

We are starting off the new year on a quiet note but we know that won't last for long. Right now we have four dogs in care, one in long term care, two ready to be adopted and one new dog.

Dogs adopted since last issue:

NICHOLAS who had been recovering from surgery for a luxated patella is now living a happy life in his new forever home.

DUFFY has been adopted and is happily being loved and spoiled by his new forever family.

HUNTER who had some "man" issues is living a very happy life in his new forever home and is very much loved. He is able to meet new men without fear, especially when they offer him a treat.

BEAR, now Diesel, has been adopted and is living a happy life in his new home. He has a sister Westie to run and play with and is a happy little boy.

Carryover dogs from last issue:

TOBY remains in long term care due to behavior issues but is doing well in his foster home.

WESLEY, now Duffy, has some medical issues but with medical attended to he has perked up and has a "spring in his step" these days. Duffy is very much loved by his foster family and will remain there for life if he is not adopted.

BAILEY, this senior boy remains in foster care, but is very adoptable to the right home. He needs a home that will give him the love and care he deserves.

New Fosters:



GINGER, approximately four years old, was given up for an unknown reason. Ginger is very shy and submissive. She is clearly fearful in some situations but wants attention and is happy to be loved. Ginger has been spayed. She has been seen at Oakland Veterinary to have a heart ultrasound due to a very low level heart murmur. She needs to be seen again in a couple years just to track some slight thickening but she has NO restrictions. (Details will be shared with potential adopters.) As of date, Ginger is making wonderful progress in her foster home. She is becoming less fearful and shy. Ginger is playing more and starting to show her Westie personality. She is a sweet little girl and loved by her foster home.

Fostered by: Marge and Tom McMillan

We say to goodbye to SWEETIE
PETEY:



Sweetie Petey came into foster care on December 18, 2009 and has since remained in permanent foster care with Carol Ward. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Petey who went to Rainbow Bridge on January 21, 2012. Petey had Westie Lung Disease. He was 15 years old. Run free and happy Petey! His lungs will be used by researchers in the battle against Westie Lung Disease.

RESCUE SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS NEEDED Carole Beaudry

It is that time of year to start getting items together for our Rescue Silent Auction being held at our Annual Specialty Show in April. I am accepting donations of "new" items at this time. I will be in Hilton Head, S.C. the entire month of March so I am starting to get everything in order now so I will have things ready by the time I leave at the end of February.

If you have something to donate, please contact me via email 2westiemom@comcast.net or (734) 455-9239 so we can make arrangements for me to get your donation. I will also be accepting any monetary donations as well. Rescue will put funds together to buy items for the auction. We would like to do some gift baskets again this year. Thank you.

RESCUE "MONEY JAR" RAFFLE Carole Beaudry

Don't forget Rescue is having a "Money Jar" raffle* at Specialty. Please save your coins and bills to add to our jar. Money can be brought to the March meeting.

**Buy a ticket and guess the amount in the jar to win it all.*

RESCUE BAGS Maggie Pietrzak

How time flies. It's time to start thinking about the Specialty again. The rescue parade will again be held near lunchtime and if you have any items to donate for the adopter bags, please contact me. We usually have 21-24 bags but you really don't need to donate that many items. Each bag needn't be identical. I will not be able to attend the March meeting this year but will make arrangements to have someone there accept any donations. If you wish to email me, private arrangements can also be made. I look forward to seeing all of the adopters, foster "parents" and the conformation people and breeders. The specialty is always a lot of work and a lot of fun. See you soon.

EXIBITOR BAGS Beth Widdows

If you have anything to donate for the Exhibitor Bags this year, please bring it to the meeting in March or make arrangements to get it to me. If you plan to do so but don't have the items yet, I'd appreciate it if you would let me know what you plan on donating so I can avoid duplicating. If you would like to donate but don't have time to shop or are out of ideas, I'm happy to take a money donation which I will combine with that from others ... I'll do your shopping for you. Currently we have Kleenex packs, note cards, candy bars, grooming wipes (from a vendor) and some money to shop. While we fill about 40 bags to be sure we have enough (since we never know how many exhibitors to expect), we don't need each bag contents to be identical so 10 of this and 10 of that is fine. This is truly a situation where it is the thought that counts so you don't need to buy expensive items. Gum, breath mints, \$1 McDonald's certificates, things from the sample bins at the drug stores, all make great donations. They are even better if you decorate them with something "Westie". (Use your pc and printer and decorate with a photo of your favorite dog!) Get creative and have fun with it!

What does the title above - and a line from a poem by Robert Frost - have to do with the topic of this article? Well, quite a bit actually, if you know anything about my experiences with alternative veterinary medicine and my two Westies, Sara and MacTavish, in the last couple of years!

Our first road "less traveled by" in alternative veterinary care was with Sara, who sustained two ACL surgeries within 3 weeks of one another. This left her debilitated, in pain, and nearly crippled. Because Sara has Addison's disease, she was not able to take any NSAIDs for the pain. Thanks to a referral from Dr. Theodoroff, I took Sara to see Dr. Michael Petty in Canton, MI, who was the only Certified Veterinary Pain Practitioner in Michigan. Dr. Petty performed acupuncture on Sara in a dimly lit room, soothed by classical music, enjoying her frozen doggie concoction while 20-30 needles were gently placed in her body. Sara's treatment included several rounds of acupuncture over the next few months, a prescription of Gabapentin and Amitriptyline for pain, and a set of prescribed exercises to help regain strength in her leg muscles. The improvement in her physical mobility was startling and immediate, even after the first acupuncture treatment. If considering an alternative veterinary treatment for your dog, see the website: www.arborpointe.com or call (734) 844-8844.

Our most recent road "less traveled by" has been locally with my Veterinarian, Dr. Sharon Grappin, due to my MacTavish, who has been exhibiting more and more limping and "skipping" due to his 2 ACL surgeries. (Yep, that's right - 2 Westies and 4 ACL surgeries!) Dr. Grappin has asked about 5 of her canine patients to be candidates for a new alternative pain treatment called Laser Therapy. She is the only vet in our mid-Michigan area that has the equipment and is qualified to perform this procedure. Mac will receive 2 treatments per week for 3 weeks. Mackey looks really "cool" in his doggie goggles while the laser wand is lightly moved over his knee where his meniscus was removed. Already by his second treatment, I have seen less limping while walking. I am hoping that he will feel less pain and have less "skipping" after a full round of this treatment. Here's the website of the company that Dr. Grappin now uses: www.companiontherapy.com



So, a message to you all, and one so aptly written in Frost's "The Road Not Taken" - "I took the one less traveled by/And that has made all the difference."