



If purchasing a Westie puppy is in your future, we would strongly encourage you to read all the info below. It could mean thousands of dollars and a whole world of heartache if you don't... the #1 contributor to early death in dogs is poor breeding.

We get asked almost every day for our recommendations for a good quality Westie breeder and our answer is always the same...please go to a Canadian West Highland White Terrier Club (CWHWTC) member breeder.

Please go to <http://canadawestieclub.ca/member-breeders/> to see a list of member Canadian West Highland White Terrier Club breeders.

All the breeders listed here are members of the Canadian West Highland White Terrier Club (CWHWTC) and as such are bound by a code of ethics.

Please note that the CWHWTC does not endorse, rate, or approve breeders. The onus is still on you to investigate carefully everyone with whom you might do business. Ask for written guarantees and the pedigree. It is wise to have a written contract that specifies the agreement between both parties.

Please note: that many of these breeders will sell to folks in different provinces- so if you can't find a breeder in your area-check out other provinces!!!!

We understand that you don't want a "show dog" you want a Westie to love and care for and sit on your lap at night and cuddle...we want that for you as well.

Your best chances of getting a healthy and well adjusted Westie puppy are to buy one from someone whose motivation for breeding is to produce the finest possible dogs. That means someone who breeds only Westies that are themselves good pets and good representatives of what their breed should be. It also means someone who tests their parent Westies to make sure that they are free from any genetic defects before they are bred. It means someone who knows the background of their dogs well enough to know what they should produce.

In most cases, the people who are responsible breeders do show their dogs, in order to determine that they do indeed represent the breed that they are supposed to be. Show and performance events are how responsible breeders make sure that their Westies both look and act how their breed is supposed to look and act.

Most rescues deal with 2 problems: puppy mills and backyard breeders (BYB) and Westies in Need is no exception.

Westies in Need (WiN) is the largest Westie rescue organization in Canada. We are a volunteer rescue group, providing care for Westies that have been surrendered, taken from puppy mills or are in danger of losing their lives in local Animal Control facilities. The dogs that come into our rescue program come to us from various means...some are strays; some have been surrendered, abandoned or left at shelters by owners who no longer can care for them. We had 108 Westies come through our organization last year alone.

When we receive a call from a person who needs to surrender their dog to us we always ask them where they got their Westie from and without fail the answer is either a pet store or a back yard breeder.

Education is paramount to Westies in Need, (when you know better you do better!) so if the person answered that they got their Westie from a pet store, we must break the news to them that yes, they did inadvertently support a puppy mill or backyard breeder.

Every "doggie in the window" at a pet store is from a puppy mill or back yard breeder. No matter what the pet store owner tells you, reputable breeders DO NOT sell to pet stores. EVER!

We understand the emotion of their purchase...we are major dog lovers and want to "save" every dog we see....BUT even if you feel sorry for the puppy in the pet store, by purchasing him, you are supporting the puppy mill and BYB business and opening another spot for a mill puppy. If there is NO demand, there will be no supply.

Everyone can agree that puppy mills are terrible and must be stopped, however the discussion of backyard breeders is always a much touchier topic. Westies in Need is always trying to educate our families on what constitutes a BYB and how to spot them!

NEVER PURCHASE A DOG OR PUPPY FROM WEBSITES LIKE KIJJI. THESE ARE THE WEBSITES THAT BACKYARD BREEDERS AND PUPPYMILL ADVERTISE



The CKC (Canadian Kennel Club)

We must first and foremost begin with the subject of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) The CKC has 2 main jobs:

1. to register pure bred dogs
2. be the governing body for dog shows

The CKC does NOT check “breeder” references, does not do kennel visits or any follow up in any way for any “breeder” who has paid the required fee to become a member of the CKC...none at all.

A “breeder” who is CKC registered (which simply means they paid a membership) or has CKC registered puppies is **NOT** the benchmark you are looking for when purchasing a puppy.

If a sickly female Westie with chronic skin problems is mated with an aggressive male who has an active bite history and they produce purebred puppies...the puppies can be registered with the CKC—pure and simple---no health checks, no questions asked!

On the other hand, the National Canadian West Highland White Terrier Club (CWHWTC-what is known as our breed club) has very high standards. The breeders who have applied and have been accepted and approved to be breeder members have had many “hoops” to jump through.

They must breed their Westies for health and temperament. They must breed quality not quantity and breed to improve the breed. Their dogs usually have titles(s) and they always have extensive, multi generation pedigrees on their Westies. They are happy to discuss pedigree information.

CWHWTC member breeders must keep up to date with genetic issues in our breed and they do genetic screening on their breeding dogs and are willing to share those results. An approved breeder does not breed a female before her second season or 14 months of age and are sure to allow sufficient time for her to recover before breeding another litter.

They must also have a stringent criteria for selling a puppy/dog and will have many questions for you about family, lifestyle, goals and expectations to determine your suitability...they sell only to carefully screened buyers.

Although you might pay less for a Westie from a back yard breeder, it's almost a given that in the long run, you'll pay a good deal more in vet bills and perhaps emotional trauma than you would from a reputable breeder.

At first glance, it can be difficult to determine the difference between a backyard breeder and a reputable breeder. The trick is to do your homework beforehand and know what questions to ask the breeder.

Question #1:

“Are you a member of the National breed club???” (please remember what we said above about how easy it is to become a member of the CKC---you are not asking if they are a member of the CKC and you are not asking if their puppies are “registered”)... you are asking if they are a member of their national breed club. If the answer is no-you must ask why and then your follow up question to them must be **“I would like to contact the National breed club and talk to them about your kennel, is that a problem?”** If they do have a problem, it is time to hang up....quickly!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Question #2:

“I would like to come to your home/kennel and see the dogs...is that a problem???” If a breeder will not let you come to their home or kennel and see the puppies and/or the sire and dam...this is a large **RED** flag!!! They may tell you it is for “health reasons” that kennel visitations are not allowed, however that is not the case. A reputable breeder will always allow you to view the puppies and their parents before paying for a dog. Do not agree to meet the breeder off site. **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS ON THIS!**

Question #3:

“Do you do genetic testing on your Westies and may I see the specific genetic testing that was done on the dam and the sire of the litter of puppies I am interested in?” The answer to both of those questions should be yes...reputable breeders are very pleased to show you all the info about their dogs and are proud to show off how very well bred they are.

Question #4:

“What kind of health guarantee do you offer?” A reputable breeder will provide you with a health guarantee and will also be willing to take the dog back

at any time should you no longer be able to keep it. No reputable breeder wants one of their dogs to end up in a shelter.

Question #5:

“May I please see a copy of your purchase contract before I buy???” You should be required to sign a contract when you pick up your puppy that requires you to spay or neuter your Westie etc. but you need to see this beforehand so you know exactly what you are agreeing to and what the breeder is responsible for. Responsible breeders breed because they want to better the breed, not just produce more dogs.

Question #6:

“What questions do you have for me?” OK...sounds simple, but this is a BIG one...if the breeder’s answer is “Oh I have been doing this for years and I can just tell that you are a nice person and would be great for one of my puppies”...tell them your house is on fire and you have to hang up and will get back to them tomorrow!!!!

A reputable breeder will have plenty of questions for you as well. They don't want just anyone to have one of their dogs. Many will require a letter of reference from your veterinarian. They want to make sure that all of their puppies wind up in the best possible homes

The back yard breeder is the single greatest cause of pet overpopulation. Back yard breeders usually do not have bad intentions, but the results of back yard breeding are devastating. Back yard breeders simply bring two breeding animals together regardless of their quality and are not interested in scientific breeding. Their aim is to fulfill a personal need or goal, not to improve the breed and bring excellent quality dogs to the world.

Back yard breeders are not necessarily bad people, they often are middle to upper income families and their dogs can be well loved....however their responsibility ends when they see the purchaser's tail-lights disappear down the driveway-this is not the breeder relationship you would ever want.

Back yard breeders do not have the knowledge to properly raise a healthy, socialized litter or to help the new owner with any problems that might arise. There is no future support to the buyer and the BYBs are not in it for the long haul and they may not be around in a few years when your Westie has a problem and you need help.

So, if a Westie puppy is in your future....PLEASE... don't support back yard breeders or puppy mills. [Please contact the CWHWTC](#) and purchase a puppy from one of their member breeders.

