



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Winter 2026

Happy New Year 2026!



Winter is always full of surprises here in Puget Sound. Today, December 30th, was quite cold but beautifully sunny, so off we went to the park for a long walk. Since both of my dogs had vet checkups this morning, so heading to the park felt like the right thing to do.

I am pleased to welcome new WHWTCOPS Director Bonnie McMillan to the Board for 2026. A huge thank you to retiring board member Vicki Ray. Vicki is an active club member, leading many Westie walks in Tacoma, working on Westie rescue, the Celtic Kennels, and at our dog shows.

The first board meeting of the new year is January 13th, so more details on 2026 club activities are yet to come. We'll work on dates for Westie parties and walks and get those up on the club calendar later in January. Annual membership renewal time is here with a deadline of January 31st; if you missed the email, there's a renewal form in this newsletter.



December 13th, I hosted a small group of members at my Sammamish home for our Winter Westie Party. Robin Ryan provided her homemade baked ziti and we had a fun Secret Santa gift exchange. We enjoyed each other's holiday sweaters and dog-themed gifts. That's Merrill Cohen in her Westie sweater and Bonnie McMillan with a Westie candle holder.



Our club's next Designated Specialty is at the Terrier Group Dog Show scheduled for March 20th in Bremerton at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds. Thanks to Karin Parish for taking on the challenging role of Show Chair, managing the show itself and all the activities required to bring judges, handlers, dogs and supporting players together. Bonnie McMillan will assist Karin.

In this issue we reminisce a little with stories from Mary Lowry and Kathy Reed. It's lovely to look back on fond memories and traditions, and to share them with you.

Lesley Wilson, President

How do You and Your Westies Celebrate the Holidays?

From Susan Killian

I own this sweet girl named Maisie Morag Killen. She kept these poses for maybe 2 minutes and then she was done. Maisie is 5 years old. Very social. Very spoiled. Very stubborn.



Holiday Traditions from Robin Ryan

For the Christmas holiday, there are always a few presents under the Christmas tree from our Westie Zoey – one for each family member. She's such a great little shopper. Everybody gets a kick out of opening her gift.

For birthdays, Mother's Day, and Father's Day, there is always a card from our Westie. Our dog is a family member, so it seems only right that she gives us cards and presents.

Another tradition is I make a photo ornament and put it on the tree. Here are two examples.



Last year when Duffy was still alive, I was an elf working helping Santa and Mrs. Claus greet families, including their dogs, to have their pictures professionally taken as a free event sponsored by the Issaquah Downtown Association. Sadly, this is the last picture of Duffy and Zoe that we have which makes it so special to us.





WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB

Membership Renewal 2026 **Due by January 31, 2026**

Dear Current Member:

We have Options! We can accept a check, or we can accept electronic payment via Zelle. If you are paying via Zelle and you have changed address/phone, etc., you need to complete this form, then scan it or take a photo and email it back to me at kparish@whidbey.com

Please note that some of you joined our club late in 2025, therefore your payment will flow over to 2026, and dues are not required until 2026. (New members, I have put your names on the email.)

Everyone else:

- We have two types of membership – Household or Individual
 - Individual — \$25 for the year
 - Household — \$35 for the year

If you had a change of address, email, phone, etc., please complete the info below and send it to me. If paying by check, mail the info along with the check.

Name/Names: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Names of your dogs _____

Include this form with dues if mailing. Check or money order payable to: WHWTCOPS

Mail checks to:

Karin Parish, 4371 Hilltop Drive, Clinton, WA 98236

****I will email you back confirmation that I received your check. ****

Electronic payment via Zelle: whwtcops@gmail.com Please add your name to comments so we can confirm receipt. Remember, if you used Zelle to make your dues payment and have changes please complete this form, scan it, or take a photo and email it to me. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you - Karin Parish, Membership Chair kparish@whidbey.com

How Did My Westie Passion Begin?

By Mary Lowry

Given the following circumstances, it strikes me that owning a Westie would be inevitable. Some background is needed to understand my first awareness of a Westie. In 1975, I was married to a British RAF officer, Geoff, whom I met in Goose Bay, Labrador. We met when I was teaching science to students of USAF families who were stationed in Goose Bay. At the end of my first year of teaching in about 1974, Geoff and I flew to England to visit his sister in Sussex. I saw my first Westie there and she was named Penny. I loved Penny immediately—as you can appreciate, how could I resist the perky ears, wagging tail, the Westie enthusiasm, and sense of humor? I fell under the spell...

After duty in Goose Bay, we flew back to Seattle to settle in Bellevue and begin anew. I soon began my search for our first Westie, which of course involved scanning the newspaper want ads. There I found my Westie (later called my “newspaper Westie”). As I learned later, it was not the best place to begin. Her name was “Tuppence,” like “two pence”—in recognition of the first Penny I had met!

For keeping my pup clean, the breeder suggested I use chalk powder—I did...and I later learned that it was not the best way to accomplish the task. But of course, I was so proud of her and decided to enter her in a local dog show at Marymoor Park in Redmond. It happened that Tuppence was the ONLY Westie who had entered, so I happily received the Best of Breed award—a handsome, but small, silver cup atop a small wooden base. Clearly, I was on my way to having to build a special shelf for all her trophies!

Since I had absolutely no idea about grooming, I just sprinkled cornstarch or chalk powder in her coat to whiten it, brushed it out, then patted clouds of white stuff from her coat. Results in future shows were not so encouraging. Finally, after her performance in a Vancouver, BC, show, the judge gently told me that I probably would not win a lot of trophies in the breed ring but suggested I consider obedience competition. Immediately, I found a good obedience class instructor and Tuppence was on her way. After that, Tuppy and I won several ribbons in the obedience ring!

Fortunately, while at the Vancouver show, I met Tom and Thelma Adams (Roseneath Kennel in Penticton), who explained how to REALLY select a show-worthy Westie...I was hooked! Tom and Thelma became wonderful friends, always willing to provide advice about breeding and raising Westies who would be good breed representatives. They were so helpful!

Meanwhile, back in Bellevue, we had met other local Westie enthusiasts at various shows and decided to form a Westie Club. After a few years and lots of Westie events, our club became a sanctioned breed club as you have it now. We put in many hours of writing, advertising, sponsoring events, selling Westy t-shirts, building a financial base, then staging “sanctioned events,” before we were considered an “official” club, which you have now!

A few of the original founders have passed away...those of us remaining are so happy you are taking good care of it! Thank you!



Mary Lowry is one of WHWTCOPS's original members, and she went on to breed and show many champion Westies.



Miss Molly Maguire

by Kathy Reed



I have told this story about my Westie Molly many times since I retired from teaching. But I was asked to write this article so now all of you can hear our story.

I adopted Molly from Seattle Purebred Dog Rescue when she was 6 months old. At the time, I was teaching in a special program for 18–21-year-old students with learning disabilities. I told my fellow teachers and teaching assistants that I would like to bring her to school as she was still being trained. I brought her crate with us, so she had a place to sleep or feel safe. I kept the crate in my office.

The first day she came to school she was a little excited and a little cautious as it was a new place. There was a big field outside our portable classroom, so she had a place to get potty trained and learn commands like Come, Stay, Sit etc. She was a fast learner and enjoyed her time outside.

But what she really enjoyed was her time inside with the students. We had two groups of students every day. When they came in, she greeted them all. And it turned out that she seemed to know which student needed her attention. One student that had Aspergers syndrome was always quiet. Molly went to him each day and laid by him. She greeted the other students also, individually. She had turned into a therapy dog! She was always calm but greeted everyone with a big smile and wagging tail.

In my last year before retirement a student came to us who was in a wheelchair. Molly had never seen a wheelchair; she took one look and then jumped up on the student's lap! It shocked me but brought a huge smile to the student's face! She made him feel welcome to our class.

Molly was a very special Westie, and I miss her every day. Our dogs and other pets are members of our family and it is hard when they cross that Rainbow Bridge. Thank goodness for all the memories they leave with us.



Spring Terrier Dog Show in the Works

Planning for the next AKC sanctioned dog show for terriers is nearing completion. Karin Parish is chairing the show, and Director Bonnie McMillan will be assisting her with this Bremerton-based Westie Designated Specialty show.

FRIDAY - MARCH 20, 2026
INDOORS • UNBENCHED • AKC LICENSED
Kitsap County Fairgrounds - 1200 NW Fairgrounds Rd., Bremerton, WA

**ALL TERRIER
CLUB OF
WESTERN
WASHINGTON**


PENDING

**TERRIER
GROUP SHOW**

LIMITED TO TERRIER BREEDS ONLY
with NOHS & Jr. Showmanship
Event No: 2026317801
ALL CONFORMATION JUDGES WILL BE LIMITED TO 175 ENTRIES
Show Hours: 1:00PM-6:00PM

Designated Specialty West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound - 2026285501

SUPPORTED ENTRIES: The Norwich Club of America, The United States Lakeland Terrier Club, Bedlington Terriers supported entry provided by FloraNFauna Bedlington Terriers, Washington State Scottish Terrier Club.





How to Be On Top of Your Game In The Show Ring

**Join Us For a Panel Discussion and Q & A
With Top Judges and Handlers**

**Bergit Coady-Kabel - Maripi Wooldridge - Doug McFarlane –
Tiffany Skinner**

**30 Minutes After ATCWW & WSSTC Best in Show
Friday, March 20. 2026
Hor d'oeuvres' Provided. Bring Your Own Drink**

**FREE TO EXHIBITORS AND FANCIERS
ANY BREED**

**Co-sponsors: Peninsula Dog Fanciers, All Terrier Club of Western
Washington, Washington State Scottish Terrier Club**

Information: Contact Vandra Huber vlhuber.88@gmail.com



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**

Terrier Group Dog Show
March 20th, 1-6PM,
Kitsap County Fairgrounds
Bremerton, WA



**Treasurer,
Dee Thompson**



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



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



**Director
Kathy Reed**



**Director,
Bonnie
McMillan**



**Director,
Melinda Heller**

New Members



**Director,
Lois Briscoe
Kimball**



**Breeder Referral
Vicki Fulton**

**New Member
Applications**



**Photographer,
Robin Ryan**

Visit our website:
www.whwtcops.org

