

GOSS

BRIARPATCH

Barbara Goss

1. I was initially drawn to Westies because I thought that they were beautiful and had an “impish” quality about them.
2. When I moved to Wisconsin, I purchased my first Westie from Bergit Coady when she lived in Illinois. The bitch’s name was Reanda Fiona, aka “Brat”, and she was the daughter of Bergit’s Int. Ch. Monsieur Aus Der Flerlage.
3. “Brat” became a pet, but she was also a great brood bitch and in her first litter, bred to Joan Graber’s Ch. Rudh’Re Glendenning, she produced three champions.
4. My most important mentor at the time was Joan Graber. She taught me to groom and to show Westies. What I most remember about Joan was her unselfishness and patience in sharing her knowledge of Westies with me.
5. Some of my other mentors were Donna Young, Sue Napady, and Darlene Gralewicz. We used to travel to shows together and make our annual pilgrimage to Montgomery County. I learned something about Westies from each of them.
6. My most memorable moment in Westies was in 1979 when my first homebred champion, Ch. Briarpatch Raggamuffin, was Best of Breed at the National Specialty at Montgomery County from the Veteran Bitch Class.
7. My favorite show dog was my “Muffin,” Ch. Briarpatch Raggamuffin, because she introduced me to dog shows, and also because she was a wonderful pet and great with my children. She slept on the bed every night with me.
8. Initially Joan Graber taught me to groom Westies. Now that I have returned to Westies after a 30 year absence, Jan Parcel has been helping me to groom.
9. Joan Graber and Bergit Coady (now Kabel) taught me how to evaluate litters and young stock.
10. My Westie that I consider the most influential is Ch. BriarpatchRaggamuffin. Besides being Best of Breed at Montgomery County in 1979, she was also Winners Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex there in 1973. She produced Am. & Can. Ch. Briarpatch Brechin when bred to Ch. Pinmoney Puck, and his daughter, Am. & Can. Ch. Teribrae’s Playful Wanderer, that I also owned, was Winners Bitch at Montgomery County in 1980, repeating her grandmother’s win. That year she was also Best of Opposite Sex in the Sweepstakes at Montgomery County
11. One of the sires that I consider to have had a strong influence on the breed is Ch. Mac-Ken Char’s Irish Navigator. Besides all that he has accomplished, he seems to have passed his qualities on to his progeny.
12. My most memorable Montgomery County moment was showing my first homebred champion, Ch. Briarpatch Raggamuffin, to Best of Breed from the Veteran Bitch class under judge Mrs. Dorothea Daniell-Jenkins.
13. I attended the Centennial in 2009 and my greatest experience from it was being able to see Westies doing so many different things. I especially enjoyed the Costume Class.
14. The Westie author that has influenced me the most was John T. Marvin. When I got my first Westie I read that first edition of his book – *The Complete West Highland White Terrier* – published in 1961.

15. Some of my favorite Westie collectibles are the many Barbara Hands prints of Westies that I own. I also have many figurines of Westies.
16. I also belong to the WHWTC of Northern Illinois.
17. The future of Westies seems to be in good hands with many dedicated breeders. In 10/20 years, I would like to see the health issues in Westies resolved.
18. WHWTC of America members can assure the future well-being of the breed by breeding healthy dogs and by mentoring new members.
19. I would advise Westie enthusiasts to use good sense in breeding and selling their Westies. In breeding it should be the right dog to the right bitch, considering faults, and not just going with popular dogs.