

Donna Young

1. Why Westies?

We had always had big dogs but my youngest daughter wanted a “little dog” so I had to research and find a small dog with “big dog” qualities----the Westie seemed to fit that description and certainly seemed to think he was a BIG dog.

2. From whom did you obtain your first Westie?

Even though this was to be a pet we wanted one from a good breeder---the first puppy came from Tom, Stella and Susan Napady.

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

I wanted one good enough to show just in case-----We had bred and showed Collies for 10 years, the first was to be a pet but was not show quality so we had to buy another (of course the first one stayed too). The same thing happened, with horses, after getting a pet horse one of the children wanted to show so we had to get another (and again the first one stayed). I certainly did not want more than one of those little white dogs! Who knew I would get so attached to those little ones. The Collies got old and died, same with the horses and the Westie population just kept on increasing.

4. Who was your most important mentor and why?

was Bergit Coady Kabel----my first puppy was out of a daughter of her male and sired by a dog she had imported.

5. What do you remember most about this mentor?

Bergit spent endless hours with me patiently showing me how to groom and present a Westie.

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

There have been many----Joan Graber for one.

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

All wins are fun but at my first Montgomery County in 1974, the 6-9 puppy dog that I bred and co-owned won the Sweepstakes. At the time I thought that was pretty easy but I have yet to repeat it.

8. What is your favorite dog show? Why?

Second and talk to No contest---Montgomery County—I have missed only twice since 1974. would be Crufts with its entry of over 100, and benched so you can see exhibitors ----and acres of good vendors. I try to go every two years.

9. Who taught you to groom?

Bergit taught me to groom Westies.

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

I learned structure and conformation years earlier with Collies and horses---then had to adapt it to the specifics and development of Westies.

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

There have been so many. As a show dog I guess it would have to be my Ch. Greenbriar Going My Way (Bing) who was only shown speciality weekends, won his first four-point major from the 6-9 class, finished in four speciality weekends with four majors and a Best in Sweeps. Any of his pups that got into

the show ring finished owner-handled including BW at Montgomery County. However, my Ch. Greenbriar Perfect Gentleman (Danny) was my constant companion for 14 years And many of the bitches contributed so much----it is not possible to pick a favorite or most influential----all contributed in many ways and were not necessarily titled.

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

There were several-----first would be Ch . Pillerton Peterman, his son Ch. Purston Pinmoney Pedlar. I would include Ch. Ardenrun Andsome of Purston. More recent dogs would be Ashgate Sinclair----I have always regretted not having one of his offspring.

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

There have been too many to pick one----I just loved Montgomery Co no matter what the weather.

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

I attended and can not say what the greatest experience was. Everything about that show was great----just a lot to absorb in a few short days. The committee is really to be commended.

15. What Westie author/artist influenced you the most? Obviously, John Marvin's books are essential for anyone serious in Westies.

There have been a number of good authors since but Johns books are a starting point. And writings by Seymour Weiss in a number of sources-----magazines, books, yearbooks etc. is invaluable. He puts heart and feelings into every aspect

of our relationship with these dogs of ours and their true value to us. Artists Dorothy Hardcastle and Allison Platt have given us great pictures of our dogs lives.

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

I have a few----an original sepia by R. L. Reiss dated May 18, 1884, a Barbara Hands original oil, a few original porcelains and I enjoy my jewelry by Omar.

17. Are you or were you active in any regional Westie Clubs?

Member of the WHWTC of Northern Illinois and the West Highland White Terrier Club of England.

I am combining 18, 19 & 20. I have some concerns for the future but it is nothing

cannot be remedied. I know that all breeds go through cycles of producing really great dogs and for a number of reasons drop to more mediocre individuals. During the 1970's at Montgomery County, four out of six shows saw a Westie go BIS. Now we are pleased if they even place in the group. The same is true at the majority of all-breed shows. Certainly AKC registrations are remaining high but I fear that is due to the mass production of mill pups to make money for an ever demanding public. I have watched too many people get into the breeding and showing of our breed and look for a "quick fix". They buy a very expensive dog (frequently with a lot conditions----puppies back, handlers, etc) and want instant results. The dogs is widely advertised, groomed by someone else, given to a handler and finally bred---usually to a popular dog/bitch without much concern or knowledge as to genetic compatibility. The chief motivation seems to be focused on the owner rather than the dog or the breed. Accolades are showered on the person who produces the most, the biggest, the best----- instead of on the dog. We need more members who are genuinely interested in the breed as a whole, its health and its quality of life. I am distressed at the ever increasing tendency to buy them, show them, breed them and dump them with little or no emotional attachment. I know in today's world we can't keep them all but there must be a middle ground between too many pets and treating them as inanimate objects solely for the aggrandizement of the owners. I

would

hope we will see more people willing to learn to "do it yourself" and in so doing learn more about the breed and its needs, establish a relationship with individual dogs which will result in an emotional tie with the dog and the breed as a whole. It really is about the DOG not about the person. I really admire those very brave and talented individuals who after finishing a CH. go on to any number of other activities that they can enjoy with their dog and which it appears the dog enjoys a well. I would hope that all Westie enthusiasts, present and future, would place the needs and welfare of the breed first, the individual dog second and the rewards to the owners a distant third.

