



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Summer 2024



Summer is Here!

It was a busy Westie spring. The Edmonds May Westie Walk hit a club record with about 50 westies taking over the waterfront trail. Melinda Heller enjoyed it so much, she's going to host a second Edmonds walk September 8th. Can we beat 50 Westies?

More Westie Walks are scheduled around south Puget Sound: Sunday, August 25th at the beautiful Dune Peninsula at Tacoma's Point Defiance; and Saturday, September 28th in Des Moines.

July is here, and that means the Pacific Northwest Highland Games are coming up on Saturday and Sunday, July 27 & 28. We are pleased to have 15 volunteers and 12 dogs signed up to greet the public in the Celtic Kennel.

Several of us walked the Seattle Animal Shelter's Furry 5K about 3 weeks ago. The event is a crucial fundraiser for the animal shelter. Vendors set a record in sheer numbers of booths and in pounds of swag. Skye and Brody are still enjoying food and treat samples. They just tolerate the orange scarves.

On the topic of fundraising, two worthy charities are [Old Dog Haven](#) and [Westie Rescue](#). Our lead Rescue Coordinator, Karin Parish, has experience with both of these organizations and she tells about the trials and tribulations of rehoming Old Guys in this issue.

Enjoy the Summer issue!

Lesley Wilson,
Newsletter Editor

WHWTCOPS SUMMER WESTIE WALK & PICNIC

When: Sunday, August 25, 2024

Time: Noon

Meet spot: Picnic Pavilion, water view side

Location: Dune Peninsula @ Pt Defiance Park

Host: Vicki Ray, 253-886-4088



Plenty of parking, easy walking and great views. Plenty of places to sit and rest, have a sandwich and visit. Plus, a farmers market!

We will meet at noon in front of the Picnic Pavilion (near restrooms). After the walk we'll socialize, so please bring lunch and share your Westie stories. Vicki will supply water for dogs.

Cash donations will be collected for the [Doney Project](#), a Seattle non-profit organization that helps homeless and low income people with vet services for their pets.

Farmers Market: 11-4pm, and there may be food trucks as well!

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.



Reminder: please bring poop bags

Back by popular demand!

September 8th Edmonds Westie Walk



When: Sunday, September 8, 2024
Time: Noon
Where: Anthony's Beach Cafe parking lot
Address: 456 Admiral Way, Edmonds, WA
Host: Melinda Heller (206-364-4563)

Google: [Anthony's Beach Café, Edmonds, WA](#)

We will meet in the parking lot of Anthony's Beach Cafe at noon for yappy hour, socializing and a group photo. As always, bring poop bags and water for you and your Westie.

Join us for a walk along the Edmonds waterfront with your westies.



WOO HOO, SPRING WESTIE WALK!

By Melinda Heller



On May 19th I hosted our Spring Westie Walk at the Edmonds Waterfront. We met at Anthony's Beach Cafe, took our group photo, and then proceeded to the waterfront dog park. The trek is about one and a half miles. No hills, outstanding scenery. We enjoyed sunny skies and a pleasant breeze. Fifty westies and their families created quite a buzz for spectators and many photos were taken of our group. Some of our pack learned the dog paddle in Puget Sound. Others retreated to the lawn and play area to sunbathe or dig in the sand. We all had so much fun playing, making new friends, and greeting old ones.

Our next Edmonds Waterfront Westie Walk is scheduled for Sunday, September 8, 2024 (due to popular demand!) We will meet at 12 noon in the parking lot at Anthony's Beach Cafe. There is plenty of parking. See you there!



Join Kayla's Foundation on Facebook for 2nd Annual Sock Hop July 20-21!

Our version of Sock Hop is an amazing auction and sale of fun dog-themed socks and other goodies! It's a wonderful opportunity to get fabulous socks and help rescue dogs with emergency veterinary needs. Kayla was a WHWTCOPS rescue and puppy mill survivor. She had Westie Lung Disease and became an advocate in the Westie community for the fight to end puppy mills and spread awareness about Westie Lung Disease.



For more information: www.tinyurl.com/kaylasockhop

Organized by Carolyn Lee, Oregon Westie Rescue Coordinator

Introducing Westie Breeder Becky Clyde

In a recent **Westie Sounds** issue, we highlighted our Breeder Referral contact Vicki Fulton. This issue we would like to introduce Becky Clyde, owner of Windyridge Westies, who shows and breeds Westies in the Pacific Northwest region. Becky is located in Baker City Oregon and has been a “Westie person” since 1993. She was working at a veterinary clinic when she met an adorable little Westie that she just loved.

Becky says that “everything I know I learned from Sandy Davis. I’ve bred and shown Westies for as long as I can remember. I love the Westie breed and will do everything I can to better the breed. I have handled or had shown over 20 champions.” Her most current champion is Lanarkstone High on Windyridge, bred by Sandy Davis and co-owned with Joyce Collins.

Her newest champion prospect is Nsase Power of Praise bred by Lori Tuttle and Carol Blain. In early June, Becky’s Breezee, Ch. Lanarkstone High On Windyridge finished her championship at the Spokane Dog Show. Here’s a picture of her. I didn’t manage to get an official picture of her.



Breezee just days before the Spokane show

Contact Becky at Windyridge Kennels
Email: windyridge@moscow.com
or text: 509-330-3596

Windyridge Westies 🐾🐾



Champion Lanarkstone High on Windy Ridge

Scenes from the Seattle Furry 5K at Seward Park

Westies represented again this year at the Seattle Animal Shelter's Furry 5k fund-raiser at Seward Park. June 9th. The weather was perfect – cool and sunny. After our walk, people and dogs were greeted by dozens of vendors. They loaded us up with swag and free dogs treats of every kind – turkey, salmon, rabbit, grain-free, organic, etc. – plus Pup Cones. By the time we headed for the car, our tote bags were heavy, and we all needed a nap. Oh, and we scored free folding Ruffwear water bowls.



Come see us at the...

Pacific Northwest Highland Games & Clan Gathering

July 27th & 28th

9:30 – 3:30 PM

Enumclaw Expo Center

45224 284th Avenue SE

Enumclaw, Washington 98022

Clan Westie is set to participate at the **Celtic Kennel** exhibit at the **PNW Highland Games**. Come see our WHWTCOPS volunteers and their Westies at our booth. Along with our canine Celtic cousins, we meet and greet dog-loving fairgoers and share our dog's Westie Highland heritage. Celtic Kennel dogs are invited to take part in the Celtic Grand Review parade at 1:45PM both days and participate in scheduled activities like herding and agility. This event is quite special as only Celtic Kennel dogs are permitted on fairgrounds.



Why Do Dogs Duck When You Pat Them on the Head?

By [Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT](#)

Updated: Mar 19, 2024 | 4 Minutes

What's the first thing you do when you see a cute dog? Pat them on the head! After all, it's the closest body part within reach and those [puppy dog eyes are irresistible](#). It's also a gesture of fondness for us. But while we might stroke someone's hair or cheek to show them we love them, dogs don't speak the same love language as us. They'd likely far prefer we show our affection in a different way. Still, teaching your dog to tolerate head pats will go a long way to helping them cope with this unwelcome human interaction.

Why Dogs Dislike Head Pats

You might ask, "Why does my dog duck when I pat them on the head?" Well, in dog language, a [direct stare](#) or looming over another dog is considered a threat. Therefore, when humans do these behaviors, it makes dogs uncomfortable or downright [anxious](#). And of course, leaning over a dog to pat them on the head accomplishes both staring and looming all in one intimidating, albeit well-intentioned, gesture. Plus, a hand coming directly at their face is an invasion of personal space. No wonder dogs duck!

How to Know if Your Dog Doesn't Like Head Pats

Although some dogs tolerate head pats, most instinctively feel uncomfortable when a hand reaches down from above their head. If you scroll through social media, you'll easily see examples of distressed dogs suffering through pats on the head. To verify how your pet feels, look at [your dog's body language](#). Chances are you'll see [signs of stress](#). Things to look for include:

- Lowering their head or ducking away from your touch
- Walking away
- Pinning back their ears
- Licking their lips
- [Yawning](#)
- Showing the whites of their eyes (known as whale eye)

Preventing People from Patting Your Dog on the Head

Well-meaning strangers on the sidewalk or visitors to your home are likely to pat your dog on the head. We humans just can't seem to help ourselves. But you need to advocate for your dog's well-being. Ask people to pat your dog on the places you know they enjoy best. For many dogs, the chest, shoulders, chin, or sides of the neck are a safe bet. If the person does not respect your request, don't be afraid to step in and stop the interaction. Your dog needs to know you have their best interests at heart.

It can also help to have your dog face you instead of the greeter. That will put your dog's back closer than their head. If the person does stretch over to pat your dog's head, at least it's coming from behind, so your dog won't find it as stressful as a direct approach. Make sure your dog sees the stranger first to avoid startling or scaring them. It can also be helpful to have the

greeter approach our dog at a peripheral angle, rather than head on, and to feed your dog treats while they're being pet.

But how do you turn your dog around? Many dogs will turn to face you when you request a [sit](#), especially if that's the position you usually [reinforce with rewards](#). You can also use a "[touch](#)" [cue](#). "Touch" tells your dog to bump the palm of your hand with their nose, so by moving your hand as you give the cue, you can adjust your dog's position. A "[watch me](#)" [cue](#) can also help turn your dog around as they seek out [eye contact](#) with you.

Teaching Your Dog to Tolerate Head Pats

It can be challenging to prevent other people from patting your dog on the head. Plus, it's harder to handle a head-shy dog. For example, it can be difficult to put on their [collar](#) or [administer eye drops](#). Therefore, do yourself and your dog a favor and teach them to tolerate head pats. The best way to accomplish this is with [desensitization and counterconditioning](#). Desensitization gets your dog used to something at a low level then slowly increases the intensity, and counterconditioning pairs something your dog dislikes with something they find delightful. When used together, they can change your dog's response to head pats from negative to positive.

Although you can use [toys](#) or [games](#), it's far more efficient to use [delicious treats](#) for this process. Think [chicken](#) or [steak](#), not [kibble](#) or [cookies](#). Your dog should believe they hit the jackpot. Then, starting at a level of head pats your dog can tolerate, follow each pat with treats – the pat should predict the [treat](#), not the other way around. And only increase the intensity once your dog is happily anticipating their treat after each pat. The following steps will demonstrate this procedure:

1. While sitting at your dog's level, slowly reach your hand toward their head. Then pull your hand back and feed your dog some food.
2. Once your dog is looking forward to seeing your hand because they know it predicts food, gently and briefly touch your dog's head. Then remove your hand and feed your dog some food.
3. Once your dog is comfortable with a brief pat, add a second gentle pat. Repeat the process until you can pat several times before presenting the food.
4. Now it's time to increase the pressure of the pats. Go back to a single pat and repeat the above with more intensity.
5. Once your dog is happily anticipating a couple of firm pats, it's time to change your position, so you are coming from above your dog. Stand up and repeat all the steps from simply reaching for your dog to finally patting firmly several times.

It might take several weeks to work through these steps. Aim for a few short sessions each day and be sure not to force your dog past their comfort level, to avoid setting back their progress. And depending on your dog, you might need to break the process down into even smaller steps. Don't hesitate to enlist the help of a [professional dog trainer](#) or [animal behaviorist](#) if your dog's attitude doesn't seem to be changing.

Excerpted from: [AKC Expert Advice Training Dog Ducks When Patting Head](#)

What's to become of Our Seniors?

by Karin Parish



During the past month my Westie rescue partner, Vicki Ray, and I have had an inordinate number of Westies incoming to Rescue. All have come in due to their elder owners' passing. I had two such OGs (Old Guys), Max (left) and Willy (right). Max was of an unknown age, maybe 12, and Willy is 15 years.

Both were very loved. The owner passed in March and the son took the dogs home, took them to the vet, and had them washed and groomed. The son had his own business and left for work at 8am, returning home at night at 9pm, working 6 days a week. Therefore, he needed to get them a new home. We had several discussions, as I was very hesitant to take on such old dogs.

The purpose of this article is to talk about how difficult it is to make the decision to turn down healthy old dogs. [Old Dog Haven](#) has a wait list of over 100 homes needed for dogs requiring final refuge. In May, Old Dog Haven had over 324 dogs in final refuge or permanent foster, and 81 adoptable.

To make all you westie owners jealous, Willy is 15 years old, has onset of cataracts, but no Westie lung, no allergies, doesn't lick his feet, perfect blood panel, but is a little arthritic because... he is 15 years old. He is on



Firstmate Lamb and Rice. Doesn't eat any human scraps or fruits. Refuses veggies and is on multiple dog vitamins. I have no idea who bred him.

Max: no allergies, but his jaw is very overshot, bad teeth, and his spine has kind of collapsed on itself becoming bone to bone in one spot. Unfortunately, Max was totally deaf due to his chronic ear infections. After doing a blood panel on him, it showed onset of kidney failure, but we thought we could give him a chance. In the end, he lost a lot of weight the 2nd week, wouldn't eat, and didn't drink water. Nothing I cooked worked, no medication worked to stimulate him to eat or settle stomach. I knew it was probably cancer, so I had to put him to sleep. It was very difficult when you are trying your best to save someone this sweet, and no matter what, you cannot save them. He followed me everywhere and was very affectionate. I did cry my eyes out for a few days. Those are the times I hate rescue because I'm the one to make the final decision.



I was left with Willy and I was resolved that I had to keep Willy because who on earth would want a 15 year old dog? I went to a friend on Whidbey Island who had adopted a few dogs from me in the past, and they referred me to Pat and Bob. This couple are in their early 80s, and Bob is suffering from the onset of macular degeneration. We did a meet and greet. I walked in their front door and hardly introduced Willy when he hopped into Bob's lap. Then Willy decided to hop into Pat's lap. This visit went from a possible fostering situation to "we want to keep him." I did express that old dogs become costly, and all we can do is

keep him alive for as long as he has. When it's his time, it will be his time without any heroics.

I came away with a very happy ending. I told them that if they couldn't keep him, I'd be happy to take him back. Pat and Bob are a blessing.

And they lived happily ever after.

THROUGH THE EYES OF A DOG

by Karin Parish

University of California – Santa Barbara researchers discovered that canines could see blues and yellows and but not reds and greens. It turns out that dogs possess two types of color-sensing receptors, called cones, in their retinas. This makes them similar to most mammals—including cats, cattle and pigs—and unlike humans, who have three cones.



If you're really trying to imagine the world through the eyes of your dog, you should picture everything a lot blurrier. Most dogs have 20/75 vision, meaning that they must be 20 feet away from an object to see it as well as a human with clear vision who is standing 75 feet away. Therefore, hold that treat a little further AWAY. Quit being upset when the dog can't find a yellow ball in yellow grass. (because green = yellow to him and its almost invisible) GET a white ball.

Colors



Human view (left) and dog view (right) of a dog with a blue ball. Dogs can distinguish yellow and blue from green, which may explain why they prefer blue and yellow toys over toys of different colors.

20/70 vision



Left: as human eyes see this garden scene. Right: the same scene through canine eyes, as interpreted through the Dog Vision Image Processing Tool.

Night Vision

Though dogs have fewer color-sensing cones than humans, they have more rods, the cells that help with night vision. They even have a unique structure in their eyes called the tapetum lucidum, a *mirrorlike* membrane that allows them to see in *six times less light than humans can*. The tapetum, which some other animals, such as cats and cattle, also possess, sits behind the retina and reflects light back onto it, giving the receptors a second chance to gather more visual detail. It's also the reason your pet's eyes glow in photos and in the dark.





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
Christine
Corbley**



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

All Terrier Club Dog Show
Friday, July 5th, 1 PM
Western WA Fairgrounds
Puyallup, WA

PNW Highland Games
Saturday & Sunday, July 27-28
Enumclaw Expo Center
Enumclaw, WA



**Treasurer
Dee Thompson**



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

Victor Rosado Grooming Seminar
Tuesday, Aug. 13th
Enumclaw Expo Center
Enumclaw, WA

Tacoma Westie Walk
Sunday, August 25th
Dune Peninsula Park
Tacoma, Auburn, WA



**Past President
Jeannette
Melchior**



**Director
Kathy Reed**

Edmonds Westie Walk #2
Sunday, September 8th, Noon
Anthony's Beach Café parking lot
Edmonds, WA



**Director,
Rescue
Representative,
Vicki Ray**



**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

