

RUPERT

CATHY'S

Cathy Rupert

1. I didn't know what kind of dog, I wanted after my Old English Sheepdog. A friend gave me a dog book. I picked out three breeds, and my friend said my best choice was a Westie.
- 2/3. I purchased my first Westie from Lucy Reynolds through an ad in the local newspaper. It was a male purchased as a pet.
- 4/5. Mary and Roy Bucklew were my most important mentors. As you can already tell, I didn't know very much about dogs, getting one through the newspaper, but it worked out well. Clancy lived to be 15. I got my first show dog from the Bucklews. That bitch went back to Ch. Elfinbrook Simon. The first dog show I watched on TV was Westminster 1962 and it was a real thrill seeing Simon winning Best in Show. The Bucklews taught me all about Westies, genetics, health issues, grooming and showing. They had a lot of knowledge. The one thing I remember about Roy was he was a perfectionist in his dog grooming.
6. Dawn Diemer was my other important mentor from whom I got my foundation bitch I co-owned that bitch with Dawn and she helped me get my breeding program started.
7. My most memorable moment in Westies was when my bitch Ch. Cathy's Copy Girl (Chelle), went Winners Bitch at my Club's Specialty.
8. My favorite show is my Club's Specialty. Our club, the WHWTC of Western Pennsylvania works throughout the year to make our Specialty possible. I enjoy seeing people come back every year. Our members always try to be helpful to the exhibitors. We always have nice trophies and great hospitality.
9. I was taught to groom by Roy Bucklew, Betty Ostrowski, and Clare Schmalz. I have never been confident enough to do the show grooming. I leave that up to Clare. I can prepare them by grooming to go into the ring but that is as far as it goes. Trimming is another matter.
10. As far as being a breeder, I only bred a litter when I needed a dog to show. I had a total of seven litters which produced 10 champions. Either Dawn Diemer or Clare Schmalz would help me evaluate the litters.
11. It is hard to pick a favorite, but if I had to pick one I would say it was Ch. Cathy's Celtic Rose; she did some nice winning and she is a very typey bitch. She was bred once and had a litter of three puppies. I let one go as a pet and the other two became champions. At the time of this writing (June 2011), *Cayle* is approaching her 13th birthday and is very much enjoying the life of a "couch potato."

12. I think my favorite and most influential stud dog and who had a strong influence on the breed was Ch Mac-Ken-Char's Irish Navigator.

13. The most memorable Montgomery County for me was the 1979 edition when Betty Ostrowski's puppy, Linshaw's Beau Brummel won Best in Sweepstakes.

14. I attended the Centennial and I have many memories of it. Getting to see old friends and making new ones were some of the best and most enduring. Seeing the Club's first futurity, watching all the judging was great. I enjoyed the craft classes and the great stands to shop at. The costume classes were a highlight of the Centennial.

15. /16. My favorite author was Ruth Faherty. I recommended her book "Westies From Head to Tail"

to everyone who bought a puppy from me or was interested in Westies. The artist would be Tom Drexler. It is hard to choose what porcelain piece of Tom's I like best. I guess it would be the Westie at one end of a log and the squirrel at the other end.

17. I am very active in the WHWTCWPA; I have held every office but treasurer. I have been secretary of the Club too many years to count.

18./20. I am not sure what the future holds for Westies. I hope the Westie Foundation

is around for a long time. I think the Foundation is helping in the health issues

of the breed. I hope the breeders aim for the betterment of Westies, breeding healthy dogs but still keeping to the standard. I don't

want to see Westies become more popular than they are now. Some of the breeders I met when I started in Westies over 40 years ago are still around,

but it seems that newer people come into Westies and before you know it you don't see them around any more. I don't know what the reason is. It is a lot more

expensive to show dogs now. But I'm sure there are many other reasons beside the higher costs.