



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Winter 2021



President's Message — Jeannette Melchior

We're here! We made it! Welcome 2021! So what's next?

Well first things first the new Board will get down to work. We'll start organizing ways in which we can all stay connected and move forward in this new year of being able to reschedule with technical tools and hopefully by the end of the year we will be reconnecting face to face with our annual Westie events. We will work for/towards a scheduled Westie get together, hopefully by midyear returning to a camaraderie of working together with our best Westie, meeting new and old friends — fresh air and the pleasure of again enjoying time with a great breed.

I have a suggestion for everyone — go to the WHWTCOPS Facebook scroll through all the photos, fun times, and great memories.

Guaranteed — A smile each time a picture evokes a memory of a past moment with our Westie and the fun of other Westies doing what Westies love to do. Run, chase and greet!

As you read through the first Newsletter of the New Year I would like for you to read the poem, "So, God made a Dog", some of you may be familiar with it — I was not but when it was sent to me I thought yes how appropriate for these times. He (God) wisely thought of all things necessary for what a dog would need and should be to his children. Most of all he came up with the perfect Dog, thank you God.

My Westie pack and I look forward to seeing and being with all of you in the upcoming year. Better yet! Tell us what you and your Westie have been doing! We want to know. In the first month of April 2020 I noted a number of families out walking but what struck me were how many families with a dog or dogs that had never been on a lead before! Those beloved pets did everything under the sun to be free of their new and not recognized restraint. Over the months they have greatly improved with practice.

Until it is convenient for all of us — May you and yours be safe and well.

Jeannette & Summertime

“So, God Made a Dog” Paul Harvey

“And on the 9th-day, God looked down on his wide-eyed children and said, ‘They need a companion.’

So, God made a dog.

God said, ‘I need somebody willing to wake up give kisses, pee on a tree, sleep all day, wake up again, give more kisses, then stay up until midnight, basking in the glare of a television set.’

So, God made a dog

God said, ‘I need somebody willing to sit, then stay, then roll over. Then with no ego or complaint dress in hats they don’t need and costumes they don’t understand.



I need somebody who can break wind without a first care, without a second thought, who can chase tails, sniff crotches, fetch sticks, and lift spirits with a lick.

Somebody who no matter what you didn’t do, or couldn’t take, or didn’t win, or couldn’t make, will love you without judgment just the same.

So, God made a dog.



God said, ‘I need somebody strong enough to pull sleds and find bombs, yet gentle enough to love babies and lead the blind. Somebody who will spend a day on a couch with a resting head and supportive eyes to lift the spirits of a broken heart.’

So, God made a dog.





It had to be somebody who remained patient and loyal, even thru loneliness. Somebody to care, cuddle, snuggle, and nuzzle, and cheer, and charm, and snore and slobber, and eat the trash and chase the squirrels.

Somebody who would bring a family together with the selflessness of an open heart. Somebody who would bark, and then pant, and then reply with the rapid wag of a tail when their best friend says, 'Let's go for a ride in the car.'

So, God made a dog."



TREE TOPS GLISTEN
& Westies LISTEN



TO NOTHING.

Westies LITERALLY
DON'T LISTEN TO
ANYTHING.

If dogs made Rally-O signs...



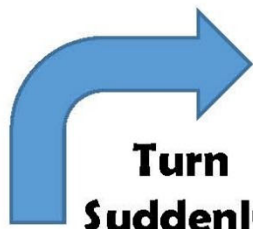
**Track
Previous
Dog**



Drag Owner



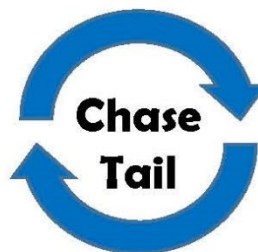
**Find
Dropped
Treat**



**Turn
Suddenly**



RUN



**Chase
Tail**



BONUS

**Jump on
Judge**

Icon courtesy <https://www.flaticon.com/authors/freepik>

Student Opens up about her Trio of Pets who Have Become the Unlikeliest of Four-Legged Friends

PA Media

Oct. 26, 2020

An animal loving student claims her trio of pets have shown how four legged babies can become the best of friends as her dog, cat and rabbit play happily together and even share a bed.

After successfully bonding her West Highland terrier Sam with her cat Rafa when he was a kitten, Michelle Borraz ignored her doubters and introduced long-haired rabbit Kaninchen to the pack.

Michelle insists the unlikely trio soon became buddies.

"They're the best of friends. I should know, at least once a week they all enjoy a snuggle in my bed!" she said. "At first we were worried Sam might be a bit rough with Kaninchen, but if anything it was the other way around. If Kaninchen isn't happy she lets the others know with a strong thump."

Longing for a dog throughout her childhood, Michelle's wish was finally granted when her family moved to a garden flat and brought Sam into their new home when she was 16. "My parents only ever wanted a Westie and he was treated like a prince," she said.

But all that changed in 2016, when Michelle's mom, Giselle, found an abandoned kitten on her way home from work. With no sign of the mother cat, Giselle took the kitten back to the apartment calling him Rafa. "He must have been less than a month old – he was that tiny. We wrapped him in blankets to keep him warm and got some cat milk for him," she said. "We weren't sure if he would make it, but he fought on."

While the family doted on the tiny bundle, Sam was less enthusiastic about sharing his humans with another animal.

"He was used to having all the attention for himself," Michelle recalled. "Suddenly we were all tending to this poor kitten and he was not happy at all."

But, two months after bringing him home, Rafa was in fine fettle and as tall as his doggy roommate with whom he became the best of pals.



Kaninchen, Rafa and Sam (all photos PA Real Life/Collect)





"They run around the house chasing each other now," laughed Michelle. "And if they're not chasing each other, they're chasing their tails." "Growing up with Sam as a big brother, Rafa shows signs of being more like a dog than a cat. As soon as someone's at the door he comes running over to see what's happening and loves playing fetch with a ball!" she said.

In September 2017, Michelle bid farewell to her furry friends, while she joined a six-month educational exchange at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar University in Germany. But they gave her a hero's welcome when she returned home to Barcelona the following year bringing a new addition to the cuddly clan.

"When I got to Germany, I was really quite lonely and missed my pets more than I thought I would," she said. "I was out and about one day when I saw an advert for a house bunny that need rehoming. I enquired inside and told the

man I'd take her right away." There was just one problem the bun was named Sam.

"I knew I couldn't have two pet Sams in my life, so I called him Kaninchen, which is German for rabbit," she said. Unable to hop on a plane with a bunny, Michelle travelled all the way home from Frankfurt to Barcelona via Paris and the South of France by train taking more than 15 hours. "My parents thought I was mad for bring Kaninchen back," she said. "They were worried about how Sam and Rafa would take to him, too – we all were. We kept Kaninchen separate from the others for a few days in the garden."

"Sam and Rafa were curious, but soon got used to the new presence in the apartment," she said. And, after a week apart, the trio were properly introduced. "They were all a bit apprehensive at the start," said Michelle. "But, by the end of the day, they were all running around wild in the garden." Now the trio are as close as triplets, according to their owner. "They really do love each other. Sam has a stuffed carrot he loves playing with and he and Kaninchen are constantly playing tug of war with it, as the bunny tries to steal it. It's very funny to watch," she said.

"They run around the house chasing each other and even share a bed. Seeing them all sleeping together is just the sweetest thing. Sam plays the role of big brother so well. If either of the others has a poorly stomach or an infection he won't leave their side."



After Spain went into a national lockdown because of the pandemic in March this year, Michelle spent more time than ever with the threesome. With her studies on hold, she took copious endearing snaps of her pets and uploaded them to Instagram.

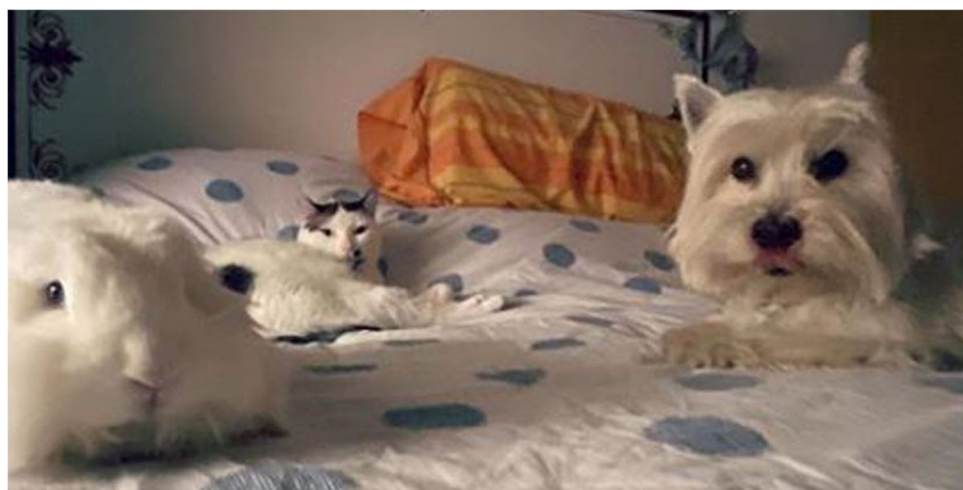
"Like so many people, I had a lot of time on my hands, so started taking pictures of them all," she said.

"I liked them so much that I started sharing them on Instagram for others to enjoy. Now my animals have a small following of 700 or so and the feedback from the community has been nothing but positive."



Studying full-time since September, Michelle is determined to keep Sam, Rafa and Kaninchen's growing fan base updated. "It doesn't take long to snap a quick photo and upload it to Instagram," she said. "I try and do a couple a week and knowing it is bringing people a little bit of joy makes it well worth it." "Anyway, who can complain about having to photograph these three cuties?!"

To keep up with Sam, Rafa and Kaninchen's latest antics, follow them on [@blanquitospeludos](#)



WHWTCOPS Participates in National Club Focus Group

The West Highland White Terrier Club of America Board seated a National Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) to evaluate where they are as a National Club and where Westies stand with regard to AKC registrations. Westie numbers are on the decline, but with the help of the Regional Clubs the National Club is committed to shifting that; to work together to safeguard our breed.

The LRPC has proposed a five-year plan. The priorities include

1. Membership
2. Education
3. Cultural shifts (atmosphere of inclusion, fun, partnership, and explosion of Westie versatility melding conformation, companion, and performance)

To date, they have collected considerable numerical data. They are currently shifting their attention to conducting Focus Groups across the country to gain insight into attitudes, and to listen to the 'consumer.' Through these Focus Groups the National Club hopes to gain a comprehensive picture of what is happening around the country.

In addition to several other active regional clubs they contacted WHWTCOPS to participate so they can hear what is happening, what is working, what is not working and to obtain suggestions for the future. A group of ten volunteers was selected and will meet with the National Group's facilitator for our club's 90-minute Focus Group the first week of January.

Staying in Touch during the Pandemic We want to hear from you!

The Pandemic has been hard on all of us. It has kept us from meeting as a group; from letting our Westies romp together. Let's stay in touch. We want to know how you and your dogs are doing. Send a picture or two for the next newsletter. Send a quick email with an update on what you have been doing during your shelter in place.

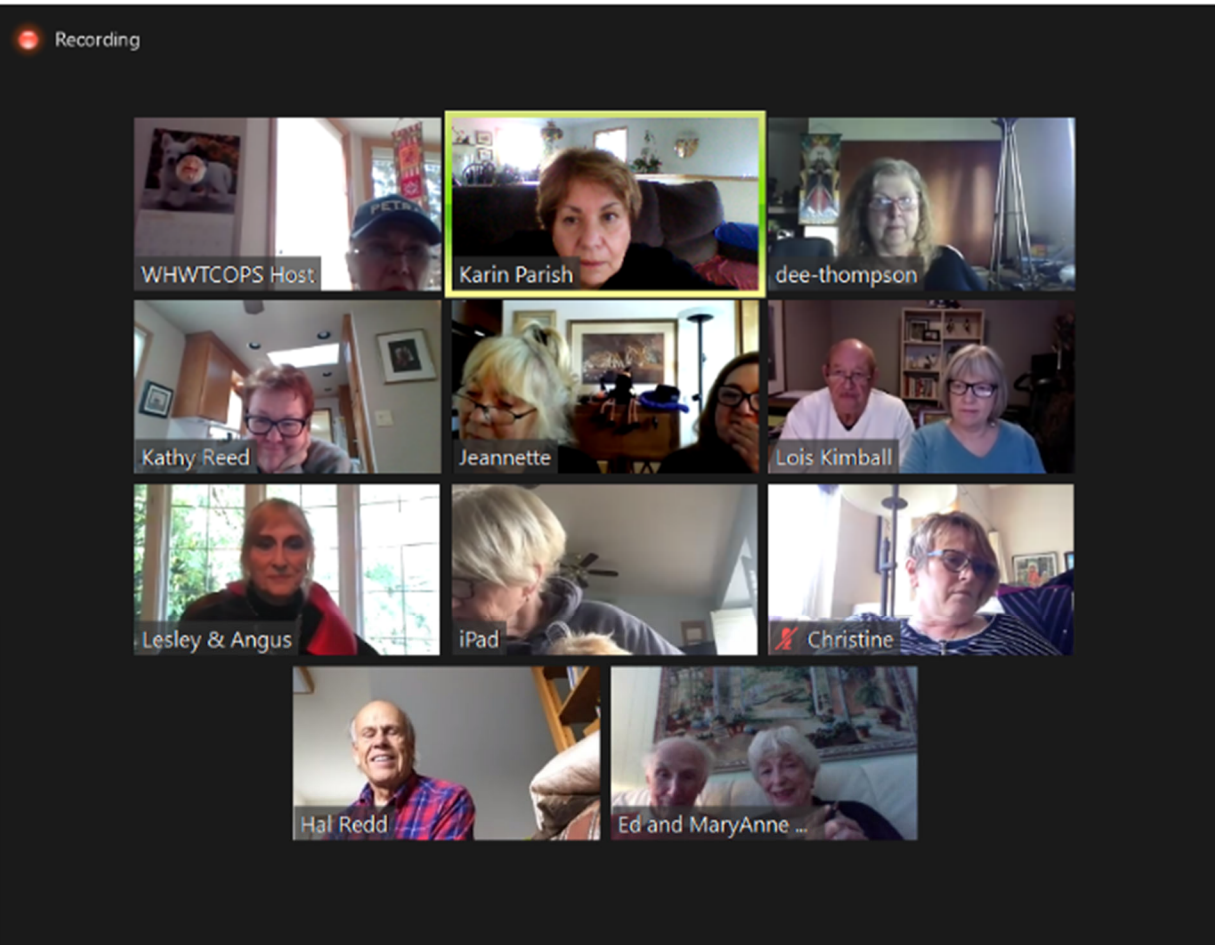
We are planning our next Zoom get-together. If you can, carve out that time on your schedule and join us. Our last Zoom for Halloween was a lot of fun. Westies (and people!) in costumes, spooky cocktails/"mock" tails; games and prizes (see Zoom screenshots from the event on the next page).

If you want to send photos or a quick update, email me at dee.o.thompson@gmail.com

P.S. If you would like some help learning how to use Zoom, let me know. I taught my mother how to use it and we now do weekly Zoom calls to stay in touch.

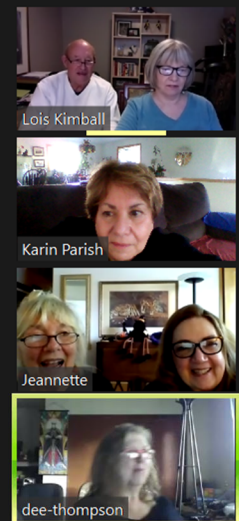


Dracula Angus



What percent of people sign their dog's name on greeting cards?

- A. 10%
- B. 30%
- C. 70%
- D. 20%



2020 Thanksgiving By Jeannette Melchior

How interesting was your 2020 Thanksgiving? For most of us one that we don't want repeated again in our lifetime the fact being that we were all dealing with COVID. It impacted me but it had nothing to do with dinner or friends.

In September my girl Snow came into season and I bred her and at 28 days I got the first ultra sound showing that there were 4 puppies and possibly a 5th. I was delighted and even when my repro vet said well you may have pups on Thanksgiving.

Five days before delivery date you get an x-ray which confirms how many pups, definite four and how they are lined up in the womb. As I stood there it hit me – she'll have these pups on Thanksgiving – some may think that is very exciting but at that moment all I could think of was I will not have access to any vet in case the delivery doesn't go well. I ask my repro vet Dr. Cyndee Smith, that's a holiday what happens if I run into trouble, she kindly responded that not to worry if anything comes up and I need help just text her. Well that was comforting at least I have a backup.

The evening of November 25 at 6:00PM, Snow started panting so the whelping box was ready and I set her up in it and settled in as I waited for puppy delivery. Time marched on and with several excursions outside and back nothing. I have to admit Snow has her own way of getting ready she's like a gymnast preparing for her Olympic preview on the patio she does the doggie down, numerous leg stretches and what I can only describe as a routine of maneuvers that would get her a performance at the Moulin Rouge doing the "Can-Can." We got through the night and now November 26, at 6:00AM things were not going well – still panting but no pups. Now I'm getting nervous and by 10:00AM I text Dr. C – who texts back – sorry, I've been exposed to COVID and cannot go into the clinic until I'm tested and cleared, so you'll need to get to an ER. I called a breeder friend who was kind enough to tell me that she uses Sumner ER, they are good and reliable. Packed Snow in the car and away we went – now Sumner is 36 minutes away – close but truly not close enough. I had called and they were expecting me, came out collected Snow and within 20 minutes got a call from one of the vets on duty – after discussion I went ahead and made the decision for them to go ahead and do a C-section. At 3:00 PM the young tech brought out 3 girls



and boy who were extremely vocal along with Snow who was still a little drowsy from the anesthesia. During this time while in the parking lot waiting, I had updates from the young ladies inside on the pups and how they were doing – one asked, if I had any Thanksgiving names for them – I said, no and at that moment all I could think of was the "Turkey Trot" litter – I could hear them laughing and she said, well we like that better than "mashed potatoes & gravy" or "string bean casserole."

Now I hope all of you had and enjoyed an unusual Thanksgiving this year *but not as unusual as mine.*





WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB

Membership Renewal 2021 Due by January 31, 2021

Dear Current Member:

- We are now offering two types of membership – Household or Individual
 - If you want to remain individual its \$20 for the year
 - If you want to switch to household its \$30 for the year

Please fill in the info below and mail to our Treasurer. Remember to put in your email or phone # or residence if they have changed since January 2021.

Name/Names: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Names of your dogs _____

Volunteers are always needed, and it's fun. Let us know if you'd like to help in any of the following:

_____ Newsletter _____ Help with hospitality table at dog show

_____ Photography ___ DJ skills? ___ Planning dog walks

_____ Creating flyers for events Other ideas? _____

Include this form with dues. Check or money order payable to WHWTCOPS

Mail checks to Treasurer: Dee Thompson, 4511 153rd Place SW, Lynnwood, WA 98087

Thank you — Karin Parish, Membership Chair

Club Officers, Directors and Contacts

Upcoming Events

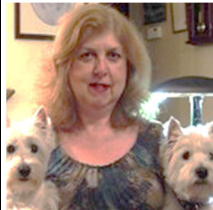


**President
Jeannette Melchior**



**Vice President
Cyndee Lockwood**

Zoom Board Meeting
January 20; 7 pm



**Treasurer and
Newsletter Editor
Dee Thompson**



**Secretary
Membership Chair,
Webmaster
Karin Parish**



**Past President
Linda Gray**



**Director
Kathy Reed**



**Director
Vicki Ray**



**Director
Lesley Wilson**

New Members

None



**Director
Paul Meshke**

**Rescue
Karin Parish and
Vicki Ray**
pugetwesties@gmail.com



**Robin Ryan
Photographer**

New Member Applications

None

Visit Our Website

www.whwtcops.org

