



Westie Sounds

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound — Fall 2025

Summer Activities Are On the Way



At every Halloween party, there's always one costumed dog that sticks in my mind. Last year it was this Westie dressed as an artist. Can't wait to see this year's costumes at the October 25th party!

When it comes to costumes for my own dogs, I have several favorites. This old picture of my Westie Angus dressed as Albark Einstein is one. Angus was good at wearing hats, but the Einstein wig was such a hoot.

In September, my husband, Jeff and I took a trip to Switzerland and Austria. I came across some little Austrian hats in

Salzburg that I couldn't resist. I wonder if I can make some little Austrian-looking coats like in *The Sound of Music*?

A while back, we asked members how they handle their dogs and 4th of July fireworks. Responses ranged from humorous to a bit sad. But then, dogs are resilient and bounce back pretty quickly.

In this issue, we celebrate past events like the Celtic Kennel at the Scottish Highland Games in July and the Tacoma Westie Walk in September. Looking forward, we have the Halloween party on the 25th at the Academy of Canine Behavior in Bothell, and our annual Winter Party and Gift Exchange which I'm hosting at my home on December 13th. When you RSVP, I'll send you my home address and phone number. Let the house cleaning begin!



Lesley Wilson,

President, WHWTCOPS

West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound
Invites You to Our Annual

MONSTER MASH

HALLOWEEN PARTY



Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025
Time: 1pm-3pm
Place: Academy of Canine Behavior
4705 240th ST SE, Bothell

- ✱ Westie Costumes Encouraged!
- ✱ Games and Contests
- ✱ Photo Spots
- ✱ Fun for Westies & People
- ✱ Admission \$5





You Are Cordially Invited to The

Westie Winter Party & Gift Exchange

Saturday, December 13th, 1-3PM

*At the home of Lesley Wilson
Sammamish, WA 98075*

Gift limit \$25 (no gag gifts, please)

*For details, RSVP to:
LPW98075@comcast.net*

Tacoma Westie Walk Pictures, September 14th

Host: Vicki Ray – thank you!



Scenes from the Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering, July 26th & 27th

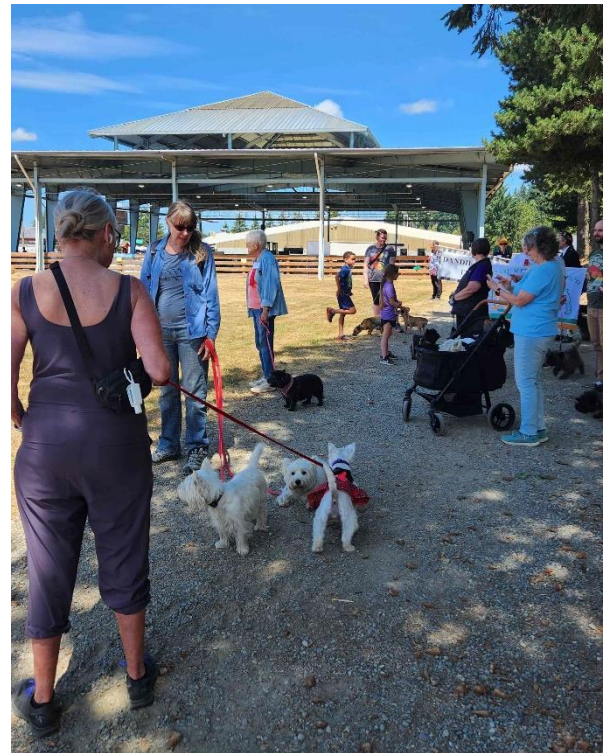


Our club was well represented at the Scottish Highland Games in Enumclaw in July. We had a nice rotation of dogs and handlers over the weekend. Here are some shots of our booth, the Celtic Kennel parade, and of the grounds. A huge thank you to Jeannette Melchior and her Saturday crew: Bonnie McMillan, Daniel Statt, Julie and Hal Redd. Lesley Wilson's Sunday crew include Steve Bell, Linda Hagedorn, Merrill Cohen, Melinda and Sam Orallo. We were all happily tired at the end of the day, especially the dogs.

Jeannette Melchior was awarded the **Celtic Kennel's President Award** for an outstanding job representing the breed to the public. She has been coordinating and the

WHWTCOPS presence at the Celtic Kennel for many years. Well done, Jeannette!





How Do You Handle Your Westies on the 4th of July?

We asked club members how they handle their dogs with the 4th of July fireworks. Here are responses we received.



From Mary Lowry:

Fortunately, here in sunny Sequim our neighbors didn't go overboard with the fireworks...and we are almost ten miles from the public display...so no issues here!

In the past there have been celebrations that were sizable, but I didn't have to resort to meds for the Westies. Looking forward to what you find out!

From Susan Killen:

Maisie Morag did okay with the actual fireworks which we can see from our house in Tacoma. She is 4 and has experienced fireworks many times. As a puppy, I would get her in bed, so she had me close and we cuddled. CBD never worked or ended up being needed. Same with other comforts. Over time she has become more confident.

The real and unexpected issue this year was the noise that followed the fireworks. By 10:45 she was happily asleep when the loud bangs started. No fireworks, but lots of flash bangs. They seemed close. She jumped off bed and started shaking and panting. I tried comforting her in many ways, but nothing seemed to calm her. The bangs finally stopped at 12:20pm and after a few minutes she fell asleep in my arms.

I'm not sure what I will do next year.

From Diane Hover:

Keoki does terrible. He has a little thunder shirt that plays music that we put on him, and it may help a very little bit. He panics, pacing back and forth from one end of the house to the other. It helps if he can be squeezed between me and the arm of the chair. It's very sad.

This year the fireworks seemed worse than other years. He settles right down when they're over.

From Melinda Heller:

Hilda was drugged and did very well. We live on the north end of Lake Washington and look at fireworks from Sheridan Beach, Bothell, Kirkland and Sand Point. Many homeowners on the Lake have their own parties.

From Merrill Cohen:

Rocket doesn't hear anything other than a bag of cheese. 🧀

BREAKING NEWS!!!

SSHS syndrome in West Highland White Terriers

Veterinarians are baffled as they discover that 85% of the West Highland White Terriers are officially diagnosed with a newly discovered behavioral phenomenon:

Snack-Selective Hearing Syndrome (SSHS) — a rare but hilarious condition.

Symptoms include:

- Total deafness when hearing “Come inside,” “Bath time,” or “Leave the cat alone”
- Supersonic-level hearing when a treat package bag crinkles from 4 blocks away
- Telepathic connection activated by the word “walk” — whispered, from under your breath, in another galaxy
- Immediate Beethoven-level ear function only when food is in play



Scientists have concluded:

Westie’s ears are perfectly functional. They are just...on a custom setting.

Ear Modes Detected:

✗ Ignore

✗ Ignore Harder

✗ Vanish into Thin Air

✓ Food Radar Activated

....Contributed by Karin Parish

The Fragility of Puppies' Bones

Reprinted from Facebook "Nature is Awesome" and submitted by Jeannette Melchior

As someone who has bred puppies, we understand how tough and fragile these little pups are. I was always amazed that some families thought they could have a pup as soon as it stopped nursing – not true and although you thought the breeder was holding them too long and was being stubborn. May this enlighten you or friend of how you should manage bringing a puppy into the family.

This x-ray is of a 2 week old puppy.



When you get your 8 to 10 week old puppies, please keep this image in mind. Their bones do not even touch yet. They plod around so cutely with big floppy paws and wobbly movement because their joints are entirely made up of muscle, tendons, ligaments with skin covering. Nothing is fitting tightly together or has a true socket yet.



When you run them excessively or don't restrict their exercise to stop them from overdoing it during this period you don't give them a chance to grow properly. Every big jump or excited bouncing run causes impacts between the bones. In reasonable amounts this is not problematic and is the normal wear and tear that

every animal will engage in.

But when you're letting puppy jump up and down off the lounge or bed, take them for long walks/hikes, you are damaging that forming joint. When you let the puppy scramble on tile with no traction you are damaging the joint.

You only get the chance to grow them once. A well-built body is something that comes from excellent breeding and a great upbringing. **Both**, not just one.

Once grown - around 12-18 months depending on their breed – you will have the rest of their life to spend playing and engaging in higher impact exercise. So keep it calm while they're still little baby puppies and give the gift that can only be given once.



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**

Monster Mash Halloween Party
Saturday, Oct. 25th, 1-3PM,
Academy of Canine Behavior
Bothell, WA

Westie Winter Party & Gift Exchange
Saturday, Dec. 13th, 1-3PM,
Wilson Residence
Sammamish, 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

Bonnie McMillan, Port Orchard, WA



**Director
Lois Briscoe
Kimball**



**Breeder Referral
Vicki Fulton**

New Member Applications

Visit our website:
www.whwtcops.org



**Photographer,
Robin Ryan**

