, we can always tether the Westie to a post. Me: (deep breath) Well that won't work, its kinda like me staking you in the middle of Africa and saying – oh just yell out if you see a lion and then I leave and go inside. (she had to think on that one) In your coyote country it would like being meat on a rope.

**Email:** we are looking for another Westie, ours died. It got hit by a train. We didn't see the train coming. (Makes ya go hummm – didn't the ground move? I mean hummm)

**Phone:** I said you will really like Jenny, she is a very affectionate dog. From a scale of 1-10 with ten being the best, she is an 11. The woman said... wait a minute, you told me that dog was 9 yrs old and now you are telling me she is 11! I will not accept an 11 yr old dog! (sigh ok lets start again)



**Email:** My grandmother died and she left behind her brindle Westie. Can you help me with getting her adopted? Me: send me a photo. Outcome: Turned out to be a mini schnauzer. Emailed person back: This is a mini Schnazuer, not a brindle Westie. Who told you it was a brindle Westie? She replied : The vet, Vet put it on her paperwork.

**Phone:** "I need a dog for my granddaughter, it needs to be under two years old, obedience trained, housebroken, socialized, low energy, likes kids, cats, and is not barky, doesn't bite and doesn't run around barking . Please contact me when you get one. "



**Email:** Hi I would like to adopt a Westie. I have never owned a dog, only a tortoise. Can you tell me how to go through the process?

**Ring Ring** (Sunday at 4pm): We found a Westie in the street, I live in an apartment and I cannot keep it . Its Sunday and the shelter is closed. My landlord is having fits because we are not allowed to have dogs. Me: Where do you live? Caller: South Tacoma, and, it's the sweetest Westie. I can't keep it and I don't know what to do, I am desperate, I will bring it to you. ME: Can you take him to Puyallup and meet my foster mom, Vicky? Caller: Yes anything, I will do whatever you want me to. Me: Okay, I will have Vicky call you so you can rendezvous. Have you seen taken the dog to the Vet to see if is Microchipped? Caller: Yes we took it to the vet and he said the Westie isn't microchipped and is about 2 yrs old not neutered. Me: Okay, I will have Vicky call you for drop off. Ring ring – Vicky – I have an emergency, Westie in Tacoma and they will drive it to you, they are very upset cause they are in an apartment and the shelter is closed, can you meet them? Vicky: Sure whats their phone number.



*Three hours later.* Ring Ring - Vicky: Hi, this is Vicky (laughing hard), I have the dog. He is very cute. I think you need to ask for people to email you a photo of the dog before you accept them. (laughing hard) This is a Yorkie! It's tan and black, really cute, unneutered, about 6 lbs. Me: OH BOY, well let's put an ad on Craig's list that we found a dog small dog with the colors. Vicky: still laughing... okay... We ultimately found the owners, and they hadn't even thought of neutering him (which was the reason he roamed). Reunited!

**Ring Ring:** I am a social worker and I have an elderly couple who have a Cairn terrier. The husband has dementia and he can't remember where he is and he also is still driving which worries me. He gets lost, so he takes his blind wife with him when he doesn't know where he is, she asks landmarks and she directs him home. I have a problem because when the wife opens the door to get the mail from the mail box, the dog runs out the door. She is blind so she doesn't see his escape and the husband forgets the dog is missing. Two times the police have brought the dog back and said the next time is a \$250 ticket for loose dog. Me: Are you sure it is a Cairn? Caller: OH yes, just like Toto on the Wizard of Oz and a very good dog as well. Husband takes him to the groomer monthly and the groomer drives the dog home because she doesn't like the gentleman driving. Me: Can you send me a photo? Caller: Sure but I don't know how to attach the photo to an email, I will have to ask my husband. Three days later - photo - not a

Cairn, it's a Chihuahua/Rat Terrier Mix (no long fur tan with black muzzle) Caller: Did you get the photo? Me: Yes, but this is so not a Cairn Terrier. Caller: well don't worry because now he won't give up the dog, and I can't make him. He forgot he said he was going to give it up and now he won't. Me: Ok, but if you have to rehome the dog, call Motely Zoo or PAWS and they will help you. Caller: Thank you.



**RING RING:** I need to give up my dog. I live in Marysville. I am living in my van. It's really my son's dog but he is in rehab and he lives on the street. Well actually I bought the dog for him for Christmas a couple of years ago, but he can't afford her and now he is in rehab. I am parked in my mother's driveway because she won't let me move in with her. She is angry because I don't have a job and smoke my medical marijuana because I am depressed. I am homeless and have no money. My mom will only let me use the bathroom and then go back to the van. I am living in the van with my two cats and a snake and the Westie. Me: How old is the Westie? Caller: She is about 4 yrs old. Me: Okay I have to ask some questions so I can get info on her. (We continue the conversation about age, size, what she eats, temperament , etc) I need your name Caller: Well I have changed my name and I go by "Dark Stargazer". (me : blink) ME: Ok I will have Judy Call you, and you need to meet her and turn over the dog

**Ring Ring:** Me: Hi Judy, I have a special pick up for you. (I can't stop laughing) Can you contact this lady and pick up her Westie. Have her drive part way to you.(explaining the situation) Judy: Sure, oh boy. What about the poor cats? **Ring Ring.** Judy: I have the dog. She felt the dog was depressed so she has been smoking pot in the van and blowing it in the dogs face, so it won't be depressed. This poor little dog has to have oxygen! She is cute and sweet. I have an adopter for her. The lady's mom won't let her in the house cause she is just sitting in the driveway collecting welfare, and buying medical marijuana. Dark Stargazer told me she is going to move to Idaho and own raise cattle. It was hard not to burst out laughing. I just nodded and had her sign the release form. LOL, oh boy.

**RING RING:** Hi, I am stationed on the base for a couple of years and I want a Westie, I used to have one when I was a kid. Me: Do you have a fenced yard? Caller: nope, but I will keep him in the kitchen. I want a dog to hike with. Me: and what will you do when you get restationed? Caller: I will sell him or give him to the shelter. Me: OK, I'll call ya if I have one. (sigh)

