

WELLS

HIGHLAND

Linda Wells

1. Why Westies?

I chose Westies because they are the right size for me, and are great family dogs. I love the breed's outgoing personality and that a Westie is a good choice for people suffering from allergies.

2. From whom did you obtain your first Westie?

My first Westie came from Bonnie Wilson a breeder in Vancouver, Washington.

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

The dog was originally purchased as a pet, but did become my first show dog.

4. Who was your most important mentor and why?

Mary Lou Ludlow was my first mentor because she encouraged me in all aspects of Westies: breeding, socializing, grooming, and showing.

5. What do you remember most about this mentor?

Mary Lou is the most positive and outgoing person I've ever met.

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

Sue Cole is another early mentor from whom I obtained my first show dog and owner-handled first champion. She helped me with grooming, showing, and lots of encouragement.

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

That would have to be winning Best of Opposite Sex at Hatboro with Ch. Dirkhaven Dancing (Dancer) sired by my Ch. Ji Ro's Spirit of Winterwhite (Corky).

8. What is your favorite dog show? Why?

The Rose Cluster in Portland, Oregon is my favorite group of shows. I guess that's because it also hosts the Terrier Association of Oregon and, of course, because it's located in my home town!

9. Who taught you to groom?

I learned to groom dogs from many people. I was quite a pest, but I did pick up many wonderful techniques from the best.

10. Who taught you to evaluate litters and young stock?

I have Mary Lou Ludlow to thank for learning that essential skill.

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

I would have to say these were Ch. Ji Ro's Spirit of Winterwhite and Ch. Dirkhaven Dancing. Ch. Heritage Farm Highland Jenny, Winners Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex at the San Francisco Bay West Highland White Terrier Club was another of my special favorites.

12. Also looking back, which sire, in your opinion, had a *strong* influence on the breed?
For me that would always be Ch. Whitebriar Jeronimo.

13. What was your most memorable Montgomery County moment? Roving moment?
At the Hatboro show held during Montgomery weekend, my Ch. Dirkhaven Dancing was Best of Opposite Sex. When the Roving was hosted by the West Highland White Terrier Club of Greater Denver, my Ch. O'Migracious Molly Can Do was Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex.

14. If you attended the Centennial in 2009, what were your greatest experiences from it?
I did not get to attend the Centennial.

15. What Westie author/artist influenced you the most?
Ruth Faherty for her *Westies From Head to Tail* by and my favorite artist is Barbara Hands.

16. Do you have a favorite Westie collectible(s)?
I have a beautiful ceramic study of a Westie mother and pups from England.

17. Are you or were you active in any regional Westie Clubs?
I belong to the San Francisco Bay West Highland White Terrier Club and West Highland White Terrier Club of Puget Sound.

18. What do you think the future holds for the breed? Where would you like to see it in 10/20 years?

I am seeing better over all structure in parts of the U.S. as I judge. I would like see

breeders and owners learn how to better present their own dogs.

In 10 to 20 years I would like to keep our Westies true to the breed standard. I also would hope we would realize better health for our dogs.

19. How best can WHWTCA members assure the future well-being of the breed.
We should keep the sport of dogs accessible to all. Mentoring is very important and sharing knowledge with others is the most important factor for the continued forward progress of our breed.

20. What advice can you impart to present and future Westie enthusiasts?
Stick to it! Ask questions and keep asking as many people as it takes to get your question answered. Remember you NEVER know everything and there is always more to learn.