

Breed Feature

WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER



Originally known as the Rose-neath Terrier from Poltalloch Scotland, until first exhibited at Crufts in 1907 and AKC registration in 1908, the Westie was around for at least 100 years before that. "A spunky little Terrier and all determination in one small body" as I read and is described so well - I just love the picture that conjures up.

His coat is required to be a hard outercoat, plenty of soft undercoat and all with little trimming but some neatened presentation and the odd bit of tittivation via plucking. The longer coat on back and sides to blend into the shorter coat of shoulders and neck. The head should have considerable hair left to frame the face to present a round appearance as viewed from the front.

Well, there are the purists and advisors who traditionally state that the coat ought to be dry cleaned and indeed it can and I will go through the procedure for that. However it can be washed and still presented correctly if you know how to do it. Your choice as to which method and maybe a combination of both i.e. alternating the procedures, will serve the purpose even better. Products are such these days that we can just about do anything to achieve a perfect outcome and still stay within the rules.



For those who wish to dry clean or quick clean, then Plush Puppy Powder Puff for Terriers is a great naturally sourced powder cleanser and deodoriser with a soft mandarin and ginger fragrance and not overly fragrant! Just a clean, fresh smell. This product is perfect for achieving hard texture too. Simply toss through the coat either by hand or work through by dipping the brush into the powder and brushing through the coat after each coating of the bristles and work well into the coat. Keep brushing to start to assist removal of the powder and thus any dirt and grime or blow dry with a cool dryer to remove the powder entirely. Bingo - a clean and deodorised coat with a texture as harsh as barbed wire!

Washing the coat instead can also be done and have perfect texture if one understands that you must not have froth and bubbles everywhere. The more sudsing action you have, the more static and fluffier the coat will be. So, the answer is for a low sudsing cleanser. Use Plush Puppy All Purpose Shampoo by adding a few squirts only from the pump dispenser to either a bucket or bath or hydrobath. Depending on what size bath etc you use will determine how many squirts you add. The answer is

With CHERYL LECOURT

just a few as you do not want to see bubbles and froth. If you do then you have put in too much. Add more water! It will cleanse but without all the bubbles.

If you must have more toning effect to reduce any yellowing, then use Plush Puppy Whitening Shampoo diluted 10:1 i.e. 10 parts water to one part shampoo. Again the balance for this is to give the tonal qualities without creating fluff and static. You do have to trade off on this but the answer is to then ADD the texture back into the coat. Use Plush Puppy Fairy Frost Terrier which is a white powder specifically for harsh coated breeds and will give that special hardness to the coat that the Westie so requires. It is not a chalk but like a chalk, and is naturally sourced and it is hard and white! Toss as much as is needed onto the coat or with a brush method of application and work well into the coat and leave! So, you get to bath AND have a hard coat. How good is that?

You may choose to oil the coats if you need hydration though the coats are being stripped either by hand or knife on a regular basis lessening the need to do too much. For those who do, then use Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil 1 tspn to a half bucket of water, apply liberally and work through the coat and leave in. SB Oil is water soluble and not greasy - it just adds all the goodness of Evening Primrose Oil, Calendula Oil etc for healthy vigour to the hair for the discerning show person. I am of the school that works by doing all of the 100 things one needs to do to get absolute perfection every time! A top competition athlete strives for every edge! Work it! Can't live without this oil!

Another great texturiser is Plush Puppy Ruffy Tuffy Coat Spray which can be applied onto wet or dry coat. I prefer to apply this after the bath and once the coat is dry and, prior to adding the Fairy Frost powder. Apply layer upon layer i.e. spray, allow a few seconds and then spray again and keep repeating the spray and wait technique till you achieve the level of harshness required. Then apply Fairy Frost if you wish or need to. The Ruffy Tuffy gives a little extra lift to the coat whereas the Fairy Frost gives harshness and whiteness.

To groom that nice rounded head that is a hallmark of the Westie, use Plush Puppy Sit N Stay which is a sticky shaping product best applied by working a small amount onto the fingers and rubbed together till the product crosses over from wet sticky to dry sticky and then apply to the head and sides of the face. Make sure you are getting this down to the root area too for lift and to hold

the shape. Then kind of clump small bits together towards the ends. Lovely!

On show day, Plush Puppy Odour Muncher is a wonderful product for literally munching odours away - leaves a light fragrance that is not too much, nor too little.

Don't forget that a good coat is not made the night before a show. It begins weeks and months ahead. Keeping good texture and preventing stains etc is not an art, it is just plain hard work and attention. Spray with a diluted mix of Seabreeze Oil (1 dspn to 1 cup warm water) the under carriage of the male dogs particularly to prevent pee staining during the week. Mix a good runny slurry of Plush Puppy Coat Rescue with water and slop onto the lengths of the coat mid week for 10 minutes or so and rinse off. Good for adding protein to the coat and ensuring the coat does not become brittle. These little outdoorsy types do play hard!



Getting the shape right for your dog as opposed to someone else's dog is the key. Be critical and evaluate your dog honestly and the ideal shape will present itself to you. Never tell anyone else what you don't like about your dog and trust me, there is always something we want to tweak. However do be critical to yourself. Once you understand the ideal shape of your standard, it is up to you to breed, present, and that means shape your dog, and, show to absolute perfection. That perfect silhouette is there and available to us all. You just have to know what it looks like and then go for it. The products will help get you there.

Watch the experts as they shape and trim their dogs and borrow the procedures, but, bear in mind, your dog is not their dog and where they take off coat you may need to keep coat on yours. Just steal their ideas and not their dog!

A further tip is to use Plush Puppy Revivacoat on the legs. It's a great leave in moisturiser that won't overly soften the coat and it is darned hard to find things that

do just that. It is the perfect product for after show bathing when you remove all those powder hardeners from the furnishings. It will protect and moisturise. Easy and quick to apply. Just work onto your hands and apply. Simple!

Plush Puppy Wonder Wash is a vital part of the kit for any Westie exhibitor for that quick cleanse to the legs and feet. They seem to get into everything and anything and this no rinse shampoo is a Godsend on show morning. Just spray and work lightly into the coat with your fingers and then towel off. The legs will be pristine once more.

Well why not go the whole hog and apply some Plush Puppy Coverup Cream which is ostensibly white makeup for dogs. A consistency of a paste, it is applied with a barely damp sponge lightly with just a dab at a time and not blobbed on. Good for any stained area around the eyes or feet and then a good generous application of loose chalk or Fairy Frost Terrier Powder to completely and quickly dry it. Is this dog beginning to look glam or not? A touch of Plush Puppy Pixie Dust applied either on its own or mixed into the Fairy Frost powder, just a tiny bit, will add some glints of light and shimmer. The trouble with any chalks or powders is that they tend to be a flat white and it's nice to be able to add just a hint of sparkle/shimmer to pick up pinpricks of light either under spotlights or out in the sun. The trick with all these things is to do them sensibly and not over do it. Everything should appear effortless and never contrived.

The Westie on any day and especially show day should be full of self esteem and showmanship. His combination of strength and activity with that alertness and great intelligence, is so Terrier, and so typical of a Westie. He is not a pampered dog but a hardy and cunning little dog and easy to show and handle. His distinctive free and easy gait with good reach from the shoulder and balanced drive is a pleasure to watch as he works that ring and the audience. This little dog is quite the head turner and as long as you are as well prepared as he, then the combination ought to be unbeatable! Really like this breed a lot!

Cheryl Lecourt

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Australia: \$49 for 12 issues • N.Z. \$59 for 6 issues

DOG NEWS Australia is a monthly publication

Simply pay by Credit Card at our Online Store

www.dognewsaustralia.com.au

or telephone or email your details to

Tel: 02 9607 3721 email: sales@dognewsaustralia.com.au

You can also enclose a cheque or money order payable to

Top Dog Media P/L, PO Box 170, Hoxton Park 2171

Petcetera Etc.

Grooming Salon & Dog Show Supplies

Store: Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs Tricia & Peter Cutler
44 Luddenham Road, Erskine Park, NSW. Ph: 0490 061 963
Tel: 0490 061 963 Fax: 61 (0)2 9627 4242
Email: petcetera@optusnet.com.au
Mail: P.O. Box 47, Emu Plains, NSW, 2750. Website: www.petceteraetc.com.au

Breed Feature

WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER



They answered

A.1. I have been breeding Westies for around 42 years now. They are my chosen breed because their temperament and personality matches their cheeky, vibrant, varminty and jaunty appearance and that's what I love about them.

A.2. Perhaps not much difference to 10 years ago but certainly compared to 20 to 30 years ago there is perhaps a tendency towards a more extreme generic terrier type.

A.3. Look for type, type, type more type...and soundness.. It is extremely important that a judge look beyond the presentation and showmanship, a tendency that seems to prevail in this day and age. It is important that a judge

“

Look for type, type, type more type...and soundness.. It is extremely important that a judge look beyond the presentation and showmanship, a tendency that seems to prevail in this day and age.

”

knows the standard well . Grooming has changed dramatically over the years and nowadays a judge has to really know what he is looking for under that glamorous façade.

A.4. Hmm.. Well the American standard is a little more specific in certain areas i.e height. Maybe the English standard needs a little clarification.

A.5. Would love to be able to say no, but yes. Probably no more so than many breeds. Skin problems would probably be regarded as the biggest problem in the breed world wide. The Westie Foundation of America is a wonderful institution for the breed and does a lot of research into the breeds problems. Thankfully we hear less and less of problems such as Legge Perthes, CMO etc.. Hopefully in the not too distant future, there will be a marker so that all breeders can eliminate any potential skin issues from their breeding programmes.

A.6. DON'T go to a pet shop.. DON'T go to a puppy farm. Do your homework and go through breed clubs to find a reputable breeder. Make sure you view parents and relatives of any puppy to ascertain they are healthy with good skin and coats and outgoing temperaments. If you are lucky enough

to be given a choice don't necessarily go for the prettiest fluffy puppy. I can tell you that our famous Westie boy 'JD' was a very plain puppy without a skerrick of 'fluff' on him!!

**Maureen Murphy
Whitebriar Kennels**

A.1. I've been involved with Westies for over 35 years ever since I was a teenager, working on weekends at a Boarding Kennels. Mary and Don McCaul (brother and sister) bred and exhibited Newfoundlands, Westies & Dandie Dinmonts and asked me if I would like to come along to the shows, help show their dogs but still get paid!! I was hooked!!! (Both with the Westies and the dog show scene). Westies have great personalities and attitude and I do love the grooming side although I do wish I had more time!

A.2. When I look back and see the Westies that were winning 10 - 12 years ago they look very similar to the ones winning today both in conformation and grooming. What has changed however is the number of Westies being shown I remember exhibitors taking 4 or 5 Westies to a show now it's usually 1 or 2 similar to many other breeds. Grooming has changed over the years but perhaps not in the last 10 years, the grooming now is much more professional and streamlined than say 20 years ago.

A.3. I did find it difficult to prioritise what are the most important points as they are all important and all make up the West Highland White Terrier. However here are 5 things that I feel are important.

1) The head of the Westie is one of the hallmarks of the breed yet I see so many being exhibited and/or bred from that do not have the correct Westie head. The standard calls for the "Distance from occiput to eyes slightly greater than length of foreface" yet there are many Westies that are the opposite with long muzzles and narrow heads and eyes set close together. No only do they have no stop but the Westies with these traits are losing that varminty appearance and no longer have the "sharp intelligent piercing expression".

2) The Westie should be a compact and substantial dog with a level topline and carrying their tail "jauntily" to me this paints a picture of a Westie. We don't want to see Westies that are light in bone, with their length of back more like a Cairn, sloping down to the tail and carrying their tails at half mast. I do find however that some of the Westies in Europe are going to the opposite extreme, long swan like necks with the Westie looking like it has virtually no back at all. Whilst Westies today don't

We asked

Q.1. How long have you been breeding West Highland WhiteTerriers? Why are they your chosen breed?

Q.2. How do you feel the standard of West Highland WhiteTerriers today compares with say 10 years ago?

Q.3. Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the West Highland White Terrier?

Q.4. If you were able to add a sentence to the West Highland WhiteTerrier breed standard what would it be?

Q.5. Does the West Highland WhiteTerrier have any health problems?

Q.6. What would your advice be to a potential puppy buyer when looking for a West Highland WhiteTerrier?

"go to ground" it's still important that we remember what Westies were originally bred for!!

3) Movement, if a Westie is built correctly it will move freely with reach and drive. Westies shouldn't take small mincing steps but cover the

“

The standard calls for the "Distance from occiput to eyes slightly greater than length of foreface" yet there are many Westies that are the opposite with long muzzles and narrow heads and eyes set close together.

”

ground when moving? A great moving Westie is wonderful to watch.

4) Temperament....Westies should possess true terrier temperament, they should stand their ground and be on the tip toe of expectations (as someone once told me) we find this especially so with the males. Terrier judges will sometimes spar terriers up, Westies should pull themselves together and show real terrier presence. Having said that Westies are very friendly with people.

5) Coat, a harsh double coat is so important but this doesn't happen by accident. Once soft coats get into your line it's very difficult to breed out but even if your Westie has a harsh coat time and effort must be spent constantly working and rolling the coat.

A.4. This is a difficult question, the only thing that could be added is a little more clarity or detail around some of the points. I do think that breeders & exhibitors need to understand and apply the standard correctly if we are to improve the breed.

A.5. A few problems are typical to Westies but which fortunately we rarely see here in Australia.

-CMO (craniomandibular osteopathy) which is a bone disease in growing dogs inherited in Westies.

- Legg Perthes disease - A disease of the hip joint that results in abnormal deformity of the ball of the hip joint.

What we do typically see in Westies is skin problems, breeders need to ensure they are not breeding from Westies with any skin problems and owners need to ensure that they are feeding the correct food and making sure their



environment is free from fleas and certain grasses and plants which are the main causes of allergies.

A.6. My best tip for anyone looking to buy a westie puppy is ... Do your research, visit breeders, get to know them checkout their dogs & their environment. Westies are extremely popular which in turn means we have many breeders. So many people decide they want a Westie and they want one today!! All 8 week old puppies are gorgeous but taking the time to research breeders can save so much heartache and money later down the track. After all Westies are like potato chips "you can't stop at one":).

**Sue Stewart
Marydon Kennels**

AUSTRALIAN BREED HISTORY 1927 -1995

By *RENEE ROCHE*

Reprinted from the History of Purebred Dogs in Australia.
COPYRIGHT: Dog News Australia

The first appearance of a West Highland White Terrier at the Sydney Royal was in 1927 shown in the 'Any Other Variety Class'. From then on Westies were shown as a separate breed as the numbers had increased. In 1995 around 70 Westies were shown at the Melbourne Royal with thirty being shown at Sydney Royal.

After the 2nd World War Miss & Mrs Falukes (Lansyne prefix) imported Baxter of Branston and Eng CH. Busy Body of Branston. Peter Brown (Peterraffles) imported Pollyann of Patterscourt, Wolvey Provost, Famecheck Nimble and Famecheck Delibes with many others to follow. Mrs McEachem (Hielan) imported Wolvey Puriton. Mr Cunningham (Pilelo) imported Eng Champion Buttons of Helmsley, Famecheck Lucrativ and Stoneygap Freddie. All these imports being well known English show dogs, there have been many other imports since.

Maureen Murphy came to Australia bringing three of her famous Westies. Maureen made a great impact on the Westie scene here in Australia, not only with her style of dogs but also her expert grooming. Maureen dominated the show scene for many years until she moved to New Zea-

land.

The Westie exhibitors in Australia have learnt a lot from Maureen Murphy.

George Ness in Queensland (Negura) imported many dogs so did Lou Varley of South Australia (Lewenda), Jean Wilder (Fotheringgay) and Renee Roche (Bendalock).

'The West Highland White Terrier Club' was first formed in Australia in New South Wales. The first show was in 1961 with four dogs exhibited. 1962 three dogs, 1963 seven dogs, 1964 fifteen dogs. On the 15th November 1964, Mr Roy Burnell judged the show and Best in Show again in 1965. In 1964 fifteen litters were registered, with five dogs being exported to New Zealand and twelve champions being made up in New South Wales.

Many dogs have made their mark in Australia by going Best in Show in every state. Ch Macprain Magician won Best in Group at Brisbane Royal, Ch Macsped Beau Gest was Runner-up in Group at Melbourne Royal (also won fourteen Best in Shows until his untimely death at the age of six), Ch Bendalock Black Buttons won Runner-up in Group at Brisbane Royal and her brother Ch Bendalock Blinky Bill won many Best in Shows, Ch Macaretu Diamond Lil has won many Best in Shows and was the pointscore winner two years in a row at the British Terrier Club.

All these dogs plus others have made a great impact on the improvement of the Westies in Australia.





The Breed Standard

GENERAL APPEARANCE: Strongly built; deep in chest and back ribs; level back and powerful quarters on muscular legs and exhibiting in a marked degree a great combination of strength and activity.

CHARACTERISTICS:

Small, active, game, hardy, possessed of no small amount of self-esteem with a varminty appearance.

TEMPERAMENT: Alert, gay, courageous, self-reliant but friendly.

HEAD AND SKULL:

Skull slightly domed; when handled across forehead presents a smooth contour. Tapering very slightly from skull at level of ears to eyes. Distance from occiput to eyes slightly greater than length of foreface. Head thickly coated with hair, and carried at right angle or less, to axis of neck. Head not to be carried in extended position. Foreface gradually tapering from eye to muzzle. Distinct stop formed by heavy, bony ridges immediately above and slightly overhanging eye, and slight indentation between eyes. Foreface not dished nor falling away quickly below eyes, where it is well made up. Jaws strong and level. Nose black and fairly large, forming smooth contour with rest of muzzle. Nose not projecting forward.

EYES: Set wide apart, medium in size, not full, as dark as possible. Sharp and intelligent, which, looking from under heavy eyebrows, impart a piercing look. Light coloured eyes highly undesirable.

EARS: Small, erect and carried firmly, terminating in sharp point, set neither too wide nor too close. Hair short and smooth (velvety), should not be cut. Free from any fringe at top. Round-pointed, broad, large or thick ears or too heavily coated with hair most undesirable.

MOUTH: As broad between canine teeth as is consistent with varminty expression required. Teeth large for size of dog, with regular scissor bite, i.e. upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth and set square to the jaws.

NECK: Sufficiently long to allow proper set of head required, muscular and gradually thickening towards base allowing neck to merge into nicely sloping shoulders.

FOREQUARTERS: Shoulders sloping backwards. Shoulder blades broad and lying close to chest wall. Shoulder joint placed forward, elbow well in, allowing foreleg to move freely, parallel to axis of body. Forelegs short and muscular, straight and thickly covered with short, hard hair.

BODY: Compact. Back level, loins broad and strong. Chest deep and ribs well arched in upper half presenting a flattish side appearance. Back ribs of considerable depth and distance from last rib of quarters as short as compatible with free movement of body. Hindquarters: Strong, muscular and wide across top. Legs short, muscular and sinewy. Thighs very muscular and not too wide apart. Hocks bent and well set in under body so as to be fairly close to each other when standing or moving. Straight or weak hocks most undesirable.

FEET: Forefeet larger than hind, round, proportionate in size, strong, thickly padded and covered with short harsh hair. Hindfeet are smaller and thickly padded. Under surface of pads and all nails preferable black.

TAIL: 13-15 cms (5-6 ins) long, covered with harsh hair, no feathering, as straight as possible, carried jauntily, not gay or carried over back. A long tail undesirable, and on no account should tails be docked.

GAIT/MOVEMENT: Free, straight and easy all round. In front legs freely extended forward from shoulder. Hind movement free, strong and close. Stifle and hocks well flexed and hocks drawn under body giving drive. Stiff, stilted movement behind and cow hocks highly undesirable.

COAT: Double coated. Outer coat consists of harsh hair, about 5 cms (2 ins) long, free from any curl. Undercoat, which resembles fur, short, soft and close. Open coats most undesirable. Skin must appear healthy.

COLOUR: White

SIZES: Height: approx. 28 cms (11 ins) at withers

Faults: Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.

Notes: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.