

LAURA WEESE

LaWee

In 1984, I met a lady by the name of San Talley who had moved into our neighborhood while I was in the hospital for 75 days after a surgery. We became super friends. She was raising show mini schnauzers and was traveling to Ponca City, Oklahoma to get instructions from Priscilla Wells. I started accompanying her because the distance required us to spend the night.

In the first pen in the kennel was a precious little westie and I would stand there watching her while the ladies did their business.

One day in January of 1985 Priscilla called my friend and asked her if I might be interested in buying that little westie since it was evident I enjoyed dogs. She said she was on her way to the Houston shows the next morning and we could meet in Wichita Falls, Texas where my friend was bringing Priscilla her puppy to show. She didn't even know my name but she told my friend she would sell the little westie for pet price. My goodness, what was that!

Well, I got the message and Priscilla's instructions were to call her at 7 a.m. promptly the next morning if I was interested. My husband, Jim and I discussed the possibility of buying the little westie but there were a lot of unknowns. We decided it would be very interesting and good for me. We called the next morning as instructed and the information was that she had 14 points, both majors which she had gotten in two weeks at the Oklahoma Cluster. The stipulations were she would sell her for \$450.00 but she had to be finished to her championship and bred to Ch. Mac-Ken-Char's Irish Navigator. Being very uninformed, we decided that didn't sound too bad and beside that we could have a little fun. Be aware that we knew absolutely nothing about westies.

My friend and I drove to Wichita Falls which was 200 miles and picked up the beautiful westie and headed home very excited to have her. Our instructions were to bring her home, let her be a house dog and in six weeks meet Priscilla at the Fort Worth dog shows. By that time, I was so enamored with O'Shea Blastaway that I didn't care if she got her championship but we had made a deal and it was important that we complete the agreement. It was terrible leaving Shea with a handler but we were determined to get her finished. Just be aware that we didn't have a clue how hard it is to get one point or even know her pedigree. Pedigree, what in the world was that!

I started studying about westies and Shea especially and discovered she was five years old and had been the only puppy to survive the parvovirus in 1979. I was looking at her pedigree and found she was the daughter of a dog by the name of Ch. Ardenrun Andsome of Purston. Who was he? Well, after more reading, he was the top producing sire in the 1980's in the United State.

Shea's first show was at Salina, Kansas and Jim and I decided to go. It was 350 miles one way so we knew we had to leave very early to make it in time to see her show. Well, we got there and it was just in time to see her going in the ring. Priscilla kept saying sweet things to her and she was going around the ring really well, with her tail up. Amazingly, she won and after pictures were taken with the Judge Edd Bivin, Priscilla did something totally shocking. She picked Shea up and started running through the

grooming area shouting, " You remember that westie I have shown for three years for one point? She won"!!!!!! So that explained why she was five years old and needed one point.

In two weeks, she came in season, we flew her to Joann and Jaimi Glodek to be bred to Irish Navigator and In sixty-three days we had three beautiful girls. Shea was a wonderful mother. One little girl died but the other two thrived and they became our base for the newly organized LaWee Westies. Their names were Ch. LaWee Dream Come True (Megan) and Ch. LaWee Great White Hope (Molly).

In 1987, We joined the West Highland White Terrier Club of America and still being a novice, started trying to raise healthy, beautiful westies. We bought our first stud dog, Ch Glengloamin's Best of Times, from Dr. and Mrs. Boso and he became our pride and joy. Georgia Harris, discovered we needed lots of help learning to groom and show so she took us under her wing. We were the only show westie breeders in the Panhandle of Texas which is miles from anyone showing westies. Jim liked to tell that we wore out five vans going to Guthrie, Oklahoma which was 500 miles to and from, for grooming lessons. Shortly, Carol Blain joined us and we competed with each other a lot and have remained friends. One of the most important persons in our endeavor were our superb veterinarians, Dr. Carol and Dr. Joe Hillhouse. They were always available and did a wonderful job keeping our dogs healthy and well cared for. We always valued their advice. We fought to keep puppies alive when they weren't doing well and we did necropsies on every puppy that died because it helped us know how to treat others puppies not doing well.

In 2003, we discovered we needed some things in our dogs to make them better conformation correct so we approached Jennie Griffiths in Leebotwood, England. She provided us with a really nice fellow by the name of Ch. Karamynd Sting in the Tale. He helped put some much needed substance, layback and movement into our line. In 2007, with the help of Ann Felter, we were able to purchase a bitch by the name of Ch. Karamynd Hold the Dream (Violet). She also gave us added help with conformation and when we bred her to Jaimi Glodek's German dog, Timmy, we got premolars and correct size.

In thirty years, we finished thirty champions and one *grand champion*. We were honored to have had two super dogs, Grand Champion LaWee Logan O'the Glen, and B.I.S.S. Ch. LaWee Scottish Flower (Heather). Heather was also my very special companion and Ch. LaWee Annie Laurie was Jim's super pal.

In 2011, LaWee Westies came to an end when Jim passed away and I was too old to continue to show by myself. It was truly a wonderful adventure and westies were responsible for making my life healthier. I must say a special thank you to Priscilla Well,⁶ San Talley Rainey, Joann and Jaimi Glodek, Dr. and Mrs. Boso, Georgia Harris, Jennie Griffiths, and Drs. Carol and Joe Hillhouse for being such a huge part in our success. There are so many we haven't mentioned that were a part of our learning process that I should say a big thanks to as well.

But, the greatest thanks of all goes to my husband, Jim, who was my forever companion, supporter, and the love of my life.

Originated by James A. and Laura Weese