

## RESCUE

Responsible breeders take care of their own. But pet stores, puppy mills, brokers, and most backyard breeders stop when the money changes hands. Rescue is the "Safety Net" for these dogs who have no responsible breeder to stand behind them.

Many people take on a dog when they are not prepared for them. Many do not research the breed and choose the wrong dog for their lifestyle and personality. Many do not feel a need to commit to a dog for their lifetime. Many dogs end up homeless. Rescue tries to take in these dogs. Many rescues foster the dog until they can find them a good home. Others don't have the volunteer help to do this so they "introduce" the owner to the potential adopter. Either way, a family can often find a great little friend through Rescue.

Michigan Westie Rescue requires children to be at least ten years of age and prefers a fenced yard. We do reference/vet checks and home checks. Some people complain that we are too fussy. But we are advocates for the dogs who have had a bad break and deserve only the best.

See [www.westierescue-mi.com](http://www.westierescue-mi.com) for lots of information, photo albums and stories of previous rescues and an application. We generally place between 2-3 dozen dogs a year and every year seems busier than the last. Your friends in other states can find a rescue at [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com)

Rescue needs funds to continue. Send donations to WHWTCSEM @ 8820 Tavistock, Plymouth, MI 48070. For wonderful fundraiser items featuring Westies, go to <http://www.cafeshops.com/Westierescue> and [www.westierescue-mi.com](http://www.westierescue-mi.com) and choose "Fundraisers".

**WESTIES ARE NOT  
DISPOSABLE!!!**

## YOUR PART!!!!

Delightful and Loving or  
Snappy and Snarling??  
It is almost entirely up to  
YOU!

**Age:** Make sure your puppy stays with the litter until they are AT LEAST 8 weeks of age. Things such as bite inhibition are learned during this period. It is crucial!

**Socialization:** Dogs need to be socialized from the time they are very young puppies. What you do in the first few weeks will make a difference for their entire life. You MUST socialize them with dogs, kids, adults and in various situations.

**School:** What better way to begin the socialization than in puppy school. Be sure they use positive training methods; NO choke chains or negative corrections! Observe a class before signing up.

**Time:** To properly raise an enjoyable dog, expect to spend as much time as you would to raise a child!!

**Educate Yourself:** Before you get that puppy, do a lot of research on the breed and on raising a puppy, as well as living with an adult dog. You only get one chance to do it right!

There are many books and web sites available to help you. You can also join an email list dedicated to the subject. (Search [www.yahogroups](http://www.yahogroups) for Westies to find an active list.) Also use the Profiler at [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com) and read their information.

### AKC REGISTRY

You want your pet to be registered with the AKC because this is what most responsible breeders use and it provides entry to many AKC activities

### BUT DON'T BE FOOLED!

The AKC is JUST a registry. In and of itself, it does NOT guarantee the quality of your puppy or even that they are purebred. The AKC registers puppy mill dogs too!

### AND BE AWARE

There are many other registries out there; "registered" does not necessarily mean AKC!

## PET WESTIE 101



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

### Westie Facts:

#### West Highland White Terrier

- ◆ Usually 15-22#
- ◆ Always white; sometimes with a darker dorsal streak
- ◆ Many types of coats, e.g., soft, hard, straight, curly
- ◆ Average life span - 12 to 14 years
- ◆ Housebroken around 6 months if YOU do a good job!
- ◆ Usually clipped every 4-8 weeks to resemble a show Westie (round head, carrot tail, skirts)
- ◆ Requires daily brushing - will minimize shedding & prevent mats & promote good bonding
- ◆ Requires frequent nail clipping
- ◆ Has a happy, peppy personality
- ◆ Never totally grows up!
- ◆ Spay/Neuter by 6 months of age
- ◆ Less likely to cause allergies in humans BUT there are those who still ARE allergic!!

**WESTIES  
IT'S A LIFETIME  
COMMITMENT!!**

## PERSONALITY

Some dogs were bred to retrieve; some to sit on the lap of royalty. Westies were bred to "go to ground" and kill critters the size of a badger or fox and smaller. They worked in packs and with a human.

Because of this, Westies:

- ◆ are vocal; they bark and "talk"
- ◆ dig, and chase small critters
- ◆ are Excitable!
- ◆ are best for adults and older kids
- ◆ are best for owners who can provide firm (but loving) guidance
- ◆ require fenced areas or leashes
- ◆ play hard and often growl in play
- ◆ are HIGH ENERGY; they are active and stay that way for many years
- ◆ generally love other dogs
- ◆ can "usually" learn to live with cats but the cats always need to have escape routes
- ◆ are smart and tenacious
- ◆ don't respond well to harsh corrections

## WEBSITES AND BOOKS

Research is your best guarantee for a good friend.

Following are some sources we like:

- ◆ [www.WestieEduMi.com](http://www.WestieEduMi.com) (Mi Ed Center)
- ◆ [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com) (Various)
- ◆ [www.westieclubmi.com](http://www.westieclubmi.com) (General)
- ◆ [www.sfbaywestieclub.com/puppy.htm](http://www.sfbaywestieclub.com/puppy.htm) (Breeders)
- ◆ [www.thedogspeaks.com](http://www.thedogspeaks.com) (Training/behaviorist)
- ◆ [www.smotc.org/index.html](http://www.smotc.org/index.html) (Training)
- ◆ [www.sportsmens.net](http://www.sportsmens.net) (Training)
- ◆ [www.doberdogs.com/](http://www.doberdogs.com/) (Food charts)
- ◆ [www.dog-play.com/](http://www.dog-play.com/) (Play)

Books: "Childproofing Your Dog" and "Paws To Consider" Both by Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson "A New Owner's Guide to The West Highland White Terrier" by Dawn Martin and "Westies from Head to Tail" by Ruth Faherty

**WESTIES REQUIRE TIME!  
YOUR TIME AND LOTS OF IT.  
DON'T BUY IF YOU DON'T  
HAVE THE TIME TO GIVE!**

## HEALTH

All breeds come with health issues specific to that breed. Westies do too. Following are some of the more common health issues:

- ◆ Allergies and Skin problems
- ◆ CMO (Cranio-mandibular Osteopathy)
- ◆ Copper Toxicosis
- ◆ Luxating Patella
- ◆ Westie Lung Disease
- ◆ Addison's
- ◆ Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency
- ◆ Leg Calve Perthes

See [www.westieclubamerica.com](http://www.westieclubamerica.com) & [www.westiefoundation.org](http://www.westiefoundation.org) for details on these and other issues. Buying from a responsible breeder lowers the likelihood of major health issues.

## ORGANIZED FUN!

- ◆ Agility \*Fly Ball
- ◆ Earth Dog \*Lure Racing
- ◆ Tracking
- ◆ Obedience/Rally

## DISORGANIZED FUN?

Some like to fetch but some don't. Most love to go for walks, swims and generally join in most family activities. Consider joining a local Club where you may find other Westies for play dates and fun outings. Their high physical and mental energies require a release or they will find their own release and you may not like it!

## FOOD

You will find many different opinions on the subject of what to feed your Westie. Keep in mind that Westies sometimes have allergies and sometimes these allergies have a food-based component. Please feed a food that is higher quality than grocery store food. Consider food without corn, wheat, soy or chemical preservatives. Inquire at your local Club or Rescue for recommendations.

**YOUR WESTIE SHOULD BE A  
FAMILY MEMBER; WESTIES  
ARE SOCIAL ANIMALS.  
DON'T LEAVE THEM OUT!!**

## BREEDERS

**"PET" doesn't have to mean "poorly bred"!**

Show Breeders often keep only one or two puppies for show and sell the rest as "pets". Often only an expert eye can see a difference. These pets have been bred with the same good health, good temperament and good looks. Don't save dollars on your pet purchase and spend them at the vet!

## LOOK FOR A BREEDER WHO:

- ◆ belongs to the local or national Westie Club and has signed a Code of Ethics which you can read
- ◆ isn't making their living from their puppy sales
- ◆ shows their dogs (the pet-quality puppies were produced with the same level of care)
- ◆ will discuss which medical tests and screenings they have done
- ◆ will provide references upon request
- ◆ keeps puppies until a minimum of 8 weeks
- ◆ sells on a contract and wants the dog back, no matter what age, if you can't care for them
- ◆ doesn't advertise (most have waiting lists)
- ◆ has only one or two breeds
- ◆ NEVER imports puppies for sale from other breeders (these would probably be from puppy mills but they would not admit it to you)
- ◆ lets you meet mom or dad
- ◆ lets you visit their kennel
- ◆ spends time with you and expects you to call if questions come up
- ◆ insists on a spay/neuter contract unless the puppy is show quality and the breeder is involved in the process, usually as a mentor
- ◆ plans to follow up on the spay/neuter contract until you provide proof
- ◆ interviews you as thoroughly as you would interview them

**WESTIES ARE NOT FOR  
EVERYONE!!!!  
RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY!**