



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Fall 2026

From the President

Dear Westie Friends,

The past few months have been action-packed for the club organizers.

We sponsored a booth for two days at the Scottish Highland Games in July, a Westie Fun Day in August, and a great fall walk in Renton last Sunday.

The picture at right captures Westie energy at the August Fun Day “Pawlympics.” We all enjoyed working our dogs on the agility equipment at the Academy for Canine Behavior.



At the end of August, a major news story broke when police and animal control authorities seized 42 Westies from a Marysville home. I and a few others in the club were contacted about the situation, and together with Karin Parish, our Rescue Coordinator, we posted updates to the story as it unfolded. Our board of directors voted to make a \$500 donation to the Everett Animal Shelter for their incredible efforts to rehabilitate the neglected Westies. Currently, we know that some of the dogs are being released for adoption. One of our directors, Merrill Cohen, just brought home Lampchop, a 5-year-old male.

The health of our club has been on my mind a lot. Our organization depends on active participation, new ideas, dependable volunteers, and event leadership. We are eager to mentor and develop event leaders for dog walks and large events like our Halloween parties. Are you someone who'd like to help do that?

Our large events feature 20+ dogs and their families, dog games, and dog training. I got involved because I enjoy using my organizational skills, 40 years of Westie ownership, and

more than a dozen training classes in dog obedience and agility. And I do love being in the middle of a big pack of Westies. That's my story, and you will have your own story.

I encourage you to ask me about event planning and leadership opportunities. Leading a Westie Walk at a park in your local area is a great place to start. We plan 2 or 3 major events each year, and I would enjoy taking you behind the scenes and the showing you the planning process.

What's up next? The **Annual Halloween Costume Party** is coming up October 24th, and I need to decide what my Westies Skye and Brody will wear. We will be at the Academy of Canine Behavior in Bothell from 1-3pm. **If you would like to help** with set-up and decorations, come at noon.

Santa Claus is coming to town for our **Holiday Party with Santa** December 12th, 1-3pm. We'll have a real live Santa, a photographer, and a holiday photo scene to capture a dog friendly family photo for you.

To all of you who serve as officers, directors, event organizers, volunteers, photographers, contributors, and members, I would like to thank you for your continued service to the club. Your commitment is essential to our work, and I look forward to your participation in the months ahead.

Lesley Wilson, President





Westies and Family Holiday Party with Santa Claus

Holiday Party for Westies and Their Families

- Family photos with Santa
- Receive a printed photo of family with Santa
- Door prizes
- Potluck luncheon
- Games
- Sing-along with Santa

Westie Fun Day “Pawlympics” at the Academy Canine Behavior, August 15th



Westies Steal the Show at the Scottish Highland Games

By Robin Ryan



The Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering took place at the Enumclaw Expo Center in Enumclaw, Washington, on July 25 and 26. The event featured the North American Scottish Athletics Championship, the US West Coast Drum Corps Championship, individual Piping and Drumming, Pipe Bands, and the Celtic Kennel, showcasing fifteen Scottish breeds, including our own West

Highland White Terriers.

Hundreds of people stopped by our booth to see the dogs up close. Babies, toddlers, young children, and plenty of adults all admired our Westies, commenting on how soft their fur was and how beautiful the breed is. Of course, the highlight for everyone was getting to pet our dogs.



Zoey, a therapy dog owned by Robin and Steve Ryan, received a special recognition ribbon for her service. Zoey has made numerous visits to residents in local nursing homes, bringing smiles wherever she goes.

The Grand March gave owners and dogs the chance to walk onto the main field in front of hundreds of spectators, so the whole crowd could appreciate the breeds. Our Westies earned a very loud round of applause. Later, the dogs strutted around the exhibit show ring while the commentator shared the history of the West Highland White Terriers.

Saturday Crew

- Jeannette Melchior with Summer, Snow & Bristol
- Dan Statt with Gaia
- Robin Ryan with Zoey

Sunday Crew

- Lesley Wilson with Brody
- Steve Bell and Linda Hagedon with Gracie & Ellie
- Merrill Cohen with Rocket
- Dawn Perry & Russ Cornell with Crumpet
- Al & Shawn Keck with Fiona & Fergus
- Melinda Heller and Sam Orallo with Hilda
- Jeannette Melchior with Bristol

A Fall Daytrip with Your Bestie

by Dawn Perry

One of our favorites adventures with Grits and Biscuit was a Whidbey Island day trip. It's a trip that has worked well for all ages of humans, from 8 to 80. It's lovely in all seasons, but not if it's raining.

Start with a 20-minute ferry to Clinton from Mukilteo. The passage is short enough to wait it out in the car, or enough times to grab a snack and bathroom break before disembarking. Then a few minutes by car to Double Bluff beach.

The beach is long and wide, and has more than a mile of off leash space for dogs. In the summer there may be crowds when you first walk out onto the beach, but 100 yards away it thins out to very few folks and dogs. For Biscuit, the highlights were dipping toes in the cold, calm water, racing through the sand, and rolling on seaweed and dead crabs. We've seen eagles, herons, sand dollars, and gorgeous shells. It's a beautiful sandy walk.



A quick towel off and we head to lunch; sometimes sandwiches at the beach's picnic tables, but more often we drive 5 minutes to Rocket Taco. Casual fare, large patio with shade for the dogs. And an ice cream shop next door.

After lunch, we head in the direction of Clinton, stopping at Marguerite Brons Memorial Park. It has a large off leash area, including an open field,

but Grits' favorite part was the many windings, interlocking wooded trails to explore. It feels like a classic PNW hike, but the acres are entirely fenced, and almost entirely shaded, perfect for a post-lunch stroll. The trail is flat, but lots of roots for humans to watch for.

Another towel off and it's back to Clinton to catch the ferry, dogs content and asleep in the back.

Sunny Sunday Renton Westie Walk – Sept 27



He's Just a Little Dog

By Dawn Perry

How many times we said it,
Not how many times we meant it,
Expands the empty space
Where he ran underfoot.

He shouldn't get that bite of steak,
His nails are grass and mud,
Snapping at the bumblebee,
He's just a little dog.

Back then, it was so easy
To make light of what we had,
So we could slip the snare
Of his joyful woofs and bounds.

But, for the smallest cry,
Or paw that flinched when touched,
We'd race to guess, fix, smother, love.
Loving just a little too much;
Too much for such
A little dog.





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

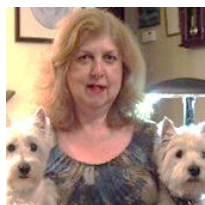


**President,
Newsletter
Editor,
Lesley Wilson**



**Secretary,
Jeannette
Melchior**

Renton Westie Walk
September 27th, 1PM
Renton Community Center
1715 Maple Valley Hwy
Renton, WA



**Treasurer,
Dee Thompson**



**Vice President,
Rescue
Representative,
Karin Parish**

Westie Halloween Costume Party
October 24th, 1-3PM
Academy of Canine Behavior
Woodinville, WA

Westie Santa Photo Op Party
December 12th, 1-3PM
Academy of Canine Behavior
Woodinville, WA



**Past President,
Rescue
Assistant/
Foster,
Christine
Corbley**



**Director
Kathy Reed**



**Director,
Lois Briscoe
Kimball**



**Director,
Melinda Heller**

New Members

Robin Ott, Auburn
Al & Shawn Keck, Lynwood
Dawn Perry, Seattle
Wes Geesnab, Everett
Sherry & Will Chisholm



**Photographer,
Membership
Chair,
Robin Ryan**



**Director,
Merrill Cohen**

New Member Applications



**Webmaster,
Dawn Perry**



**Breeder Referral
Vicki Fulton**