

Anne Sanders; A Biography

1. Why Westies?

Sil had grown up with a Westie and a Scottie. Shortly after we got married, we were looking for a dog and he took me to the Golden Gate benched show to decide on the right breed; we narrowed our choice down to a Westie or a Cairn. The Westie people were friendlier.

2. From whom did you obtain your first Westie?

Dorie Eisenberg, KarRic Westies in San Rafael, California was the source of our first Westie.

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

We were getting a pet. However, when we returned to have his first stripping, Dorie suggested he was very nice and we should try showing him.

4. Who was your most important mentor and why?

Pat Winans (Vikala) of Sacramento was our most important mentor. Not only did she help me learn to groom (She groomed one side and told me to make the other side look the same.) but she encouraged me to attend a variety of seminars. These covered topics such as breeding, pedigree analysis, neonatal care, etc. She also guided me away from breeding to the top local winner and choosing a stud based on what he could offer my bitch to produce better than she.

5. What do you remember most about this mentor?

Pat always had time for newcomers. In addition to helping them with grooming and encouraging participation at shows and club activities, she always made them feel welcome.

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

Jean McAndrews (NorWestie) moved from Alaska to California. She spent many hours helping me improve my grooming skills. Dr. George Padgett was an important mentor regarding health issues. He taught me how to prioritize problems and the importance of being honest and open with my fellow breeders.

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

I think one always remembers their first point, their first champion etc. I have been blessed to have many, many memorable moments – special wins, opportunities to help owners deal with health issues, and special people who were touched by having a Westie be part of their lives.

8. What is your favorite dog show? Why?

While the national specialties are exciting, I enjoy the large shows that have 4 – 5 show at one venue, such as the Portland Oregon cluster, the Astrodome, etc. Top dogs from all breeds attend and by staying in one place I find more time to talk with other breeders (not just breeders of Westies) and watch and learn.

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

As I mentioned before, Pat Winans and Jean McAndrews taught me the basics. Recently, Sandy Campbell has helped me immensely to hone my skills and develop a better eye.

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

This skill came from Jean McAndrews, Margaret Barr, and many seminars

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 probably spent the most time training and working with Oscar (Ch. Rime's Academy Award). He was going to be my super obedience dog. However, he had other ideas and taught me just how smart Westies can be. We shared a lot of hours, happily working together, and I learned more from him than he did from me.

12. Also looking back, which sire, in your opinion, had a *strong* influence on the breed?
No reply was given to this question.

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

There have been many memorable moments from the Montgomery weekend. They have been mostly good, a few bad, and some very funny moments. I will always cherish the year I judged Sweepstakes in 1998 with an entry of 103 puppies. The quality was better than one sees in most years and the sizeable entry was exciting to see.

14. If you attended the Centennial in 2009, what were your greatest experiences from it?
No reply was given to this question.

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

When we started in Westies, John Marvin's book was the "bible". From there we have collected almost every book written about Westies and many fiction works with Westies as characters.

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

Over the years we have collected a lot of Westie items. My favorites are the Tom Drexler sculptures and a bronze of "Simon" by Ric Chashoudian.

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

I am a charter member and past-president of the San Francisco Bay WHWTC and a long-time member of the WHWTC of Puget Sound.

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

I would like to see Westies with good terrier type, both physical and mental, with the form and attitude to be able to do the job they were intended to do. Also, with all of the new and improving medical information, I would hope to see Westies that are sound and healthy in all respects.

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

Education, education, education. Attend seminars, read, and listen to knowledgeable people. Don't believe all the old wives' tales. Question new ideas but be ready to grow and change.

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

Share your ideas and knowledge freely and openly. Most of all, enjoy your dogs no matter what activity you share with them.