



# Congratulations

## On Your New West Highland White Terrier

Beneath the beauty and charm of your new Westie beats the heart of a hunter. Your Westie is bright, intelligent and often has an independent spirit. It is very important to build a strong, trusting relationship with your new dog from the day you bring him home from the breeder. The early training and time you spend with him will shape the quality of the 14-16 years he is a part of your life and family.



West Highland White Terriers aka "Westies" were developed in highlands of Scotland beginning in the early 1900's. They were developed as a "working terrier" and were bred to hunt and kill vermin. They are small and sturdy with large, strong teeth and a double weather-proof coat designed to keep them warm and protect them from the elements. They have a very strong prey drive, are active, bold and courageous. They will chase anything they perceive as prey which includes cat, squirrels, rabbits, mice, birds, etc. and therefore must always be kept on a leash or exercised in a safe, enclosed yard or area.

They are playful, curious and intelligent but can also be stubborn and self-determined. Westies are not lap dogs but rather hardy, devoted, happy-go-lucky dogs. They are a confident little dog who isn't, as a rule, looking for a fight but who will surely stand their ground, when pushed. They can be fearless and not seem to know they are small. They are busy little dogs, on their toes, and ready for action. Westies have a very steady disposition and fit in well with a family who has the time and energy for them.

However, they are also independent little dogs and believe they rule everything and everyone in their environment so they need owners who will let them know the boundaries and that they are not the leader of the pack. They need daily exercise and stimulating activity to keep them in top form mentally and physically. They are generally very good with people but are especially faithful and loving with their own family members.

## Your puppy's first year

During the first few weeks of his life your puppy has learned to eat solid food, play with his mother and littermates, and meet new people. Now it is your turn to be your puppy's teacher and shape him into a great companion.



Your dog's **breeder** is a good source of information about your dog and the breed. He/she can likely provide tips on feeding, grooming, training, health concerns, etc.

You will need to find a **veterinarian** you like and can trust to take care of all your puppy's medical concerns. Your puppy will need a series of puppy vaccinations as well as regular health checks, preventive care and spaying/neutered at the appropriate time.

Your puppy needs to be **socialised**. About a week after the second set of vaccinations are done at twelve weeks of age, start to get your puppy out to meet lots of different dogs and people. Puppy kindergarten, basic obedience classes, agility classes designed for puppies, etc. are all a good place to start. You want it to be in a safe, supervised environment where your puppy will not be harmed or frightened by another puppy or adult dog. Get a lot of different people of various ages to gently handle your puppy, touching his paws, ears, legs, etc. and gently petting him. If he shows any signs of timidity, encourage him in a "happy voice" that all is fine and the new person is someone you like and trust. Take him out to lots of different places like your workplace, farm markets, the beach, parks, hiking trails, and other places where there is lots of noise and people so he gets used to different sights, smells and sounds.

### Here are a few good books on dog/puppy training:



Dennison, Pamela. *Complete Idiot's Guide to Positive Dog Training*, New York, Alpha Books 2005 & 2011

Dunbar, Ian. *Dog Behaviour*. Howell. 1999.

Kilcommons: *Good Owners, Great Dogs*. Warner Books, NY, 1992

Ruthimford and Neil: *How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With*. 2nd Edition, Alpine Publications, Loveland Colorado, 1992

## Exercise



Routine daily exercise is very important. A short brisk walk is best for a young puppy, lengthening the distance as the puppy gets older. It is very important to understand that young puppies grow very rapidly in their first year of life. You need to be aware of this and be sure you not exercising your puppy too much or you are risking him developing problems with his bones and/or joints. He should have limited exercise when he is young and not be allowed to jump off of high things, be taken on long walks, or engage in rough play. Westie puppies are "energizer bunnies" but that does not mean that they are designed to be exercised a lot when they are young. They need to be allowed to go at their own pace and rest when they are tired. You need to be a wise owner and not force your puppy to exercise more than is healthy for him. His joints and bones will continue to grow and develop until he is around a year of age, so you need to always be keeping that in mind. He will only be a puppy once and so he needs to be allowed to grow and develop at his own pace, as nature intended. Once he is a year old and fully developed, he can be taken for longer walks and involved in more vigorous activity.

## Grooming

Grooming a Westie requires patience, some special equipment and a fair amount of time. There is a difference between show and pet grooming. The best way to learn how to groom is to purchase a good book on the breed. They have detailed diagrams and explanations. The other option is to take



your Westie to a professional groomer and have him either hand stripped or groomed with clippers. There are two books which have very good sections on grooming with diagrams and pictures. They are:

- Faherty, Ruth. *Westies From Head to Tail*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 2000. Alpine Publications, P.O. Box 7027, Loveland, Co. 80537
- Marvin, John *The Complete West Highland White Terrier*. Fourth Edition. Howell Book House, New York.

## Food

Your dog's breeder or a trusted veterinarian may be able to recommend a specific food for your Westie. You will want to find him a good quality food but be sure he does not over-eat or become over-weight, as it is not good for his health. You should provide fresh water at all times.

## CWHWTC

**The Canadian West Highland White Terrier Club** is the only nationally recognised breed club of the Canadian Kennel Club and was founded in 1952. Our general purpose is to promote our breed, and to educate the public about our beloved little white friends. The Club consists of around 200 members spread across Canada, with a number in the USA and a scattering of others all over the world.

Four times a year, we publish *The Westie News* which is probably the most important benefit of membership in the CWHWTC. It goes out to every member, and contains club news, reports of events, announcements and articles of interest to all kinds of Westie owners.

## Other things we do:

- Promote the excellence of the breed by holding an Annual National Specialty
- Sponsor boosters and award prizes for conformation, obedience and versatility
- Organize Westie Walks, Earthdog Tests, grooming seminars and breed seminars
- Support research
- Provide a list of breeder/members of our Club and the CKC on the Club website
- Provide a place to connect with and learn from other Westie enthusiasts and breeders.



For more information on membership or club activities with the CWHWTC please contact the secretary:

Alison Mitchell: [secretary@canadawestieclub.ca](mailto:secretary@canadawestieclub.ca) or call her at **647 988 9436**

## Visit us!

We encourage you to check out our website for information, articles, a calendar of events, etc.

Our website can be found at:

[www.canadawestieclub.ca](http://www.canadawestieclub.ca)

