



## WESTIE RESCUE OF CA

*a service of*

West Highland White Terrier Rescue Of California, anfpo

*A Not For Profit Organization*

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Westie Hotline/Fax: (619) 579-6395

Email: [WestieRescueCA@cox.net](mailto:WestieRescueCA@cox.net)

Website: [www.WestieRescueCA.com](http://www.WestieRescueCA.com)

### **FOSTER GUIDELINES**

If you are considering taking on the rewarding and incredibly helpful task of fostering one of the rescued waifs for Westie Rescue of California, you should carefully review the following guidelines, in addition to the Foster Agreement you will be required to sign.

Fostering parents and families form the backbone of the work we do. We cannot exist as a rescue organization, if people are not willing to bring needy animals into their homes while we search for permanent homes. Fosters have our undying gratitude and our deepest respect and admiration. There are never enough foster homes to go around, so each is precious to Westie Rescue of California and the animals we are trying to save.

Please understand that because of insurance and liability issues, Westie Rescue of California cannot allow families with children under the age of eight to foster.

To make your fostering experience as positive as possible for you, your families, and your rescued Westie, please commit the following to memory before bringing him/her home:

1. All animals placed in foster homes remain the property of Westie Rescue of CA, anfpo. Westie Rescue of CA may remove the fostered Westie from the foster home at any time.
2. All materials (leash, collar, carrier, medications, shampoos, brushes, combs, toys, etc.) coming to the foster home with the animal will remain the property of Westie Rescue of CA and will be returned with the animal or upon request by Westie Rescue of CA.
3. Foster families are not encouraged to consider adoption of fostered Westies. In the instance when a foster family feels compelled to try adopting a fostered Westie, standard adoption procedures will be followed. The family must complete an adoption application (even if they adopted previously with our organization), the application must be approved, and will be required to make the same donation as other applicants. While this foster family is being considered as a potential adoption family, the fostered Westie will be removed from that fostered home.
4. Although Westie Rescue of CA encourages input from foster families, the decision of the final adoption and match between dog and the adoption family rests solely with Westie Rescue of CA and is final.
5. No member of the foster family's household may ever have been charged with cruelty to animals.
6. Although Westie Rescue of CA has made every possible effort to provide accurate available information concerning Westies in fosterage, Westie of Rescue of CA makes no warranties of any kind regarding the temperament, training, or behavior of said animal. Westie Rescue of CA is not liable for any actions of the animal or costs, expenses, damages, whatsoever in connection with said pet's conduct with the limited exception of those medical expense pre-approved by Westie Rescue of CA.



7. The foster family will arrange to introduce the fostered Westie to your own pet(s), if you have them, outside on neutral territory. Once inside, it is best to situate the foster Westie in a crate at first, and introduce him/her gradually to other household members. Do not try to make the foster an immediate part of your family. Let him/her settle into the new place, and help him/her learn the rules of the house as soon as possible. Never let the foster take over and place your own animals at risk or under stress.
8. Always use a properly secured collar and leash to walk a foster so he/she cannot slip out of the collar and run off. In most cases a Westie Rescue collar and leash, plus a Westie Rescue REWARD dog tag is provided for the fostered dog. On the other hand, if the dog has come into foster care with a collar and leash, then a Westie Rescue REWARD dog tag should be placed on the dog's collar and any other identification tags removed from the original collar. The foster family will not let the Westie roam or keep him/her tied. Dogs will be walked on a leash or exercised in a fenced yard. The Westie will not be allowed to ride in the back of a pickup truck whether or not tethered.
9. If you find prospective adopters for your foster on your own, please make them aware of the application process, as well as Westie Rescue of California adoption requirements and adoption donation. Westie Rescue of California screens applicants very carefully, so please refer all interested applicants to our website for additional information, application submission instructions; an application form is available there also. You may wish to have available Westie Rescue of California brochures and business cards to give interested parties.
10. Before taking a foster Westie, ask about the animal's age, gender, temperament, behavior, and why he/she is in the adoption program. Find out to the best of your ability and ours if he/she is a stray, from a shelter, a private give-up, a victim of abuse or neglect, etc. That way you will not be sharing incorrect information about your foster to potential adopters. Remember that not every prospective adopter is approved, and sometimes other applications may be pending. Some gender and age ranges are more popular than others are and so we can have many applicants who are interested in the same Rescue Westie. Others must wait for that special "one" forever family. Nevertheless, they all find homes, eventually, if we work cooperatively together.
11. Never turn over a foster to someone who claims it is his/her lost pet! This person could be mistaken, or he/she could be deliberately trying to mislead you. The Westie could have been removed from his/her former home for all kinds of reasons. The claimant could well have mistreated the animal. Report any such claims to one of the "primary" Westie Rescue volunteer contacts in your area or a Founding Director immediately. The claim will be investigated.
12. If necessary, Westie Rescue of California can lend you a crate to accomplish shelter and/or veterinarian pickups. Whenever you transport any animal, make certain you have him/her on a leash, with a flat collar. No prong collars, please! If you plan to foster on a regular basis, it would be a great help to Westie Rescue of California if you could simply have a crate available. Prior to purchasing Vari-Kennel #200, or a Pet Mate Medium size crate, ask your Westie Rescue volunteer contact about extra crates, as we often have donated crates which we can lend. If you have a crate already, make sure the Westie has ample room to move.
13. Foster families typically provide food, treats, and chew toys for their foster Westies, with no reimbursement from Westie Rescue of California. In addition, the foster family will typically provide transportation to veterinary appointments, scheduled grooming appointments, and social introduction meetings with potential adoptive families. The foster family will provide loving care and will treat this animal as an indoor family house member for the period of fosterage. You will feed the animal at least once a day with an adequate amount of food and will provide continuous supply of water (unless health conditions deem otherwise). Some pet stores will donate food for foster dogs, so it is worth contacting your local pet stores like PetSmart



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and Petco. Fosters may also be asked to participate in transporting animals to other foster homes or possibly assisting in applicant “house” checks.

14. If your foster animal becomes ill or gets hurt, contact the Westie Rescue Hotline: (619) 579-6395 immediately. Westie Rescue of California covers medical expenses, but we must authorize treatments and medications before they are administered, and we must also approve the veterinarian who will be doing the work. In emergency cases, when every moment could mean the difference between life or death, do not hesitate to take the animal to a vet immediately or to an emergency clinic if after regular vet hours. We will work out emergency expenses. The important thing is to do everything possible to save the animal in distress. Know where your closest vet and emergency centers are located before you foster any animal. Keep the numbers handy, easily accessible. The time to search is not when you are holding a sick or injured animal in your arms.
15. Be careful what you tell potential adopters. Avoid giving advice and criticizing. Also avoid answering any questions with absolutes, and **never** answer any question of which you are unsure. Do not mislead inquirers. Ask for assistance when you do not know something. Suggest inquirers contact directly Westie Rescue of California for additional questions. Always recommend that potential adopters do as much reading about West Highland White Terriers as possible. Urge them to sign up for obedience training with a reputable trainer. Westie Rescue of California does have established working relationships and referrals to Certified Animal Trainers. These trainers know Westies and terriers in general.
16. If you have **any** hesitations or peculiar feelings or "bad vibes" about the adoption applicants and/or any initial socialization appointment with prospective adopters -- like the family seems great, all except for the angry look on the father's face -- **DO NOT ALLOW IT TO GO FORWARD!** Say the final decision is not yours to make, and we will get back to them as soon as possible. You do not have to take the heat for your instincts. Although it would be helpful to try to determine what is giving you pause or making you wary, and take note of it. Be prepared to tell one of the Founding Directors and/ or the “primary” volunteer contact about your feelings.
17. The foster family understands that about half of the Westies we get come without veterinary care or at least unknown histories, they have considered potential health problems or risks which may be encountered by exposing your current pet(s) to the foster, understand we are not responsible for any damage done by the fostered Westie, understand that we will not be responsible for any health concerns your pet(s) receive as a result of exposure to a foster Westie and you will allow a Westie Rescue of CA volunteer and/or Founding Director access to the fostered Westie upon reasonable notification.

Westie Rescue of California certainly appreciates your anticipated foster program participation and dedication to rescued West Highland White Terriers in need.

We acknowledge, understand and will abide by the 17 above stated guidelines of the three (3) page Foster Guideline form.

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Signed: (Print Legal Name Here)

Dated:

**NOTE: Attach a copy of this document to the FOSTER AGREEMENT and submit. Keep a copy for your records.**