

## Judy White: A Biography

### 1. Why Westies?

I started in Westies for two reasons; the first was that they seemed like a sturdy breed. My ex-husband was a large man and we were afraid if we purchased a toy dog, we were looking at Yorkshires, the dog might get injured or might not be able to keep up with our active life style. Second was "Aristotle," he was the Westie that lived down the hall from us. He was a white ball of energy that zoomed in and out of our apartment and rode on his owner's shoulders to go outside.

### 2. From whom did you obtain your first Westie?

My first Westie came from Susie Shafer's Ichi Ban Kennels, at the time located in Lexington Park, Maryland

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

Believe it or not, we went looking for a show-quality male. My parents had shown Boxers in the 1950s but did not stick with it. I had shown in Juniors and thought showing would be fun. Little did I know. No one in the Washington, DC area wanted to talk to us about buying a show dog. It took some time, but we found a breeder, the above-mentioned Susie Shafer; she had a litter and let us have a 12-week old show prospect. He was not much of a prospect but I did learn about the breed, basic grooming and how far you have to drive to find someone to help you. We purchased a female from Susie but neither of these two dogs finished their championships.

### 4. Who was your most important mentor and why?

Bill Ferrara and John Price topped my mentor list. Both Bill and John were excellent groomers, were more than willing to help me learn how to groom and were willing to sell me a quality dog that I could finish myself. This was my Am., Can., Bmd. Ch. Pillerton Postman.

### 5. What do you remember most about these mentors?

Both Bill and John wanted me to be successful, helped with grooming, regardless of how many mistakes I made and were lots of fun to be around.

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

Ben and Donna Dale, Gleanntan Skye Terriers, were also instrumental in growing me in dogs. The Dales taught me a great deal about movement and canine structure in general. Both were terrier group judges and both did much to help me understand how a dog should be put together.

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

Those are difficult questions; I have had many fun and memorable moments showing but I think winning the Terrier Group from the Bred-by-Exhibitor class would qualify. This was the first time one of my dogs had won a Group with me handling it.

### 8. What is your favorite dog show? Why.

I would have to say my favorite show is the last at which I won. Isn't that the way we all feel? Shows have changed so much since started out. I always enjoyed the three-day circuit in Greensboro, North Carolina and the four-day summer shows in Greenville, Spartanburg, Asheville and Charlotte. Summer shows always manage to be hot but can be so much fun with a group of terrier friends.

### 9. If you groom your own dogs, who taught you to do so.

I got a lot of invaluable help from Susie Shafer, Bill Ferrara and John Price and Jaimi Glodek. And this was backed up by practice, practice and even more practice.

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

Most of my knowledge about evaluating litters came from Bill Ferrara, John Price and Ben and Donna Dale. Although the Dales did not have Westies, they knew structure.

11. When you look back, which of your Westies would you consider your favorite or most influential? Why? Which Westie not owned by you did you consider a favorite or most influential?

I had two favorites among my own dogs, Pillerton Postman "Easy" and Jubilhill Jewel "Piglet". Easy was the ultimate show dog and was photogenic to boot. Although he was a tad on the smaller side he showed and showed and showed, never let down and could have gone in the ring without a handler. He ignored most people until the camera came out and then he turned on the charm. Piglet was a show girl but not a producer. This was a real shame; she had a great neck and shoulders and loved to show herself off. She ruled the roost at home until the day we had to let her go.

My favorite Westie that I did not own was Eng. Ch. Pillerton Peterman. When he came to live in the United States with owner Sylvia Kearsy, he was quite elderly, but had considerable influence on the breed in the few short years he lived on these shores.

12. Also looking back, which sire, in your opinion, had a strong influence on the breed?

Peterman and Ch.Mac-Ken-Char's Irish Navigator come immediately to mind...

13. What was your most memorable Montgomery County moment? Roving moment?

Montgomery would have to be the mud bowl. Watching people walk out of their shoes was a hoot. Also spending an evening driving all over Montgomery County looking for a certain restaurant with a parade of five cars kind of sticks in my mind too.

The most memorable Roving was the one Karen Lindberg put on in Duluth Minnesota more or less on her own and the wonderful time we had, enjoying the company, grooming in the parking lot of the hotel and wonderful weather, except for the tornado siren.

14. If you attended the Centennial in 2009, what were your greatest experiences from it?

The Centennial reminded me of the old Montgomery County weekend, with everyone staying in the same hotel. Sitting in the bar, restaurant or lobby talking dogs and seeing everyone from across the country was truly enjoyable. Being able to attend most of the events without having to move equipment and the relaxed atmosphere that was part of it was a wonderful experience of its own.

15. What Westie author/artist influenced you the most?

I have always loved Westie artwork and regret that I could not afford to collect some of the best pieces, but some of my favorites are Marguerite Kirmse etchings. I do own three or four of her Westie etchings as well as some of her other breed etchings. I have a couple of Barbara Hands oils, her older works that I think are wonderful and of course Tom Drexler's statues. These are my favorites.

16. Do you have a favorite Westie Collectible(s)?

All of the above fit this description.

17. Are you or where you active in any regional Westie Clubs? Which one(s)?

I was very active in the WHWTC of Greater Washington for more than 30 years. When I moved to out of the area I decided to drop my membership and now do not belong to any regional club.

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

I am not sure. I find it difficult to place my older dogs. In the past I would have people waiting for my older champions or older puppies that didn't quite make the grade. Now all of those homes are taken by rescued dogs. The puppy calls have come to a halt and I have no litters planned because I can not keep all of the puppies. I only breed to have something to show; when I finish the two youngsters I have now I am not sure what I will do. I would like to see more education into movement and structure. I see more and more dogs that move quickly but cover no ground. Reach and drive is a key to the breed and many times it is overlooked for the flashy showmanship.

19. How best can WHWTCA members assure the future well-being of the breed.

I think everyone should consider that winning isn't everything. I would like to see more owners show and groom their own dogs. I am proud to be an owner-handler and that my dogs are finished from the Bred-by class. I find very little joy or reward in having a professional handler show my dogs.

20. What advice can you impart to present and future Westie enthusiasts?

Work to learn more and more about your breed, be honest with yourself and others about the faults and shortcomings of your stock. Sticking your head in the sand and hoping a problem goes away is unrealistic and is not going to happen.