

WESTIE RESCUE HOUSTON VALENTINE'S DAY NEWSLETTER

Hello Adopters and Volunteers,
On behalf of all of our rescue dogs and volunteers, we have an important announcement to make regarding our most important volunteer and the founder of Westie Rescue Houston.

Kathy McGullion has been one of the most dedicated members of dog rescue since she began volunteering in 2000. Although she originally began as a volunteer to another rescue, she founded Westie Rescue Houston out of her home in Magnolia in 2003 with the goal of finding forever homes for the homeless Westies in Houston. As the organization expanded over the years, Kathy undertook a project to build a warehouse for supplies and to shelter the growing number of dogs with her own funds.

In 2003, she helped save the lives of 14 dogs. In 2011, the lives of 117 dogs were saved with her help and with yours. Over 600 dogs have come through the doors of Westie Rescue Houston over the years.

Since its founding, the majority of Westie Rescue Houston's organization has operated out of Kathy's home. She has done a tremendous amount to build an organization to rescue dogs who might otherwise never have been given an opportunity to find a home. She has made her home a shelter for countless dogs over the years, and made it possible for them to find wonderful homes of their own.

After devoting over 10 years to rescue, Kathy is retiring as our Intake Coordinator to pursue a new career challenge. Although she will continue to take an advisory roll in the rescue, we will be losing Kathy's home as a place for dogs to stay while waiting to find their home in April, 2012. But the



**Introducing our
new Board of Directors:**

**Sarah Traise
Intake Coordinator**

**Paula Guilbeau
Adoptions Coordinator**

Mona Harris

Maggie Escriva

Teri Schmidt

**Kathy McGullion
Advisor**

Please email us at

show must go on, and we are looking to save the lives of even more dogs this coming year. Since we will need help in placing many great dogs, we are looking to restructure Westie Rescue Houston into a foster-centric program. In order to make this happen, we will need your help in fostering and boarding animals. We would not have been able to do this all for so many years without as many wonderful adopters, fosters, and volunteers as we have, so we're certain that we'll be able to meet this challenge and continue to save countless lives.

Please have a discussion with your family about the possibility of becoming a foster home for Westie Rescue Houston. Another option, boarding dogs in a facility, will be considered if we do not have a foster home available. If needed, this option will require additional donations and funds. If you can find room in your budget for an occasional or regular tax deductible donation, it will help us in our goal of not turning away dogs due to the lack of foster homes.

A note from our founder

It's been 12 years since I started helping Westies and other breeds find new forever homes. During those 12 years, I have met many wonderful families who have adopted one or more of our rescued dogs. I have also made many fantastic friends and have shared many wonderful experiences, all because of these little four legged friends who, for one reason or another, needed to find a new home.

I would have never guessed that adopting my first Westie, Lacey would change the course of my life forever. Over the past 12 years, I have heard so many stories from you about how your dog has enriched your lives as well. These stories and photos have kept me going over the years, especially during those times when I became weary of the challenges that my

westiehouston@gmail.com if you are interested in fostering and helping us save more lives!



Nike 2011

Nike Needs Your Help!

Nike came into our program in August 2011. He was a transferred to us from North Texas Westie Rescue, and he was turned into them by his owners at 8 years old. Nike has been through a lot, and he's had a difficult life. Nike is very fearful and sometimes aggressive towards people and other animals.

Currently, Nike is being boarded at Second Chance Ranch where he is learning how to behave properly and live safely with others. Nike is living with several Basset Hounds and a French Bulldog at the ranch, and Nike has made significant progress and has even been house-trained. He also knows quite a few

passion to help dogs has had for me. Many rescue organizations have difficulty keeping their head above water, in part due to costs, lack of volunteers, and lack of funding. I feel so fortunate and proud that Westie Rescue Houston is a strong and well organized group that has grown and flourished over the years. This has been made possible not only because of my dedication to Westie Rescue Houston, but because of all of the volunteers that have stepped up and helped in any way that they were able to. We also would not have been able to help the numbers of dogs that we have, without the donations that our adopters and supporters have blessed us with. It is my wish and prayer that this extended family called Westie Rescue Houston will be able to continue to help save as many dogs as possible.

I will remain on the board as an advisor and very much want to remain involved in some capacity but because of personal changes, I will no longer be able to take on the same responsibilities that I have in the past. We have worked very hard to put together a strong infrastructure of dedicated volunteers and directors so the transition will be as smooth as possible and our abilities to help save dogs will not be interrupted. I am thrilled to be able to say that I feel very confident in the commitment and passion of our volunteers and feel certain that things will stay on track. I implore you to look into your heart and see if you have room to help in any capacity, whether it be donating a few hours a year to help at a rescue event or foster a dog.

To reach me, you can still use kdmtx@aol.com or 281-300-4523.

commands and is very eager to learn. Unfortunately, we are running out of funds to continue boarding him.

We are looking for a compassionate and understanding person to help Nike in his time of need. Fearful dogs thrive in stable, routine environments. If you are interested in fostering Nike or adopting Nike, please contact us at: westiehouston@gmail.com.

If we are unable to place him into a loving home, we will need donations to continue his progress at the ranch. Please let us know if you are interested in sponsoring Nike and receiving updates on this wonderful Westie!



Zoey 2011

My best to you all,
Kathy

Note:
Flint River Ranch dog food will be sold at Kathy's until April 1, 2012. Afterwards, it can be purchased at Sarah Traise's house. Sarah's phone number is (713)-504-1689.



Zoey's Story

(As featured in Westie Rescue Footprints)

I remember being so afraid and so confused by the loud, metal monsters that sped by me on the streets. I thought that maybe if I kept my ears down... maybe they wouldn't notice me. I was so very hungry. I found little things here and there to munch on, but it seemed like no matter how much I ate, my tummy still rumbled. After a while, a nice lady found me, and she took me to Westie Rescue Houston.

The rescue people said that I looked much too skinny and I needed to be taken to the dogtor straight away. The dogtor looked me over and determined that my little pancreas didn't function and that I would have to take supplements every single day for the rest of forever! I took my medicine for a while, and I started looking absolutely marvelous, if I do say so myself. The rescue people said it may take a while for my new family to come for me, but when they did it was worth the wait!!! I now have SIX new Westie brothers and sisters, and my new Mommy is the most wonderful Mommy in the whole wide world!

Shop with iGive.com and a percentage of profits will go to Westie Rescue! All you have to do is add the iGive button!

For more ways to help out or donate, please visit: [Westie Rescue Houston Donations](http://WestieRescueHoustonDonations)



Please consider Westie Rescue Houston when making your 2011 tax-deductible donation contributions. You will literally be saving lives. We are a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization registered with the IRS. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt letter for your contributions.



Westie Rescue Houston
PO Box 683
Tomball, Texas 77375

Skin Problems

One of the most common ailments found in Westies and other terriers breeds is a yeast infection known as *Malassezia dermatitis*. *Malassezia* is the name of a yeast that is found on the skin of normal and healthy terriers, and although it usually causes no problems, certain factors can cause the yeast to multiply and grow to become a very uncomfortable and often painful infection. As the infection develops, it becomes malodorous and creates hair loss as the dog becomes itchier and itchier. We often hear stories of owners that have been to the vet for numerous visits, and yet their Westie continues to itch and lose its hair. Sometimes, the infection becomes so severe that the owner ends up turning his or her dog into us.

It is important to note that yeast infections are not contagious. Although the yeast can cause discomfort, there is no need to sterilize areas where a dog with *Malassezia dermatitis* has been.

Causes

A number of things can cause a yeast infection to occur. The number one cause we find is an allergic reaction to their diet, most notably any type of food with grains in it. Living in a high humidity environment like south Texas already increases the chances of a dog developing skin problems. Other underlying factors, such as fleas, allergies, or an immune deficiency, can cause the yeast infection to begin developing.

Symptoms

Malassezia dermatitis is something that should always be diagnosed by your veterinarian or us here at Westie Rescue Houston. The symptoms are easily spotted once the condition has developed. Notable itchiness, an unpleasant odor, hair loss and redness in multiple areas are all indicative of this disease.

Treatment

We put our dogs diagnosed with Malassezia dermatitis on an antifungal and an anti-itch medication, as well as acidophilus. To treat the topical irritation associated with the disease, we bathe the dog in a medicated shampoo once to twice a week. The shampoo we use is antifungal, and it's lathered onto the skin and kept on the skin for 10-15 minutes before being rinsed.

The infection begins to clear in only a few weeks, although full recovery can take several weeks. The prognosis for terriers suffering from a yeast infection is always very good, and proper treatment helps these dogs to resume their happy and fun-filled lives.

[Donate](#)

