

# Congratulations!

*to you from all of us in the West Highland White Terrier Club of America!*

*Adding a Westie to your household will prove to be full of fun and surprises. Your new puppy's ancestors came from the highlands of Scotland where they were hunters. "Possessed of no small amount of self-esteem" is a good description of the terrier personality that will now be part of your life. If you don't find what you need here, go to our website:*

[www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com)

## Caring for your Westie

By registering your pup with the American Kennel Club (AKC®), you have taken the first step in protecting the interests of your family's newest member. You and your canine addition have a lot to learn about each other.

One of the best resources to help assure a happy and healthy pet is your local veterinarian. Choose one that has some knowledge of West Highland White Terriers. Ask your breeder for a recommendation or check with your local kennel club or Westie club. Annual check-ups, routine vaccinations including rabies shots and tooth care are very important.

A healthy diet is critical to the well-being of your pet. Westies thrive on a high quality food that helps keep their dry coat and skin at their best. Your breeder will be able to give you tips on feeding. Some of the books listed here are helpful as well.

## Being a responsible Westie Owner?

Although Westies are small, they still have a BIG desire to chase birds, rabbits, and even cats. Be sure that you have a sturdy leash and collar for your dog and a fenced area for play.

Remember digging after all those varmints is just as much fun as chasing them, so be sure your area is "dig proof."

Never let your dog roam. Our Westies are small and quick and cars are lethal!

Inside, your dog needs a safe haven. A crate, pen or small room works great, but remember a bored Westie can be destructive. Introduce a crate and exercise pen at an early age, and it can be a place of comfort and safety at home or while traveling.

Spending time now to socialize and train your young puppy will reap huge rewards later. Not only is a trained dog a

happy dog, but also you will form a close bond with your dog that will last a lifetime. Westies need physical and mental exercise. So working and playing is a big deal.

Local all-breed kennel clubs, obedience training clubs, or a Westie club can help with recommendations on training classes in your area.

Please identify your puppy with a safe form of identification. Suggestions are: collar with a name tag, microchip implant, or tattoo. However, never leave a choke chain or slip collar on a puppy that is left alone. These are only to be used while training.

## Healthy Westie skin & coat care

Westies have a stiff, dry coat. To keep it looking its best, regular grooming is a must. Stripping (or plucking) the old, dead hair is the traditional way of taking care of the terrier coat and is the grooming method that must be used if you're interested in showing your dog.

Pet owners often have their dog's coats clipped for neatness. There are books, videotapes and lots of people that will help you learn if you are interested in grooming your dog yourself.

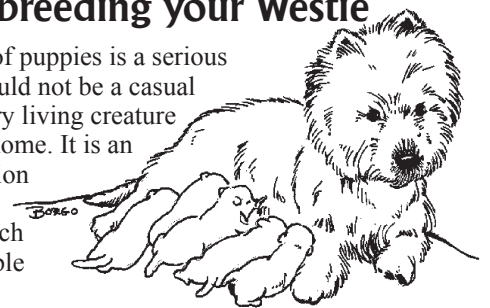
Most people find a professional groomer that will help keep that beautiful Westie look. Usually, a visit to the groomer every 4 to 6 weeks will work just fine. Daily brushing and combing is important. Remember, because Westies have such a dry coat, bathing too often can be more harmful than helpful. Once a month bathing with a non-detergent shampoo will be fine.

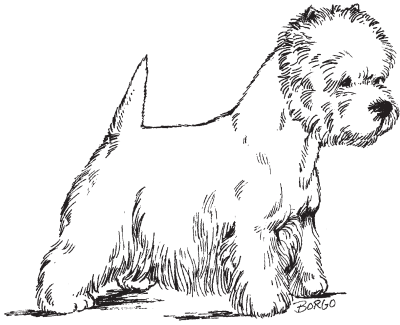
## Neuter or breeding your Westie

Breeding a litter of puppies is a serious endeavor and should not be a casual undertaking. Every living creature deserves a good home. It is an important obligation that breeders carefully place each dog in a responsible and loving home.

Learn all you can about Westies before breeding your dog. Responsible breeders give lots of thought and consideration to their breeding programs. They address health issues, genetic concerns, temperament, soundness and appearance beforehand. Information is available from the West Highland White Terrier Club of America Health Committee. Contact the Club Secretary or check the website for further information.

"Due to recent studies funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, it may be prudent for the





long-term health of the animal to delay spay/neuter until a dog reaches maturity as determined in conjunction with your veterinarian,” Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC’s Chief Veterinarian Officer recently reported.

Spayed females are often healthier and live longer than those who are not. Breast and uterine cancer are avoided. Neutered males cannot develop testicular cancer and have a lower risk of developing prostate problems. These boys are often less aggressive and more tolerant toward other males. Also, neutering or spaying will not exclude a dog from most AKC events such as Obedience, Rally, Tracking, Earthdog and Agility.

If you are serious about becoming an educated breeder, there are Westie owners that have taken this route and had a lot of fun producing and exhibiting top quality Westies. They are anxious to help you learn more. Your breeder, books, local Westie clubs, or the WHWTCA are all good resources to help get you started.

You will find many rewards from breeding Westies, but a monetary profit is not one. Medical care, food, stud fees, and all the other expenses easily outpace the revenue generated from that average litter of two to four pups.

## The West Highland White Terrier Club of America (WHWTCA)

This national club is made up of Westie fanciers from all over the country and has the responsibility of setting the standard that defines a Westie. All dog show judges use this guideline as a standard of excellence in evaluating each Westie. You might want to see how your dog measures up. A copy of this standard is available from the Club Secretary, the Club website or the AKC website,

[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

Additionally, the Club sponsors shows, trials, and seminars as well as supporting research.

It helps new Westie owners learn more about the unique ways of the Westie. A good resource that you might want is the magazine published by the club, *The Westie Imprint*. It is printed quarterly and can be ordered from the website. Besides the national club, there are regional clubs around the country that can offer many services including training, grooming and breeding help. You can find this information on the Club or AKC websites.

For more information:

**Email: [Information@westieclubamerica.com](mailto:Information@westieclubamerica.com)**

**Website: [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com)**

## Books about Westies

Arnel, Jill. *The West Highland White Terrier* (Terra Nova), Book and DVD editions. 2006. TFH Publications.

Faherty, Ruth. *Westies From Head to Tail, 2nd Edition*. 2000. Alpine Publications.

Gentry, Daphne. *The New West Highland White Terrier*. 1998. Howell Book House.

Martin, Dawn. *A New Owner’s Guide to West Highland White Terriers*. 1996. TFH Publications.

Marvin, John I. *The Complete West Highland White Terrier, Fourth Edition*. Howell book House.

Weil, Marvin. *West Highland White Terriers*. 1983. TFH Publications.

Weiss, Seymour. *The West Highland White Terrier, An Owners Guide to a Healthy Happy Pet*. 1996. Hungry Minds, Inc.

## Supporting the breed’s future

Westies mean a lot and do so much for us. Repay their love and trust by doing everything you can to ensure that every Westie has a long, full, healthy life. Unfortunately, our breed is afflicted with genetic diseases, such as atopic dermatitis and pulmonary fibrosis that can make the lives of the dogs we love too painful and too short. Our Foundation exists to find solutions.



The Westie Foundation of America, Inc. (WFA) is a volunteer, tax-exempt, non-profit corporation with two objectives.

1. Advance knowledge and understanding of Westies’ genetic problems and cures for the diseases by funding scientific research at leading veterinary universities.
2. Provide information about health issues and the overall care, breeding and quality of life of Westies to owners and veterinarians. Using priorities established by periodic Westie health surveys, WFA provides financial support for veterinary research. Projects focus on preventing diseases through genetic testing, curing diseases with improved treatment, and using medication and therapy to better control diseases.

*Without you, there is no Foundation* and less research, fewer potential treatments and cures, less information about how to care for your Westie, and less hope for a healthier future for all Westies. Funds used by WFA to support targeted research and share information come from those who love the breed... people like you.

You can support the Westie Foundation by:

- Dedicating honorariums or memorials
- Supporting our Legacy Alliance Wills, Gifts and Bequests program
- Purchasing unique Westie items through the website
- Making a one-time or continuing contribution
- Securing a matching gift from your employer

Find information on Westie health, research and educational projects that we are funding, on our website, in our quarterly newsletter or by writing. By supporting the WFA’s work, you will join the others who have chosen a way to return their Westies love.

Contact us:

**428 Hedgecroft Drive,  
Seabrook, TX 72586  
[www.westiefoundation.org](http://www.westiefoundation.org)  
1-888-928-3843**

