



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Spring 2019



President's Message — Linda Gray

Spring is finally here, and it is so welcome. Don't know about you, but the snow lasted far too long. It's amazing how fast this year is passing, we've already had three events with one nearly every month for the rest of the year. Thank you to Christine for organizing our participation at the Seattle Kennel Club (SKC) event March 9th and 10th. It was very successful. I couldn't believe how many came by to get their Westie fix. I actually liked having the dog booths on the main floor with the competitive events like agility, conformation, dancing, etc. The public was far more likely to wander over to visit rather than having to climb the stairs to the mezzanine where we were before. Please note — SKC officials confirmed that SKC will not be moving to Puyallup next year. SKC will instead remain at CenturyLink.

Speaking of Spring, please be sure to check out the events listed under the Calendar tab on our website. The Cherry Blossom festival, Academy of Canine Behavior (ACB), Bothell, April 13, should be fantastic. Thank you to Dee and Karin for your hard work in putting this together. I'm really pleased we can use our Chinese New Year costumes from last year, enjoy games, and hopefully with nice weather send enjoy our dogs outside too. Colleen and Annette have us returning to Seward Park for a Westie Walk May 18. Last time we were there it was also in May with a temperature of 85 degrees. Hope we come close to that again. The ground was covered with daisies, the mountain was out and people were swimming. Next we have invited the Scotties for our annual Clash of the Clans, June 8, ACB, Bothell. Luring, games, and a potluck have been planned. Please check out the flyers attached here and on our Website for more information.

You'll notice some great member articles this time, please be sure to send yours. We are always looking for articles from our members and now we also want you to please send in your favorite photo for our 2020 calendar. Please be sure to send both to Dee Thompson.

Thank you as always for your support.



Not quite as good as a Westie kiss — Linda kissing her camel, Casanova in Egypt last week

Seattle Kennel Club Dog Show and Breed Education Booths

Members and their dogs participated in the show and breed booth on March 9 and 10. With the change in booth location we were unsure of how things would go but there were lots of visitors who stopped by to pet and find out more about our favorite breed. On Saturday Keoki participated in agility then greeted guests, along with Duncan, Cassie, Brodie, Lester and Callie. Thanks to Diane Hover and Alan Hasagawa, Linda Gray, Colleen Brazil, Ann Marie Rose, Sharon Mork and Dee Thompson. On Sunday, Bailey (who showed, and had fun!), Tippy, Paco and Keoki felt the love. Thanks to Christine Corbley, Ileana Calinoiu and John Rose, as well as Diane, Alan, who returned a second day and helped break down the booth.



Keoki going through his paces on the course



Sandy Campbell with Camcrest Irene at Rendezvous (she won Saturday and was BOS Sunday)



Bailey getting the "once over"



"I've got my show coat on!"



Duncan greeting visitors



Ann Marie and Brodie (Sharon Mork and Lester in the background)

MEETING UP WITH OLD FRIENDS ... Karin Parish

The weekend of March 9/10th was the Seattle Kennel Club Dog show where several clubs had Meet the Breed Booth. This year they rearranged all the set ups and we were down on the floor in a corner behind agility. I was in my Sealyham Terrier booth facing a cinder block wall and behind the curtains was the Westie booth. Down our Aisle were the Corgis and it was ironic that our breeds all came from Wales. It looked like Christmas – all the Red and Green Dragon flags up to signify Wales.

I was only there Sunday and we were talking to the public about where the breed came from, what they were used for, I show maps of the location of Capt. Edwards Estate (the man who developed the breed. I was chattering away like a tour guide. Lo and behold a Westie nose separates the curtains behind our display and then I see it being pulled back behind the curtains.



I had been chatting away and all the sudden Ileana comes around the corner and says “Hi, Paco wants to say Hello”. I thought it was kind of strange, because I had seen Paco on many occasions at different Westie events, and he really wasn’t dying to say hi. I kept talking to the crowd and then a Westie head comes through the curtains again. Around the side aisle comes John with Paco and says, “Paco wants to say hi”. I said, “I’ve seen him several times and he never acknowledged me before” (I’m wondering at this point, this is strange) John doesn’t leave and is holding Paco.



Finally John said, “Paco is behind the curtain and keeps crying to come over here and he wants to see your Sealy’s. Remember he stayed at your house for a couple of weeks before we adopted him! He remembers Birdie. He isn’t wanting to go see any other dogs in the show.” (Lightbulb moment!) I thought, you are kidding that was two years ago. All the sudden Paco makes his way to the xpen which contained Birdie, and tails were a waggin!

It just mystifies me that he remembered my dogs after two years, with a brief stint at my house as a rescue dog. Just goes to show you that dogs are amazing creatures. Photo is of Ileana and Paco.

In closing I wanted to say that Paco was surrendered due to the couple now starting a family. I see this all the time. A couple gets a dog to create a family in the household, and then the babies come and the dog snaps the first time a toddler grabs a handful of hair, and the dog is out the door. This is another reason I don’t like newlyweds getting puppies! They had Paco for 6 yrs. After he was adopted Ileana and John took him to the vet and found out he had a cancerous growth. They opted to operate and remove the growth which was a pretty penny. I thank them for being determined to keep this westie. He has found a lovely home and is living with his Westie Brother, Typpy Rose. You’ll always see Ileana and John at all our Westie gatherings and Westie walks.

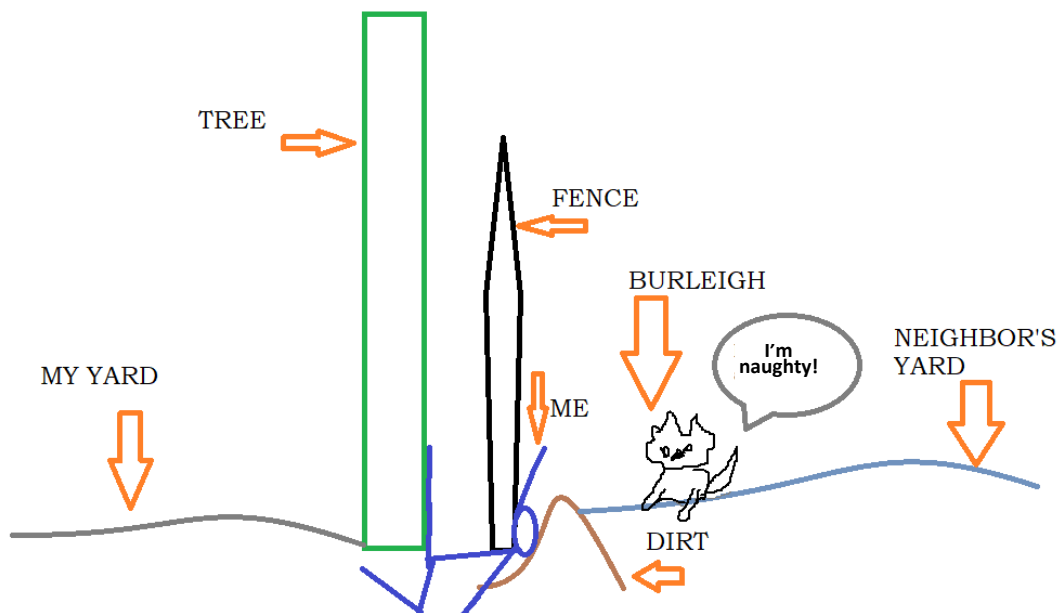
Burleigh's Story

By Liz Burr-Brandstadt

We got a new fence (last one blew down in wind storm) and for reasons I won't get into, the new fence had to be elevated.

So, Burleigh can get under it.

I was outside stapling chicken wire (so he can't get under it) and he went BEHIND MY BACK and slipped through. Now he's loose in a neighborhood that I have to drive 1/2 a mile to even access (not connected to us at all). Ran to my car, drove over there, couldn't find him (but a nice lady there said she'd pray for me), drove home. Tried to shimmy under the new fence (Westie-size, not human-size) and saw him! "Hi Burleigh! Come here, boy! Come here, sweetie! You want a treat?" He came over and just kept running back and forth in front of my face. Finally I grabbed his leg and yanked him down. Covered in dirt (me not him). Soooooo proud of himself.



Trophy Fundraising letters mailed!

Our annual trophy fundraising letter should have made it to your mailbox. This is a great way for your kennel to be listed in the show catalog or to remember a beloved pet no longer with us.

To Show or Not to Show: an interview with Sandy Davis

By Colleen Brazil

Since I became a member of the West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound, I have been fascinated and bewildered by those in the club who take on the noble job of showing and breeding Westies. They are the true saviors of the breed ensuring that Westies maintain AKC standards. They are also the best hope for eradicating genetic disorders perpetuated by puppy mills or careless breeding.

To show a Westie, I thought a bath, a brush and the natural Westie charm was all that was needed. I wanted to learn more about what is involved, so I recently paid a visit to Sandy Davis, a longtime club member, breeder and owner of champion show dogs, to see what I could learn from her. My questions barely scratched the surface of her vast knowledge, but I went away understanding that if we want our Westie breed to thrive and survive long into the future, we need to support the shows and breeding that give us that insurance.

Colleen: I understand that the West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound was originally formed to protect and advance the interests and welfare of all purebred Westies. These days, many people in our club are pet owners and do not show their dogs or even know where to begin - like me. Can you give a brief history of how popular it was for Westie club members to show dogs in past years?

Sandy: The first iteration of the club was formed in the 1970's with people who had dogs they wanted to show, but for various reasons, that club went defunct. It was reformed in 1988 when professional handler Dennis Springer started showing club member's dogs. They also had an AKC judge to help guide them. They started doing All Breed (AB) matches, but had the capability to do other shows which they eventually did. Most members back in those days showed their dogs.

Colleen: How important is participation in Kennel Club shows to maintain the breed?

Sandy: It is very important. It is one of the only places where Westie owners can interact with the public and have opportunities to educate them about the breed. The more interactions we have with the public to share our knowledge, the better it is for awareness and love of the breed to grow.

Colleen: How would we know if our Westie pet would qualify to show?

Sandy: Ask someone who is showing or a breeder who can look at your dog and tell you if it has the characteristics needed to compete. However, because showing is highly competitive, some might not be as willing to give you advice. Find someone who genuinely wants to share information.

Colleen: Is it best to get started with a puppy or is there an age limit for showing your Westie?



Sandy Davis and Clancy

Sandy: It depends on the quality of the pet. Age is not as important as temperament and physical qualities, but since confirmation is to identify breeding stock, the dog must be of age to breed. They must not be spayed or neutered and they must be AKC registered.

Colleen: How do you know if your puppy is show worthy?

Sandy: A good breeder can see their characteristics by 8 -10 weeks. The best clue is when you can start to see if they are going to look like mom or dad, especially when the breeder has experience with several generations - they can tell.



Colleen: How would you advise someone who knows nothing about dog showing to prepare their dog for a confirmation competition?

Sandy: First, if you have an inexperienced dog, take it to dog shows so it can be comfortable in the setting. Watch the champions closely. Evaluate what they are doing and try to emulate what they do. Look at how they handle their dog.

Then, talk with people who are showing to find out if that is what you would like to do. Of course, wait until after they have shown their dogs to talk with them, as they will be more relaxed and will have the time to talk. Before they show, they are busy and pre-occupied, so if you want good information, it is best to wait.

Sandy and Clancy, ready to go!

Be aware that showing for confirmation is very competitive and the breed has very specific grooming requirements. It is a lot of work, so you need to know what you are getting into.

And remember, if you do decide to compete and you lose, treat it as a learning experience, you can't take the loss personally. You have to be objective even though that is difficult, since it feels very personal. Instead, treat every loss as an opportunity to learn, don't have hard feelings and don't be discouraged.

Colleen: What are the primary characteristics that make a good show dog? What is more important — physical characteristics or temperament?

Sandy: A good show dog must project attitude, but physical characteristics are equally important. The dog must be outgoing, friendly and inquisitive and project all the qualities of the breed. Temperament is not the only thing, but it is very important.

Colleen: Are show dogs required to be neutered or not?

Sandy: Dogs that compete in confirmation cannot be spayed or neutered. Confirmation ensures the breed standards continue. A champion has the best qualities of the breed, so it is important that these qualities are passed on to future generations.

Continued on Page 13



Date: April 13, 2019 (NEW DATE!)

Time: 1:00p – 3:30p

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
- Bring your Own Chairs Please.



Games/Events:

- Lucky dog Musical chairs
- Dress Up Cherry Blossom Parade
- Chinese outfit contest
- Raffle Basket Drawing

*admission covers rental of the facility

Westie Cherry Blossom Festival

Xylitol and Your Dog: Danger, Paws Off

[Subscribe: FDA Consumer Health Information](#)

Your six-month-old puppy, Hoover, will eat anything that isn't tied down. Like many dog owners, you know chocolate can be dangerous to your pooch. But you may not know that if Hoover sticks his nose in your handbag and eats a pack of sugarless chewing gum, the consequences could be deadly.

Sugarless gum may contain xylitol, a class of sweetener known as sugar alcohol. Xylitol is present in many products and foods for human use, but can have devastating effects on your pet.

Over the past several years, the Center for Veterinary Medicine at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has received several reports—many of which pertained to chewing gum—of dogs being poisoned by xylitol, according to Martine Hartogensis, a veterinarian at FDA.

And you may have heard or read news stories about dogs that have died or become very ill after eating products containing xylitol.

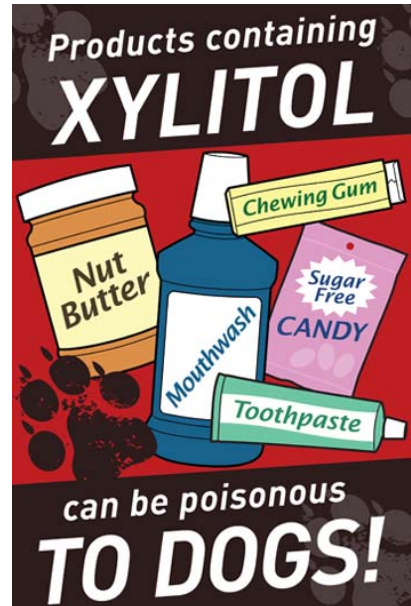
Other Foods Containing Xylitol

But gum isn't the only product containing xylitol. Slightly lower in calories than sugar, this sugar substitute is also often used to sweeten sugar-free candy, such as mints and chocolate bars, as well as sugar-free chewing gum. Other products that may contain xylitol include:

- breath mints
- baked goods
- cough syrup
- children's and adult chewable vitamins
- mouthwash
- toothpaste
- some peanut and nut butters
- over-the-counter medicines
- dietary supplements
- sugar-free desserts

Why is Xylitol Dangerous to Dogs, but Not People?

In both people and dogs, the level of blood sugar is controlled by the release of insulin from the pancreas. In people, xylitol does not stimulate the release of insulin from the pancreas. However, it's different in canines: When dogs eat something containing xylitol, the xylitol is more quickly absorbed into the bloodstream, and may result in a potent release of insulin from the pancreas.



Download this graphic from Flickr.

This rapid release of insulin may result in a rapid and profound decrease in the level of blood sugar (hypoglycemia), an effect that can occur within 10 to 60 minutes of eating the xylitol. Untreated, this hypoglycemia can quickly be life-threatening, Hartogenesis says.

Symptoms to Look For in Your Dog

Symptoms of xylitol poisoning in dogs include vomiting, followed by symptoms associated with the sudden lowering of your dog's blood sugar, such as decreased activity, weakness, staggering, incoordination, collapse and seizures.

If you think your dog has eaten xylitol, take him to your vet or an emergency animal hospital immediately, Hartogenesis advises. Because hypoglycemia and other serious adverse effects may not occur in some cases for up to 12 to 24 hours, your dog may need to be monitored.

(A note to cat owners: The toxicity of xylitol for cats has not been documented. They appear to be spared, at least in part, by their disdain for sweets.)

What Can You Do to Avoid Xylitol Poisoning in Your Dog?

"If you're concerned about your dog eating a food or product with xylitol in it, check the label of ingredients. If it does, indeed, say that it contains xylitol, make sure your pet can't get to it." Hartogenesis says. In addition:

- Keep products that contain xylitol (including those you don't think of as food, such as toothpaste) well out of your dog's reach. Remember that some dogs are adept at counter surfing.
- Only use pet toothpaste for pets, never human toothpaste.
- If you give your dog nut butter as a treat or as a vehicle for pills, check the label first to make sure it doesn't contain xylitol.

You Can Help FDA by Reporting Safety Issues

FDA wants to know if your pet encounters safety issues with a product, and/or unanticipated harmful effects that you believe are related to a product.

"Timely reporting of problems enables FDA to take prompt action," Hartogenesis says. Each report is evaluated to determine how serious the problem is and, if necessary, additional information may be requested from the person who filed the report.

You can report problems related to both human and pet foods and treats at the [Safety Reporting Portal](#).

October 25, 2018

YOU'RE INVITED!!!

WESTIE CLUB SPRING DOG WALK

Saturday - May 18th, 2019

Seward Park 10:00am-1:00pm



Get out and stretch your legs, and treat your best friend to some fun. Bring your own lunch, a chair or blanket for lunchtime, water for you and your dog & poop bags.



DIRECTIONS:

<http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Reserve/Picnic/Seward.pdf>

MEET : We will meet at or near the picnic shelter next to the Environmental and Audubon Center near where S. Juneau St. and Lake Washington Blvd. S meet at the traffic circle. If the shelter is already reserved, we will meet close by. Parking is limited so arrive early. Our walk will start at 10:30 after everyone arrives.

FREE PARKING ** FREE ADMISSION*** SEE YA THERE !**

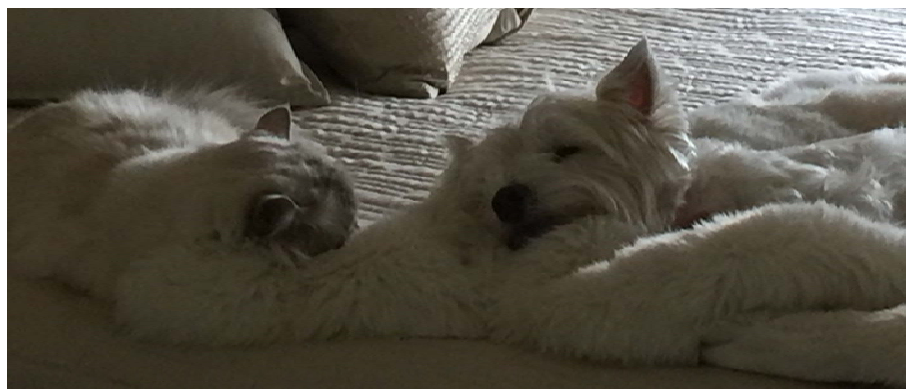
TROOP LEADERS: COLLEEN AND ANNETTE

Sneak Peek at the 2020 WHWTCOPS Calendar Your Photos Wanted!



The club will publish a member photo calendar for a fund-raiser again this year. Please send you photos to dee.thompson@gmail.com. We expect to have the calendar available for sale at the Halloween party.

Photo ideas...



Napping with a friend

Headed for his new home

Good Bye Ruffy

By Paul Meshke and Charlotte Bertsch

Sadly on February 14 we had to say good bye to Sir McRuff, AKA Ruffy; he'd been with us for 15 years to the day.

Many in the Club knew Ruffy, mostly from his adventures i.e., being in Auntie Sharon's car when it was stolen and 'dumped' in Vancouver WA, or falling into May Creek when Charlotte wasn't looking, floating a half mile downstream, climbing out and going to a strange house and barking for them to open the door. There was also the time he was barking continually in the back yard, when checking out what was going on we found him nose to nose with a raccoon attempting to come down a tree, and Ruffy saying "no you are not."



In Ruffy's life there never was a stranger; he liked everyone and wanted everyone to know and like him. One his favorite outings was going with Charlotte to Pike Street Market. He knew all the fish vendors and exactly where they were located. He would 'drag' Charlotte to their stall. If they did not immediately give him some smoked salmon, he would quite loudly announce he was there and wanted his treat. After visiting each of the fish vendors it was across the street to the cheese maker for more treats and then to the ice cream shop for a small scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Agility was something we did together, he was better than his handler was, and has the ribbons to prove it. At his first trial he went through the course prefect, until he came to the A frame that is when he spotted the judge. He knew Mike from the training center and rather than go over the A Frame he decided to go say hello, we did not qualify on that run. Ruffy, like most Westies had a mind of his own, he refused to do the weave poles, he knew how, he just would not. I guess he thought it dumb.

With Ruff's love of people, he enjoyed going to the Scottish Highland Games and to Seattle Kennel Club Meet the Breed events. He was in 'heaven' when people paid attention to him and petted his soft coat.



Being bigger than most of the Westies people always picked him out, saying, "He is bigger than the others." Because of his size, he picked up the name Hercules from a couple of club members.

Ruffy was a constant companion, always eager to go, even if it was simply to the store, or on a long hike, he was up for it. You will be missed, Ruff; have fun chasing all the squirrels and rabbits that are beyond the Garden Gate.

Sandy Davis Interview Continued from Page 6

Colleen: If you show your dog, must they also be skilled in agility and or obedience or are those completely separate events?

Sandy: Confirmation and agility are separate events. Sometimes a dog will participate in both, but it's not required. It would require a lot of training time.

If you don't want to compete for confirmation or you want to find another event to participate in, there are many options such as performance, agility and obedience. These events can also be a great way to introduce your dog to show events and a way to put training into practice.



Sandy receiving her appreciation plaque in 2018

Performance competition is competing against the standard and not between individual dogs. Confirmation is a competition between individuals and that makes it much more competitive.

Colleen: What type of grooming is required to show your dog? Is it best to hire someone or learn to do it yourself?

Sandy: The only grooming that is acceptable for showing is a 'stripped' coat. You can learn to do this yourself. It would be very expensive to hire someone to do this for you and could cost \$40-\$80 per hour. The process involves 'stripping' which needs to be done every couple of weeks. It typically takes 2-4 hours. The more you do it the easier it becomes. The key to ending up with a good looking coat is to first get a picture in your mind of what you want it to look like.

Grooming is probably the hardest part of the preparation. One dog is manageable, but more than that will keep you very busy.

Colleen: How stressful is it for the dog to show? The owner?

Sandy: The stress is on the owner. There is not much stress for the dog. They get lots of treats and attention during the event so they are quite happy.

Colleen: At the time of the show, who handles the dog? The owner or do you hire someone?

Sandy: You can hire a handler, but they typically charge around \$200 per show. You can also take classes from a handler to learn how to handle your dog. This is the best thing to do to get started. In Canada, everyone who shows is an owner/handler. However, having a good handler is worth its weight in gold. It can make all the difference in the outcome of the competition.

If you learn to do it yourself, remember that people who are not experienced handlers have won and can win. You can't get discouraged easily.

Colleen: Do you know if there are mentors who would be willing to guide someone who wants to get started showing?

Sandy: You can learn from someone that shows a similar breed - doesn't have to be the exact breed. For example, if you could find a good handler of another type of terrier, you could still learn a lot. There are some good handlers that might mentor, but there are many who won't or don't have the time to do so. Don't forget, if a handler has a Westie, you are their competition so not everyone is willing to give up their secrets. There are lots of politics involved.

Colleen: Is it expensive to show your dog? What might you roughly expect to spend in a year?

Sandy: Yes, it can be expensive. It can run from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year. For example an entry is around \$35, so if you do two days that is \$70. If you add \$110 for grooming on the day, plus travel expenses to get to the show, it can add up quickly.

Colleen: Is there anything else you'd like to add that you think is important for Westie pet owners to know about showing or generally ensuring that the breed survives and thrives?

Sandy: Supporting dog shows is important. It is where the breed standard is maintained and where breeders go to evaluate the dogs. And it is where you can have the opportunity to educate the public about the breed. Also, there are not many younger people breeding and this is concerning. Most of the breeders in our area have many years' experience, but will not be able to breed forever.

After the interview ended, I was treated to a visit by one of Sandy's champions. The minute her prize Westie came into the room, I could tell he was a champ. Besides being an extremely handsome boy, he oozed personality and charm. Just like what the AKC looks for in confirmations - he had all the attributes of a stellar West Highland White Terrier.

If breeding or showing for Confirmation sound too daunting for you, then consider volunteering to bring your Westie to one of the 'Meet the Breed' type booths the club sponsors at events several times per year (see the club calendar page for dates <http://www.whwtcops.org/calendar.php>) and help the club educate the public about why we are so passionate about the breed. And check out the AKC website listed below to learn more about confirmation and other events.

More Resources:

For more about the history of the WHWTCOPS see the club website History page http://www.whwtcops.org/club_history.php.

An online primer by the AKC, [A Beginners Guide to Dog Shows](https://images.akc.org/pdf/events/conformation/GESHW1.pdf), can be found at <https://images.akc.org/pdf/events/conformation/GESHW1.pdf>

Visit Sandy's website to see photos of her beautiful champions and to learn how she got started. <https://lanarkstone.com/>

Club Officers, Directors and Contacts

Upcoming Events



President
Linda Gray
Ign899a@gmail.com



Vice President
Jeannette Melchior
melchior323@centurylink.net

April 13, 1 – 3 pm Cherry Blossom Festival
Academy of Canine Behavior



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



Secretary
Sharon Newsom
Sharonsnewsom@gmail.com

May 4, 10 am Board Meeting
Bellevue Library

May 18 Westie Walk
Seward Park, Seattle



Director
Colleen Brazil
collbraz@gmail.com

June 29, 10 am Board Meeting
Location TBA



Director
Annette Loy
bunnywestie@comcast.net



Director
Kathryn Watanabe
Kwatanabe.wa@comcast.net

New Members

Vote postponed due to SNOW! Will be voted in at the Cherry Blossom Festival Party on April 13



Membership Chair, Webmaster
Karin Parish
kparish@whidbey.com

Rescue
Karin Parish and Vickie Ray
pugetwesties@gmail.com



Westie Foundation Liaison
Cyndee Lockwood
jclock4@comcast.net



Robin Ryan
Photographer

New Member Applications

Jordan/Brittany Entler
Carolyn McKernan
James/Barbara Dibble
John Rose/
Ileana Calinoiu
Richard Columbare
Raymond Ma
Caroline Wood

Visit Our Website

www.whwtcops.org

