

BALDWIN

PJ'S

Patricia Baldwin

(Submitted by John Baldwin Pat's husband)

Regarding your request for histories of the WHWTCA life members, I am writing on behalf of my wife Patricia Ann Baldwin who passed away January 12, 2010. Hours before her death, our last remaining Westie, PJ's Joey to the World (Joey) was lying next to her in bed as he had done since puppyhood. The fact that that bed was in a hospice made no difference to either of them or the love they had for each other. This is not a sad story but a fitting end for a woman that loved the breed.

In 1970 Pat was faced with being without me, as I had been drafted and was preparing to leave for boot camp. A couple we had met at my graduate school at Wichita State suggested she get a dog to keep her company while I was away. They showed us a picture of a West Highland White Terrier in an AKC book of dog breeds. They felt the breed would be a good fit for our small, rented home and small back yard.

A few days later they called to say they had seen an ad in the paper for a Westie. William Wesley MacTavish (Wes) joined our family soon after. I was appalled that we had to spend \$150 for a dog. Pat met a local breeder in Wichita, Betty Bernstorff, who became her mentor, taught her to groom, and introduced her to dog shows. While we had known nothing about conformation, we were fortunate that Wes turned out to be a very good Westie. He won a blue ribbon in his first dog show and we were on our way to learning to become serious Westie breeders.

Within a year we had purchased a Westie bitch from Mrs. Bernstorff. Annie became our foundation bitch and eventually produced our first homebred champion, PJ's Buffalo Bill. While I was in the service, Pat entered Wes in obedience trials and he achieved an AKC title of Companion Dog (CD) in four shows. Pat also began showing Wes and Annie at dog shows in the mid-west (Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri). Pat improved her grooming and showing and was rewarded by Annie becoming Ch. Annadale of Bernif.

By the time I returned from the military, our \$150 dog had cost over \$4000 counting the grooming equipment, crates, vet bills and, of course, the new car to hold it all for travel to dog shows. By then, however, I, too, had become a Westie lover and supported Pat in what had become a shared love of the breed.

After I received my Masters Degree at Wichita State, we moved to a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where Pat and three other people founded the West Highland White Terrier Club of Western Pennsylvania (WHWTCWPA). She served on the board of that club, as well as holding many offices, including President. She continued to show our dogs in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts and showed at the National Westie Specialty in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on several occasions. The highlight of that show for Pat was when PJ's Buffalo Bill won the 12-18-month class. We established the kennel name PJ's. Pat created an owner's manual for the people who adopted our puppies. When the Internet became popular, we created a web site called *The Westie Gram Online* to help people learn about the breed, to help choose a puppy and to help care for a Westie. At the time it was the most popular Westie site on the web. The most popular section of the site, Hints and Tips, was derived from Pat's owner's manual. Hints and Tips provided information on grooming, nutrition, allergies, health and much more. Pat created detailed grooming illustrations for the site. She was surprised at the interest that the site generated. Emails from all over the world came in with notes of thanks, many questions and helpful hints that other people had discovered. Pat was busy each week answering the questions and we incorporated other people's hints into the site. We later included a page on the site for the WHWTCWPA, which became the first Regional Westie Club to have a Web page.

The success of *The Westie Gram Online* caught the attention of the parent club, the WHWTCA, and Pat was asked to produce a Web page for the national club. Pat was made the chair of Electronic Media for the WHWTCA. The Web site Pat created was the first for the WHWTCA and was online for several years.

Pat was also involved in the beginnings of the American Working Terrier Association and sponsored terrier trials for several years in the rolling countryside near Pittsburgh. Pat

worked with Wes and added another set of letters behind his name as he earned his Certificate of Gameness to become William Wesley MacTavish CD, CG.

Pat's declining health forced us to phase out our showing and breeding and a job change for me led us to Kennewick, Washington, where the eastern desert was better for her health. Pat joined the WHWTC of Puget Sound. Pat's health and our location in Eastern Washington precluded her being active in that club, but it was through that club we located a breeder from whom she purchased her last Westie, Joey.

It was not the recognition, national and international, the Best of Breed or Best of Opposite trophies, the obedience training or willingness to go to ground that Pat loved about the breed; it was her Westies' love for her and their companionship that gave her joy, even to the end.