

**ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

Name of Dog Being Adopted:	Age:	Sex:
Primary Applicant Name:	Co-Applicant Name:	
Primary Applicant Phone:	Co-Applicant Phone:	
Primary Applicant Email:	Co-Applicant Email:	
Adoptive Home Address:		

**Terms of Agreement**

**North Atlantic Westie Rescue** (hereinafter called "Westie Rescue") was established to provide rescue and care for West Highland White Terriers and other dogs who have been given up due to family circumstances, neglect, abuse, or abandonment. The primary adopter and co-adopter if applicable (hereinafter called "adopter") agree to our purpose of providing safe, secure, affectionate, and healthy environment for the adoptive dog for their lifetime and agree to or verify the following conditions as part of his/her/their adoption of the dog identified above:

- The adopter is 18 years of age and is able to legally keep a dog in their residence.
- The adopter must verify that no member of the adopter’s household has been charged with cruelty to or intentional neglect of animals.
- The dog will be kept solely as a house pet and will never be used for breeding, fighting, training fighting dogs, or experimentation.
- The dog will never be given, leased, or sold to any person, laboratory, or business. We strongly encourage adopters to make provisions for the dog in the event that he/she/they can no longer care for the adoptive dog.
- If the adopter can no longer house and care for said dog for any reason, they agree to notify and relinquish custody to Westie Rescue immediately. If you cannot find the phone number or email address, go to [northatlanticwestierescue.org](http://northatlanticwestierescue.org) web site to find our organization’s contact information.
- The adopter and all members of the adopter’s household will provide all necessary food, water, shelter, and veterinary care required for well-being for the lifetime of the dog.
- The adopter will provide a properly fenced yard and/or will leash walk said dog several times daily. Because Westies are bred to hunt and exterminate vermin, they may chase wild animals, bark, dig, and perform other hunting and go to ground actions and, therefore, require protection from harm.
- The dog will be spayed or neutered at the time of adoption. If the dog has been altered recently, the adopter will have the dog examined within 48 hours by a licensed veterinarian to certify that the dog is healing properly and to obtain medical advice on recovery procedures for the dog. If the dog is too young to be altered by the time of adoption, the adopter agrees to provide Westie Rescue with a copy of the spay/neuter certificate issued by the veterinarian no later than the following date: \_\_\_\_\_ . The veterinarian may also present Westie Rescue with a waiver of spay / neuter if the procedure is medically inappropriate for the dog due to age or medical condition.
- The adopter will maintain a current dog license as required by their local ordinance and state law or regulations and will assure that the said dog is inoculated against disease, especially rabies. The adopter will also see that the dog always carries, at minimum, identifying tags on its collar/harness or, as is considered best by animal control officials, the tags plus microchip or tattoo identification.
- The adoption family agrees to make a minimum adoption payment of \$200 or another amount based on Westie Rescue’s current fee schedule. The payment is used to assist Westie Rescue with expenses

in rescuing, fostering, rehabilitating, and placing this dog and other dogs for which Westie Rescue provides services. The adopter must pay the adoption fee prior to or on the day of adoption. A dog may not be physically handed over to a prospective adopter without a check or receipt of completed payment.

- If the adopter is a foster parent already in possession of the dog, the adopter has 10 business days to complete the adoption agreement and pay the adoption fee following written adoption approval communicated by the Executive Director of Westie Rescue. If these steps are not completed, the adopter agrees to surrender the dog to a representative of Westie Rescue or to a designated veterinary clinic at a date and time specified by Westie Rescue.
- If this is a trial adoption, the period for the dog to stay with this adopter under trial cannot exceed two weeks without permission from the Executive Director of Westie Rescue. The dog may only reside at the adopter's application address during the trial period listed on the adoption agreement form. At the end of this trial period, the adopter must communicate whether the trial has succeeded or failed. If the trial has failed or the adopter fails to communicate, said dog will be returned to Westie Rescue and the adoption fee refunded. If the trial has succeeded, the adoption agreement will be considered in full effect. The adoption fee is non-refundable when the trial is completed or when no trial is specified. Please specify the period of trial:

Dates of trial: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

- Westie Rescue makes no warranties/guarantees regarding the temperament, behavior, health or physical condition of any adoptive dog, whether adopted or under a trial, or guarantee it free of genetic defects peculiar to the breed.
- The adopter agrees to hold harmless and indemnify Westie Rescue, its representatives (including but not limited to officers, foster parents, volunteers, and veterinarians) from all claims, demands, action, causes of action, or liability of any kind whatsoever arising out of or in connection with this adoption, including the trial period.
- Even if a dog has had obedience training, a "refresher" course is highly recommended since it helps establish close rapport and bonding between the owner(s) and the dog.
- The adopter is encouraged to exercise caution in introducing an adoptive dog into new situations until the dog has become adjusted to its new environment. It is strongly recommended that interaction between dogs and children be monitored by an adult at all times during the trial period and post-adoption.
- If the dog bites an individual during the trial period or post-adoption, the adopter agrees to comply with local ordinances and state law and regulations regarding dog bites. The adopter also agrees to notify Westie Rescue within 48 hours of a bite if the bite occurs within the first year of adoption. If a bite occurs and the adopter no longer wishes to own the adoptive dog, the adopter agrees to return the dog to Westie Rescue. Surrendering the dog in this circumstance to a shelter or other rescue, unless ordered by local or state law enforcement, without the consent of Westie Rescue is prohibited under this agreement.
- The adopter is required to communicate with Westie Rescue via phone or email with their adoption coordinator within 48 hours of adoption and answer questions about the adoptive dog's initial experience in the adoptive home. The adopter is also required to communicate via phone or email with a representative of Westie Rescue at least once by the end of the first month of ownership and at least one additional time before the end of the first year of adoption. We strongly encourage adoptive owners to communicate with Westie Rescue throughout the lifetime of their dog.

- Communication with the former owner of the dog being adopted is not required. In some cases, the former owner may request communication in the form of reports or photographs about their former dog. The adopter may choose to share or not share reports, photographs, or videos with Westie Rescue that may be shared with the former owner or on Westie Rescue’s social media sites. The adopter may also opt to share information directly with the former owner with permission as mediated by Westie Rescue. Westie Rescue cannot guarantee anonymity of its adopters but will make every reasonable effort to safeguard the adopter’s name(s) and location from all parties. Adopters are cautioned that posting information on social media may inadvertently expose their personal information to the public, including to the dog’s former owner.
- The adopter agrees that if Westie Rescue determines that the terms and conditions of adoption have not been met, the adopter will surrender custody of said dog upon demand.

I/we have read the adoption agreement and agree to and/or verify the conditions set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Primary Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Co-Applicant (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Westie Rescue Representative\*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Adoption Donation**

**Amount Received:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Westie Rescue Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

On behalf of North Atlantic Westie Rescue, we wish you much joy with your dog. We also encourage you to assist rescue activities to help other homeless dogs find homes and to participate in our network of adoptive families.

**Please direct questions to Westie Rescue at (781) 424-1477 or [northatlanticwr@gmail.com](mailto:northatlanticwr@gmail.com).**

**Visit our website: [northatlanticwestierescue.org](http://northatlanticwestierescue.org)**

\*Only board members of North Atlantic Westie Rescue are authorized to sign the adoption agreement.