

Dee Hanna

After 53 years in Westies I can really say, "They have been my life and I love it!"

1. Why Westies?

There's something especially appealing about these guys. Whether it's the white coat, the ready for anything expression- I guess it's a combination of things. We chose the Westie as a family dog from a picture in *Dog World Magazine*.

1. From whom did you obtain your first Westie?

We got our first one from Twyla Faye Little of Storyland Kennels, in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

1. Was this Westie purchased as a pet or show dog?

This first Westie was purchased in 1960 as a pet for the family.

1. Who was your most important mentor and why?

Our most important mentor was Marge Blue who owned Klintiloch Kennels in Indiana. Marge had been in Westies for 40 years and was willing to share all her knowledge with us – how to breed for type, coats, temperament, movement and a whole lot more.

1. What do you remember most about this mentor?

Marge even sent us her formula for chalk! The year was 1961. She talked us into breeding and showing and with her help in planning to breed to the standard D and D's Kennels got its start.

1. Who were some of the other mentors that influenced you? How did they do so?

Barbara Keenan was another major influence on our life in Westies. I went to Barbara's home in Malibu, California where I got to see "Simon" holding court in his living room looking out at the Pacific Ocean. Barbara taught me how to strip Westie coats with my fingers.

1. To date, what has been your most important/ memorable moment in Westies?

From a litter of four puppies, out of one of Marge Blue's studs and a bitch we had bred, we took three pups (two males and a female) and went to Ventura, California to our first roving sweepstakes. The sexes were not divided, only the classes by age. Out of a class of 13 puppies we went 1st, 2nd, and 4th and that 1st place male (D and D's Dead-Ringer) went on to win the sweepstakes. He also went on to be our first Best in Show homebred.

1. What is your favorite dog show? Why?

Montgomery county Kennel Club, because of the number of dogs and breeders, and the amount of information to be shared.

1. If you groom your own dogs, who taught you to do so?

There was little help in Utah where we lived at the time, so I developed the skill for the final finish work wherever I could.

1. If you are or were a breeder, who taught you to evaluate litters and young stock?

We had to depend on ourselves and long distance phone calls.

1. When you look back, which of your Westies would you consider your favorite *or most influential*? Why?

That would have been our Ch. D and D's Dead-Ringer. He was a real show dog. He was homebred and ran in the top five in the country for three years when we were doing about

25 shows a year, raising puppies and winning with his sons and daughters under the knowledgeable, veteran judges.

- 11a. Which Westie not owned by you did you consider a favorite or most influential?
Ch. Ardenrun Andsome of Purston, owned by Alvaro Hunt and campaigned so brilliantly by the late Dora lee Wilson. . We bought an “Andy” son which also did some great winning for us. His name was Ch. D and D’s Amos of Melrose.
1. Also looking back, which sire, in your opinion, had a *strong* influence on the breed?
No opinion.
 1. What was your most memorable Montgomery County moment? Roving moment?
For me it was going Reserve Winners under Ann Rogers Clark with a 9-12 month puppy bitch
 1. If you attended the Centennial in 2009, what were your greatest experiences from it?
I will always remember the tremendous attendance by dogs and people and witnessing first hand the good shape the breed is currently in.
 1. What Westie author/artist influenced you the most?
John Marvin did that for me, in his books and as a judge
 1. Do you have a favorite Westie collectible(s)?
After 50 years, we have so many and treasure the memories from each one – where and how we got each one or from whom.
 1. Are you or were you active in any regional Westie Clubs? Which one(s)?
Unfortunately, there are none in our area.
 1. What do you think the future holds for the breed? Where would you like to see Westies in 10/20 years?
With all the health issues under good care and breeders who really care about the future, a Westie should be a Westie forever.
 1. How best can WHWTCA members assure the future well-being of the breed.
It’s not a groom job, it’s a standard on a piece of paper come to life; let’s keep it that way.
 1. What advice can you impart to present and future Westie enthusiasts?
Breed only if you care.