

Dawn Martin

1. Why Westies?

I attended grooming school and then opened my grooming business in 1973. I owned a Rough Collie, who was the love of my life. Sadly, he died shortly before I married Bob in 1977. It was a year later before we purchased our first house and a dog was to become a part of our new home. We wanted a breed that did not shed, had a lot of personality and was not too big. I attended a grooming seminar where I met Dorothy Deschler and her champion Westie, Rock. She had taken his beautiful, stripped coat and then clippered half of the dog as a demo for pet grooming and also showed the proper way to strip a coat. When she demonstrated how "not" to pull the coat, Rock gave her the "Look" and I was hooked on the personality of this dog.

2. From whom did you obtain your first Westie? I acquired Mindy from Roy Wuchter in 1979, She resulted from a breeding of two Happy Mac dogs Roy had purchased from Roberta Mocabee. I attended a match show with Mindy in the fall of 1979. I believe the club was a predecessor to the William Penn Club. It was an unfortunate time for dogdom as Parvo virus had just begun and Mindy succumbed to this killer at the tender age of six months. While awaiting a Westie litter to be born, I acquired a ten month old Scottie named Tippy from Roy Wuchter. She too promptly came down with Parvo, but survived. Little did we know how quickly and easily Parvo was spread.

3. Was this Westie purchased as a pet or show dog? My Abigail, Ch. Royal Scott's Lady Abigail, CD, CG was born in December 1979. She became the foundation matron of all Dawn's Highland Scots Westies. Her sire was Ch. Mac-Ken-Char's Number Oneederful out of Ch. Rouge Noelles Eminent Naomi (Naomi was from the last litter bred by Dorothea Daniell-Jenkins' Kennels of the Rouge in Canada).

4. Who was your most important mentor and why? Nancy Gauthier, who I met for the first time at the Harrisburg Kennel Club show in April 1981. I bred Abigail to Nancy's Buster, Ch Skaket's Candy Man, UDT in 1982, which produced my first homebred champion Adam - Ch Dawn's Up N' Adam, CDX CG.

5. What do you remember most about this mentor? Nancy was always encouraging me to participate not only in conformation, but performance also. I did follow Nancy's suggestion and have continued to do so throughout my years in Westies. I learned hand stripping and basic structure of the dog from Nancy; she was always a willing teacher.

6. Who were some of the other mentors that influenced you? How did they do so? Janice Carkin taught me animal husbandry at home and on the road. Showing dogs is so much more than walking a dog around the ring, I am forever indebted to Janice (Stonecourt) for the insights she passed along.

7. To date, what has been your most important/ memorable moment in Westies? Oh there have been many moments, a standout is the publication of my book, "A New Owners Guide To The West Highland White Terrier" Finishing my 100th

- Champion at the Northern New Jersey Specialty from the Bred By Exhibitor class ranks right up there as well.
8. What is your favorite dog show? Pocono Mountain Kennel Club Why? It is my local club show where I have worked every year since 1979. This spanned many years with many wonderful memories.
  9. If you groom your own dogs, who taught you to do so? I am self taught with the help of Nancy Gauthier and Janice Carkin. But the push to make me the best I could be, goes to Jaimi Glodek. I consider that Jaimi is and always will be the best groomer of the Westie during my life time. To compete against her on a regular basis made me hone my skills throughout the years.
  10. If you are or were a breeder, who taught you to evaluate litters and young stock? I had strong mentors from other breeds when it came to evaluating my early puppies. I had help from several outstanding breeders including Connie Hubbard of Astolat Shelties, Ann Seranne author of "The Joy Of Breeding Your Own Show Dog" taught me the fundamentals of selecting a proper stud dog, line breeding and structural evaluation of puppies. Michele Ritter of Britannia Bearded Collies and Steve and Marieann Gladstone of Aragorn Cardigan Welsh Corgis all played an important part in my development as a breeder.
  11. When you look back, which of your Westies would you consider your favorite *or most influential*? Tonya – Am., Can., Ch. Dawn's Kop N' A Plea, CD ME TD ROMX PROMX Why? Tonya was a perfect 10. She measured 10 inches at the withers, was a Specialty winner, dam of 11 champions, matriarch of the house for 15 years, trainer of life rules for many generations of pups born during her rein, hunter par excellence, last of the Adam daughters, and setter of the bar to which all others are compared. Which Westie not owned by you did you consider a favorite or most influential? Ch. Briarton Pete of Stonecourt - Peter had a strong influence on my breeding program which continues today through line breeding on this dog.
  12. Also looking back, which sire, in your opinion, had a *strong* influence on the breed? That would be Ch. Skaket's Candy Man, UDT
  13. What was your most memorable Montgomery County moment? Getting the nod from the most renowned judge of all time Anne Rogers Clark including WD, RWD, WB, BOS and Best Stud Dog in 2002. Roving moment? Frisky, Ch. Dawn's Free N' Easy, ROMX PROMX becoming the first and only Westie Bitch to win Best in Sweeps at the National (Montgomery Oct 1996) and Roving National sponsored by the San Francisco Bay WHWTC in March 1997. In addition to winning Best in Sweepstakes, Frisky went on to take Winners Bitch and Best of Opposite Sex over what I consider to be one of the best Westie bitches of all time. She is the dam of the WD and WB at Montgomery County KC in that memorable year 2002, and her legacy continues today.
  14. If you attended the Centennial in 2009, what were your greatest experiences from it? The ability to relax and enjoy being with all the Westie folks. It was such a nice change from the hustle and bustle of Montgomery week, where you are on the constant move and never get a chance to stop and talk to anyone.
  15. What Westie author/artist influenced you the most? In addition to Anne Seranne,

- mentioned in question #10, I must include Rachel Page Elliott for her landmark book on movement, "Dogsteps." I also liked Mrs. Elliott as a lecturer and learned a great deal from her learned presentations.
16. Do you have a favorite Westie collectible(s)? I own and treasure several pieces from Tom Drexler, a bronze made by Wendell Wilson and several original pieces of art by Chet Jezierski.
  17. Are you or were you active in any regional Westie Clubs? Which one(s)? No, but have worked many varying jobs for the WHWTCA.
  18. What do you think the future holds for the breed? I have great concerns for the future of dogdom as a whole; there are so many restrictions and legislation against breeding dogs. We are not alone as there are fewer and fewer new people coming into dogs, who want to continue the future of breeding dogs. Where would you like to see Westies in 10/20 years? I trust there will be a dedicated group of breeders to continue on in the future.
  19. How best can WHWTCA members assure the future well-being of the breed. Invite and encourage new people to breed dogs. Education is needed on structure, movement, selecting a stud dog, stud dog management, line breeding, whelping a litter, being prepared, there are so many things to learn.
  20. What advice can you impart to present and future Westie enthusiasts? Make a difference, get out there and learn something new with your dogs. Westie are more than just a pretty face, they love to be included in all activities. Earthdog, Agility, Rally, Obedience, Lure Coursing, and Tracking; Westie are good and excel in all these events.