

REPLOGLE

SNOWBANK

Martha and Cliff Replogle

While checking on our “house for sale” ad in the *Atlanta Constitution* classifieds, my eyes flipped to the ‘Dogs for Sale’ listings and there, finally, after several years of searching, was an ad for AKC West Highland Terrier puppies. I called and was immediately interrogated by the military MD’s wife stationed at Turner AFB in southwest Georgia. It was agreed they would sell us a female pup and would hold her a few extra weeks until our household furnishings were loaded into a moving van as we prepared for Cliff’s transfer from Atlanta to Louisville, Kentucky. Thus began a lifetime of love for Westies!

Cliff had grown up in Bristol, Virginia, with hunting dogs while my family had a black Cocker and later a Dalmatian. My grandfather’s neighbors in North Carolina had a Westie and I adored him. My parents said that when I was living on my own I could have all the Westies that I wanted. Guess they didn’t realize I would take them literally!

We drove to the soon to close SAC base near Albany, Georgia, and met the DeChesaros. They were leaving the military heading back to the Northwest which is where they had lived when they bought their Westies. So there we were, Cliff, me, our two year old son and a newly added family member... our first Westie along with all our clothing, child’s essentials, etc. piled into our Dodge headed to Kentucky with no forwarding address as yet!

We moved into an apartment in Louisville just before Christmas, 1966, and I soon realized Rep’s Snow Belle of Scotland needed obedience training. Luckily, I found an ad in the local paper for classes being held by the Louisville Kennel Club and signed up. SnowBelle later completed class in first place with an almost perfect score and someone suggested I enter her in the club’s upcoming conformation match. Meantime, I met Walter and Betty Williams (Doon Macduff) and made an appointment for grooming instructions. SnowBelle later was BB at the match and awarded a group placement. We were lucky to start with a bitch of good coat, movement and bone and while the wins were beginner’s luck, we were off on a new hobby.

We were only in Kentucky for six months when Cliff was transferred back to Georgia, this time to Macon. Before leaving we arranged to buy a show quality puppy from the Williams’ expected litter by Ch. Rannoch-Dune Duke; Frosty.. Rep’s Snow Frosted Morn, later became our first champion. While spending two years in Macon we joined the Macon Kennel Club and learned a lot about shows but little about Westies as there were none around. Betty encouraged me (Martha) to join the WHWTCA as an associate and the newsletter supplied very helpful info. Later when the WHWTCA dropped the “associates” category, Cliff and I joined as regular members.

In the days before home computers, the internet, cell phones and “free long distance dialing”, it was much more difficult to learn about breeders and bloodlines. There was no semen bank and shipping a bitch in season was by ‘cargo.’ While researching a suitable mate for SnowBelle, I read about bloodlines mainly using books by May Pacey (Wolvey) and John Marvin (Cranbourne). SnowBelle’s parentage combined some excellent bloodlines including Canadian and American champions from Remasaia, Of the Rouge and Ben Braggie as well as Wallmoore, Klintilloch and Rachelwood, some of which went back to the celebrated BIS winner, Ch.

Cruben Dextor. After much searching SnowBelle was bred to another BIS dog, Ch. Whitebriar Jalisker who was being

Specialed at the time by Mike Leathers (now Michelle Billings). "Jal" had been imported by a man in North Carolina, was seen at

a show by Tom and Billye Ward who suggested to Mike that Jal be purchased for Herman and Judy Fellton, owners of a top

Afghan Hound kennel north of Atlanta who were looking for a Westie to special. So we had a litter of ONE by Jal and decided on the kennel name "Snowbank" after I passed a window one day and commented on our snowbank of white dogs standing on a pile of raked pine needles.

Several years later, Cliff was transferred back to Louisville and we joined the Louisville Kennel Club and the WHWTC Indiana. We met many knowledgeable and encouraging Westie owners/breeders through the Indy club including B.G. Frame (Wigtown) and D.J. Daniell-Jenkins, (Of the Rouge, Canada). Marge Blue (Klintiloch) and Jack Marvin. explained the differences in 'type'. Dee gave me lengthy pedigrees explaining line breeding, etc. We later purchased a puppy from Dee who became Ch. Winde Mere Pride of the Rouge and bred her to BG's BIS-winning Ch. Rannoch Dune Downbeat. Meanwhile, Bergit Zakschewski (later Coady and finally Kabel) sponsored by Betty Malinka, a Scottie fancier from Gary, Indiana also campaigned her internationally titled Westie, Ch, Monsieur aus der Flerlage "Bobby", in the Midwest. Bergit's grooming techniques changed the way things were done forever. I was learning new techniques and then Cliff was transferred to Ashville, North Carolina.

Cliff was a transportation manager in an industry that was deregulated causing shrinking of the industry resulting in mergers and many moves for us. We lived in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Alabama and Florida, but made lifetime

friends wherever we lived. Daphne Gentry bought her first show pup from us and built her kennel (Killundine) from there. Her book *The New West Highland White Terrier* (1998) is my favorite. There are many people, mainly interested in conformation but a few performance fans as well who purchased their Westies from Snowbank and

there were others that we brought into our breeding program.

Over the years we have been members of the WHWTC of Southeast Texas, the WHWTC of Atlanta and the venerable Indiana Club. Martha is a life member of the Canadian WHWTC. I doubt if we would have hung in there with showing or breeding if it had not been for local and regional clubs and their dedicated members. We believe they are very important to the newcomers. As founding members of the Suncoast Westie Club, it was our goal to encourage newcomers to build their knowledge while enjoying the sport of showing dogs. It is the best way to make lasting friends and we've enjoyed seeing many of them at Montgomery and Crufts as well as Eukanuba. Dee and Wendell Marumoto (Deeside) who we met at Montgomery County even provided a Westie wedding (re-marriage) for us on a private beach near Diamondhead. We still remember Wendell approaching the wedding island by walking the Westies along the shore to keep them off the hotel property.

Over the last 45 years we remember the friends but have lost count of the number of champions we've produced and/or owned (100?) including Scottish Terriers. We are very proud of our BIS-winning Ch. Snowbank Starr Shine owned by Dan and Amelia Musser and handled by George and Roz Ward, but many of our champions simply came home after finishing to become great pets as well as producers. Eng., Am. Ch. Charosmack Clog Dancer was placed with us by his breeder in the UK, Roslyn Dunne, and he has done us proud. We've bred a number who were 'top ten' Westies with limited showing and now that the AKC has started the "Grand Ch" titles, we have several that have qualified. Their get continues the 'Snowbank'. There have been so many great dogs in and out of the ring, we could never agree on "just pick one". We thank so many who were able to import and campaign them so we had the opportunity to see and use them at stud.

Just as much as enjoying the dog sport, Cliff and I enjoyed collecting Westie and Scottie memorabilia. Cliff collects bookends (okay they are mainly Scotties) and I as a high school special education teacher love books! Do you have any idea how many there are? Of course, the most elusive artwork is my favorite and I didn't buy that painting of a Westie from the 1840's while in London when I had the chance, so where is it?? The hunt is always on. It's as much fun as the next hopeful litter.

We all need to understand the mission of the animal rights groups and stay alert to what is happening in our areas. Be active in the community and take our dogs to 'Dog Days in the Park' type events where we can share our love of Westies with the general public.

Finally, if the breed is to stay strong, it is up to all of us to encourage newbies to learn the standard, understand something about genetics, educate themselves on health issues, show their Westies in conformation and performance events and love their dogs for all the world to see. It is more important to encourage all to pass on a positive attitude rather than a self serving one and have fun with the dogs while doing it!

