



The Highlander

President's Message



Here it is, the first Highlander of the year! Hope you and your families had a nice Holiday Season and a good start to the New Year.

The annual Holiday Dinner was held on December 9, 2005, at Alessi's Ristorante, The Welshfield Inn, with 27 in attendance. Thanks to Carolyn Bales for making all of the arrangements and thanks to Cathy Blacklock and Chris Schriber for putting together the table favors. The meals were great as always, and so were the gifts for the gift exchange.

Plans for the 2006 Specialty are underway. We can always use your help. If you would like to help, please contact myself or Randy Schriber.

You will be receiving a letter from the Trophy Committee requesting a donation for the upcoming Specialty. Please make your donation to help with our Trophies as soon as possible. We always try to have outstanding trophies for our Specialty.

Our next Club meeting will be held on February 10, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. We will be meeting at the Club House of the Sleepy Hollow Golf Club, Brecksville Metro Park at 9445 Brecksville Road in Brecksville. The parking lot for the Club House is located about 2.5 miles north of the off ramp from Interstate 77 North and Brecksville Road.

Hope to see you there,

Gary



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Randy & Chris Schriber
 4939 Suzette St. N.W.
 Massillon, OH 44647-1259
(330) 833-5434
 fairislewestie@cs.com

West Highland
 White Terriers



Kirkbride Westies
 Carolyn Bales
 Gary Hahn
 2795 Byron Drive
 North Canton, Ohio 44720

West Highland
 White Terriers

330-896-3331
 mombales@aol.com

BAR-DAN WESTIES




Barbara A. Krotts
 1069 S. Alpha-Bellbrook Rd.
 Bellbrook, Ohio 45305
 tel: 937.427.0609

DR. F.W. CARPENTER
 ROSE MARIE CARPENTER
 JOHN CARPENTER



1100 RIVERWOOD ROAD
 MURRAY, KY 42071
 (270) 759-4556
 E-MAIL: WESTIES@CHARTER.NET
 WEBSITE: WWW.KENLAKES.COM


Kenlake Westies



GAELFORCE WESTIES

NANCY ALICE STAAB
 824 HUDSON STREET
 ST. ALBANS, WV 25177
 304/727-2510

WanRich Westies



Wanda & Richard Johnson
 190 Smith Circle
 Michle, Tennessee 38357
 (731) 632-4109
 wanrich@direcway.com



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 Animal Portraits
 By
 Betty Miller

8850 Tanglewood Tr.
 Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
 (440) 543-9004

Is your business card on this page? If not, please contact the editor. E-mail: cherylroberts@neo.rr.com.
 Cost is only \$10.00 per year!! (members only)

WESTIE OWNERS: THE WESTIE FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

A key part of the mission of the Westie Foundation is "...to further develop and communicate information regarding the health, care, breeding and quality of life of Westies to Westie owners, Westie breeders and veterinarians." By "Westie owners", we mean ALL Westie owners, and not just Westie owners who belong to the national Westie club or one of the many regional clubs. It's estimated that well over 90% (and probably over 95%) of all Westies in the U.S. belong to non-club members. Reaching those Westie owners at a reasonable cost is a very daunting challenge. Similarly, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, there are more than 73,000 large and small animal veterinarians, whose practices includes cows, horses, birds, reptiles, exotics, cats and dogs. To be effective and efficient with our limited resources, we want to direct our efforts toward canine veterinarians, and if possible, vets with some experience diagnosing and treating Westie health concerns, especially atopic dermatitis.

One of the ways we hope to reach more veterinarians (who might in turn enable us to reach more Westie pet owners) is through a very important project we are initiating called the Westie Docs Program. We hope to gather the names and contact information on vets with experience diagnosing and treating Westie health concerns who are referred by WFA donors and national and regional Westie club members. Our plan is to put the vet's names and contact information (address, phone number and email address) up on our website. Naturally, we would want the person recommending a specific vet to confirm with that vet that they have no objection to being included in our Westie Docs Program on our website with their name and contact information. We will then follow up with the vets to get written permission to post any or all of this contact information

Our goal is to have at least 100 vets in our Westie Docs Program by July 1, 2006, and eventually to have more than 500 vets on our list.

The purposes of this program is three-fold:

- Be a source of useful information for first-time Westie owners to hopefully locate a vet in their area who has experience in diagnosing and treating Westie health concerns.
- Enable the Westie Foundation to provide information to vets and Westie owners on medical research for Westie health concerns that we are funding, as well as Westie health information we provide through our seminars and newsletters.
- Finally, we could ask the vets to assist us in obtaining DNA/blood samples or cases for some of our research projects that have need of them. We could also ask those vets who are willing to provide WFA brochures and newsletters to their Westie clients.

The Westie Docs Program is an extremely important project for the Foundation. We hope all of our donors, as well as members of the national and regional clubs, will assist us by suggesting vets for this program. Please email me (waynekompare@verizon.net) or snail mail me (4836 Bay Shore Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234) the names and contact information on suggested vets for this important program.

Thanks again for your continued support and generosity.

Wayne Kompare

St. Petersburg Times

U.S. 19 stands still as rescuers save dog

CLEARWATER - A little dog brought traffic on U.S. 19 to a standstill Saturday morning as dozens of holiday shoppers, some wearing red Santa hats, jumped from their cars and trucks to save a white terrier running down the highway.

The chase began on Old Coachman Road south of St. Petersburg College and ended more than a mile away in the Costco Wholesale parking lot at Clearwater Mall.

Bridgette Puertas, 28, of Dunedin was headed to Sam's Club shortly after 10 a.m., when she saw the West Highland terrier trotting north in the northbound lanes of Old Coachman.

"Mom, there's a Westie in the road!" Puertas told her mother, Vickie Willis, 50, of Palm Harbor.

And they would know. Willis has a dog of the same breed. A bumper sticker on her Saturn reads: "My Westie is smarter than your honor student."

Thus began a 20-minute pursuit that took Puertas and Willis south through an open field, past the Chick-fil-A, across the six lanes of Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard, south on U.S. 19, then across the highway's eight lanes into Clearwater Mall. The daughter drove, the mother ran after the dog.

Along the way, Puertas said, dozens of motorists pulled over and joined in the chase.

"Lots of people in Santa hats jumped out, I noticed," said Puertas, who works in human resources at St. Petersburg College.

Just south of the U.S. 19 overpass at Gulf-to-Bay, Clearwater police Officer T.J. Miller was mystified. He saw drivers bailing out of their cars along what is usually a hair-raisingly busy road. The scene reminded him of the vehicles abandoned along the highway to Baghdad during the first Gulf War.

Then he saw the terrier loping down the center lane "like (she) was running south to St. Petersburg," he said.

"My biggest concern was that there was going to be an accident," Miller said. "Either a person was going to get hit or (the dog) was going to get hit."

The terrier made a U-turn at the Congo River Golf putt-putt course and headed north on U.S. 19. It veered onto the exit road to Gulf-to-Bay, then scampered into a parking lot at Clearwater Mall. Along the way, passers-by joined and dropped out of the chase. Usually at least three or four people were in pursuit, but every time someone got close, the terrier doubled back the other way.

Even with "those little short legs, (she's) fast," Miller said. "I wish my car turned like that."

Finally, Miller and a half-dozen other people, including this reporter, surrounded the Westie on a landscaped median in the Costco parking lot. By then, she was tired and had slowed down. She made one last break and I lunged and grabbed her, scraping my knee on the asphalt. It was my first tackle since jayvee football in 10th grade.

Once caught, the dog calmed right down, panting. She was dirty, her whiskers were covered with burrs and she didn't have a collar, but she was well fed and groomed.

Puertas and Willis decided to care for the dog until someone claimed her. She took her home, bathed and fed her. She also called Pinellas County Animal Services to report the find.

While a good name for this dog might have been Dasher, her name is Chanel. She is 3 years old and is one of three Westies owned by Martha Black, 62, a retired first-grade teacher.

About six hours after Chanel dug out of her yard on Fernwood Avenue, Black gave up searching the neighborhood and called Animal Services to ask if anyone had found a Westie. County officials gave her Puertas' number.

About an hour later, dog and owner were reunited.

While Chanel was missing, Black had worried that she would be hit or kept by someone. She was stunned to learn of Chanel's escapade and grateful her pet was saved by a fellow lover of Westies.

"It's a great Christmas gift for me," Black said.

DOG OWNERS CONCERNED

Illness has reached Ohio

By JIM FITZGERALD
The Associated Press 10-15-05

CHESTNUT RIDGE, N.Y. — Every inch the pampered purebred, the fluffy white dog Curry stands like a statue for his haircut at the Best Friends Pet Resort and Salon.

He looks, and is, perfectly healthy. But Curry, a bichon frise, was one sick puppy a month ago. And the Best Friends kennel was forced to close for three weeks after more than 100 other dogs began showing signs of what turned out to be a new disease: canine influenza virus, or dog flu.

"He was extremely lethargic, having a hard time breathing," said Curry's owner, Margaret Ragi of Upper Saddle River, N.J. "The life just wasn't there in his eyes. We were really worried."

Lots of dog lovers are worried these days. Experts say the flu is spreading steadily through the nation's dogs, with no vaccine available to curb it. Perhaps 5 percent of its victims are dying.

Researchers recently found to their surprise that the virus had crossed over from horses to dogs, striking greyhounds at racetracks in 11 states. Now it has been found in pets, with cases documented in California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon and Washington state.

"One-hundred percent of dogs will be susceptible," said Edward Dubovi, director of the animal virology lab at Cornell University. "I would expect to see this infection moving thorough groups of dogs until a large percentage gets infected and there are a lot of immune dogs."

Cynda Crawford, a veterinary immunologist at the University of Florida, said researchers are getting positive readings on 30 percent to 40 percent of the blood and tissue samples sent in by veterinarians who think they might be treating a dog with influenza. The symptoms include a cough, low-grade fever and a runny nose.

Exactly how many dogs have died is unclear. Crawford said many of the animals were young and otherwise healthy.

Many pet owners and veterinarians have been fooled because some of the symptoms mimic a common, less dangerous bacterial infection known as kennel cough.

DOG FLU

■ **SICK PUPPIES:** Canine influenza virus, also known as dog flu, is spreading steadily among the nation's dogs.

■ **HOW IT STARTED:** The virus jumped from horses to dogs, striking greyhounds at racetracks in 11 states. It then started showing up in pets around the country.

■ **TREATMENT?:** There is no vaccine available. Perhaps 5 percent of victims are dying. Symptoms include cough, low-grade fever and a runny nose.

As with human influenza, dog flu is most easily contracted in gathering places — kennels, dog shows, animal shelters, even dog runs in parks.

That has resulted in a lot of lonely dogs, as pet owners keep them home to avoid the flu. Several days after the kennel in Chestnut Ridge reopened, there were just six dogs in "doggie day care," down from the usual 17, and just 50 boarding, down from 150, said manager Kelly Kurash.

The suburban New York kennel had closed Sept. 10 after staffers realized that the illness going around was not kennel cough. Dogs were sent home or to hospitals, and one sheepdog died a few days later.

"We knew we were dealing with something more serious," said Deborah Bennetts, spokeswoman for the Best Friends chain, based in Norwalk, Conn. "It seemed to be spreading and some dogs were getting seriously ill."

Tests on the dogs confirmed the new virus.

Best Friends had the entire building disinfected and changed the air conditioner filters. When the kennel reopened Sept. 30, some dogs were turned away. At the 42 Best Friends kennels in 18 states, "we're not allowing any dog that has boarded within the last two weeks or has been at a dog show or some kind of group setting like doggie day care," Bennetts said.

DOGGY FUN!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find and circle all of these hidden words? Search down, across and even backwards!

BONE, COLLAR, STRING, BARK, PET, FRIEND, RONALD, PLAY, BREED, FELINE, WOOF, LEASH, SUNSHINE

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	M
J	K	R	O	N	A	L	D	R
S	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E
B	C	M	E	F	G	H	L	J
A	E	Y	A	L	P	Q	R	B
R	E	V	W	I	Y	Z	A	R
K	D	E	F	G	M	I	J	E
L	B	N	O	P	Q	C	S	E
A	V	O	X	Y	Z	F	B	D
D	E	B	G	H	I	R	K	L
E	N	O	P	Q	E	I	T	U
N	W	X	E	Z	A	E	C	T
I	F	S	T	R	I	N	G	M
L	B	P	Q	E	S	D	L	G
E	X	A	Z	T	B	C	J	K
F	G	E	W	O	O	F	A	N
O	P	Q	H	S	T	U	R	W
C	O	L	L	A	R	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	Z	M	N	O
P	L	E	A	S	H	V	A	X

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IT'S
SHOWTIME!!



<u>Date</u>	<u>Show</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Westie Judge</u>
Feb 11	Central Indiana K. C.	Indianapolis, IN	S. F. Hurt
Feb 12	Hoosier K. C.	Indianapolis, IN	Mrs. N. Fingerhut
Feb 13,14	Westminster K. C.	New York, NY	Mrs. M. Billings
Feb 18	Wyoming Valley K. C.	Buffalo, NY	J. R. White
Feb 19	Olean K.C.	Buffalo, NY	Ms. D. Mounce
Mar 9	Blennerhassett K. C.	Marietta, OH	N. B. Kenney
Mar 10	Magic Valley K. C.	Marietta, OH	Mrs. J. Kefeli
Mar 11	Magic Valley K. C.	Marietta, OH	Dr. R.D. Smith
Mar 12	Blennerhassett K. C.	Marietta, OH	F. J. Washabaugh
Mar 16	Mid-Kentucky KC	Louisville, KY	Miss M. Beam
Mar 17	Louisville K. C. /WHWTC of Indiana Specialty	Louisville, KY	H. O'Donoghue -Breed C. Swingle - Sweeps
Mar 18	Evansville KC	Louisville, KY	N. L. Patton
Mar 18	Detroit K. C.	Detroit, MI	Mrs. A. Moore
Mar 19	Louisville K. C.	Louisville, KY	Mrs. M. Billings
Mar 19	Detroit K. C.	Detroit, MI	R. W. Powell
Mar 25	Western PA Kennel Assoc.	Pittsburgh, PA	Mrs. B. Lehnig

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE!!

When: Friday, February 10th at 7 PM.

Where: Sleepy Hollow Golf Club — 9445 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, Ohio

Speaker: Amanda Foust, Chairman of the Akron Dog Park, will present ideas about taking our bossy terriers to BARC and other such locations.

Important Note: Deadline for Articles and Information for the April issue will be **March 15th!!**

Officers & Board

President	Gary Hahn
Vice-President	Chris Schriber
Secretary	Cathy Blacklock
Treasurer	Carolyn Bales
Board Member - 2008	Carolyn Reinders
Board Member - 2007	Donna Harris
Board Member - 2006	M. Hackenberg
Board Member - 2006	Betty Miller
Board Member - 2006	Randy Schriber



Published by the West Highland
White Terrier Club of Northern
Ohio since 1962.

The West Highland White Terrier Club of Northern Ohio was founded in the early sixties by a group of dedicated Westie breeders and owners. The club and its approximately 100 members are dedicated to the betterment of our breed. Club meetings are generally held the second Friday of even numbered months, the meeting location varies. Details about the next meeting can be found in this newsletter.

Our annual Specialty Show is held each year in August at the Canfield, Ohio Fairgrounds.

VISIT US AT:
WWW.GEOCITIES.COM/WHWTCNO

Cheryl Roberts - Editor
2194 Suffolk Court
Akron, Ohio 44319

First Class



Next Meeting: February 10, 2006