

DURCAN

DUR-CANTY

Sue Durcan

1. I always had terrier mixes when I was growing up, and in 1973, a friend bought a Scottie puppy that I thought was so adorable, but I didn't want to duplicate my friend's dog, so I went to the AKC breed book and found the Westie. After reading the description, I decided the Westie would fit my Irish temperament.
2. I got my first Westie from Peggy Lambert, a long-time breeder in Cincinnati, Ohio.
3. My first Westie, Duffy, was purchased as a pet. Peggy saw him at six months and felt he could be shown and finished, which he did.
4. The most important mentor in my life was Peggy Lambert.
5. I remember Peggy was very patient with me. I knew absolutely nothing about dog showing or breeding starting out.
6. Betty Williams was the other mentor who picked up the job after Peggy passed away. Whenever I had a problem with a litter, I could call Betty. With her wealth of Westie knowledge, she helped me countless times.
7. My most memorable moments were two large class wins at Montgomery County, and two Best of Opposite Sex wins at the Greater Washington Specialty and the Michigan Specialty.
8. Montgomery County is my favorite dog show. I know the weather can sometimes be miserable, but I love seeing all those Westies and all the people from around the country and around the world.
9. Peggy Lambert taught me how to groom my own dogs.
- 10 Peggy Lambert taught me how to evaluate a litter.
11. My favorite Westie was Ginger, and she was the one who won BOS at the specialties. She finished her championship under Anne Rogers Clark, which I considered a huge accomplishment, because Ginger won in spite of my doing the worst job of handling I had ever done. My favorite Westie not owned by me was Am Can Ch Doon Macduff Duncan Dundee. I loved that dog. He had a beautiful head, great movement and an ideal Westie body. One of my biggest disappointments in Westies was that we were unable to get a successful breeding between my Ch. Dur-Canty Gingersnap of Ceanmoor (Ginger) and Duncan. I think they would have produced some very nice puppies.
12. I think the Westie that had the greatest influence on the breed was Ch. Doon Macduff Duncan Dundee.

13. My most memorable Montgomery experience was in winning a large 6-9 month puppy class with my Wils, and winning a large American-Bred class with Ginger.
14. Sadly, I was unable to attend the Centennial, but I heard great things about the event.
15. The Westie author who influenced me the most was John T. Marvin.
16. My favorite collectible is a plate painted with my first Westie and given to me by Peggy Lambert.
17. I've been a member of the Westie Club of Indiana for many years. I used to be very active, but now I let the youngsters of the club do the work. Carol Sanger and I are the Rescue coordinators for the club.
18. I feel the future looks very good for the breed. With all of the work that the Westie Foundation does for the health and well-being of the breed, and all of the conscientious breeders striving to breed healthy Westies, I think the health problems facing the breed can either be brought under control, or, hopefully, eradicated completely in 10 to 20 years.
19. My advice is not to get too wrapped up in the dog showing and lose track of our guardianship of the breed. We all love the breed and want all of our dogs to have a long and healthy lifespan. In the Highlands of Scotland, they were bred to be a hale and hardy breed, so don't lose sight of the reason for choosing the breed.
20. I do Westie Rescue, and I see what poor breeding can do to our happy, healthy, feisty Westies. I would like to stress that when you are placing a puppy, remember that this breed is not for everyone. In Rescue, we see what happens when Westies are placed in homes where the owners were not fully prepared for the Westie temperament, and it turns out to be a sad situation for both the Westie and the owner.