



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Fall 2023



President's Message

As spring is upon us, it is time to get those Westies out enjoying the sun. Earlier this month a group of us went to Argus Ranch to learn about Barn Hunting, testing our Westies' instincts for finding vermin (the rat safely ensconced in a tube).

A few of our Westies immediately took to the hunt and others...well seeing is more fun than sniffing. That being said, it was fun, and we were able to engage with each other in a new environment. If you are interested in doing this in the future, let us know and we can work to organize another barn hunt event, maybe with a picnic attached.

As a Westie group, we are always looking for new ways to meet up and learn more about our dogs, or just have some fun. Although we have scheduled some spring and summer events, there is always room for additional opportunities. If you would like to organize a Westie walk or are have a particular interest in grooming, allergies, natural medicines for dogs, etc., please let me know ccorbley@comcast.net and we can advertise or look to organize an event focused around that topic or interest.

Enjoy the spring and go to the West Highland White Terrier of Puget Sound Facebook page and share your Westie friend, maybe with some westie rabbit ears.

Sincerely,

Christine Corbley, President

Scenes from Barn Hunt training at Auburn's Run Wild Dog Sports on March 16th



Come join us for the...

Edmonds Westie Walk on May 19th



When: Sunday, May 19, 2024
Time: Noon
Where: Anthony's Beach Cafe parking lot
Address: 456 Admiral Way, Edmonds, WA
Host: Melinda Heller (206-364-4563)

Google: [Anthony's Beach Café, Edmonds, WA](#)

We will meet in the parking lot of Anthony's Beach Cafe at noon for yappy hour, socializing and a group photo. As always, bring poop bags and water for you and your Westie.

Join us for a walk along the Edmonds waterfront with your westies.



Shopping News! Product Recommendations!

By Melinda Heller

I would like to share with fellow Westie club members three products that I find very helpful in managing care for my little Hilda. Hopefully, my experience with these three products will help other owners have an easier time taking care of those pups with “Westitude.” My Hilda exudes this personality trait.



Calming Oil

I started using this product last month before grooming sessions. I give her a dose of it in peanut butter and she laps it right up. In about an hour, she is mellow and happy, calmly sitting still for her clean up. Not sleeping or unsteady, just agreeable, and easy to handle.

This product contains valerian and L-tryptophane. Tryptophane is what makes humans drowsy after a turkey dinner. And we all know what is named after valerian, don't we?

The effects last about two hours and then she is back to her little Westie hellion self. In the past I have tried CBD; however, it seemed to agitate her. The vet has prescribed meds for her before for travel or exams. This product works well for us and is far less expensive and invasive.



Product: Calming Oil (peanut butter and bacon flavor) from the Natural Dog Company.



Wahl Pro Ion Clippers

I started to periodically clip Hilda myself. I threw out my old, corded clippers and purchased this ultra quiet cordless clipper on Chewy. It works very, very well.

I watched tutorials on YouTube, and I do an OK job. I simply follow the professional groomers plan and then trim her down. I have her nails trimmed at my local vet. Saves me time and money!

Product: Wahl Pro Ion Cordless Pet Clippers



Bark Potty

We live in an environment that is plagued by coyotes and bobcats. Unfortunately, we lost our prior westie, Heidi, to an attack in our fenced back yard. When Hilda joined our family, I had to devise a potty plan that would restrict her to direct observation.

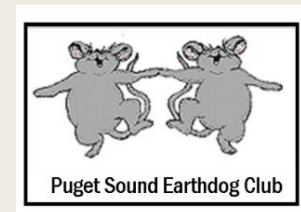
At first, I used the plots of live grass on our now enclosed back deck. That product smelled and dried out.

Now we use Bark Potty, and it is great! Hilda rings her bell to be let out to the enclosed deck and I pick up her poopies and flush them down the toilet. This product is shipped to us monthly. It is clean, odor free and easy.

Product: Bark Potty “Dog Park in a Box”

Puget Sound Earth Dog Club Events

- ❖ **Earthdog Seminar for Handlers and Judges** Friday, May 17, 2024, 8:00am–4:00pm, Grand Mound, WA
- ❖ **Spring Tests** Saturday & Sunday, May 18–19, 2024, Rochester, WA
- ❖ **Practices** in Rochester, WA
 - Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00am–2:00pm
 - Saturday, May 11, 2024, 10:00am–2:00pm
 - Friday, May 17, 2024, 1:00pm–3:00pm



Details may be found at <https://psec-earthdog.org/events/>



Join us on Sunday, June 9th for the 25th annual [Furry 5K!](#)

Westie Walkers will meet up at 11:25 AM , 15 minutes before the Walkers Start, near the Registration Check-in table.

Date: Sunday, June 9, 2024

Check-In/Registration: 10:00 AM

Runners Start: 11:30 AM

Walkers Start: 11:40 AM

Distance: 5K / 3.1 mi

Early Bird Registration: \$40.00

Registration after April 7: \$45.00

Day of Race Registration: \$50.00

Location: Seward Park

The Furry 5K has been our annual event raising critical funds for the Seattle Animal Shelter, Seattle's sole open intake shelter. Round up your pals, both human and canine, for a delightful fun run or walk around the picturesque waterfront Seward Park. After crossing the finish line, stay for the exciting post-race Paws in the Park 25th anniversary celebration featuring awards, vendor fair, giveaways, food trucks, and dress up your pup to win prizes in the [pet costume contest!](#)

On behalf of Seattle's dogs, cats, and critters, thank you for your support!

Sign up before April 9th for \$40 early bird pricing!

[Sign Up For The Furry 5K!](#)

Pacific Northwest Highland Games & Clan Gathering

July 27th & 28th

Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Avenue SE
Enumclaw, Washington 98022

Clan Westie has been invited to participate at the **Celtic Kennel** exhibit at the **PNW Highland Games**. Along with our canine Celtic cousins, we meet and greet dog-loving fair goers and share our dog's Westie Highland heritage. We walk in the Celtic Kennel parade and participate in the activities presented by the kennel.

Please consider volunteering to work in our Celtic Kennel booth on Saturday or Sunday (July 27-28). Email **Lesley Wilson (LPW98075@comcast.net)** with **your name and phone number**. Detailed information will be sent to you prior to the event.



For those participating in this event:

- Show your Westie to the public for petting (calm dogs do well)
- Work in our booth for 3 hours during Kennel hours (9am-3:30pm). We will hold your dog in an ex-pen while you enjoy the fair
- Free entry to the PNW Highland Games
- Parking on fairgrounds is approx. \$15



Highland Westies by artist Kim Niles



Julie Redd and her girl Willow upon graduation from obedience school just before St. Patrick's Day. Nice photo op!

Steve Bell's 2 Westies say, "This is how we roll for vacation with Mom and Dad."



SHOULD I GIVE MY DOG HUGS?

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

Updated: Feb 14, 2023

It's completely natural for humans to hug somebody to express affection. Just as natural as dogs sniffing rear ends to say hello. Of course, people don't share dogs' love of sniffing behinds or [human crotches](#). And to the same degree, dogs don't share our love of hugs.

We speak different languages and use different behaviors to communicate. In fact, misreading your dog and subjecting them to hugs can stress them and even result in a [bite](#). So, although it's instinctive to hug and squeeze what you adore, particularly for children, it's important to find other more dog-appropriate ways to show your dog you care.

Dogs Don't Like Hugs

If you watch dogs interact, you'll notice they don't embrace each other. They might pin each other to the ground, but it's in only one of two contexts: [play fighting or real fighting](#). So, when you hug a dog, they don't understand what you're trying to say.

In fact, you're essentially trapping them. They can't get away from anything that scares them or makes them uncomfortable while in your arms. And as hugging is often accompanied by direct staring and putting your face next to the dog's, they might also interpret your actions as aggressive or threatening. It's no wonder they don't enjoy the squeezing sensation of a hug.

You might believe your dog adores your hugs. After all, you do it all the time and your dog doesn't complain. But it's far more likely your dog is simply tolerating your behavior. Although the odd dog doesn't seem to mind, most dogs display [stress signals](#) when hugged, and their owners are oblivious. Dr. Stanley Coren did a [research study](#) where he looked at 250 photographs of people hugging their dogs. Although the people were smiling and happy, 81 percent of the dogs showed body language signs of stress.

If the dog's stress level from a hug is high enough, the dog can bite. And the hugger's face is right next to the dog's face and therefore their teeth. That puts whoever is hugging the dog at risk of serious injury. Even if your dog tolerates hugs from you, they might not be okay with one coming from a stranger or young child. It's essential to [teach children safe ways to interact with dogs](#), especially dogs they don't already know, other than hugging.

How to Know When Your Dog Is Uncomfortable

How do you know if your dog is genuinely enjoying your hugs? They won't show any signs of stress or discomfort. Learn to [read dog body language](#) so you can recognize your dog's emotional state and understand what they are trying to tell you.

Some [signs of stress in dogs](#), like [growling](#) or baring of the teeth, are obvious. But others are more subtle and require paying attention to every aspect of your dog. Understanding the following behaviors will help you see when your dog is feeling uncomfortable.

Stiffness

If your dog stiffens or becomes still when you hug them, they are not enjoying the experience. A happy dog is loose and relaxed.

Head Turned Away

Dogs will not make eye contact when they are uncomfortable, so they might turn their head away from you, sometimes also closing their eyes.

Whale Eye

Also called half-moon eye, this is where you can see the white of your dog's eyes.

Lowered Ears

A stressed dog will lower their ears or lay them back against the side of their head.

Tucked Tail

An unhappy dog will lower their tail or even tuck it under their belly.

Yawns

This is not a sign of exhaustion but rather an indication your dog is stressed.

Nose Licks

This can be a very quick flick of the tongue, and it shows your dog is uncomfortable.

Raised Paw

When a dog is uncertain about something, they will often lift one front paw off the ground.



**The Newsletter Editor's
Skye & Brody keeping
an eye on backyard
goings-on**

The Great American Westie Health Survey 2023/2024

Westie Rescue USA is seeking input on your (Current or Former) Westie's health & status information for the Great American Westie Health Survey 2023/2024.

Final Self-Reporting Period - Last chance to get your answers included in the largest Westie Health Survey.

With over 480 responses so far here are a few results:

- * 48% report their Westies live to over 15 years (Go geezers!!)
 - * 75% of Responders report owning more than one Westie in their life time
 - * 55% Have male Westies
 - * 89.5% Westies report that they are Healthy and happy (Others want more food)
 - * 63.6% Westies report they are daily walked
 - * 57.3% Westies report they sleep in the big human bed EVERY night!
 - * 43% Westies report they found their homes through a Rescue org like Westie Rescue
 - * 42.2% Westies report they fear NOTHING!
 - * 23.1% Westies report they go swimming!
- and finally,
- * **24.4% Westies report they would like the neighbor's cat served up with BBQ sauce**



Want to take the survey?

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK5HKN2>

Summary survey details will be posted on both of these sites:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestieRescueMidAtlantic>

<http://www.westierescue.com/>



Looking for Westie Health Resources?

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

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
Christine
Corbley**



**Vice President,
Webmaster,
Newsletter
Editor
Lesley Wilson**

Edmonds Westie Walk
Sunday, May 19th, Noon
Anthony's Beach Café parking lot
Edmonds, WA

Meet up at Furry 5K Fun Walk
Sunday, June 9th, 11:25 AM
Seward Park
Seattle, WA



**Treasurer
Dee Thompson**



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

All Terrier Club Dog Show
Friday, July 5th, 1 PM
Western WA Fairgrounds
Puyallup, WA

PNW Highland Games
Saturday & Sunday, July 27-28
Enumclaw Expo Center
Enumclaw, WA



**Past President
Jeannette
Melchior**



**Director
Kathy Reed**

Tacoma Westie Walk
Sunday, August 18th
Dune Peninsula Park
Tacoma, Auburn, WA



**Director,
Rescue
Representative,
Vicki Ray**



**Director,
Melinda Heller**

New Members

Cecila MacClure, Seattle
Roberta Woods, Seattle



**Director
Lois Briscoe
Kimball**



**Photographer,
Robin Ryan**

New Member Applications

Visit our website:
www.whwtcops.org

