



# N.E.W. Footnotes



New England Westie

Fall 2019

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*



Dear Club Members –

Thank you to all of you who were able to come out for our annual meeting at Vasa park in October. It was a gorgeous day, and we had a very nice turn out of Westie comrades. We had an agility course and games to pass time in the morning (Thank you Bob and Judi Gold!) and gave us time to chat about what we had all been up to since last seeing each other ☺

We were once again able to hold a Wild About Westies Fun Match because of the dedicated efforts of Gloria Pasquini and her mighty Match committee with Rich Pasquini, Tracey Costa, Cynthia Richards, and Judy Cunnion. Many thanks go out to the efforts of these fabulous friends, and Kathleen May for being our Judge for the day! And thank you to all of the competitors - it was wonderful to see the newest batch of Westies trotting around our ring.

We had a packed agenda for our Annual meeting, including our traditional voting in of Board and Officers for 2020. I want to thank outgoing Board and Officer members Judy Cunnion and Judi Gold for their loyalty and dedication while serving the Club on our Board. I also welcome our new 2020 slate including Cynthia Richards as an enthusiastic first time Board member in our Vice-President position and returning Board member Lisa Pacheco as our Recording Secretary. We had no other members volunteer for the President's position, so I have been asked to continue in this role again for the upcoming year.

The main topic at our annual meeting remained as promised in the last several correspondences to all of you - the future state of this Club. Thank you to everyone who turned out to contribute to the conversation!! I am pleased to say that by unanimous consensus, the membership in attendance voted to continue with the Club but to take a different/modernized direction for communication and in-person gatherings going forward. Please see the Meeting Minutes for details. The highlights are as follows:

- Proceed with Club remaining in existence but only require 1 in-person general meeting (i.e. the Annual Meeting) going forward.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONT'D)

★The Annual Meeting in-person can also encompass multiple traditional events (such as Fun Match, Award Banquet, etc.) IF there are volunteers/people to Chair committees for each segment. If there are no volunteers, the Board & Officers will simply Chair the Annual Meeting without any additional events included.

★Events and Meetings are not the same. Any/all other in-person events outside of the 1 Annual meeting will only be held based on Club members volunteering to host/chair them. Board/Officers will be able to participate (if they are available) at events hosted/chaired by other members in locations of those members choosing.

★WHWTCNE "news" and communications will be delivered via a newly created Facebook Members Only page and our traditional Club website. Footnotes will go down to 1-2x/year for as long as we have a volunteer Editor.

★Traditional Awards/Plaques will continue as long as Club is in existence, funded, and there is a Chair available/willing to coordinate their production. If an in-person Banquet is no longer chaired, physical awards/plaques will either be distributed at the annual meeting or mailed to recipients and publicly recognized via Club website/Facebook members page.

★Our fiscal year is proposed to change from June -> May and beginning in 2020 will correspond to the Calendar (Jan -> Dec)

★By-laws will be updated to reflect needed changes.

Jim McGarr volunteered to Chair a By-Laws Update Committee (THANK YOU Jim!) which will include the proposals above as appropriate to the By-Laws, the October 2019 Rescue Committee proposal presented at the 10/20/19 Annual Meeting, and any other additional modifications/changes the Committee gathers and documents for the WHWTCNE Memberships consideration. Please be on the lookout for a new set of By-laws to be sent for membership vote in early 2020.

On a last note for now - I would like to personally offer my deepest condolences to the families of Ed Caffegan, Chuck Trudeau, and Nancy Boston. Our Club has lost three true Westie friends, and they will be missed dearly.

Respectfully yours - *Kim*

# COMMITTEE REPORTS



## RESCUE – Susan Smith, Chair

The Rescue Committee met several times and presented to the membership in attendance at the annual meeting revised Recommendations for Guidelines for Rescue. The proposed changes to the guidelines were discussed, and questions were answered. In items 4, 6, and 7, the word dog/animal was changed to "Westie." Another question was raised with regard to #9 on how HIPA would affect this guideline. Kim Locke will check this with her attorneys at her company. (See 2019 Rescue Committee Recommendations of Guidelines are that are located in this issue of the Footnotes for these changes.)



## MEETINGS FOR 2019-20 CLUB YEAR – Cynthia Richards, Vice President

I am delighted to now be serving as our club's vice-president, a role in which I have the opportunity to plan meetings and gatherings for both our members and our guest prospective members to get together and to have fun and learn new things about our beloved breed. The board has already started the ball rolling with a club picnic at our annual meeting in June 2020 at beautiful Vasa Park, RI. I hope that everyone will plan to join us with their Westies at this gorgeous venue, where we have had good times rain or shine for many years and where we had a glorious fun match last month. I am hoping to host an agility class for club members here in Stratham, NH this coming spring. Do you have a favorite activity that you would like to share with our club? Please reach out to me if you would like to chair a Westie walk or other gathering in your town. Small club gatherings are a great way to introduce your Westie loving friends to our pack. Let's all bring in a new member this year and have some fun together! You can reach me at [westhighlandwhiteterrierclubne@gmail.com](mailto:westhighlandwhiteterrierclubne@gmail.com)



## N\*E\*W FOOTNOTES – Gloria Pasquini, Editor

So much happening with our Club as we move forward. With the decision that we will have one meeting a year (pending By-Law change,) the Footnotes will drop down from four issues a year to an "as needed" publication. Our immediate form of communication will be through Facebook and e-mail. (See Tracey Costa's report under Information Technology.) When an issue is pending, I will still ask you for your input – brags, articles, etc. Important in this issue is the revised Rescue Guidelines, our new "Members' Only" Facebook page, dues statement, and several very interesting articles submitted by Lis Manuel and Kathleen May. Thank you, Kathleen and Lis!



## Information Technology Services – Tracey Costa, Media Specialist

We have started a "Club Member Only" Facebook page. Search for "West Highland White Terrier Club of New England Members Only". You will need to ask permission to join the group. We are doing this so that we can be sure only members are asking permission to join. We have started this Facebook page so that members can "converse" with one another. You can ask questions or if you want to walk with a club member, post it to FB and ask for people to join you. If you have any questions, please contact: Tracey Costa [westhighlandwhiteterrierclubne@gmail.com](mailto:westhighlandwhiteterrierclubne@gmail.com)

# MEETING REPORTS

## MINUTES OF MEETING WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND FUN MATCH 10/20/2019

Attendees: Carol Rossi, Judy Cunnion, Cynthia Richards, Gail Holloway, Laurie Holloway, Dale Stetson, Kathleen May, Linda Ferraro, Joe Ferraro, Tracey Costa, Susan Smith, Judi Gold, Bob Gold, Kim Locke, Gloria Pasquini, Rich Pasquini, Jim McGarr, Karen Manuel, Lis Manuel

Meeting was called to order at 12:02PM

Rich read the treasurer's report which was accepted. Rich also mentioned that dues statements were not sent out. Dues will be determined after meeting to confirm if club is to be disbanded.

Gloria mentioned that two club members had passed away during the year.

Kim started a discussion about the future of the club. Jim McGarr discussed his findings in communications with other clubs. Jim gave some ideas how other clubs had managed to keep going with changes to their organizations. A vote was taken whether to keep the club going or disband. By an overwhelming vote it was decided to continue the club but to change certain aspects. As a result of the vote dues statements will be sent out. Dale mentioned that she would like to see the bylaws changed. It was agreed that a bylaws committee would be formed. A discussion was also started about how to allocate money in the rescue fund. It was also proposed to reduce the club attendance requirement to 1 meeting per year. During the meeting the election for the following year was held. The following positions were voted on and agreed to:

President: Open Position

Vice President: Cynthia Stanton Richards

Corresponding Secretary: Gloria Pasquini

Recording Secretary: Lisa Pacheco

Treasurer: Rich Pasquini

1 Year Board Member: Florentine Locke, Carol Rossi

2 Year Board Member: Tracey Costa, Lis Manuel

3 Year Board Member: Kim Locke, Susan Smith

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 PM

The annual fun match was held with Kathleen May as our judge this year.

Submitted by

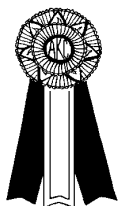
Judi Gold, Recording Secretary

# MEETING REPORTS

## “WILD ABOUT WESTIES” FUN MATCH AND ANNUAL MEETING

Submitted by Gloria Pasquini, Chair

A crisp, sunny fall day was the setting for our fun match and annual meeting held at Vasa Park, Foster, Rhode Island, on Sunday, October 20, 2019. Our meeting was well attended, as many important issues were to be discussed and voted upon. (See the President's Message and Minutes of Meeting in this issue.) Judi Gold brought some games for members to play with their Westies and agility poles for members to try with their white wonders. Prizes were given out to the winners. I would like to thank Kathleen May for stepping up to be our fun match judge this year. Since all of our entrants were puppies, Kathleen was gentle with them and made their experience in the ring a positive one. (See Kathleen's "Judge's Critique" at the end of this report.) I wish to thank EVERYONE who help to set up and break down for our meeting/fun match. I especially wish to thank Cynthia Richards for filling in as Steward. You all made it effortless and allowed us to be packed and cleaned up so that we all got home at a reasonable time. For that, Rich and I and our at home Westies thank you!



## THE RESULTS OF OUR FUN MATCH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

### PUPPY CLASSES

#### Puppy Dogs

<u>Class</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Owner(s)</u>
3 – 6 months	1	Bonnie Bay Perfect Storm (Joey)	Gloria & Rich Pasquini
	2	Birch Bark Did I Do That (Erkel)	Jim McGarr
6 – 9 months	No Entries		
9-12 months	No Entries		
12-15 months	No Entries		

#### Puppy Bitches

3 – 6 months	1	Birch Bark Viva La Vida (Vivian)	Jim McGarr
	2	Bonnie Bay Eye of the Storm (Patti)	Gloria & Rich Pasquini
6 – 9 months	1	Wildwood's I'm Just Purrfect, Too (Josie)	Tracey Costa
	2	Wildwood's Precious Heart (Becket)	CJ Rossi
9 – 12 months	No Entries		
12 – 15 months	1	Only You Vixan (Yula)	Jim McGarr

# MEETING REPORTS

## ADULT CLASSES

Dogs

Open

No Entries

Bitches

Open

No Entries

## VETERAN CLASSES

Dogs

No Entries

Bitches

No Entries

BEST PUPPY DOG  
BEST PUPPY BITCH

Bonnie Bay Perfect Storm (Joey)  
Only You Vixan (Yula)

**BEST PUPPY IN MATCH**  
**BEST OF OPPOSITE**

Bonnie Bay Perfect Storm (Joey)  
Only You Vixan (Yula)

BEST ADULT DOG  
BEST ADULT BITCH

None  
None

**BEST ADULT IN MATCH**

None

**BEST VETERAN IN MATCH**

None

All placing winners received a various prizes. Best Puppy Dog and Best Puppy Bitch were awarded Westie notecards and a Rosette. Best Puppy in Match was awarded a Silver Star trinket box and a Rosette; Best of Opposite was awarded a Westie flowerpot and a Rosette. The Birch Bark Best Puppy in Match Challenge Trophy was awarded to Gloria Pasquini and Joey, along with the Hummel Trophy; The Bonnie Bay Best Adult in Match Challenge Trophy was not given as there were no adult entries.



# “Wild About Westies” Fun Match Highlights

## Notes from the Judges Desk

By Kathleen May

It was my pleasure to be the judge for the Fun Match. Although it was a small all puppy entry, it was FUN! Just keep in mind that this was a Fun Match to introduce puppy “hopefuls” to the show ring as well as the novice handler to learn the ropes of showing a dog.

Part of showing a Westie is the presentation. And part of the presentation is having the Westie well groomed. But hold on a minute! What the judge sees with her/his eyes can be a whole lot different than what the judge feels with his/her hands! I defy any judge to put a dog up on looks alone!

On the initial exam of the two male puppies (3-6 month class) I couldn't feel the testicles. Oh well, I quickly realized that such young male puppies will pull their testicles up, especially when being prodded by a complete stranger! I'm quite sure that they were there and will eventually drop before they hit the “big time” ring!

The five bitches were, for the most part, all nice structurally. I faulted one bitch with a low tail set. With proper grooming and training, this minor fault can be hidden. Pigment was good on all the puppies as were all the bites, even with a few missing teeth. One puppy had an even bite which is acceptable. The owner will need to watch that closely as the bite could go under or overshot as the jaws grows...or become scissor or remain level. Time will tell.

Most all judges have a particular issue in mind that they look for. Mine is movement. A Westie will move properly if its bone structure is correct. Correct bone structure includes lay back where the bones meet on either side of the shoulders. Lay back too far up on the shoulders the dog will not have the proper “reach and drive.” This is sometimes referred to as “stiff in the shoulders.” This distance between the lay back and base of the tail shows the length of the back. Westies are short backed. What does that mean? In a nutshell, the length of the back should be no longer or shorter than the height of the dog. Rear leg angulation, called the stifles, plays a great role with proper movement. Too much angulation, the dog will appear to be “swimming” with the front legs going out to the sides to compensate for the drive of the rear legs. Too little angulation and the dog looks stiff walking around the ring. Correct lay back and rear angulation is what gives the Westie the proper “reach and drive” movement. That is the reason why a judge views the Westie coming and going and from side to side. Westies do not or should not “track.” This means putting the rear feet in the same spot as the front feet while walking around the ring. Now haven't I gone off on a tangent!

Attitude! What can I say? They're Westies! The 6-9 female puppy who tried to gain “points” by giving me kisses on the table was very cute, but her actions didn't hold water! I told her that and \$7.50 would get her a cup of Starbuck's coffee!

The Best Male Puppy in Match was a fine specimen. He walked around the ring with his tail held high and wagging and great Westitude! The Best Puppy Bitch in Match was a great puppy when I felt her structure with my hands under too much coat.

It was a difficult decision, but I gave Best Puppy in Match to 3-6 month old male with the 6-9 month old bitch Best of Opposite Sex.

It was so wonderful seeing many Westie friends! What we lacked in numbers, we made up for with Westie enthusiasm! Thank you again for inviting me to be the judge.

Sincerely,  
*Kathleen*

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

## In Memoriam

Since our last issue of the N\*E\*W Footnotes (Summer 2019,) three of our Club members have passed away. It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to them.



EDWARD CAFFEGAN

Eddie joined our Club in 2009, along with his wife, Barbara, when 10 week old Duffy (Bonnie Bay's Quarter Master) came into their lives. Ed served our Club as a Board member for three years. He was always willing to help out, especially with the setting up and breaking down of our fun match. Ed loved Duffy very much – they were a team. A \$50 donation to the American Rose Society in his memory was sent by our Club. We have received a thank you note from Barbara

CHARLES (CHUCK) TRUDEAU

Chuck was our fun match judge in 2017. That year, he and his wife, Lee, joined our Club. Chuck has been involved in the world of Westies for many years. He and Lee bred and exhibited their Westies under the kennel prefix, "Glencarron." He was an active member of the West Highland White Terrier Club of America and received the President's Award for volunteering so much of his time. He will be missed by many of our Westie friends. A \$50 donation was sent to the American Cancer Society in his memory. We have received a lovely thank you from Lee.



NANCY BOSTON



A founding member of our Club, Nancy joined in 1972. Nancy bred and exhibited her Westies under the kennel prefix, "Twickenton." She was active in our Club for many years. Nancy has contributed articles and poems to our newsletter on numerous occasions. A \$50 donation from our Club was sent to America's VetDogs—The Veteran's K-9 Corps. For more of Nancy's life with her Westies, please see article written by Lou Pacheco for our Oct-Dec 2009 issue of the Footnotes reprinted in this issue.

**"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."**

*Clyde Campbell*

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



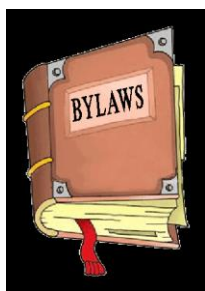
There were no new applications received since our last edition of the Footnotes. Please make sure that you all help recruit new members to our Club. New members bring new ideas. All Membership Information can be located on our website, [www.westhighlandwhiteterrierclubofnewengland.com](http://www.westhighlandwhiteterrierclubofnewengland.com) under "Membership."

## MESSAGE FROM THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

If you are aware of any Club member who is ill, in the hospital, has a death in his/her family – any member you feel needs a special contact from the Club, please e-mail me at [westhighlandwhiteterrierclubne@gmail.com](mailto:westhighlandwhiteterrierclubne@gmail.com) and let me know so I can send a card from all of us. Thanks! Gloria Pasquini



The 2019-2020 Dues Statement has been sent out via e-mail (and hard copy to those members without Internet access) on **November 17, 2019**. Please make sure Rich Pasquini, Treasurer, receives your dues by **February 28, 2020**. A copy of the Dues Statement is included in this edition of the Footnotes, as well as located in the Members' Only section on our website and on our Members' Only Facebook page. See Rich's IMPORTANT NOTE on the dues statement explaining the change in the Club's fiscal year.



A By-Laws Revision Committee was established at our annual meeting to revisit and amend our By-Laws to reflect the changes to our Club to help us continue as a group. The committee consists of: Jim McGarr, Chair; Rich Pasquini, Lis Manuel, Kim Locke, and Kathleen May.

*"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."*  
~Elizabeth Andrew

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION



## WELCOME YOUR NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD!

At our Annual Meeting on October 20, 2019, the following 2019-20 Officers and Board members were voted in:

President: Kim Locke★  
Vice President: Cynthia Richards  
Treasurer: Rich Pasquini  
Corresponding Secretary: Gloria Pasquini  
Recording Secretary: Lisa Pacheco

One Year Board Members: Florentine Locke; Carol Rossi  
Two Year Board Members: Tracey Costa; Lis Manuel  
Three Year Board Members: Florentine Locke-Overko★; Susan Smith

*Thank you to our 2019-20 Officers and Board who stepped up to the plate to go to bat for our Club!*

*thank you*

★The Board wishes to sincerely thank Kim Locke for stepping back up for the position of president when there were no nominations for that open spot. The Board also wishes to sincerely thank Florentine Locke-Overko for graciously volunteering to fill the open three-year board position previously held by Kim. The Board has approved both.

*"Volunteers are not paid  
-- not because they are  
worthless, but because  
they are priceless."*

# WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

## MEMBERSHIP DUES 2020

**Please note that your membership dues are payable by February 28, 2020**

### IMPORTANT NOTE

Due to a lack of participation in WHWTCNE events by many of our members, the Board and Officers asked the members present at our Annual Meeting held at Vasa Park on October 20, 2019 if the West Highland White Terrier Club of New England should be disbanded. A discussion ensued and a vote was taken with the results being the approval of continuing with the club. Toward that end, new WHWTCNE By Laws are currently being crafted for presentation to our membership early in 2020. These new By Laws will include a change of our Fiscal Year to January through December. This is the reason for our new Dues Payment deadline noted above.

**IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO BE A MEMBER, PLEASE CHECK HERE** ☐

Individual Membership	\$20.00	
Joint Membership	\$30.00	
Breeder Resource List	\$10.00	
<b>Additional Contributions are always welcome</b>		
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>		

Please make checks payable to **WHWTCNE** and mail your check and this Completed Form to:

**Rich Pasquini, Treasurer**  
**30 Bonnie Bay Way**  
**Alfred, ME 04002**

**NOTE:** It is important that our membership list has accurate information. Even if you have not changed any of your contact information, please completely fill out the information below so that we can correct any inaccurate data.

**PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION CLEARLY**  
**THANK YOU!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### BREEDER RESOURCE LIST INFORMATION

Please fill out the information that applies below

You may include both your phone number and email address on the Breeder Resource List if you wish, or just choose one

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ KENNEL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ WEBSITE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

### Explanation of Membership Status

**Individual & Joint Membership** – entitles member to vote and hold office. Entitled to all privileges of the club, to receive title awards, and be listed on the Breeder Resource List (fee required).



## WHWTCNE RESCUE GUIDELINES

### Revised October 2019

*The following revised rescue guidelines were presented to, discussed, and passed by the membership present at the Annual Meeting on October 20, 2019. These guidelines will be attached to the Constitution and By-Laws of the West Highland White Terrier Club of New England.*

In 2019 a committee of West Highland White Terrier Club of New England (WHWTCNE) members was formed to review existing practices and documentation around “Rescue” and how the concept of “Rescue” should or could apply to the WHWTCNE in the future. The committee consisted of the following members: Joe Ferraro, member since 2012; Linda Ferraro, member since 2012; Kimberly Locke, member since 2012; Lisbeth Manuel, member since 1997; Susan Smith member since 2006/WHWTCNE Rescue Coordinator Liaison 2007 – present; Tony Zambuto, member since 2000.

The mission of the committee is to develop a recommendation for consideration of adoption by the membership of the WHWTCNE regarding existing documentation, guidelines, and funds held by the Club that are currently considered as designated for “Rescue” efforts, and a recommendation of what “Rescue” should mean to the Club going forward as of October 2019.

The purpose of this recommendation is specifically to retire all previous documentation associate with this topic and begin to utilize existing “Rescue” funds for activities that can be interpreted as “Rescue” in today’s climate of society and the Club.

**2019 Rescue Guidelines in support of all West Highland White Terriers known to WHWTCNE being able to live in safe, loving, and stable environments are as follows:**

1. Retire and archive all previous WHWTCNE “Rescue” documents and/or guidelines prior to October 2019.
2. Formally and officially resolve that WHWTCNE will not be in the “business” of rescue. Going forward, the Club should NOT mandate any monetary funds for re-homing or assisting Westies in need. Donations are always welcome.
3. No Westie or any other animal should be “surrendered” or signed over to the possession of the Club for rehoming or any other “rescue” efforts.
4. Any Westie/owner needing assistance or intervention should be directed to the attention of the WHWTCNE Rescue Coordination Liaison or Rescue Committee, or the WHWTCNE Board of Officers.
5. The Rescue Coordination Liaison is a Club member resource that coordinates activities when the Club is notified that a Westie is in need of assistance, especially with needing to be re-homed. This position is strictly a volunteer role held by an existing Club member who coordinates efforts and matches dogs to owners but does not facilitate these connections



## 2019 Rescue Guidelines (Cont'd.)

5. (cont'd.) on behalf of the Club. Rescue Coordination activities include talking to people who are looking to foster, adopt, surrender, re-home, place, etc., any Westie. The Liaison talks to people and connects them to other people who have interests where they may be able to team up to support the smooth transition of Westies in need.

6. The Club should provide discretionary funds of up to \$150 per Westie in need to assist with expenses around re-homing, food, veterinary care, temporary boarding, transportation assistance, etc. at the discretion of the Club's Rescue Coordination Liaison and/or Rescue Committee. If funds exceeding \$150 are required, the Board will be contacted by the Liaison and/or Committee, supplied with appropriate documentation outlining the needs, and will provide a decision within 3 days.

7. The WHWTCNE should make an annual donation from existing "rescue" funds to an organization actively enabling the rescue of animals; preferably an organization that directly benefits the rescue of West Highland White Terriers. The suggested annual donation amount should be approximately \$500. No single organization should receive this donation in consecutive years.

8. An annual donation recipient recommendation should be made by the Rescue committee chair and/or by the WHWTCNE Rescue Coordination Liaison.

9. The definition of "Rescue" should be expanded to include circumstances where temporary support or assistance may be required from within the Club membership itself. If the Club can offer support to strangers' Westies, the Club should be able to support and care for the Westies within our own community during times of hardship or crisis. Members requesting assistance from the Club in preserving the well-being of known Westies must be willing to interview with the Rescue Committee, provide supporting information/documentation outlining the circumstances and hardship assistance being requested, as well as proper veterinary documentation. Some examples of temporary hardship may include a Club member becoming unemployed or "homeless" and requiring a helping hand to continue to provide for their Westie(s), the need for dog food, medicines, extenuating veterinary care, etc. All requests of these natures should be approved / denied by the Rescue Committee, not to exceed \$500. The Board should be requested to approve/deny funds in excess of \$500. In the event that the one-time financial assistance amounts are expected to exceed \$1,000, the Club membership should be advised and provided with the opportunity to provide input or feedback in support of or against the hardship assistance. Whenever possible, funds should not be provided directly to the Club member, but rather to the veterinarian or vendor as appropriate to provide the Club with supporting receipts for accounting purposes.

*"Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will change forever." — Karen Davison*

# BRAGS AND WAGS



## WHITE LIGHTENING DOES IT AGAIN!

Presenting Duffy (Bonnie Bay's Quarter Master), the 2019 Westie Races Champion of the WHWTS of CT. Duffy regained the title by beating the dog that beat him last year in a photo finish. At ten years old, White Lightning hasn't lost a step!! Duffy is owned, loved, and belly rubbed by Barbara and Ed Caffegan, who are very proud of him (and so are his Grammy and Grampy, Rich and Gloria Pasquini!)



## THE MATCH TWINS

At our fun match on October 20, 2019, Joey (Bonnie Bay Perfect Storm) was awarded Best Puppy in Match by Judge Kathleen May.

Not to be outdone by her brother, Patti (Bonnie Bay Eye of the Storm) took a Terrier Puppy Group One and went on to be awarded Best Puppy in Match at the York County Kennel Club's AKC Sanctioned Match the following week.

Joey and Patti are the offspring of CH. Bonnie Bay's Moonlight Sail with Birch Bark (Luna) and Wildwood There's No Second Act (Fitzy.) They were bred and are owned by Gloria and Rich Pasquini.





**Editor's Note:** The following article appeared in the Oct/Nov/Dec 2009 issue of the N\*E\*W Footnotes under the feature: **WHWCNE--FLASHBACKS**. It is reproduced in this issue in memory of Nancy Boston.

## Nancy Boston's "Dog World"

By Lou Pacheco

The best part of the Footnotes interim editor's job is doing these flashback pieces about our veteran members. Recently I had a wonderful time visiting with Nancy Boston in her Falmouth home of the last 26 years. I was greeted at the door by "Robbie" (Ch Twickenton Christopher Robin CD) a proud 13 year old Champion Westie that still looks "ring ready".



As many of you know, Nancy was one of the founding members of our club. She knowingly reels off the names of the handful of the founding members that made the club one of the best regional clubs in the Country. She was kind enough to invite us into her home for this Footnotes Flashback. She has had some incredible experiences and accomplishments in the Westie world over the last 40 plus years. She was gracious enough to share some of these memories with our Club. Nancy's energy and quick wit belie her 80 years. She is still extremely active volunteering in her Town 3 days a week and maintaining an active grooming room in her house for her own dogs.

Of course one of the first things that strikes a visitor upon entering Nancy's home is the breathtaking assortment of Westie memorabilia, trophies, knickknacks, and general curios. Each item is carefully displayed and lovingly laid out making a memorable effect that harks back to an earlier time. In the cases and on the walls are a lifetime of memories. The visitor can see before them years of hard work, competition and winning. The impressive assembly leaves no doubt that while the lady is certainly gracious, she is also competitive, and it is obvious she has done a lot of winning in her day.

As all of us that groom terriers know, it is hard work, and Nancy is proud to relate that she has hand stripped everything from her Norwich terriers to Airedales. She has even groomed and shown horses. Here is a person who really loves animals in general and her Westies in particular.

Nancy started her career in Westies back in the 1960s. She bought her first Westie for a hundred dollars and quickly found at her first show that it wasn't a show dog. After that first show she went to her breeder and said "I don't care what it costs. I want a dog that will compete and win in the show ring".





Her joy of competition twinkles in her eye as she reminisced about individual matches and shows like they happened last week. Nancy reels off the names of dogs, breeders, handlers and judges with ease and usually it is accompanied by an amusing anecdote.

Nancy generally worked alone, but her son, Steven, and daughter, Gayle, helped her groom, show, and handle over the years. Nancy told me her mother also showed several breeds in the roaring 20's, including a Collie that won Best in Show.

Most impressive to this writer was the real world "hands on" knowledge of the dog world that Nancy has experienced over the years. Starting with a pet quality dog in 1960, Nancy worked her way up through 13 Champions and along the way she bred, groomed, handled, boarded, taught and judged, while she ran a full time groom shop in Dedham. Nancy taught seminars for Oyster and has 40 years' experience grooming and owning shops. She readily admits that the dog world has changed. She remembers how members had to work together and help each other out in the early days. It was a very close knit community. Many of her pictures show rings in Armories or halls that would never be able to host one of the shows today. Nancy remembers the competitors' camaraderie outside of the ring, but still fiercely competing inside of it.

The knowledge and information Nancy has would fill a very large book (or two.) Nancy is a breast cancer survivor and nonchalantly relates the injuries and problems over the years. It is interesting to note that they never stopped her and hardly slowed her down. Nancy Boston another of the proud trail blazers that went before us in our Parent Club Centennial year.



Nancy S. Boston  
1929-2019

# An argument for ethical dog breeders



Sidd Fisher and his dog, Taran.

"I rescued him." How many times has a dog owner said these words to you? These days people feel very confident that the only way they should obtain a dog is to rescue one. A person who is concerned with maintaining the moral high ground would never buy a pup from a breeder, because the word "breeder" is synonymous with puppy mill, right? We know to adopt and never to shop.

And how many times have you heard a person explain away their dog's behavior issues with the phrase "He was abused by a previous owner." They often have a story at the ready about how the dog hates men because their abuser was male, or how he is afraid of, say, flip flops because his abuser wore flip flops. How often do you think that is completely speculative? Is it very likely that a person brought the dog into the shelter and said, "I am surrendering this dog after abusing him while wearing flip flops"?

These are just assumptions made by people, because they fit a preferable narrative. It feels downright heroic to think you rescued a dog from abuse, whereas it's panic inducing to think that the dog is simply untrained and it's your responsibility to change that. But really, which of the two scenarios is more likely to be true?

While rescuing is certainly admirable and valid, I chose not to do so for the reasons listed above, and also because I have young children. I wanted to have the very best chance at predicting the dog's health and behavior. I wanted to have a first-hand view of the dog's early experiences and be able to address any behavior issues as they arose.

The breed I chose was English Setter, and I knew I wanted one from an ethical breeder. Before you ball up this newspaper and toss it in the garbage in fury, here is a list of criteria for members of the English Setter Association of America, an association for lovers and breeders of the English Setter. Each person has to follow a code of ethics to be a member. This is not the entire code, but a few notable points:

"I am the caretaker not only of the individual dog but of the reputation and welfare of the breed as a whole."

"It is incumbent upon me to set the example of each dog being individually cherished but only the physically and temperamentally sound being bred."

"I accept the premise that if I breed a litter those dogs are my responsibility throughout their lifetime."

Once we selected the breeder we wanted, it took us months to actually get our pup, a spotty little boy we named Taran. He wasn't even conceived when we traveled to meet his prospective parents. During the wait, we read books about puppies and his breed, built a fence, and got all the things we would need. We were fully prepared when the day came to go pick him up. Having a puppy is a lot of hard work, comparable to adopting a particularly active and nippy child.

Thankfully the long wait left us fully prepared for the difficulties. Also, if we ever were to decide to give him up, the breeders would take him back. They would never allow one of their dogs to go to a shelter, because no ethical breeder ever would.

Dogs are the product of human intervention. They were once wolves, but people selected the ones that worked best as friends of humans. When dogs select their own breeding partners over a long period of time, the result are feral dogs like the dingoes of Australia.

What will happen if ethical breeders disappear? That would mean the only breeding taking place would be accidental dog encounters, organized by people who don't really know what they're doing, or by actual puppy mills where no one cares about health or temperament or the future of the breeds they create, and where the main goal is to make money off of cute pups purchased on impulse. The ultimate result could be the loss of the partnership between dogs and humans. They would no longer be "Man's Best Friend."

Taran is two years old now, and he is beloved by everyone he meets. He's not only beautiful, he's healthy and temperamentally sound. Even though he shares a little house with three rowdy young boys, he's never been anything but gentle.

My husband takes him everywhere he goes, and he is our pride and joy. Shelter dogs can be great too, but if we ever get another dog, it will most likely be from an ethical breeder.

And that's okay.

Reprinted The Campus CHRONICLE <http://www.campuschroniclenews.com/an-argument-for-ethical-dog-breeders/>

Article submitted by:  
Gloria Pasquini



# Canine Brucellosis On the Rise

By *Dr. Marty Greer*

Jun 22, 2019



Yes, we have all read about canine brucellosis.

That disease has been eliminated from our dogs in the U.S., right? So why are we bringing this topic up again – we are tired of hearing about it by now, aren't we?

Sadly, canine brucellosis is not gone from the U.S. It is not only still here, but it is here again. We have it indigenous in a small population of breeding dogs native to the U.S. But we have also seen it re-introduced into the U.S. through imported dogs that are not required to be screened for this disease.

## What is Canine Brucellosis?

Starting at the beginning, canine brucellosis is caused by a bacteria called *Brucella Canis*. There are other strains of brucellosis that affect ruminants such as cattle, sheep, and goats. Most of the recent cases of brucellosis in dogs are canine in origin. But brucellosis can affect other canines, such as fox and coyotes in our wildlife population. Like *Brucella abortus*, the cattle version of brucellosis, which has been harbored in the wildlife populations of bison and buffalo in the Great Plains states, it may be difficult to eradicate because of this wildlife population reservoir. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't be vigilant.

On May 29, 2019, canine brucellosis was reported to have been imported into Wisconsin in a group of 26 South Korean dogs legally brought into the U.S. through Canada. While the group was awaiting importation, one dog in the group died. Symptoms and gender of this dog have not been reported. However, a veterinarian in Canada tested this dog and found it was positive for canine brucellosis. By the time the test results were available, the dogs had already moved into a Wisconsin shelter and had been co-mingled with approximately 100 other dogs. Two of the primary exposed group were also found to be positive – it is not clear if they were exposed while in South Korea or during transport and housing. Worse yet, these dogs (both the primary exposed group and the secondary exposed group) had been placed in the homes of the general public. Quarantine and repeated testing are currently underway; results are not yet available.

On May 5, 2019, a kennel in Marian County Iowa was determined to have dogs on site infected with canine brucellosis.

## What's the Big Deal?

The big deal about this is multi-level.

1. Canine brucellosis is a zoonotic disease. This means the disease can be spread to humans and is known as undulant fever. Once in the human, the disease may never be eliminated – it hangs out in the bone marrow of the unfortunate recipient for the rest of their lives, causing waxing and waning symptoms that include fever, aches, and symptoms similar to that of influenza. It is of particular concern in the very young, the very old, patients who are immunocompromised such as patients on chemotherapy, steroids, other immunosuppressive drugs, and patients with diseases such as the human AIDS virus. Women who are pregnant can lose a pregnancy – and when you consider most caretakers of dogs in shelters, humane societies, rescue organizations, dog breeding kennels are young females of child-bearing age, this is especially worrisome. Granted, canine brucellosis is not commonly transmitted to people, but the literature has multiple instances of human disease. One of the earliest cases reported was in an air-conditioner repairman who was exposed when he crawled under a porch and was exposed to an affected bitch and her litter. You don't want yourself or a loved one in the footnote of the next published journal reporting zoonotic transmission.
2. Dogs that are found to have serial positive test results are usually euthanized. This decision is made at the local level, by the state Veterinarian where the dog(s) are housed. In most states, this is a reportable disease – this means if your veterinarian finds your dog to have a positive brucellosis test result on a confirmatory test, your veterinarian is required to contact your State Veterinarian. In most states, there are written requirements for how individual and groups of affected dogs need to be managed. You don't get to decide – it is in the hands of the authorities. Spaying and neutering along with long-term use of antibiotics are not 100% effective in managing this nasty bacterial infection. For this reason, euthanasia of all persistently infected dogs is frequently the outcome.
3. Should you be one of the really compassionate people who find themselves involved in rescue dog transport or housing, or fostering dogs, you may be putting your personal dogs at risk. Even spayed and neutered dogs can contract and spread this disease.
4. If you are not only helping these dogs but you are also a dog breeder, you may be putting your entire breeding program at risk. If you have introduced an infected dog into your car, home or kennel, you may have just destroyed a 40 year or longer breeding program.
5. If you are involved in any part of handling rescue or relocated dogs, require that the organization managing their rehoming screen for this important infectious disease BEFORE you touch the dog, put the dog in your vehicle, or bring the dog(s) into your home, yard and/or kennel.

As previously stated, much has been written about canine brucellosis. This is a bacterial, infectious disease that can be spread both venereally and through handling placentas and other body secretions. Brucellosis causes reproductive failure in male and female dogs. Many infected dogs will appear to be in normal health. In females, they can have apparent missed breedings, puppies aborted prematurely, full term but weak puppies that fail to thrive or normal puppies. In males, they can experience swollen and painful testicles, failure to settle bitches, and inadequate semen quality. *Brucella Canis* has been reported to spread in frozen canine semen.

## Testing for Brucella Canis

All dogs should be tested for Brucella Canis (B. canis) prior to using them for breeding dogs and/or moving in and out of your kennels. Testing can be done at your veterinary clinic or reference lab. The screening test is an RSAT test – a rapid slide agglutination test, which takes approximately 2 minutes. This test is very sensitive, meaning it is unlikely you would have a diseased dog test negative unless very early in the course of the disease. However, it is not very specific, meaning you can have a relatively high number of false positive tests. If the test is positive, there is a second step in the test kit that should automatically be run.

If both the first and second step are positive, follow up confirmatory tests need to be run at a reference lab. Cornell Veterinary Lab runs a test called AGID – this is usually the next test run if both steps of the RSAT test are positive. Most pathologists still consider blood cultures to be the gold standard of testing for brucellosis. Because brucella organisms grow slowly, this testing can take weeks to months. There is also a PCR test for brucella – this test looks for the DNA of the bacterial organism.

Should the reference lab test be positive, prepare for communications with your state veterinarian.

In summary, handle any dog that is not spayed or neutered as if it could be Brucella positive. You can't be too careful.

Test frequently – you won't save money by skipping testing. There is no cure for canine brucellosis. It is best to screen frequently and carefully to avoid this tragic scenario.



*About the author: Marty Greer, DVM, JD has run the Veterinary Village Small Animal Clinic in Wisconsin since 1982. She is an expert in canine reproduction, is author of Canine Reproduction and Neonatology and a frequent lecturer on the subject. Dr. Greer also studied law at Marquette University and is a partner in Animal Legal Resources, LLC and is a board member of the National Animal Interest Alliance.*

Article submitted by Lis Manuel



# Westies As They Age

By Kathleen May

That little delightful white ball of fur that came into your life at 10 weeks is now getting on in years. Where did the time go? We all want them to live forever. Unfortunately, that is not possible. So let's explore some things that you need to know which will, hopefully, make the aging process a little easier.

The normal life span of a Westie is 14-15 years. Somewhere along the way, it was determined that a Westie is considered a "senior citizen" at the age of seven. Really? Most Westies don't show signs of slowing down until they're over ten! And then it's iffy!

A proper diet is essential for a healthy dog. There are just three substances that make up all food.... carbohydrates, protein and fat. The body uses carbohydrates for energy. Too many carbohydrates are stored in the body as fat. Fat is essential for keeping all the vital body parts in place. Proteins, referred to as the "building blocks" are essential for replacing cells lost through attrition or repairing the body due to surgery or some other trauma. Unlike carbohydrates and fat, excessive protein cannot be stored by the body, thus expelled through defecation. Protein is also the hardest element for the kidneys to breakdown and digest. The kidneys, just like the rest of the body, ages and becomes less efficient with this process. Meat is the primary source of protein. Meats that have a smaller molecular structure are duck, venison and bison, thus making it easier for the kidneys to assimilate. Beef, chicken and lamb have a large molecular structure. Overtaxed kidneys in the aging Westie could lead to kidney failure. Changing the diet of your aging Westie is up to you. It is highly recommended a consultation with your veterinarian before you make any changes. No one knows your Westie better than you! Here's another fact. It has been medically proven that overweight/obese dogs do not live as long as dogs kept at a proper weight.

Diminished eyesight due to cataracts and loss of hearing comes with old age. Here are a few tips. Your sight impaired Westie will continue to navigate around the house as long as you don't move anything. If you have another younger dog, and that dog is his/her buddy, that dog will become the eyes for the sight impaired one. Watch and learn! Hearing loss is another issue. Oh! Wait! Westies have selective hearing at any age! Okay! Excuse the pun! To get the deaf Westie's attention, stamp your feet. The dog will feel the vibration and turn around. Sometimes clapping your hands works. Yelling never works! Again, the hearing companion also becomes the ears of the deaf dog. For example, when the two dogs are outside in the fenced in yard, and you need them to come in, the deaf dog will not hear you call, but the other dog will and guide the deaf dog to the door/steps to go inside. Watch and learn!

Exercise is still paramount to the aging Westie. Okay.... not a three mile walk through the woods! It is up to you to gauge his/her endurance. At 14, a short walk down the driveway and back is sufficient. Aging Westies sometimes have arthritis, so walking is more difficult and sometimes painful. Accept it!

By the age of 12, most Westies seem to sleep a lot. That's okay. The Westie's body is telling the dog to rest. Don't disturb him/her. A sudden wakeup call or touching from a sound sleep to come to dinner, the Westie may become disoriented. A better solution is to place the dinner dish so that the Westie can smell the food. The sense of smell seems to be the last to go! Likewise is tactile.... touching. Continue to pat and cuddle your beloved aging Westie and by all means talk to them even if they can no longer hear you. Your closeness is what the Westie feels most and appreciates.

Grooming an elderly Westie can be tedious. A Westie that has always accepted being on a grooming table and even liked being groomed, is not so receptive as he/she ages. This is probably for a couple of reasons. With impaired eyesight/hearing, the dog is leery of being put up off the floor and fears falling. A better explanation is "For heaven's sake! I'm old! Just leave me alone!" So you or the groomer has to be inventive. You can groom a Westie, for the most part, while the dog is comfortably lying down. Another option is to opt for the "puppy cut" so they look like a puppy again! All the side furnishings are clipped off and the leg and head furnishings cut short. The good news is the old gal/guy won't need grooming again for six months! Aging Westies lose some of their warm fluffy under coat. That's the coat that keeps them warm. A snazzy doggy sweater will keep them toasty during the cold weather. That winning champion at 14 does not give a rat's butt how it looks! However, you have solved the problem of dealing with an obstreperous aging Westie when it comes to grooming! Obviously, you won't love your dog any less or their love for you any less. Maybe they'll love you more for not putting them through the grueling ordeal on the grooming table so frequently.

Behavioral issues can sometimes be a factor as the Westie ages. However, we are the parents. They depend on us for their welfare. Would you give up a Westie that for 14 years has been such a delightful companion for all those years because he/she now bites or has become incontinent or has a skin issue? Me thinks not! Behavior issues can be solved as well as physical problems. You just have to enlist the help of a professional and/or your veterinarian.

As your beloved Westie ages, there are a few things you need to be aware of and watch for to give your Westie the best quality of life possible;

- Limit exercise to reduce the strain on aching joints.
- Change the diet if this is recommended by your veterinarian.
- The gums should appear pink. Pale gums are an indication of anemia.
- Groom your Westie or have a groomer do this task with as little stress as possible to the dog. If you groom your Westie, this doesn't need to be done all at once.
- Be alert to the Westie's failing eyesight and/or hearing. Make adjustments.
- Trips to the veterinarian will inevitably become more frequent.

The day comes when you will have to make that ultimate decision. You all know what I mean. Being present when this task is preformed is an individual choice. There is no right or wrong. Here's one word of advice through 40+ years of experience. Your Westie will let you know when it is "time" to let them go over the Rainbow Bridge. This, my friends, as hard as it will be, is your last act of love for your beloved Westie.



## Thinking Dogs?

By Kathleen May



Do dogs actually think? Of course they do, but not in the same way as humans. A dog's brain is considerably smaller than a human brain. However, all the essential areas of a brain are there. The biggest difference is how the dog interprets the nerve impulses sent to the brain.

Some impulses are instinctive and do not require any thought. An example is when a dog gets injured and lets out a yelp or when the dog is thirsty and seeks out water.

Dogs learn obedience commands by rote, doing the exercise over and over again. Their brain becomes accustomed to the sound of the word(s) we use, followed by a reward for getting it right. Is the dog actually thinking? At the sound of the word "sit", the dog has to be thinking, "What am I supposed to do? Oh ya! Put my butt on the ground!" Silent hand signals are accomplished in the same way, but instead of using the ears, the dog is using its eyes.

Speaking of using its ears, dogs are very alert to the sound of noises associated with everyday living. They bark at a strange sound alerting us to "danger." The sound of the canner opener or taking the lid off the treat jar is a sure sign that food is coming. They don't "see" the above, but the nerve impulses going to the brain tells them to hurry up and go investigate. Is this considered rote training? Well, yes, in a way it is because the dog has become accustomed to that sound you have done over and over again. However, the "thinking" part comes in when the dog has to figure out what that sound means. Is the can opener simply opening a can of peas for dinner or the lid being taken off their cookie jar? Okay! The dog may or may not be able to differentiate. This probably rests on time of day. Dogs, although they cannot tell time by seeing a clock, they seem to possess a "built in" clock that tells them it's time for their dinner or a snack.

Smell is a dog's greatest ally. The area in the brain the odor reaches via the olfactory nerves in the nose are at least 100 times greater than in a human nose. Smell is the way dogs greet each other. By sniffing butts, a dog is able to tell if this dog is friend or foe and reacts accordingly with its body language. "I like you. Let's be friends." Tails wag and ears held forward. "I don't think so! Get out of my face!" How does the brain interpret what each dog smells on another dog? Beats the heck out of me!

There are certain behaviors our own dogs have taught us. It seems ridiculous to say, but these behaviors have also been taught to us by rote. Dog goes and gets a toy and brings it to you. "Let's play 'go fetch!'" What do you do? You play "go fetch!" Then there's whining where the treat jar is kept. "I'd like a cookie, please." What do you do? You give the dog a cookie! It's either that or put up with the dog's incessant whining until you give in! Every time you do what the dog wants you to do, it reinforces that his/her action gets the required result. You are trained! Does that mean that the dog is thinking? YUP!

There have been many studies done by professional animal behavior experts to determine which breed is the smartest. That in my mind is ambiguous. Ask any dog person who is the smartest dog, and they'll tell you it's their dog! A study was recently done at Yale New Haven basically with problem solving. It just happened to be a Giant Schnauzer used in this study. The owner brought the dog to the lab and was instructed to stand quietly, no speaking, no touching or making eye contact with her dog. The facilitator showed and let the dog sniff a tasty treat. She then put the treat in a box that the

dog would be unable to open. The dog pawed the box, tried to knock it over and in many other ways tried to get the treat. The facilitator, in the meantime, quietly slipped out a door at the far end of the room. The dog ran to its owner seeking help. With no response, the dog ran to the closed door where the woman had disappeared and started barking and pawing at the door. How did the dog know a human was behind that door? The dog didn't see her go out of the room. Did the dog smell her? Was the dog thinking, "If you won't help me get that yummy treat, maybe that other human will help me." Obviously, there had to be some kind of thought process going on in the dog's brain to figure out (1) dog recognized that she could not open the box. (2) her owner would not help. (3) dog sought help from the person she saw put the treat in the box, but she was no longer in the room. (4) dog quickly figured out that she was behind a closed door. So, I ask you, was the dog thinking? How else would the dog do and the actions it took be explained if the dog was not thinking? Another phenomenon to me is the game.... if you will...is Frisbee competitions. How does the dog know the exact point when the Frisbee is at the highest point and jump up and get it? The handler isn't allowed to give the dog the command, "get it!" It's pure physics! Is the dog trained to know this? I seriously doubt it!

Taste is another sense used by dogs. "This dinner is yummy!" Your dog loves kissing you. What they like is the salty taste of your skin! Okay! Kissing you on the face is also a sign of affection. Their dam did the same thing.

Search and rescue/scent dogs, herding dogs are chosen and trained due the genetic makeup of their breed. Does this make them smarter than other breeds? Do they have the ability to think to a greater capacity than other breeds? Not really. It's the breeds genetic makeup that the trainer nurtures. A bomb sniffing dog is trained to detect a certain odor and ignore other odors. Scent dogs, like the Basset Hounds, have olfactory nerves 1000 times greater than humans. Their ability to follow a scent given to them is uncanny. Plus, they are tenacious. A scent dog can follow a scent even after several days of inclement weather.

Dogs, like humans, possess all five senses; hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch. The brain interprets the nerve impulses from each sense differently. "Yum, that tastes good." "Ouch! That hurts!" And so forth. It's the human brain that tells us to avoid the black and white "kitty" in the yard. A dog, especially a Westie, sees the skunk, but its instinct, not its brain, says it is a predator in their territory and goes after it! Oops! No thinking going on in the dog's brain as to the consequences!

All of the five senses play a role with a dog's ability to be empathetic. Dogs are very tuned in to our emotions. If you are happy and show your joy by laughing, dancing around, the dog is happy too and may exhibit the same type of glee. When you are sad, the dog is sad too and shows its sadness by cuddling up in your lap or staying close to you. When you are angry with the dog, it scrunches down with its ears held back. Is there any thought process going on? The dog is reacting to your body language and/or loud words. However, they are "thinking." How else does one explain their actions?

So do dogs really think? Dogs have all the same brain parts as humans. Their thought process may be different than ours, but they do have the ability to (1) learn (2) figure out situations (3) be empathic and (4) train us! Would you have it any other way? Just remember this one vital issue. Your dog may be smartest one in the world. But YOU are smarter!

**"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then give him only two of them." Dean Koontz**



## The Night before Christmas

A Westies Version\* By Kathleen May



*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the abode, not a creature was stirring, including a mole. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care in hopes that St. Nicholas would soon be there. The Westies were snuggled in their nice warm beds while visions of dog bones danced in their heads. Ma in her kerchief and dad in his cap, had just settled down for a long-deserved nap. Out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, we sprang from our beds to see what was the matter. Away to the window we flew like the wind. An intruder abounded and we had to get him! The moon on the snow was so bright and heady, was it now morning already? Then what to our huge eyes should appear, but a gorgeous, huge sleigh and eight gigantic reindeer with an aged driver so agile and quick, we knew in a moment this must be St. Nick! More rapid than Beagles over our house he came. He whistled and shouted and called them by name. "Now Bailey now Duffy now Shamus and Hector! On Chassie, on Flash on Derby and Mira. Now dash away! Dash away all!" So up to our rooftop their courses they flew with a sleigh full of goodies and St. Nicolas too. And then in a moment we heard on the roof, the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. We ran back to our beds with nary a peep 'cause St. Nick must see us all fast asleep. We opened just one eye and as we turned around, down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur from his head to his feet. Surely not an intruder we needn't to defeat! He looked all around and went straight to his work with a peek to his right to be sure that our eyes were shut tight. He filled our stockings with great treats and toys. He knew that we all were good Westie girls and boys. Then with a finger aside his nose and to us, a nod, up the chimney he rose. He sprang to his sleigh and shouted with glee, "Go Team! We have many more Westies this night to see!" But we heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!"*

Many apologizes to Clement Clarke Moore, the author of this precious poem, "The Night before Christmas" who wrote it on Christmas Eve for his family in 1822. He originally called it "A Visit from St. Nicholas." Mr. Moore never intended for the poem to be published, but a family friend, Miss Harriet Butler, learned of the poem sometime later from Moore's children. She submitted it to the Troy (New York) Sentinel where it made its first appearance in print on December 23, 1823. It was not, however, until 1844 that Moore himself acknowledged authorship in a volume of his poetry entitled "Poems" published at the request of his children. Now almost 200 years later it is the most published, most read, most memorized and most collected book in all of Christmas literature. Enjoy this little spoof on "The night before Christmas". Mr. Moore, I'm sure, would get a few belly laughs!



Kathleen

**Your Board and Officers wish all our members a Merry Christmas,  
Happy Holidays, and a safe and healthy New Year!**

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