

KEENAN

WISHING WELL

Barbara Keenan

Responses to Questions 1-3.

Originally my mother and I had two pet Scotties. Both got out of our yard, and unfortunately one was run over. Following this incident, we went to Mrs. John Winant of Edgerstoune Kennels in Concord, New Hampshire who bred both Scotties and Westies. Mrs. Winant was a top breeder and a prominent importer having won Best in Show at Westminster in 1942 with the Westie bitch, Ch. Wolvey Pattern of Edgerstoune and in 1950 with the Scottish Terrier dog, Ch. Walsing Winning Trick of Edgerstoune, both imports. She had a Westie puppy bitch at the time that was the same age as our remaining Scottie. So we bought Edgerstoune Cindy as a pet... Our good friend Edna Hubbard showed Pugs and convinced us to show Cindy. She finished and produced three champions in her first litter, one became the Group winner Ch. Wishing Well's Belinda CD and the start of Wishing Well's Kennels Reg. in 1949 or 1950. We then went to England and purchased Eng. Ch. Cruben Dextor and his mother Am, Can. Ch Cruben Melphis Chloe and became good friends with Dr. & Mrs. Russell and their handler Len Pearson.

Responses to Questions 4-6.

My most important mentor was Len Pearson who found and sold us many very good Westies. Among these was Ch. Symmetra Snip, Best in Show at Montgomery County, 1960; Ch. Pinmoney Puck - Best in Show at Eastern Dog Club; and Ch. Elfinbrook Simon - Best in Show at Westminster 1962 plus many other Best in Show winners. My mentors in the USA were Polly Walters, Jack and Bea Marvin, plus handlers Bob Gorman and Seth Campbell.

Response to Question 7.

My most memorable moments were placing in the Terrier Group at Morris & Essex, showing Ch. Cruben Dextor myself and going Best in Show at Westminster 1962 with George Ward showing Ch. Elfinbrook Simon that Len Pearson sold me at nine months of age.

Response to Question 8.

My favorite show has always been Montgomery County where I won BIS with Ch. Symmetra Snip, and where I judged Best in Show in 198X plus numerous terrier breeds. So many friends attend, and usually the top dogs are shown in all terrier breeds not just Westies.

Response to Question 9.

I no longer groom my own dogs due to my age, seventy-five, and have severe arthritis. While I had several handlers over the years, I trimmed and showed most of my Westies at sometime. I finished "Simon" myself and showed him in Canada at four shows where he won four BIS, undefeated by any dog, all before he was shown in the USA. I have not shown a Westie since the early 2000's but have been actively breeding and showing

Beagles. I am the breeder of the dam of the top winning Beagle who has won 39 Bests in Show and was Group 2nd at Westminster.

Response to Question 10.

I learned to evaluate litters from Mrs. Haskell, Polly Walters, and the Marvins as well as from a number of handlers we knew and worked with.

Response to Question 11.

My favorite Westie was Ch. Cruben Dextor with Ch. Elfinbrook Simon a close second. Both were very influential in getting better Westies into the gene pool. I also think that Ch. Alpingay Impresario, Ch Whitebriar Jeronimo, Eng. Ch. Pillerton Peterman and dogs from the Famecheck kennels of Miss F. Cook had a positive influence on the breed.

Response to Question 12.

All the previous males were very influential.

Response to Question 13.

My most memorable Montgomery was showing in five inches of mud and losing my shoes. George Ward won with one of B.G. Frame's dogs. My most memorable Roving was going Best of Breed and on to BIS with Ch. Whitebriar Journeyman in Kansas City under Alva Rosenberg in 1963. I co-owned the dog with Sally Hudson from Vancouver, British Columbia.

Response to Question 14.

Since I was appointed AKC show chairman for the Centennial, I was there from 7 AM - 5 PM. I was greatly disappointed that the Art Exhibit was taken down by 5:00 PM the night of our dinner. As a result, I was unable to see it due to my commitment to the show itself.

Response to Question 15.

There have been many excellent authors such as Jack Marvin, Ruth Faherty, Mae Pacey and several others. I think that Tex Fawcett, Dorothy Hardcastle, and Barbara Hands were all great artists.

Response to Question 16.

I have collected for many years, and have accumulated hundreds of pieces. I have recently given most of my collection to my daughter, Patty Keenan.

Response to Question 17.

I started the Westie Club of Northern New Jersey in 1978 and was very active with the California Club during the 60's and 70's.

Response to Question 18.

I wish that Westies would be less artificially groomed today. I HATE all the backcombing and teasing now done on most of the dogs in the show ring. A proper hard

coat does not need all this. I would also like to see the performance/conformation exhibitors get along. There is way too much animosity between the two groups. Both are wonderful ways to show the public what Westies love to do, and the show ring is a good way to show we are striving to improve the breed. I would like to see novices helped more rather than snubbed. We were all novices at one time.

Response to Question 19.

The WHWTCA can do a lot towards helping the newcomer who is not yet a member. This is the future of the breed, but these people are not being helped enough.

Response to Question 20.

Try to breed to the Standard. Size is a big problem, more so in Europe where 12-13" males are being shown and winning, and a 10 1/2" bitch is considered way too small.

Try to be a good winner as well as a good loser, be nice to fellow exhibitors, do not say nasty things about your competition, and try to BE A GOOD SPORT. Remember that everyone has a different opinion of what is a fault, and this is meant to be a sport.

There seem to be too many shows 51 weeks of the year.

I wish all Westies and their owners, breeders, and friends all the best. While at seventy-five plus I will no longer breed or show Westies, they remain my first love.