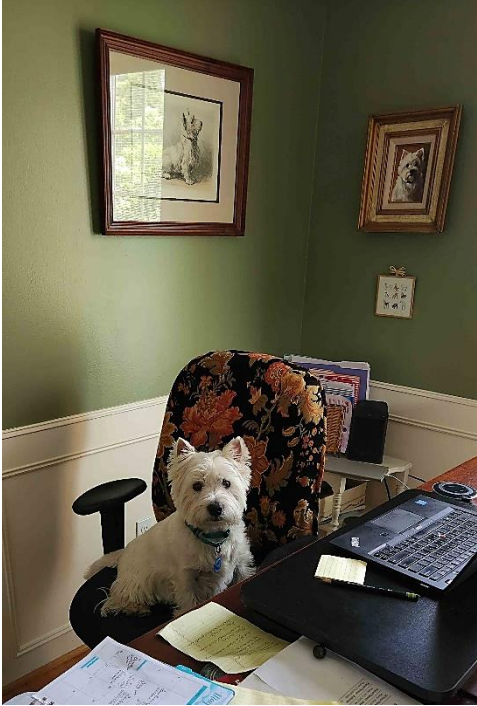




Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Summer 2025

Summer Activities Are On the Way



The Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games are coming up in a few weeks. The games feature caber tossing and other “heavy events” of great strength, plus drum and pipe bands kitted out in traditional Scottish uniforms. That being said, people love to see highland dog breeds. The Celtic Kennel meet-the-breed booths are a top draw for visitors. The WHWTCOPS will be there, educating the public about Westies, their temperament, willful natures, and responsible pet ownership.

Summer is a great time to enjoy spectacular views of Puget Sound. Please join Christine Corbley in Des Moines on August 2nd and Vicki Ray at Dune Peninsula Park in Tacoma on September 14th.

We have lots of great pictures from past events to share with you in this Westie Sounds issue.

In April, we danced with our dogs at the Spring Fling party at the Academy of Canine Behavior in Bothell. I researched Scottish country dances and learned that they are like the square dances I did in grade school. With leashes in hand, about 20 dog and handler couples followed dance “calls” and walked in traditional patterns. Amazing.

Photos recap the Lake Sammamish June and May Edmonds Westie walks – great weather for both walks!

Lesley Wilson,

President, WHWTCOPS

Saturday, August 2nd

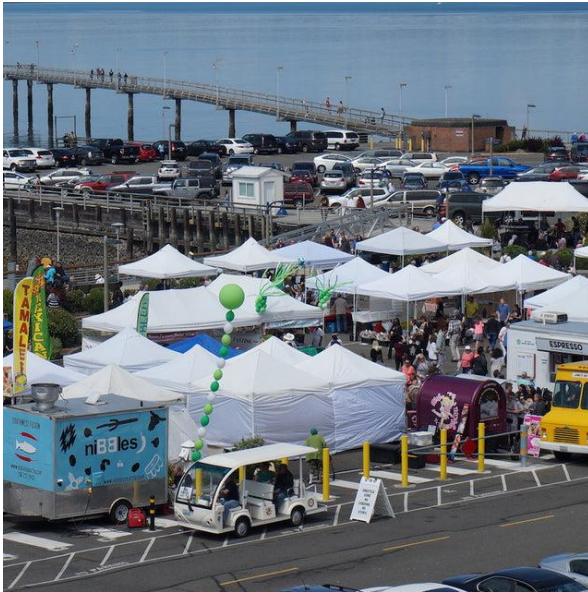
Des Moines Marina Westie Walk & Lunch @ the Market

When: Saturday, August 2, 2025

Time: 10:30am

Meet Spot: South Marina Park (22633 6th Ave S, Des Moines, WA 98198) located at the south end of the Des Moines Marina and just north of Anthony's Home Port

Host: Christine Corbley, 206-595-5951



We will meet in South Marina Park, located next to the Sealife Response Rehab and Research facility, NE of Anthony's Home Port. You will have to pay for parking at the marina. Marina | BeachPark Paid Parking - Des Moines Marina . We will walk the marina and the north end park and explore the market and have lunch if you would like.



As always, bring poop bags and water for you and your Westie

WHWTCOPS SUMMER WESTIE WALK

When: Sunday, September 14, 2025

Time: Noon

Meet spot: Picnic Pavilion

Location: Dune Peninsula @ Pt Defiance Park

Host: Vicki Ray

Plenty of parking, easy walking and great views.
Plenty of places to sit and rest or have a sandwich
and visit. Restrooms are clean and conveniently
located.



We will meet in front of the building with the restrooms (Picnic Pavilion) at noon. Bring poop bags and water for you and your dog/s.

FARMERS MARKET FROM 11-4pm on Sunday.

Directions: Use Google Maps

Enter your destination as: Dune Peninsula at Point Defiance Park, 5361 Yacht Club Rd, Tacoma, WA 98407. Go past employee lot, paid parking towards yacht club. You hit dead end and go left. Red Square indicates free parking.



Spring Fling Party Pics – Saturday, April 26th



Westies at Lake Sammamish June 7th



Edmonds Westie Walk on May 18th



See us at the....

Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering

July 26th & 27th

**Enumclaw Expo Center
45224 284th Avenue SE
Enumclaw, Washington 98022**

Clan Westie will be at the Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games **Celtic Kennel** the last weekend in July – the 26th and 27th. Jeannette Melchior will be our Saturday Booth Coordinator and Lesley Wilson will be the Sunday Booth Coordinator. We will have 5 to 6 dogs and handlers staffing our booth throughout the weekend.

Always a special treat: we're marching in the noontime Celtic Kennel parade, following the kilted drum and pipe bands. For some reason, Westies love to strut their stuff in front of an audience, and the crowds promise to be big.

Many thanks to booth volunteers and their canny canines!



Products We Love

Tooth Cleaner – Karin Parish

I received a rescue dog who came with PetLabCo ProBright Advanced dental cleaner. The dog is 4 years old, and her teeth are white! I ordered some for my dog, Ruby, and it takes about 90 days for it to really work effectively - but she LOVES IT! I mixed it with a little food, and she inhaled it. It has chicken liver flavor (organ meat so it's not the same as the chicken in dog food, no allergies to report). Since vet dental treatments are about \$700-\$1800, it's a deal!



MalAcetic Ultra Ear Cleanser – Lesley Wilson

In the past year I've dealt with serious ear infections in both of my Westies. My vet recommended MalAcetic Ultra, and it's a game changer. It addresses everything: antimicrobial, antiseborrheic (yeast, dermatitis), and anti-itching properties to handle bacterial or fungal ear conditions. I use it when issues develop and as an occasional ear cleaner. Impressive, and way cheaper than a vet visit at about \$18 a bottle.

iRobot J6 Roomba: Mommy's Little Helper, Part 2 – Melinda Heller



Two years ago, I purchased my first iRobot Roomba. I fell in love! She saved me time, money, and cleaned the floors better than a vacuum or broom. Baby Hilda, my westie, became accustomed and tolerant of Little Roomba. Then....the reckoning.

Hilda left a Sunday morning poopy by the back door. Roomba zoomed to work. Roomba zoomed over the poopy

and spread the wealth all over the carpet. Roomba Number 1 went into the trash.

In May, Costco had a new sale for the J6 Roomba. Allegedly it had a specific sensor to avoid pet poop. So...Hilda obliged to go try it out the first week. It works! No more messy poops. I am so sorry to have to report the necessity of having a Pet Poop Deterrent. C'est la vie!





Westie Foundation Expands Canine Clinical Trial in Response to Worldwide Interest

Dog owners asked for their pets to be included in drug study in canines suffering from lung scarring

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, June 13, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ – The [Westie Foundation of America](#) (WFA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to the health and well-being of the West Highland White Terrier breed announced today the expansion of a drug study that was launched in December 2024. The drug, named 4MU, is being studied for the treatment of deadly lung scarring called Pulmonary Fibrosis (PF), sometimes also called Westie Lung Disease (WLD).



West Highland White Terrier closeup

Due to increased interest and demand from around the world, the study of the investigational drug study is expanding to include West Highland White Terriers, "Westies," and other canines

“

Westie owners from around the world have been asking for their dogs to be included. We listened and now, dogs living just about anywhere are being welcomed into the study,”

Bebe Pinter, President, Westie Foundation of America

suffering from the deadly lung disease and living virtually anywhere in the world.. The study was originally open to Westies only in the United States . The expanded study will now include Westies in the U.S. and worldwide and other breeds affected by PF will also be considered.

“Westie owners from around the world have been asking for their dogs to be included. We listened and now, dogs living just about anywhere are being welcomed into the study,” said Bebe Pinter, President of the Westie Foundation of America.

Click here for further information and to [view the full document](#).

Why Do Dogs Bite? Understanding the Reasons Why Dogs React

By Sassafras Patterdale, CPDT-KA, CTDI

Published: Apr 01, 2021 | Excerpt from: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/training/why-do-dogs-bite/>

No one likes to think their dog could be capable of biting. One of the most common questions most of us get when someone wants to greet our dog is, “Does your dog bite?” If your dog enjoys meeting people you probably tell them that no, your dog doesn’t bite.

But the reality is that under the right circumstances, all dogs can bite.

What that person is really asking is if your dog will bite in reaction to them reaching down to say hello. If your dog likes people, the answer is probably no. That said, it’s important to normalize conversations about your dog’s boundaries and to advocate for your dog by being honest about their temperament. Each dog will have a different threshold for what pushes them to resort to biting, and some dogs will need more support to prevent bites from happening. Knowing the reasons behind why dogs bite will help [prevent dog bites from happening](#).

Why Do Dogs Bite?

With very rare exceptions, dog bites do not come out of nowhere, even if it sometimes seems that way. From small nicks that don’t break the skin to serious bites that require medical care, there are multiple reasons a dog might feel that biting is their best response. Unfortunately, people often [miss the warning signs](#) that a bite could happen. Most dogs will try to communicate discomfort prior to biting by barking, growling, or snapping at the air. But what actually leads to dog bites? There are a variety of reasons that dogs might use their teeth to communicate:

Fear

Most [aggressive behavior](#) from dogs is on some level rooted in fear. A dog might be fearful of something or someone getting close to them, or into their space. When whatever a dog is afraid of gets too close, dogs can become overwhelmed or “over threshold” and may respond by biting. For the dog biting out of fear, it is generally about trying to create distance from whatever or whoever they are worried about.

Startled

Dogs can bite if they are startled, especially if they have been sleeping. A dog who is startled awake may be disoriented and confused about where they are and what is going on and might bite. These bites may take people and even the dog by surprise. This can be particularly common with older dogs who may have decreased sight and/or hearing so may be particularly

confused if they are startled awake. Always be thoughtful about touching a sleeping dog, and [teach children](#) not to crawl into dog beds or wake up dogs who are asleep.

Protecting/Guarding

If your dog has something valuable like toys, food, or chews that they don't want to share, they may bite out of fear that the valuable thing will be taken away. Biting to protect valuable items can happen as part of [resource guarding](#) behavior. Regardless of breed, some dogs may have strong guarding tendencies, and can resort to biting if they perceive their home is being intruded upon, or if they believe someone in their family is in danger (regardless of if that danger is real.)

Frustration

Dogs can get overwhelmed, which is another situation that can lead to biting behavior. Dogs who feel that they are trapped in a situation that is uncomfortable or unpleasant may bite out of frustration. Dogs can also feel frustrated by being unable to reach something that they want because they are being held back by an owner or leash. Sometimes called redirecting or a redirected bite, dogs in some instances may turn and bite at what or whoever is holding them back.

Pain

Being [sick or injured](#) can be very stressful, scary, and overwhelming for dogs. Even the most tolerant dogs can bite when they are injured or in pain. If your dog becomes injured, be aware that they may bite when handled so be particularly cautious if you need to lift or move your injured dog. If your dog's behavior suddenly changes, it's a good idea to schedule an appointment with your vet as well as with a local positive reinforcement trainer.

Play

One common form of biting that people don't necessarily think about is mouthing — or biting — which happens in conjunction with play. [Light biting or mouthing](#) is a common way that dogs explore the world around them and is a behavior that dogs will engage in during play. While generally not very enjoyable for us, it is a natural part of how dogs play with each other, and of course how they engage with their toys. Watching dogs mouth each other while playing can be alarming. If you are concerned about how mouthy your dog is in play with you or other dogs, [setting up a consultation with a trainer](#) can be helpful to help gain understanding about if your dog's play style is or isn't appropriate.

Setting Up For Success

A key way to help prevent dog bites is to remember that dogs are individuals. Not every dog is going to be comfortable in every situation. As a dog owner, it's important to be aware of your dog's comfort in different situations. Help your dog be successful by proactively removing your

dog from the stressful or overstimulating situation before your dog might feel a need to escalate to biting.

For example, if your dog is [nervous about meeting people or dogs](#), avoid putting your dog into situations where they will be forced or expected to interact with other dogs or people. Not every dog is going to be super social, but by working with a trainer you can learn more about what situations make your dog uncomfortable. Through training, you can gain skills to work within your dog's comfort level. This will help your dog to work toward developing neutral responses to the presence of other dogs and/or people.

Avoid Flooding/Overwhelming

The goal is to avoid “flooding” your dog with stressful situations. Flooding refers to exposing your dog to prolonged or large amounts of things that scare or overwhelm them. It's an approach that is generally anxiety-producing for dogs, and doesn't do anything to shift your dog's emotional response to the situation they find overwhelming. In these situations, it is more likely your dog will respond to being overwhelmed/overstimulated by biting.

Your dog's comfort or tolerance for stimulating or stressful situations might shift depending on the degree of stress they are experiencing, how tired they are, as they age, or how unfamiliar a situation might be. For example, if you have a dog who hasn't had anyone come into the home for the last year and suddenly you have a big birthday party, remember that [people suddenly coming into the home](#) could be overwhelming.

Don't Punish

[If your dog growls](#), snaps, or even bites you, it can feel tempting to want to punish the behavior. Unfortunately, not only is this confusing to your dog, but it is likely to make the situation worse. A growl or air snap without making contact is a dog's natural way of warning that they are extremely uncomfortable or overwhelmed by a situation.

If your dog is punished for growling expressing discomfort or displeasure, it's very possible you will actually increase the likelihood of a dog bite occurring in the future. This is because your dog has learned that they shouldn't warn (by growling or snapping) and may instead go directly to a bite response when uncomfortable.

Getting Support

Working with an experienced [positive reinforcement trainer](#) is always a good idea to get a better idea with understanding both what is normal mouthing behavior and what is cause for concern. Similarly, if your dog has begun lunging, growling, or seems uncomfortable or stressed in different situations, it's a good time to make contact with a professional dog trainer.



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%20Westie%20Health%20Ebook.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**

Celtic Kennel / PNW Highland Games
9-3 PM, July 26-27th
Enumclaw Expo Fairgrounds
Enumclaw, WA

Des Moines Westie Walk
10:30 AM, Saturday, August 2nd
Des Moines Waterfront Park
Des Moines, WA

Tacoma Westie Walk
Noon, Sunday, Sept. 14th
Dune Peninsula at Pt. Defiance Park,
Tacoma, 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

Cherie Camp, Seattle, WA



**Director
Lois Briscoe
Kimball**



**Breeder Referral
Vicki Fulton**

New Member Applications

Bonnie McMillan, Port Orchard, WA

Visit our website:
www.whwtcops.org



**Photographer,
Robin Ryan**