

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 (Mi Ed Center)
- ◆ www.westieclubamerica.com (Various)
- ◆ www.westieclubmi.com (General)
- ◆ www.sfbaywestieclub.com/puppy.htm (Breeders)
- ◆ www.nopupymills.com/ (Puppy mills)
- ◆ www.thedogspeaks.com (Training/behaviorist)
- ◆ www.smotc.org/index.html (Trainers)
- ◆ www.grom.com/obedience_classes_in_michigan.htm (Trainers)
- ◆ www.doberdogs.com/ (Food charts)
- ◆ 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 (**Craniomandibular Osteopathy**)
- ◆ Copper Toxicosis
- ◆ Luxating Patella
- ◆ Westie Lung Disease
- ◆ Addison's
- ◆ Pyruvate Kinase (PK) Deficiency
- ◆ Leg Calve Perthes

See www.westieclubamerica.com (access health) for details on these and other issues. Buying from a responsible breeder lowers the likelihood of major health issues.

ORGANIZED FUN!

- ◆ Agility
- ◆ Earth Dog
- ◆ Tracking
- ◆ Obedience/Rally

DIORGANIZED 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 often these allergies have a food-based component. Please feed a food that is higher quality than grocery store food. Look for 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!