



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Winter 2025



**Brody and Skye both wish you
a fun-filled 2025!**

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Best wishes to Westie enthusiasts in the new year! Hope you've had wonderful holidays and are ready to have fun with your Westies in 2025.

Our new WHWTCOPS board will meet in two weeks to plan this year's activities – Westie walks, dog parties, and the PNW highland games are surely on the list.

What's on your list for 2025? Please consider hosting a Westie walk at a local dog friendly spot. Ask any board member: volunteering to host can be more difficult than it looks, but you are terrier owners and understand that a positive attitude and dogged persistence can get you a long way. So, volunteer to host or co-host a Westie walk. Your dog will love you for it.

Speaking of volunteers, we are in need of a new newsletter editor. Skills required: a solid knowledge of Microsoft Word, smart phone to snap pictures, plus some writing and editing. In high school, I thought about becoming a journalist, so editing the newsletter has finally satisfied my yearning, but I need to hand off to someone new.

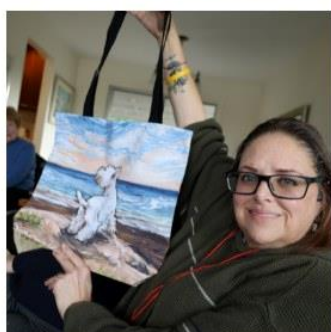
In addition to editing the newsletter, I also serve as web master. If anyone would like to take on that role, please let me know. In many ways, it is an easier job than the newsletter, but quite a bit more technical. My career in IT has come in handy.

One of my other passions in life is being a Westie owner. I plan to keep on doing that role for quite a while.

**Lesley Wilson,
President**

Scenes from the Westie Holiday High Tea, Dec. 14

Many thanks to Christine Corbley and her mom Charlotte for hosting our first ever Holiday High Tea Party at Charlotte's lovely Des Moines home. Our Secret Santa gift exchange was a hoot – many thanks to Robin Ryan for capturing these great photos.



Twas the Night Before Christmas – a Westie Christmas Poem

By Silvia Davis

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, 'cause I just killed that mouse.

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
So, I'm warning you, Grinch, you'd better not dare.

The Westies were nestled with their parents in bed
While visions of doggy treats danced in their heads.
And Mama in her PJs and Dad as we know
Were enjoying their glasses of Château Margaux.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
I hid under the sheets; you could hear my teeth chatter.
Dad went to the window to check out the noise
I followed to see and found just rowdy boys.

The fresh snow that we saw was covering the ground
And shining like diamonds from the lights of our town.

When what to my wondering eyes did I see
But a miniature sleigh pulled by eight small Westies.
With a little old driver, I assumed was St. Nick

I looked for "My List", I needed it quick.
The sleigh was amazing, pulled by Westies it came
Santa whistled and shouted and called each by name:
Now! Webster, Now! Zoey, Now! Duffy and Haggie
On! Indy, On! Irvin, On Bella and Daisy.
To the top of the porch! to the Top of the wall!
Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!

But Indy told Santa, "stop shouting, please stop.
We're known to have "Westietude" and your sleigh just might drop".
So, Santa softened his tone and to the housetops they flew
Stuffed animals were aboard and St. Nicholas was too.

I then heard a squabble coming straight from the roof
Zoey was yelling at Webster to get off her hoof.

As I quieted myself and was turning around
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot
To that I related, less the ashes and soot.

A bundle of objects were hanging out of his sack.
He sure could use lessons on how to better pack.
As I looked a bit closer, I saw lots of nice toys
That he brought to deliver to good girls and boys.
He had rosy little cheeks and a beard white as snow.
I was dying to pull it, but Mommie said NO!
The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth
I said, "put that thing out, it could catch fire to our tree".

He had a jovial face, but mischievous eyes.
I still wasn't so sure of this mysterious guy.
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf.
And I was beginning to like him in spite of myself.
He gave me a wink and I winked him right back.
From then on we were friends, and we never looked back.

He filled all of the stockings with toys from his bag.
Wish I'd not eaten his cookies; I felt really bad.
But he wasn't upset, he just waved a goodbye
And rose up the chimney, all ready to fly.
So he went to his sleigh, his team got the cue
And the Westies assembled and off they all flew.

So, Santa was gone; he drove out of my sight.
It was an amazing experience what happened that night.
So Mommie and I wish with all of our might
A Merry Christmas to All and to All a Good Night!



In Loving Memory of Beau, Daisy, Indie and Irvie,
Courtesy of Jeannette Melchior 🌈



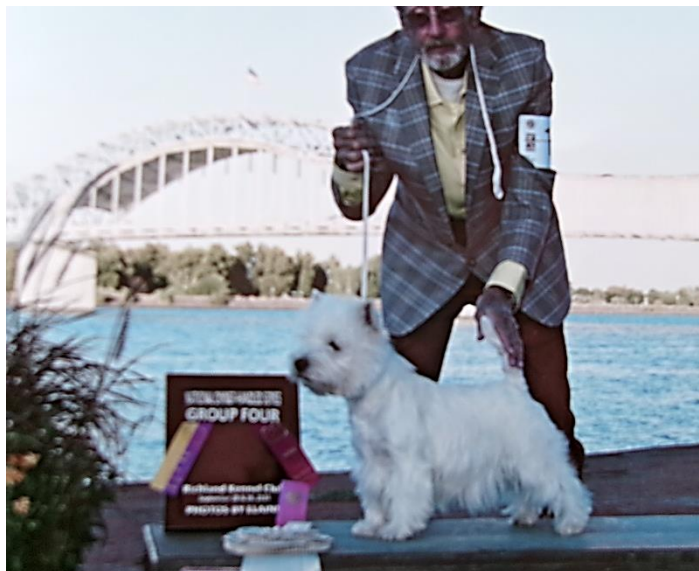
New Westie Champions of 2024

Two of our Pacific Northwest breeders, Vicki Fulton and Becky Clyde, have good news to share. In the last few months, both of them have new Westie champions. Both Vicki and Becky were mentored as breeders and handlers by our own longtime club member and Westie expert Sandy Davis.

Becky Clyde's Westie 'Breezee' taking top honors



Vicki and Ron Fulton's Westie 'Maggie' taking top honors





Breezee Clyde

Breezee gets her game face on



Breezee practices looking cute

A Heart-Felt Thank You to Our Mentor Sandy Davis

By Vicki Fulton and Becky Clyde



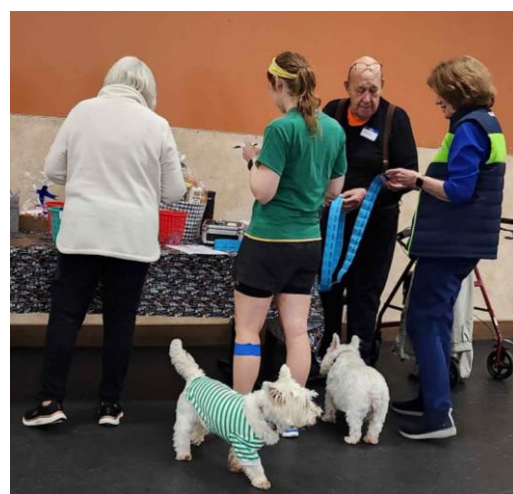
Long-time club member **Sandy Davis** has been a good friend and mentor to Becky Clyde, Vicki Fulton and so many other breeders and handlers in Puget Sound. Though retired from dog breeding, Sandy is fondly remembered for always being so welcoming and happy to pass on her years of knowledge and experience to any who asked. We will all miss her in her retirement years, but Vicki and Becky have their beloved show Westies, many of them started with Sandy's lines. Sandy knew her pedigrees from top to bottom for each dog and had many champions through her years of showing. Sandy, we feel so blessed and grateful to know you.

With Love, Vicki Fulton, Becky Clyde and many others.

Westie Halloween Party, Oct. 20th



Left: Who wants the rubber chicken?



Right: Doug Kimball sells Barb Sivertsen raffle tickets



Left: Lots of treats to share



Right: Jeannette Melchior and Cyndee Lockwood enjoy a photo op

Room and Board? All Aboard!

By Melinda Heller

Our family recently took a three week getaway to Europe. We are fortunate to have a beloved house sitter (my stepson) who Hilda-the-Westie adores. However, there may be occasions that come up when he is not available. So, I am exploring options for boarding, travel, and home care for all of our members.

Please share with me your ideas and options for travel and boarding. I will then put together a list of opinions, history and plans that we can all share. Please email me at **mheller01@comcast.net** or text me at 206-963-5741. Hopefully I can devise a systematic approach that is easily available to members of WHWTCOPS. I plan to assemble our experiences and options in an easily accessible manner before our next newsletter. As a Board Member at WHWTCOPS I will take on this role.

Please include your thoughts and experiences on:

1. Hotels/motels that are pet friendly: La Quinta? Motel 6?
2. Airlines: Alaska? Delta?
3. On line services. Rover?
4. Sharing with fellow members: Me?
5. Kennels: Petsmart?
6. Petsitters
7. Other thoughts?



I urge all members to participate so that we can safely and comfortably take care of our beloved westies.

Thank you! Melinda



Did You Know about Birch Sugar? Well, You Need to Know!

By Jeannette Melchior

Just a note to everyone about Xylitol. Did you know? I didn't know, and a couple of other Westie families didn't know. So, if I didn't and they didn't, maybe you don't know either!

While shopping at the market, a new product called "Birch Sugar" or "Birch Bark Extract" caught my attention when it was included in a new waffle/pancake syrup. Interesting, but when I read the label discovered it's Xylitol – which is fine for us "Hoomans" but deadly for our canine companions. I believe this is a new marketing attention-getter, but now it's another reason to read and reread some of these yummy labels that can lead to death for our 4-pawed friends.

Sooooo, in some of the new products you may enjoy and share with your best buddy – double down and read the label, 'cause although we were all aware and watchful for Xylitol in some of the products we share, it's now back to double duty watching for "Birch Sugar" – really Xylitol with a new enticing name.

WARNING: Xylitol poisoning can start within 20 minutes!!

[US FDA: Paws Off! Xylitol is Toxic to Dogs](#)

Sweet Potato Pill Snacks

By Lesley Wilson



When it comes to giving pills, I have one dog who eats almost anything – including pills – and another who turns her nose up at almost everything. Enter the sweet potato. I microwave the potato using the "potato" setting, let it cool, remove the skin, and then cut it into dice. Option: for easier handling, put the cooked cubes in a low oven for 30 minutes to dry them.

The pieces are soft enough to push the pill right into the cube. I give it to my Westie, Skye, and it goes right down the hatch. Both Skye and Brody love sweet potato cubes and eat them like they are the best treat

on earth. At around 80 cents a pound, one sweet potato makes lots of very inexpensive treats.

Per the FDA, refrigerated, cooked sweet potato lasts 3-5 days, so I freeze the extra. Of course, we could also just eat the rest of the baked sweet potato for dinner.



Looking for Westie Health Resources?

The **Westie Foundation of America** has a free, downloadable PDF file that you can access for comprehensive coverage of Westie health issues. The URL is:

[https://westiefoundation.org/files/galleries/WFA Westie Health Ebook.pdf](https://westiefoundation.org/files/galleries/WFA_Westie_Health_Ebook.pdf)

Have questions about allergies, nutrition, dry eye, spaying or neutering? These topics and more are covered by authorities in the field. Brief overviews cover general health and disease in Westies. Specific diseases are covered in depth with illustrations and references.

Club Officers, Directors and Contacts

Upcoming Events



**President,
Webmaster,
Newsletter
Editor,
Lesley Wilson**



**Vice President,
Jeannette
Melchior**

ATCWW Terrier Group Show
1PM, Friday, January 10, 2025
Washington State Fair Events Center
110 9th Ave. SW
Puyallup, WA



**Treasurer,
Dee Thompson**



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



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



**Director
Kathy Reed**



**Director,
Rescue
Representative,
Vicki Ray**



**Director,
Melinda Heller**

New Members

Jessica Gross, Woodinville, WA
Jane Hunt/Allen Olson , Ruston, WA



**Director
Lois Briscoe
Kimball**



**Breeder Referral
Vicki Fulton**

New Member Applications

Visit our website:
www.whwtcops.org



**Photographer,
Robin Ryan**

