



Strange Phone Calls and Emails from 2014

by Karin Parish

Paperwork: Pick up dog from Tacoma shelter. Owners couldn't keep her as they had too many dogs and animal control showed up. They had to give up two so they gave up one with severe yeast infection who just had a litter. Shelter asked us to take her and help her over the recovery. I read the paperwork and it asks "What did you feed your dog?" Notes: Whatever was on sale at Walmart. For treats we give her pickles (didn't specify dill or sweet) We give her pickles about 7x a day because she loves them. Blood panel came back, her kidney values were off the charts, she's also on the brink of being anemic (couldn't be from salt and brine and sugar?). Sigh. pickles



Craigs List Ad: Mini- Westie – West Highland White Terrier, Olympia, WA: This little polar bear is perfect and ready for his forever home right now at 8 wks old. He is smaller than a Westie because his dad is 'part' maltese at 8 lbs and mom is a Westie at 18 lbs, which makes him a purebred Westie. Better for allergies, and won't shed like a Westie. SIGH: (me: what part of you can't have a

purebred Westie pup if his dad is half maltese?)

Email: I want A Westie puppy that is potty trained, socialized with other dogs and past the chewing stage would be my first choice. Not a high energy level and can entertain itself with toys when I don't want to be bothered. I would like one that is between 3 mos old to 5 mos, and I don't want to pay over \$300 for it. Please reply..

Adoption Form Question: What size dog do you prefer? Ans: four legged



Email: I must have a Westie and I want to know how many dogs you have in rescue right now. My Ans: Why are you on a deadline?

Message: I'd love to be able to get my mom a dog for Christmas this year. She'd love to have a Scottish Terrier, approximately 2-3 yrs old, house-trained, knows basic commands. I'm curious as to how much

one would cost. Thanks!



EMAIL: I want a Westie mix like the one who died because my sheltie liked her. She died of a blood disease at four. I have 7 dogs, and my little Schnauzer needs a buddy and is very lonely. (me.. hum I thought you said your Sheltie liked her?) My Ans: Why don't you do sports with your dog who is lonely, like agility? Reply: I can't I am legally blind, so we need to get her a playmate. (light bulb moment don't you have enough dogs?)



Phone: ring ring: I have a large Westie mix that I got 2 yrs ago from a pet adoption at Petco, and I can't remember the name of the rescue group. We can't keep him because he is trying to kill our chickens and he is impossible to walk on a leash because he is so big. He practically pulls my arms out of their sockets! Me: how big is he? Ans: 55 lbs. Me: 55 lbs! (I am thinking we are talking Samoyed), Do you think this dog is a Westie because its white? Ans: Oh it's not white, its black and tan. Me: Why do you think this dog is a Westie? Ans: My friend thought it was a Westie cause it has a cute face like a Westie. (me trying not to burst out laughing) Umm try another rescue where you live.

Interview: Me: So you have a fenced yard. Applicant: Yes, I did have a dog door from my garage to the yard, but I had to seal it up because I use the garage for my grow operation (pot) and its taking over the whole garage. Me: We don't have any dogs at this time.

Application: I'd like to adopt a Westie, we have 14 children, a St. Bernard and a pit bull. We don't have a fenced yard, but the kids pretty much will have their eye on the dog all the time.



Phone call: I see you have a Scottie on Petfinder. Do you think if I shave it down it will look like a dachshund? Because I really like dachshunds. Me: ahhh, nope.. Why don't you adopt a dachshund? Caller: cuz my husband wants a Scottie, and I figured we could come to an agreement if I could shave it down and it would look like a Doxie? Me: Well.. nope I don't think that the dog is going to look like a Doxie.

Back Story- Going out of Business: Finally our local back yard breeder of 30 yrs has retired. She gave me the remainder of her dogs and closed shop due to her health and her age (mid 80s). Honestly her dogs were happy and sweet, but they lived in the yard. I met her in a parking lot in Arlington (we always nicknamed her Parking Lot Pearl). The following conversation ensued: Me: Oh what a cute dog. What's her name? Pearl: Ummm – pause .. looks over at her husband and says “Bill, what is the dogs name?” He

goes “ummmmm” pause and blinks. She says “Bill, what do you call her when you want to get her attention?” He says, “ummm” She says “ if you want to get her to come here, what do you say?” He says “ I say come here”. Pearl exhales and says – but don’t you call her something? He said – well I call her happy. So she looked at me and said, “ Her name is Happy.”Alrighty then off we went. She is in the rescue write up as Marcie. We also obtained Rudy and Cameo from Pearl.

Back Story – Owner Died: Hi I have a dog I need to rehome. He was owned by a 92 yr old man who died, and left me to care for the dog. He had put the dog in his will with money set aside to care for the dog. The nephew was the executor, and right after the man died, he took the dog and dumped it at the shelter. I found out because I volunteer there. I took the dog out of the shelter and brought it home. He won’t give me any funds for the dog, and I haven’t the money to fight him. Meanwhile her dogs picked on him and he was such a sweet old dog. She wanted to rehome him. We figured out a plan of action and the Adopter drove down and picked him up. This is a perfect example of why you should specify in your Will to leave your dogs to SPDR Rescue. Your relatives don’t want it. They will tell you they will keep it to pacify you because you are old, but they do not want the dog, and it will wind up in the shelter. Lesson learned.

Email: Hi, I need to surrender my dog. I have had him since he was a puppy. He is 8 yrs old and he has frequent allergies. My problem is that my adult daughter moved in with us and she is



pregnant and says his odor makes her nauseated and he needs to be rehomed. My husband complains about his odor too. (my inner self is saying “wash him”) . I make him sleep downstairs so they won’t smell him. I have been pressured because they say I am putting the dog in front of my daughter and our family, so I have to rehome him. Me: “OK, but if it was my Mom and I told her that, she would tell me to go find another place to live.” (no response) Me: “I’ll make arrangements to get him picked up. We rehomed him to a lovely home. He is now living with a Hottie Pottie Wife and a fireman. Life is Good, They go camping and zipping around town. They adore him.