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Breed: West Highland WhiteTerrier

Experienced with the breed

Breed Specifics

Temperament (friendly towards family, kids, strangers and other dogs)

Westies are very cheerful dogs with lots of self-esteem. A very friendly breed that tends to get along better with dogs outside of his pack than most terriers. Rabbits and squirrels have a hard time with Westies around as they will pursue anything that moves. These dogs can't be let off lead except in a safe fenced area. As with most terriers, responds best to consistent training and food rewards. Can be a determined barker. Good with older children that know how to properly handle a dog. Can be a lapdog but only when he wants to be. Makes a keen watchdog. No shedding.

Health issues

the West Highland Terrier Club of America is vigilant in researching health concerns in Westies and addressing them. You can go to their web page and find out info on the health issues affecting this breed.

Grooming

Needs a lot o attention to cleanliness and brushing. Should be hand stripped or clipped on a regular basis. Will become matted easily if not brushed frequently. Most enjoy being groomed.

Physical Needs (energy level, exercise needs)

Needs exercise. Should have a fenced area to play in or be walked regularly. Enjoys regular romping by self or with other dogs. You can get busy with your active Westie by taking part in many of the AKC activities such as Rally, Tracking, Obedience, Nosework, Flyball, Earthdog, FastCat (races), Barn Hunt, and Agility. Your Westie will love to do most anything with you and enjoys being on the go.

Adaptability (space needed, temperature restrictions)

Needs space to run that is secure or to be taken on long walks.

Colors

White only