

ROSENTHAL

ARBORWOOD

Barbara and Bernard Rosenthal

“Tiny little puppy paws, only a few inches high...”.

In the beginning, adding a canine member to our family was not taken lightly. Breed books were consulted, dogs ogled on the street and finally we narrowed the search down to the terrier breeds.

We attended the Westminster KC show at Madison Square Garden and watched the Westies strut their stuff. That clinched it.

Finding a local breeder of Westies was pure luck and coincidence. Barbara and Marylou Pross used the same hairdresser. Through this contact we learned that a new litter out of Ch. Prosswick's Pickwick and the puppies were ready to go. Happily, we were ready to get our boy at the same time. We evidentially passed muster after Pickwick (Marcus) marked his territory on Barbara's leg. We left with Patriot of Prosswick (MacDuff) wrapped in Barbara's coat.

We joined the WHWTC of Greater New York Club shortly after MacDuff came into our lives. We became members and are actively involved to this day. We also were involved with the WHWTC of Northern New Jersey, and were founding members, as well as members of the William Penn Club. Among some of the early New York Club members we got to know were Larry and Judy Dumbra, Greg Shively, Ellen Axelrod, Chuck and Lee Trudeau, Mrs. George Seemann, Emilie Schoonover, Kathy and Wayne Kompare, Donna Hegstrom, Richie Frye, Linda Antonaccio and Ida Keushgenian. Ida was showing her dog Ch. Cynosure's Orion the Hunter, “Sport”; at about this time and she also joined the Club.

. The first WHWTCA meeting we attended after we joined the parent club was held at the “Golden Chariot” motel and the entire roster of members present fit comfortably around one U-shaped banquet table!

Over the years, we have participated in Montgomery County week, entering shows and attending the dinner meetings with our fellow Greater New York Club members. Bernie served on the nominating committee, as a vote counter and painted the Sweepstakes trophies one year.

Bob and Marylou Pross guided us through the early days of Westie ownership, helping us with health and grooming issues. They encouraged us to enter MacDuff in conformation shows. Barbara handled him and eventually Bernie took over the grooming. He gathered nine points rather quickly and needed his majors to finish. During this period, we met great people who were eager to help the neophytes. Among them were Linda Servin, Judy and Chris Swingle and Bill Ferrara.

Bob Pross called Cliff Hallmark and asked him to take us on as clients. Cliff won the Open Dog class at Westminster, losing the points to Bill Ferrara's Bred by dog.

Undaunted, Cliff got MacDuff his two majors at a weekend on the Cherry Blossom circuit. The day MacDuff finished, Cliff was asked by Jack Sparrow of WestBern Kennels, breeders of Westies and Saint Bernards if Cliff's special was available at stud. Cliff recommended MacDuff and the deed was done in their RV. With a weekend like that, we were hooked. Sort of like having the "sucker dog", the dog that made you want more. That was the beginning of our involvement in the Westie fancy. Barbara later went on to get a CD on MacDuff. She also became involved with tracking at the Taconic Hills Kennel Club.

Our second big thrill was at the Cherry Blossom again ... this time with Desdemona of Arborose (Desi). She won Best of Breed from the classes with Lois Hallmark handling besting Cliff's special. Desi was really special but totally spoiled. When someone else handled her, we had to hide.

When we decided that it was time to increase our pack, Seymour Weiss of New York advised us to go outside the area for another Westie. The prodding of George Wright to check out a litter bred by Marcella Lee in Iowa resulted in Gertrude coming into our life. Bernie and Larry Dumbra flew out to Iowa to pick her up, while Barbara, James and Judy waited anxiously for the arrival of the puppy.

Ida Keushgenian was always there to help with advice and last minute grooming touch-ups. At one regional specialty, Bernie was handling our Gertrude and nervously stumbled over his own feet. After judge Richard Fetzer had him do the up and down one more time, he gave Gertrude the nod for Winners Bitch at the WHWTC of Southeastern Michigan. I attribute at least 25% of the credit for that success to Ida Keushgenian.

We have shown a number of Westies to their conformation championships and are now involved in working titles for our latest Westie such as obedience, tracking, earth dog and probably rally. As of now, he has one leg on junior earth dog and one leg up on humiliating us by refusing to leave the tunnel.

Jane Sajban has been a great friend and mentor as well as our handler. Dawn Martin has been a great influence and friend. Both have encouraged us to embark on new activities with our dogs and the result has been meeting new, wonderful people and experiences that are different from the breed ring.