



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Fall 2022



President's Message

From Jeannette Melchior

Oh, my, nothing more fun than a Birthday Party when it's a Westie Birthday Party and then its double the fun. So, on August 20th we celebrated the club's 40th – WOW! 40 years! Sooooo, I ask you, is there any better way to attend a party than with your best Westie? The cake was cut and served, Westies enjoyed pupcakes with their own birthday party hats, and we celebrated the founders with a toast saying, "thank you". Then Westies got down to business and played games with their families loudly cheering them on. Yep, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners were rewarded ribbons and toys. So

now (sigh) we move to 41years.

Sadly, this year we lost a founder, and we are following her wishes to remain anonymous for any recognition or remembrance. She left her Westie collection and collectibles to the club to sell. We had a sale table at the Birthday Party so others could purchase and enjoy many of her Westie memorabilia. The remaining unsold items will be put out on e-Bay and monies received will go back to the club per her wish.

Here it is Fall already and this year has just zipped by. Well, we just had our Fall Westie walk and as October rolls around the Westie Halloween party needs to be noted on your calendar. Hint: make sure you practice with your Westie to sit on command, as that will be important for one of the games. Next, we will close out the year with the Christmas party and introduction of the 2023 Board.

Hmmm, does anyone else have this problem? Just asking. It's 90 degrees out and there they are, Snow, Piper, and Summertime (left to right) laying in the sun. It's cool in the house, but why would you need to warm up before coming in? I'm always amazed as to how hot it is out and how they just insist on this form of sun bathing or sun worship, which is it! Of course, if



your dog is suffering from Westie Snow Nose, soaking up those rays brings that perky little nose back to pure black again.

I sincerely hope that we have passed the restrictions and isolation that the past 2 years have brought. Being able to accompany my Westie once again into a vet examine is welcomed. Also, I know myself and others have had to reestablish working with a new vet since a number have retired or just moved out of state. Our Designated Specialty Show will be held Friday, January 13, 2023, at the Puyallup Fair Grounds with the Western Washington Cluster Dog Show. This too has opened to the public and we all can enjoy the many wonderful dogs being shown.

I look forward to seeing and enjoying the upcoming events with you –

Jeannette Melchior, President

Don't Miss Out on Westie Walks and Club Events!

- Check the [WHWTCOPS Calendar](#) for:
 - Important times / dates
 - Event flyers you can download
- Enjoy informal events like Westie Walks? Want to have one in your area? Consider volunteering to help with a Westie Walk by contacting: kparish@whidbey.com

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound



Date: October 29, 2022

Time: 1pm-3pm

Where: Academy of Canine Behavior
4705 240th St SE
Bothell, WA

Hosts: Jeannette Melchior, Lesley Wilson

Admission: \$5 per person

Party time!

- Westie & Adult Costume Parade
- Pro Photos & Selfie Photo Area
- Spooky Games and Musical Pumpkins
- Bring poop bags
- No flexi leashes please

Come and enjoy good times with friends!



**YOUR CORDIAL INVITATION TO THE
2022 WHWTCOPS
DECEMBER LUNCHEON**

Where: Pizza Coop & Ale House
13317 NE 175th St, Woodinville, WA 98072

Website: <https://www.thepizzacoop.com/>

When: December 3rd, 11:30-1:30 PM

*****RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*****

RSVP by November 27, 2022, via email to:

Cyndee Lockwood, jclock4@comcast.net

Gift Exchange: Bring wrapped gift, \$25 limit, (no white elephants, please).

We will order off the menu and have separate checks.



Lake Sammamish Fall Westie Walk, September 24th



PAINTING WITH A TWIST ADVENTURE

By Jeannette Melchior



After many scheduled, canceled, and rescheduled appointments for our “Painting with a Twist” class, Robin Ryan and I were finally able to make our scheduled date. The class had been offered to the WHWTCOPS membership in Winter 2021, and Robin did a picture then, but she wanted to give it another go. I, too, was determined to give it a try since I couldn’t make the winter class.

Let’s be honest. I haven’t worked with oils for, ahem, more than 40 years. (China painting was my early hobby.) So, I felt a little intimidated by the idea of doing one of my Westie’s portraits. But I figured I’d be in a class, so I thought what could go wrong, and smiled to myself.

First step is to submit a pet picture. An artist then sketches it on canvas. When you arrive for the class, you are set up with the colors you choose to paint your Westie. And yes, Westies are white, but honestly that’s not a drawback, because if you look very closely at your picture you can see all the subtle shades of their white fur. Or you can get very colorful if you like.

What I thought would be “closet art” turned out to be, I think, a nice portrait of McDougal and wall art.

**Jeannette’s
McDougal and
Robin’s Zoe**



Walking Our Westies at Dune Peninsula in Tacoma



Beautiful views from Tacoma's Dune Peninsula, July 25th



Puppies and Biting

Reprinted from AKC

Puppies' mouths are filled with about 28 teeny-tiny razors that seem to be attracted to your fingers or toes. Dog trainers call it "play biting," but it's irksome and often painful when your cuddly pup seems to be all teeth. However, this is completely normal for [puppy teething](#) and necessary for development, and something you can train away with a few simple steps.

Teach your puppy bite inhibition

Learning how to moderate the force of a bite is very important for all dogs. There may come a time when they're in pain or fearful, and they put their mouth on you or someone else. But if they've learned bite inhibition, they understand that they shouldn't bite down hard. Puppies naturally nip at each other while playing. If they bite too hard on their mother or littermate, the other dog will likely make a loud yelp sound, warning the puppy, "Hey, that hurt!"

Depending on the dog, you can teach this, as well, by making a high-pitched "ow!" sound if they bite you. Beware though, because, for some puppies, this actually gets them even more worked up and likely to bite. In this case, it is better to turn quietly around, walk away, or gently put the pup into their crate for a few minutes to calm down. If they do back off, be sure to [reward your dog with a treat](#) and some verbal praise. Some dog owners use a [bitter spray](#) to deter puppies from chewing and biting on objects.

Teach your puppy that biting means "game over"

If your puppy bites you while playing, that means playtime is over, with no exceptions. Yelling at or physically punishing your puppy, as strange as it sounds, is also a type of reward. It teaches them that biting gets a response from you, which is known as positive punishment. This can also make them fearful of being handled. Instead, teach them that biting will get them nothing. Kathy Santo, dog trainer and columnist for *AKC Family Dog*, suggests turning around and tucking your hands into your armpits. "It's actually a calming signal and a minor form of attention withdrawal," she says. "And be careful not to roughhouse with your young pup in ways that only encourage them to lose control and bite you."

Give your puppy an alternative item to chew

It's a good idea to keep a [puppy chew toy](#) at hand at all times, so you can anticipate biting behavior and substitute the toy for your hand or furniture. Doing so will let pups know what is OK to bite or chew. If they start nibbling at your fingers or toes while you're playing, offer a toy instead. Again, if they continue to nip, stop the play session immediately. If you've been training your puppy to sit, you might also redirect them by asking them to sit and rewarding with a toy.

Prevent the pounce on your legs and feet

If your puppy is pouncing on your legs or feet as you walk, a common playful puppy behavior, Santo recommends holding a [high-value treat](#) next to your leg as you walk, to help the puppy learn to walk nicely alongside you. This same tactic is used when [teaching a puppy to walk on a leash](#).

Put them in a time-out

Gently put your puppy in [their crate](#) to give them a chance to calm down and prevent them from biting. It's very important to make sure that they don't learn to associate the [crate](#) with punishment, so be calm. Once the pup calms down, you can let them out.

Offer quiet time or a potty break

Sometimes a biting puppy is really an over-tired puppy, and they need to be put in a quiet space or crate to take a nap. Other times, they may need a potty break, or may just be hungry or thirsty.

Help use up some energy

When the puppy keeps biting, even after you [substitute a toy several times](#), he may just need to burn up some physical or mental energy. Take them in the yard and watch them run around.

Reinforce behaviors you desire

We sometimes forget that when our puppy is calm and quiet, we should reinforce that with a "good dog" or a piece of kibble or a pat. You'll help them learn what behaviors you're looking for through [positive reinforcement](#).

Never hit your dog

Never, ever hit or otherwise physically punish your dog. If your pet seems to be [biting out of aggression](#), speak to a veterinarian or dog trainer about ways to manage that behavior.

Enroll in a puppy class

Teaching your little manic play biter to be polite with their mouth may seem like a huge challenge at first. Patience and consistency are the keys. Some puppies may back off during one play session and come at you teeth first in the next.

Looking for Westie Health Resources?



Westie Health

Research Projects

News & Hot Topics

About Us

Get Involved



The **Westie Foundation of America** has a free, downloadable PDF file that you can access for comprehensive coverage of Westie health issues. The URL is:

[https://westiefoundation.org/files/galleries/WFA Westie Health Ebook.pdf](https://westiefoundation.org/files/galleries/WFA_Westie_Health_Ebook.pdf)

Have questions about allergies, nutrition, dry eye, spaying or neutering? These topics and more are covered by authorities in the field. Brief overviews cover general health and disease in Westies. Specific diseases are covered in depth with illustrations and references.

Club Officers, Directors and Contacts

Upcoming Events



**President
Jeannette Melchior**



**Vice President
Cyndee Lockwood**

Halloween Party
October 29, 1-3 PM
Academy of Canine
Behavior
Bothell, WA



**Treasurer
Dee Thompson**



**Secretary,
Membership Chair,
Rescue Representative,
Karin Parish**

Holiday Lunch
December 3rd,
11:30-1:30 PM
Pizza Coop & Ale House
Woodinville, WA
(Humans only, no dogs)



**Past President
Linda Gray**



**Director
Kathy Reed**



**Director,
Rescue
Representative,
Vicki Ray**



**Director,
Webmaster,
Newsletter Editor,
Lesley Wilson**

**New
Members**

None currently



**Director
Paul Meshke**



**Photographer,
Robin Ryan**

**New Member
Applications**

None currently

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www.whwtcops.org

