

How long will it take me to find the right Westie?

You may have to wait six months to a year to find the right Westie for your family. Keep in mind that a Westie will be a member of your family for the next 12 to 16 years or more and is well worth waiting for, if this is THE BREED for you.

While you are looking, you can be gathering the many things you will need when you bring the new addition home. Books, toys, a crate, a pen, feeding dishes, grooming tools, etc., all take time and money to acquire. You will also need to check and repair your fence and "puppy proof" your home.

Visit www.westieclubamerica.com or AKC Marketplace for a listing of breeders in your area.

Are Westies good with children?

This is highly dependent on adult supervision and the age of the children. If the adult in charge has taught the children proper respect for the puppy's rights and care of the puppy, Westies and children can be a happy combination. Children, particularly 10 and older, can enjoy playing a good game of soccer or catch with a Westie. They are sturdy for their size.

No child should be the primary caretaker of any dog. This must be an adult's responsibility. Westies are not recommended for the home where children from the entire neighborhood gather to play. This can lead to too much excitement for a Westie and may lead to unintentional consequences.

Do Westies bark?

They are not yappers, but they do like to bark to announce a visitor. Early training and adequate attention will lessen the chance of obnoxious barking.

Westies Do It All!

Agility
Barn Hunt
Canine Good Citizen
Conformation
Coursing Ability
Earthdog
FastCAT
Flyball
Obedience
Rally Obedience
Scent Work
Therapy
Tracking
Quality Westie



**For more information,
Contact a Member at
www.westieclubamerica.com**

WESTIE FAQs



Are you considering adding a West Highland White Terrier to your family?

Here are some frequently asked questions that will help you decide if a Westie is the breed for you.

The Official National Club
for Westies in the
United States of America

www.westieclubamerica.com

What will buying a puppy cost?

The price of a companion quality Westie puppy varies significantly depending on where you buy your dog. Commercial and hobby breeders (puppy mills) charge less than a reputable preservationist breeder with championship stock.

Westies have small litters (average is 2 to 5 puppies per litter). Stud fees, shipping, pre-breeding tests, veterinary expenses, occasional Caesarian sections, vaccinations, feeding, and other supplies are all costly. Money from the sale of puppies does not cover all of these expenses, let alone the time invested for good care and socialization. Young adults and rescued Westies cost considerably less and usually make wonderful pets.

Do Westies make a good lap dog?

Many do; however, some Westies are too independent to be held for long periods. While they like to be in close proximity, most find a corner of the room or a spot near a heater vent to be ideal. However, there are some exceptions and it has nothing to do with the sex of the dog.

Are Westies smart/intelligent?

Yes! They also get bored very easily.

Are Westies easy to train?

Westies enjoy pleasing their owners. They are not stubborn, but may express their independent nature on occasion by demanding "What's in it for me?" Patience, encouragement, praise, and rewards such as treats or play may be required to train new behaviors.

Are Westies easy to housebreak?

Yes; they like to be clean. Puppies which have been kept clean during their formative period should be easy to housebreak. A crate and a pen are useful tools for housebreaking.

Do Westies dig?

Can I train him not to dig? Yes, they might dig; they were bred for going to ground so digging is natural for terriers. If a Westie has the instinct to dig and hunt, he is not easily discouraged.

Are Westies hyper?

No; but they are energetic. "Laid back" is not descriptive of the Westie.

Are Westies obedient?

They can make good obedience dogs with proper training. Modern training methods are very effective with Westies. There are many excellent books and videos on training and your puppy's breeder should be able to refer you to local puppy training and obedience classes.



Do Westies like to travel?

Yes! They like to go with you. Puppies need to become accustomed to the car at an early age. A crate is his seat belt. "Crate for safety!"

Do Westies like to swim, go on boats or hike?

Some do but they MUST be supervised. Swimming pools can be a death trap for any dog. They can not get out! Also, chlorine is very hard on the coat and skin. They like to share in your activities. There are backpacks and life preservers especially for dogs. And don't forget a good quality collar and leash.



Are Westies good with other animals?

Dogs? Cats? Every situation is unique. Westies can get along with other animals under the right circumstances. Dominant, male Westies often have difficulty getting along with other unaltered male dogs.

Are Westies hypo-allergenic?

The AMA reports that Westies have relatively low dander (ranked number 7) and may be acceptable for individuals with asthma or allergies.

Do Westies shed?

They do shed a little. However they do not shed profusely and their hair is easily vacuumed or removed with a lint brush. Regular brushing will reduce shedding to a minimum.

Do Westies run or roam?

Yes. Westies are hunters and even the most well-trained and obedient Westie is not reliable when he spots a squirrel, bird or other varmint. A leash and a fence are your symbols of love. Neutering and spaying will reduce the desire to roam.

How do I get on a breeder's list?

Each breeder handles prospective buyers in his/her own way. However, persistence pays off. Visit local dog shows and read up on the breed. Knowledgeable and persistent buyers seem to find a puppy sooner.

Do Westies make good gifts?

It is generally not a good idea to surprise someone with a living, breathing gift. A book with lots of pictures or a toy Westie make a wonderful presentation and can be beautifully gift wrapped!

What should I feed my Westie?

You will want to feed your dog a premium quality food found in pet stores. Your choice of food is very important for its total well-being. Select a premium quality food made with real meat including chicken, fish or lamb. The animal-based protein in these products provides superior digestibility, optimal nutrition and great taste.