



# Westie Sounds

*West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Fall 2023*

## President's Message



Dear Club Members,

The mornings are crisp and cool, and the days are not as warm as summer. Fall is in the air and to celebrate, the Westie Club will be hosting a Halloween party in Bothell. We hope you have all had a great summer, and I know several of you were able to join us for Westie Walks and the PNW Highland Games. We love it when we can bring together our Westie peeps.

This month I want to talk about the importance of acquiring a Westie from a reputable breeder and how not to get scammed. We all love our Westies, and in my lifetime my family has had the privilege of loving and carrying for seven Westies -- some rescues and others from breeders we know and vetted.

I paid \$800 for a Westie in 2002 and \$2500 in 2018. In 2023 the standard cost for a quality Westie is now \$3000-\$4500, more if you want a show dog. Some would ask, why? It's because responsible breeders do genetic testing and provide high quality vet care, and these are not cheap. When you take in to account the cost of insemination, caring for a litter, vet checkups, vaccinations, and a potential C-section, the dollars add up. And none of this accounts for the time commitment that a breeder makes when raising a litter of pups for 8-12 weeks, nor the size of the litter.

Some will say, "But I got my dog cheaper than that." Many dogs from backyard breeders and puppy mills have significant health issues that cost a lot in vet bills. When I got my first Westie, I didn't ask the questions that I now know how to ask. Lily, who was my heart dog and the first Westie I acquired myself, cost me \$800 in 2002. Although a beautiful dog, she had allergy issues and in the first 5 years of her life I paid over \$5,000 in vet bills.

Of course, allergies can happen regardless of the quality of breeding, but I have found that getting a dog from a responsible breeder who follows best practices reduces the odds that you will have significant health issues and vet bills. I paid significantly more for my current Westie girl, but she has cost me less to date than Lily, who cost me \$800 up front.

I also believe it is important to invest in the breed that we all love and adopt. We do this by ensuring we are supporting responsible breeders who follow best practices, and who work toward the breed standard. In Washington State, we have maybe four of these breeders, only one of whom is showing. We have two in Idaho who I would recommend, and one of them shows. Showing the dog makes sure that we are working toward the breed standard, and it is an important part of maintaining the quality of our breed.

With all this in mind, here are some things to consider if you plan to bring Westie in to your life.

1. Never buy a dog without seeing the living conditions of the parents and the parent dogs.
2. Ask for the AKC lineage paperwork for the parents.
3. Never pay for a dog upfront. A deposit is often required, but it is not for the full price of the dog. Most good breeders have a waiting list.
4. Talk to the breeder on the phone or by video call. Go meet the pups if you can. If the breeder won't do this and doesn't ask you as many questions as you ask them, then run.
5. Ask for their vet information and talk to the vet.
6. Many quality breeders will not routinely ship a dog. If not buying from someone within driving distance, talk about how you will get the dog. There are dog specific transports and people who fly with dogs for this purpose.
7. Connect with the closest Westie Club or Rescue to get recommendations.
8. Go to dog shows and ask about the breeders. As we do not have a lot of breeders who show in Washington State, there may be minimal dogs. The Puyallup dog show in January may attract dogs and breeders from out of state.
9. If you go the [AKC Marketplace](#), remember that they do not vet the breeders. Puppy mill breeders can AKC register their dogs.
10. Ask the breeder what genetic testing they have done.
11. Remember what it takes to breed a dog. Be suspicious if a breeder is asking under \$2000. You will find that there are many hidden costs to getting a dog who is not well bred.
12. Know the breed standard.

## Westie Breed Standard

- **Size** - 10" tall for females, 11" tall for Males weighing 15-20lbs.
- **Head** – Westies should have a slightly domed skull, tapering slightly at the level of eyes and ears. A strong and level jaw, with a large, black nose.
- **Ears** – Westies' ears should stand up straight, and end in a point. They should be set midway on each side of the dog's head, neither too close together nor spaced too widely. The hair on the ears should be short and shouldn't be cut or trimmed.
- **Eyes** – Westies should have wide set eyes of medium size, dark and set underneath heavy eyebrows. This gives the Westie a piercing, intelligent gaze. Eyes of a lighter color are a strongly undesirable trait.

- **Mouth** – Westies have large teeth for their size, with upper teeth overlapping closely with lower teeth, squarely set within the jaw.
- **Body** – Westies should have a compact and muscular torso, with a flat, level back and broad loins. They should possess back ribs set at significant depth.
- **Hindquarters** – Westies should have wide, muscular hindquarters, with short, strong legs. In particular, the thighs should be very powerful.
- **Tail** – Westies should have a tail of around 5 to 6 inches long, and it should be as straight as possible. The tail should stand out from the body but shouldn't constantly be perpendicular to the body.
- **Gait** – A Westie should move easily and freely. Stiff movement is an undesirable trait in Westies.
- **Coat** – This is probably the most recognizable characteristic of purebred Westies. They should have a double coat of pure white hair. The outer coat is of harsher hair and should be around 2 inches and should not be curly. The undercoat, in contrast, should be softer hair and should be close.

We love all our westies in all shapes and sizes, but being knowledgeable about the breed and what to look for assists in maintaining the breed we all love and adore.

The full AKC breed standard is available here: [West Highland White Terrier Dog Breed Information](#)

Sincerely,

*Christine Corbley*

## Westie Meetup at the

### K-9 Candy Cane 5K Fun Run and Walk

Date: Sunday, December 03, 2023  
 Time: 9:15 AM Cost: \$28  
 Location: Renton Community Center  
 Sponsor: City of Renton



Flyer: <https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Renton/K9CandyCane5KRunandWalk>  
 Directions: Google Maps to Renton Community Center, or 1715 Maple Valley Hwy, Renton, WA 98057

Runners and walkers travel along the paved beautiful Cedar River Trail before looping back to the Community Center. Competitive runners, fun runners, walkers, and families (with or without) dogs are all invited to this annual event. Don't forget about our annual can/bag pet food drive for our furry friends in need.

# West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound



**Date:** October 28, 2023

**Time:** 1pm-3pm

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

**Admission:** \$5 per person

## Party time!

- Westie Costume Contest
- Spooky Photo Spots
- Musical Pumpkins Game – Practice the Sit command to win!

Your Hosts: Chair Melinda Heller,  
Jeannette Melchior & Lesley Wilson

**Join us for an unforgettable  
Westie Halloween costume party!**



**The West Highland White Terrier  
Club of Puget Sound invites you to it's**

# **Holiday Luncheon**

**Saturday, December 9th, 11:30 - 1:30 PM**

**Where: Arnie's Restaurant - Edmonds  
300 Admiral Way, Edmonds, WA 98020**

**Website: <https://arniesrestaurant.com>  
Great [menu](#) to order from!**

**When: December 9th, 11:30-1:30 PM**

**Please email your RSVP by December 2nd, 2023, to:  
[Barbara Sivertson, sivertsb@yahoo.com](mailto:sivertsb@yahoo.com)**

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



# Introducing Vicki Fulton, Breeder Referral

By Vicki Fulton



Hello, my name is Vicki Fulton, and I want to introduce myself as the new WHWTCOPS Breeder Referral contact for Westies in the Northwest.

I have been showing and breeding Westies for over 20 years now. My husband Ron and I were so thrilled to have our very first show Westie win her championship competing against and winning Best of Breed over 12 other females, and also the number one (#1!) Westie male in the US at that time.

As I was growing up, I showed a few other breeds, but my true and forever love is a Westie. I feel it is so important for dog lovers to find a reputable and responsible breeder to help ensure the quality and longevity of their dogs.

I feel honored to be the "go to person" for helping people locate Westie puppies, and I hope I can help in any way needed. 🐶

Sincerely,

Vicki Fulton



Destiny's Feisty Shortstuff ("Shorty") and Windacre This Bud's For You ("Bently")



Champion Destiny's Danny Boy ("Noah") with handler Chris Larson

# Pet Insurance

By Melinda Heller



Hilda, my one year old Westie, had an accident this past July. She had an embedded foxtail in her paw, and it became infected. Our regular veterinarian referred us to the Seattle Emergency Clinic. Hilda had general anesthesia to have the foxtail removed. Plus, she also had a bilateral ear infection. The bill was over \$1300!

As the final bill was presented to me, I sighed in relief that I had insured Hilda last year with Pets Best Insurance. I submitted my claim, and Pets Best stepped up and reimbursed me 80%.

The insurance policy cost \$379 last year and the same again this year. We have a \$250 yearly deductible and then 80% coverage for expenses thereafter. For Hilda's last vet bill of \$1300 I was reimbursed almost \$800. Filing the claim was very easy, and it took about three weeks to receive the check.

I did serious research to find the best plan when I first decided to insure Hilda. I was very pleased with the Pets Best premium cost and the support the company gave me.

So, if anyone is looking for a reasonably priced insurance plan for your westie, please take a look at Pet Best, <https://www.petsbest.com/c>, 24/7 Pet Helpline: 877-738-7237. They were the best! 🐕



# At the Lake Sammamish Westie Walk, Sept. 23rd



**West Highland White  
"Retriever"**





# Westie Dog Brings Smiles to Lonely Seniors

By Robin Ryan



My mom suffered from Alzheimer's and was in an assisted living home. One day I was visiting when someone brought in a dog for the residents to enjoy. The faces of these lonely people lit up, and the dog brought joy and happiness to each one who got to pet the dog or at least look at the dog. I will never forget that the small amount of kindness and time spent by the volunteer made some very lonely people all smile.

Recently, I decided to do something special to help others by sharing my Westie Zoey. I wasn't sure what that was or how to do it. Then, one afternoon I was at the Marymoor off-leash dog park and started talking to a lady with a big dog. She mentioned her dog was a therapy dog. I asked about this training and all the details because I was interested. She explained how that program works.



It is through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. The process is pretty simple. From the Alliance website, you get a local connection. Then, you'll go to an assisted living center with the group's evaluator, and she will rate your dog on how they interact with the residents and around other dogs who are part of the visiting dogs' group. It takes three visits, and as long as your dog has the right temperament, it is certified as a therapy dog. Any visit will have multiple dogs participating.



You'd be amazed at how much joy seeing little dogs brings to people who are isolated and lonely. The assisted living staff tells us that residents wait all week for the dog visits. Even though we were there for less than an hour, the dog visit is the highlight of their week. Zoey is a big hit with her sweet nature and pretty face. Everyone wants to pet her. Some tell me they had a dog and how much they miss their animal.

Bringing joy to others was such an easy thing to do, yet few dog owners think to do it. If you're looking for a way to make a difference, consider volunteering with your Westie and bringing some smiles and joy to those that really need it. 🐾

Alliance of Therapy Dogs Website:

<https://www.therapydogs.com/>

# Photo Highlights from the PNW Scottish Highland Games Celtic Kennel Booth, July 22-23



## Tacoma Dune Park Westie Walk is Smokin'!



The Sunday afternoon sky was smokey for our Westie Walk at Tacoma's Dune Peninsula Park on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Nevertheless, Dune Peninsula Park was still a stunning setting. That day the park was buzzing with activity. A catered wedding rehearsal, a farmer's market, food trucks, family picnics, dog walkers, surrey cycles, inline skaters.

Our walk host, Vicki Ray, organized a fund collection for a very worthy charity, [WestieMed](http://WestieMed.org). The mission of WestieMed is to help raise the quality of life and adaptability of rescued West Highland White Terriers in foster care or those recently adopted (within 6 months of rescue). WestieMed provides these Westies with a second chance at adoption and the opportunity to lead happy, healthy lives in stable, loving homes. In addition, through its efforts and the example it sets, WestieMed aims to stimulate a dialogue, which will educate the general public about rescue animals and rescue organizations.

If you would like to help support WestieMed, please go to their website at [www.WestieMed.org](http://www.WestieMed.org)





## 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](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**

**Halloween Party**  
Saturday, Oct. 28, 1-3PM  
Academy of Canine Behavior  
Bothell, WA

**Westie Meetup at the  
K-9 Candy Cane 5K Run & Walk**  
Sunday, Dec. 4, 9:15AM  
Renton Community Center  
Renton, WA

**Annual Holiday Luncheon**  
Saturday, Dec. 9, 11:30-1:30PM  
Arnie's Restaurant,  
Edmonds, WA



**Treasurer  
Dee Thompson**



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



**Past President  
Jeannette  
Melchior**



**Director  
Kathy Reed**



**Director,  
Rescue  
Representative,  
Vicki Ray**



**Director,  
Melinda Heller**



**Director  
Lois Briscoe  
Kimball**



**Photographer,  
Robin Ryan**

## New Members

Elishia Jenkins, Seattle, WA  
William & Miriam Beck, Mercer Island, WA  
Mary Hsu, Bothell, WA

## New Member Applications

Dawn Smith, Seattle, WA

Visit our website:  
[www.whwtcops.org](http://www.whwtcops.org)

