



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Winter 2018



From L to R: back row: Annette Loy, Sharon Newsom, Linda Gray; middle: Jeannette Melchior, Dee Thompson, Colleen Brazil; front: Sandy Davis, Karin Parish

President's Message — Linda Gray

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. 2017 was a fantastic year full of fun and exciting events. Our Christmas party started at 11am and we were still exchanging presents at 1:30. We voted in our new Board Members pictured at the left. We voted in just one new director; the rest have been on the Board for years. Please attend a Board Meeting if you can. We'd love to have your input, new ideas and possibly have you agree to be on the Board next year. We've also approved the use of Skype to help those who don't want to drive for a Board meeting on a Saturday. Our next Board meeting is January 6 at 10am at the Kirkland Library and meetings are open to all members.

A big thank you to all who donated their time and efforts to our Halloween party. Everyone had a great time. Our new PA system made a big difference. The Christmas party at Arnie's was so enjoyable. Very relaxing, though wrapping paper was flying and gifts were being stolen. Through all this we got a chance to appreciate great conversation, the beautiful view and fantastic food. We had 31 attendees in 2017 compared to just over 20 when we first started going to Arnie's three years ago. I've reserved Arnie's again for next year on Dec 8, 2018. Please be sure to mark your calendar.

Most activities for next year are already set. Please check our Website for the dates, flyers, more information and to volunteer. We need volunteers for every event. This is a great way to learn more about the club and network with other Westie owners.



Some of the activities planned for 2018:

- Chinese New Year (year of the dog), Feb 17, at the Academy of Canine Behavior (ACB) in Bothell. You can purchase discounted costumes for the Chinese New Year now that Halloween is over.
- Lecture on skin diseases by Dr. Melinda Cumming on April 21st at 10am (location TBD). We're very excited for this presentation. Dr. Cumming will touch on other issues facing Westies.
- Clash of the Clans, (ACB), June 2. The Scotties will again be at the Clash as will the very popular luring event.

As we head into 2018 we want you to know we are here for you. Please plan to attend as many events as possible and I'll say it again – volunteer. Additionally, if there is an event or topic you'd like to see, please don't hesitate to contact any one of the board members. Thank you again for a great 2017 and for your support.



THE MONSTER MASH — it was a graveyard smash!

By Karin Parish

On October 28 we had our annual Halloween Party at Academy of Canine Behavior in Bothell. The facility is a wonderful location to hold a party, dog friendly, reasonable to rent, and amazing weather.

We had over 40 people and I lost count of how many dogs. We also were able to use our new PA system which we purchased, and had Halloween Tunes by our DeeJay Thompson.

We had a photo op display so people could use their cell phones for photos as well as our photos. We have posted the highlights on Facebook and off our website. We also had videos which are linked off Facebook.

Two Raffle Baskets. Basket 1: homemade pickles, wedge of cheese, pretzels, scotch stout beer, Jerky, smoked almonds, summer sausage, crackers — Winner Steve Cross. Basket #2: 6 pack of Angry Orchard Hard Cider — Winner Doug Kimball.



GET READY FOR OUR CHINESE NEW YEAR PARTY!

Our Year of the Dog Celebration will take place on February 17, 2018 at the Academy Of Canine Behavior in Bothell. (See flyer on next page for more information)

Dragon Parade — The Dragon is present in many Chinese cultural celebrations as the Chinese people often think of themselves as descendants of the mythical creature. The dragon represents prosperity, good luck and good fortune.



COSTUME: To celebrate this, we are going to ask you to come up with a dragon mask or you can be a Festival Participant. We'll be judging your masks. You can take a paper plate, and flip it over, and decorate it with a dragon face. Punch a hole on top and on either side, and put ribbons through it and fasten the top ribbon to dog's collar, and the side ribbons tie under abdomen. Then it won't bother the dog. Glitter, scales, google eyes, whatever you imagine. Or yarn hair, scales, whatever you can create. Or a Dragon costume, we'll be flexible. Prizes and lucky coins for best mask and best

outfit, most creative. Or come up with your own idea.

The color red denotes good luck/fortune and happiness/abundance in the Chinese Culture and is often worn or used for decoration in other celebrations. Please wear red for a group photo.

Bring dish to share, see flyer for other information and time.

Each dog will receive a lucky dog fortune for the coming year. We will have games and play time and Lucky Raffle Baskets.

Check out your Chinese Horoscope:

https://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/social_customs/zodiac/

We look forward to seeing you to celebrate.

Hosted by: The 2018 West Highland White Terrier Club of PS – Board of Directors.

Just a reminder for those few of you who have not yet paid your dues for 2018 - please send a check soon. Your continued support of our club is greatly appreciated!

Mail to:

Dee Thompson, Treasurer
4511 153rd Pl. SW
Lynnwood, WA 98087



Chinese New Year celebration YEAR OF THE DOG



Date: February 17, 2018

Time: 12:30 – 3:30

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

Admission - *\$5 pp/\$10 per family
(children free)

Bring:

- Appetizer or Asian dish to share
- Costume (see below)
- Wear Red for Good Luck
- Poop bags



Games/Events:

- Lucky dog Fortune cookies
- Dragon Dance March Game
(make a dragon mask to fasten to your dogs
back)
- Chinese outfit contest
- New Year Raffle Basket

*admission covers rental of the facility



Congratulations and wishes for prosperity

Pet Photography 101

Bonnie Bird

Reprinted from the Chuckanut Dog Training Association *Chuckanut Companion*, February 2015

Because I volunteer in the Whatcom Humane Society's reading program in which kids read to dogs, I am occasionally offered free classes or programs on pet-related topics. Recently I participated in a Pet Photography class run by Brooke Mallory, a professional photographer who works both with Motley Zoo, a foster-care based pet adoption outfit and the King County Humane Society, which is shelter-based. Her mission is to create winsome photographs of animals who need forever homes.

She spent the a significant amount of time talking about social media (Petfinder, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) as ways of getting pets adopted, but she also produced some nitty-gritty tips for producing appealing photographs of our own domestic animals She distinguished between head shots (shoulders-up portraits of an animal's face; body shots (portraits of the whole animal sitting quietly); and personality or action shots (photos where the dog or cat is engaged in an activity). There are common rules for taking any of these types of photos, but there are also differences that need to be noted.

Some of what Brooke said seemed obvious (use the best camera you know how to use); some not so obvious (do not rely on cropping to salvage a digital photo.) She talked about lighting and composition and about how to tell a story with a photo.

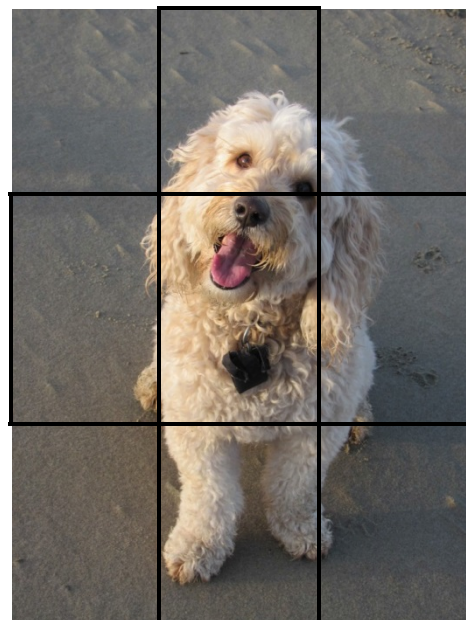
She offered a section on THE TOP FIVE MISTAKES people make when photographing pets:

1. **Using a flash.** A flash produces Red Eye, giving your pet a zombie-like or werewolf-like appearance. Use natural light whenever you can. Take your cat or dog outside if possible or position it near a window. The very best kind of natural light is what you get on overcast days (of which we in the Pacific Northwest have an abundance). If the sun is shining brightly, find light shade and position yourself and your pet within it. Natural lighting is the single best aid to taking a good picture.
2. **Insufficient light.** Incandescent and florescent lights add yellow casts to photos and often results in blurry images.
3. **Pet is looking somewhere other than the camera.** Eyes are extremely attractive, especially when the viewer can see the "catch lights" (those little glimmers of light that reflect off the pupils). This is especially important to remember when photographing a black dog or cat. If you don't see the catch lights, the animal looks moribund.
4. **Distracting background.** There is a difference between taking snapshots to record an event for memory and taking portraits, which are more serious endeavors. When you look through a camera lens, look at the entire display, not just the object of interest. If the background is a mess, move closer to your subject to eliminate the clutter.

DO NOTREPEATDO NOT RELY ON CROPPING TO CLEAN UP A PHOTO.

5. Lack of attention to composition. There is a rule of thirds that attaches itself to two dimensional art that is worth remembering. If you divide a photo or a drawing or a painting into thirds horizontally and vertically, there are "sweet spots" where the lines intersect. The human eye is drawn to these spots, which are centers of interest. If you can get at least one of your dog's eyes centered in a sweet spot, they photo will automatically be more attractive and interesting.

Here is a picture of Jigi I took BEFORE the class. Notice that I almost got the Rule of Thirds right. His body is mostly contained within the middle third of the photo because I had enough intuitive sense to hold the camera vertically. Had I held the camera horizontally, there would have been a lot of uninteresting space on either side of him and he would have appeared squashed. Further Jigi's left eye is pretty close to a sweet spot and the light coming in over the right side of his face makes his right eye shine. This photo was taken on an overcast day at Haystack Rock. The light shining over his right shoulder is soft and benign, highlighting the texture of his hair.



He appears to be smiling. Brooke told us that dogs that are panting (he had just had a romp on Oregon Beach) give that impression in photos. She often asks her clients to run with their dogs before she photographs them so that she can achieve that kind of happy look.

While I love this photo, I now realize that it would have been better had I done two things: (1) knelt down so that Jigi would have been looking at the camera at his eye-level and (2) told a story with the photo....perhaps showing the ball we had been playing with at Jigi's feet.



Props can come across as artificial and intrusive or they can contribute to the narratives that viewers of photographs construct to interpret what is before their eyes.

Look at this picture from the November newsletter of Lia Bijesterveld's Border Terrier Dobby. It includes props...a ribbon, a rat tube, both of which contribute to our understanding of Lia's intent in taking this particular portrait.

Dobby, unlike Jigi, is a little tentative, a little hesitant in his dealings with the world. His facial expression captures this perfectly. Nevertheless this photo shows that he is a winner. That's his story.... and it's a compelling narrative.

Horizontal Orientation vs. Vertical Orientation

When Lia took this photograph of Dobby, she held the camera so that the picture plane was vertical. She also submitted two other photos to the newsletter with the picture plane horizontal. There was a first of these was an "action" shot of Dobby sniffing a rat tube and the second was a formal photo of her other Border Terrier Halley.



The photo of Halley has an air of calm and containment, probably because of her facial expression and her body attitude. The photo of Dobby, on the other hand, show action and the action is lateral. Dobby is moving his head to the right to sniff the end of the rat tube. When an animal's action is moving laterally, a horizontal picture plane is appropriate. When its action is directed up or down, a vertical picture plane is more effective. Because Halley accumulated more placement ribbons than Dobby, Lia turned her camera horizontally to include them, inadvertently providing us an interesting contrast in spatial orientation when action is not involved.

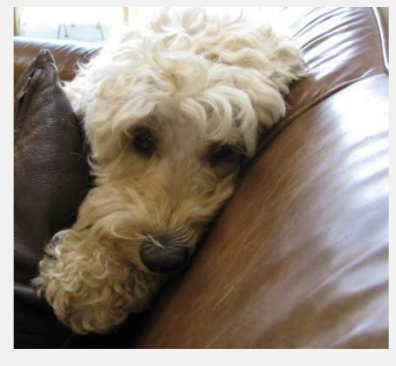
To the right is a perfectly beautiful photograph of Griz Moon taken by Kristi Coulter.

Notice that Griz has his head tilted to the right. Ms. Mallory mentioned that dogs look absolutely adorable with head tilts and perked ears. It is something to strive for in taking pictures of your companion animals.



Okay, how do you do this? You make outrageous and unexpected noises just before you click the shutter. (I cannot possibly describe the noises she demonstrated. They were straight out of a Stephen King novel.) Dogs immediately snap to attention in the present of weird sounds (but don't try this with cats. With cats, you need erratic motion).

The photos I have shown you so far are examples of full body shots. Here are a couple of examples of what Brooke called head shots. Notice how effective an eye-level photo is at capturing these dogs faces.

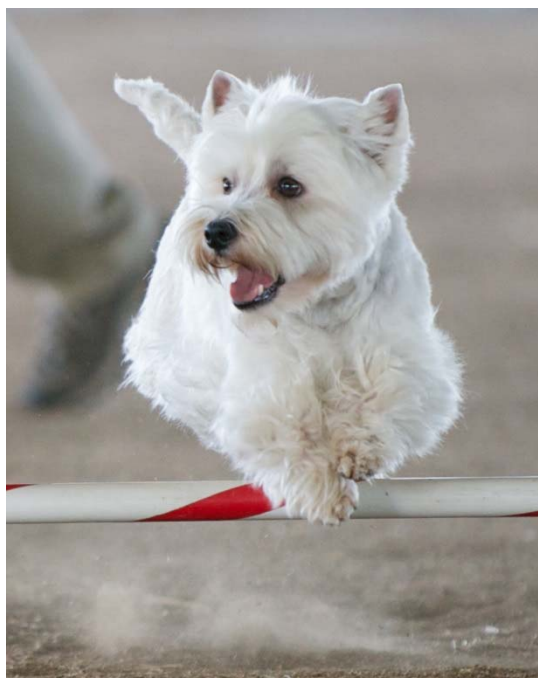


Here are some photos illustrating action. The first is courtesy of Barbara Murtaugh, who regularly photographs CDTA and Chaotic Canines agility trials. The second was taken at Western Washington University on New Year's Day when Pattie Moon, Griz, Zuzu and I went a-carting. Charles Bird took that one. In both of these the camera is held horizontally.



Here is my favorite picture of Zuzu at an agility trial. It was taken by a professional photographer whose name I have long since forgotten. Notice that he took this shot with a vertical picture plane. Generally professional photographers use the other orientation at agility trials because so much of the movement is horizontal, but this man switched things around for hoops and tunnels.

Editor's note: Here's a picture of Bosco, club member Karen Tilbury's dog, also taken by a professional. One of my favorite action shots.



Call for Calendar Photos

We're looking for more photos for a 2019 WHWTCOPS calendar. We didn't have enough photos to produce a calendar for 2018 but don't want to miss another year. If you haven't sent in a photo yet, or if you have sent photos but have since taken the perfect shot, please send it to Dee Thompson at dee.o.thompson@gmail.com. We're looking for photos with the minimum of 1024 x 768 resolution, which equates to roughly a 2 to 3 megapixel camera. Using some of the tips from the "Pet Photography 101" article starting on page 5, you're bound to come up with some great shots.

News Update: California is the First State to Ban Sales from Puppy Mills

On October 14, 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed a law requiring pet stores to work with animal shelters or rescue operations if they want to sell dogs, cats, or rabbits. It still allows private breeders to sell animals directly. Thirty six cities including Los Angeles and San Francisco already have similar bans on mass breeding operations.

Guess who is opposed to the bill? The American Kennel Club, according to Shelia Goffe, AKC Vice President of Government Relations, said the new legislature would "block California's pet lovers from having access to ethical commercial breeders. So what ethical breeder would sell their puppies to a pet store? – Karin Parish



Have you Bookmarked our Website?

www.whwtcops.org

Do you check it frequently to see what the upcoming events are?

Have you seen the newsletter section, the photo section and the rescue news section? Members of the Board of Directors are linked under contacts. We also have membership forms for new members. There are links to our Facebook page as well.

Stay on top of new events by checking out the website! – Karin Parish

2018 Rescue Stats — Karin Parish

Westies in rescue as of Dec 2017

I researched all the rescues and shelters in the entire USA and Canada USA in the month of December 2017. 151 Westies were listed in Rescue (almost all mixes – and 9 were black and white or black and listed as Westies). There were only 24 purebreds – of those 16 were seniors 10+ in age.

In 2009 the ASPCA stats (of all the private rescues and shelters in USA) were 3.9 dogs in rescue. In 2011 this number dropped to 2.9 and in 2016 there were 1.9 million in shelters and rescue. This is a huge decline.

UPSIDE They are almost 2 million less dogs in rescue from 8 yrs ago, so there is some progress. I see very few Westies in rescue, except for senior dogs.



This is a personal invitation to our members to volunteer for some of our events. You'll have much more fun, and it gives us a chance to know you better. The events we host can be labor intensive when there are not enough people to ease the workload. We are looking for volunteers for the upcoming events. It's a great way to get involved and have more fun at the events. Please contact either Linda or Karin to volunteer.

Linda lg899a@gmail.com or Karin kparish@whidbey.com



**We are looking for
volunteers to assist with:**

➔ **Chinese New Year Party *Year of the Dog* on February 17, 2018**

*need raffle ticket sellers, hospitality set up, help with games, registration table, decoration ideas and set up help and photo area set up, help with games, registration table, teardown and clean up.

➔ **Seattle Kennel Club Meet the Breed booth on March 10 & 11, 2018**

*need volunteers to represent our Club and to greet public and talk about the breed, bring well-behaved dog, split times with other people for booth coverage. Volunteer 4-hour shifts.

Club Officers, Directors and Contacts

Upcoming Events



President
Linda Gray
lgn899a@comcast.net



Vice President
Jeannette Melchior
melchior323@centurylink.net

January 6, 10 am
Board Meeting
Kirkland Library

February 17, 12:30 pm,
Chinese New Year
celebration
Academy of Canine
Behavior



**Treasurer and
Newsletter Editor**
Dee Thompson
dee.o.thompson@gmail.com



Secretary
Sharon Newsom
Sharonsnewsom@gmail.com



**Director, Membership
Chair, Webmaster**
Karin Parish
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Director
Colleen Brazil
collbraz@gmail.com



Director
Annette Loy
loywestie@comcast.net



Director
Sandy Davis
lanark@comcast.net

New Members

Barbara Trejo
Phil/Robin McClelland

**Westie Foundation
Liaison**
Cyndee Lockwood



Rescue
**Karin Parish and
Judy Lane**
pugetwesties@gmail.com

Robin Ryan
Photographer

New Member Applications

Nancy Salmon
Daniel Statt

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