



WIRE FOX TERRIER RESCUE MIDWEST

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A TEMPEST FOR TERRIERS IN THE HEARTLAND

→ Last year the Wire Fox Terrier rescue fundraising calendar, with an original oil painting on the cover and photos of happily adopted dogs inside, sold out well before Christmas. That didn't surprise Maribeth Knierim, Wire Fox Terrier Rescue Midwest co-founder and calendar cover artist. She knows that fans of this quirky, spunky breed are loyal and in love with all things Wire Fox Terrier.

"Chicago is really big on terriers," she says. "Well, the Midwest is big on terriers."

As is Knierim. That's a big reason why she has poured her heart, soul, and money into saving as many of these often contrary and always entertaining pups as possible. Wire Fox Terriers need Knierim as their voice and savior in a world that sometimes doesn't comprehend their quirks.

"They are truly a breed you must understand where their minds are coming from (in order) to appreciate them and own one," Knierim says. "Life would be boring without a breed that certainly keeps you on your toes. They have a comical, loving side, too, and really want to be your best companion in life."

In 2004, Knierim searched the

Cheryl Collins
co-founded
Wire Fox
Terrier Rescue
Midwest.



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Internet for a Wire Fox Terrier to call her own. Eventually, she connected with Cheryl Collins in Iowa, who had Teddy ready for adoption. Collins and Knierim immediately hit it off, and they realized they needed to further help save this breed they both adore.

"We became a team and a tornado with saving Wire Fox Terriers, as well as other terriers in the Midwest," Knierim says.

For the next five years, the two-networked, rescued, and adopted terriers throughout the Midwest, officially forming a non-profit rescue in 2009. Today more than 700 dogs have been saved and are living happy lives throughout the United States, thanks to WFTRM.

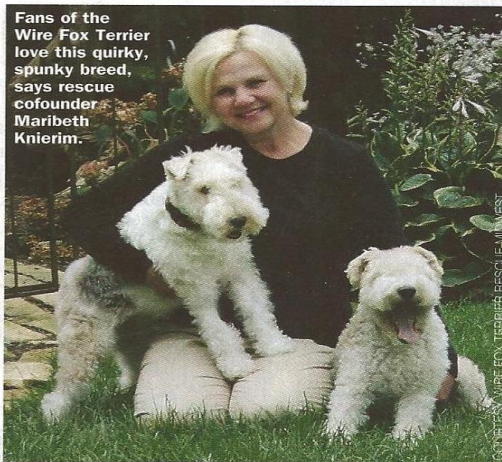
"Someone has to help them," Knierim says. "They are stubborn, strong-willed, comical, mischievous, and difficult at times. (We) probably relate, as our personalities are similar."

While volunteers are affiliated with the group, Knierim and Collins do the bulk of the work themselves, from fostering the rescues in their own homes, to managing the group's website, to providing the dogs with "the red carpet of veterinary care." Old, young, sick, healthy, scruffy, gorgeous — no dog needing help is denied at WFTRM.

Knierim gets to know and love them all. "By living with the fosters as a member of the family, we can best evaluate them for their needs and what their perfect home would be," Knierim says. "Each year, we rescue, rehabilitate, and find loving homes for over 80 dogs. It is extremely difficult work. The reward is ... saving them and nursing them back to health and seeing them shine in their new home."

Many dogs in the foster program get adopted quickly, but some do take

Fans of the Wire Fox Terrier love this quirky, spunky breed, says rescue co-founder Maribeth Knierim.



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a little longer to find forever homes. Lovers of this breed constantly seek out WFTRM, thanks to a heavy presence on social media as well as an extensively detailed website featuring adoptable dogs and lengthy bios. Knierim works hard to make sure the website is as up-to-date and specific as possible.

WFTRM finds its dogs from the usual sources: shelters, puppy mill auctions, animal control, owner surrender, and backyard breeders. This breed is not for everyone, says Knierim, who has spent years getting to know the quirks and intricacies of the Wire Fox Terrier so she can facilitate a successful dog-owner union. Having her own Wire Fox Terriers helps her do that, as does living with her rescues.

"We really bond with these dogs," she says. "(Adopting one to someone else) is like handing off one of your own kids. ... We love them all and bond deeply with each one. We're doing this from the heart. We feel passionate about it."

To purchase a Wire Fox Terrier Rescue Midwest 2014 calendar for \$20, visit the website at www.wirefoxrescuemidwest.com and search the Boutique page. — Kyra Kirkwood

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The efforts of Wire Fox Terrier Rescue Midwest to aid and rescue dogs inspired FreeKibble.com, a website dedicated to providing nutritious food to shelter animals, to donate 5,000 meals of Halo Spot's Stew to WFTRM.