

**Martha Black**

1. Why Westies?

*I saw my first West Highland White Terrier in a pet shop in New York City and fell in love with him. I then came home and looked for a breeder in Bucks County.*

2. From whom did you obtain your first Westie?

*I got my first Westie from Mrs. Anthony (Polly) Walters who was one of the breed's staunchest retainers and a pretty unforgettable character.*

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

*This Westie was purchased strictly as a pet.*

4. Who was your most important mentor and why?

*Mrs. Walters filled that role for me because she introduced me to a groomer; she encouraged me to attend match shows to meet other Westie people and to learn as much as I could about the breed.*

5. What do you remember most about this mentor?

*She had a lovely back yard where all her Westies could go out and play together.*

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

*Cliff and Lois Hallmark and George and Enid Wright were professional handlers started me off right. With their guidance, I continued to learn about showing, caring for and breeding Westies.*

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

*Winning Best of Breed at the National Specialty at Montgomery County and winning the breed at the Westminster Kennel Club show as well as winning my first all-breed Best in Show all stand out equally for me.*

8. What is your favorite dog show? Why?

*The Westchester Kennel Club in New York is my personal favorite. The show is held in September and the New York Westie club used to hold its Specialty there. It was a big show with dogs coming from all over the country. It was the beginning of the busy fall season and everyone came as it was the first big show after the summer.*

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

*Actually, I never did groom my own dogs for the shows; I had wonderfully talented people to do this for me.*

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

*George and Enid Wright showed me what to look for and to always be objective.*

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?

Each of my Westies has been special to me and all my top winners were special to me for different reasons. I won't single out one.

12. Also looking back, which sire, in your opinion, had a *strong* influence on the breed? Over the years there have been many Westies that influenced the breed for different

reasons; I won't name any special one.

13. What was your most memorable Montgomery County moment?

*Winning Best of Breed at Montgomery in 1987 under Sheila Cleland always stands out for me.*

Roving moment?

*No reply*

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

*No reply.*

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

*Dorothy Hardcastle always stands out as my favorite Westie artist.*

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

*My Tom Drexler Westie piece is the pride of my collection.*

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

*I was a member of the West Highland White Terrier Club of Northern New Jersey and also the William Penn Westie Club.*

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 more Westies winning in the Terrier Group and Best in Show like they have done in the past.*

19. /20 How best can WHWTCA members assure the future well-being of the breed.

*More education should be available in breeding to the standard. The standard should not be changed but breeders must learn how to breed to produce a Westie that matches the standard. Seminars on health and performance are important, but so is producing a correct Westie.*