

- [article](#)
- [discussion](#)
- [edit this page](#)
- [history](#)

West Highland White Terrier

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

West Highland White Terriers, commonly known as Westies, are a **breed** of **dog** known for their distinctive white coat.^[1] This breed is commonly recognised through its use as a **mascot** for *Black & White* (a brand of **Scotch whisky**), and on the packaging of Cesar brand dog food.^[2]

Contents [hide]

- [1 Appearance](#)
- [2 Care](#)
- [3 Health](#)
- [4 History](#)
- [5 References](#)
 - [5.1 Print](#)
 - [5.2 Internet](#)
- [6 External links](#)

Appearance [\[edit\]](#)

Westie Terriers have bright, deep-set eyes which tend to be dark, with a "piercing" look. Their ears are generally small, pointed, and erect.^[3]

They typically weigh from 15 to 20 lbs for male dogs and 13 to 16 lbs for female dogs and their average height is 9 to 11 inches (28 cm) at the **withers**.^[3] The Kennel Club has recommended that their tails, typically "carrot-shaped", should never be **docked**.^[4] The tail should be between 5-6 inches.^[3]

They also have deep chests, muscular limbs, a huge skull, a short and a closely fitted jaw with "scissors" bite (lower canines locked in front of upper canines, upper incisors locked over lower incisors).^[5] Their teeth generally appear quite large for the size of the dog.^{[3][5]} Westies have a very strong bone structure for their size.^[5]

They have a soft, dense **undercoat** and a rough **outer coat**, about 2 inches long, that requires regular grooming.^[3] Some Westies have "wheaten tippings" on their backs, though for individuals put forward for **conformation showing** this can be regarded as undesirable.^[5]

This breed is a non-shedding dog.

Their paws are slightly webbed and thickly padded.^[3]

Care [\[edit\]](#)

Westies are prone to allergies and dry skin issues, and bathing too frequently may aggravate these problems. Washing once a month or on a longer interval will generally not cause issues. However,


West Highland White Terrier



A West Highland White Terrier.


Other names Poltalloch Terrier
Roseneath Terrier
White Roseneath Terrier

Nicknames Westie (or Westy)


Country of origin  [Scotland](#)


Traits

Classification & standards

[FCI](#) Group 3 Section 2 #085 [standard](#) 

[AKC](#) Terrier [standard](#) 

[ANKC](#) Group 2 (Terriers) [standard](#) 

[CKC](#) Group 4 - Terriers [standard](#) 

[KC \(UK\)](#) Terrier [standard](#) 

[NZKC](#) Terrier [standard](#) 

[UKC](#) Terriers [standard](#) 



- navigation
- [Main page](#)
 - [Contents](#)
 - [Featured content](#)
 - [Current events](#)
 - [Random article](#)

search

- interaction
- [About Wikipedia](#)
 - [Community portal](#)
 - [Recent changes](#)
 - [Contact Wikipedia](#)
 - [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
 - [Help](#)

- toolbox
- [What links here](#)
 - [Related changes](#)
 - [Upload file](#)
 - [Special pages](#)
 - [Printable version](#)
 - [Permanent link](#)
 - [Cite this page](#)

- languages
- [Català](#)
 - [Česky](#)
 - [Dansk](#)
 - [Deutsch](#)
 - [Español](#)
 - [Français](#)
 - [Hrvatski](#)
 - [Italiano](#)
 - [עברית](#)
 - [Lietuvių](#)
 - [Nederlands](#)
 - [日本語](#)
 - [Norsk \(bokmål\)](#)
 - [Polski](#)
 - [Português](#)
 - [Русский](#)

- Scots
- Simple English
- Slovenščina
- Suomi
- Svenska
- Türkçe
- 語

frequent brushings are needed to keep the coat clean and oils evenly distributed throughout the coat. Washing with a detergent-free, baby-oriented, or another soft skin shampoo will help keep a Westie's skin hydrated. Weekly washing of the inside of the ears with cotton balls will prevent oil and wax build-up and ear infections.If water gets inside its ears you must extract it before infection. Groom at least every two months. Between grooming appointments, bathe and brush as needed.



A "smiling" Westie.

Health

[[edit](#)]

Like most other dogs, these terriers generally require 13 hours of sleep out of every 24. Westies will usually conform to the sleep patterns of their human companions, and take several naps during the day as well, to accrue their needed sleep.

West Highland White Terrier puppies may be affected by a disease known as [craniomandibular osteopathy](#), known colloquially as "Lion Jaw". The disease is an [autosomal recessive](#) condition such that for a puppy to be affected by the disease, both the parents must be carriers of the faulty [gene](#). With this disease, the only current way to identify carrier breeding stock is if an affected puppy is produced. Therefore, breeders may be unaware that breeding stock are carriers until an affected puppy is born.

Craniomandibular osteopathy is a non-neoplastic proliferative disease of the ventral [mandibular ramus](#), occipital base of the skull and tympanic bullae, characterised by excessive bone deposition in these areas. In most incidences, the defect is bilateral, although this is not always the case. The disease varies in severity, the region(s) affected and the individual pain threshold of the affected puppy. Definitive diagnosis is achieved by [radiographic](#) examination.

Craniomandibular osteopathy is extremely painful to the puppy. Affected puppies will most likely display signs of pain or discomfort, such as yelping, when their head is touched and when chewing or eating. The puppy may be lethargic and be reluctant to eat as a result.

The condition usually manifests when the puppy is around 3-6 months of age, and regresses spontaneously around 12 months of age. Treatment of the disease is concerned with managing the symptoms and providing appropriate [analgesia](#) to improve quality of life and enable the puppy to eat until the disease resolves spontaneously. [Corticosteroids](#) are the usual therapeutic agents used to manage the disease. The exact treatment protocol depends on the severity, localisation and pain sensitivity of the affected puppy. In extreme cases, [euthanasia](#) may be required.

History

[[edit](#)]

They are known to be bred in Scotland

Westies are descended from [Cairn Terriers](#), who occasionally whelped white puppies naturally, and [Scottish Terriers](#), who also occasionally produced white offspring. White offspring from other terriers such as the [Bedlington Terrier](#) and [Dandie Dinmont Terrier](#) were occasionally introduced to the bloodline for desired

characteristics, but this practice generally stopped in the 1850s.

Some sources also credit Colonel Edward Donald Malcolm and his kin of **Poltalloch** in the **Argyll** region of western **Scotland** as an originator of this breed in the 1800s. Other sources credit the **8th Duke of Argyll** (Chieftain of **Clan Campbell**) as an originator of the

breed. However, there may have been some cooperation between the two gentlemen. It may have taken as long as a hundred years of selective breeding to produce all the desired qualities. Their white coat made them highly visible when hunting on the Scottish **moors** and easily distinguished them from their game. This was an extremely important factor because hunters sometimes mistook brown dogs for foxes and shot them. They also possess a sturdy frame.

Originally the breed was known as the *Poltalloch Terrier* (after the name of Malcolm's home). They were also known as the *Roseneath Terrier* (after the name of Argyll's home; see **Rosneath**), *White Roseneath Terrier*, and at the end of the 19th century, briefly as a white variety of the Scottish Terrier.

Westies are bred for hunting. Their prey is usually small animals such as rabbits, squirrels and mice, but they were also used to hunt foxes and badgers. Young females are known as the keenest hunters. Ideally, a prospective owner should buy two males for company, as males often get lonely.^[*citation needed*]



Westie wearing the **Clan Campbell tartan** of the **Duke of Argyll** (with a kilted companion)

References

[[edit](#)]

Print

[[edit](#)]

- *Pet Owner's Guide to the West Highland White Terrier*, Sheila Cleland (Ringpress Books Ltd 1995), **ISBN 1860540155**.
- *A New Owner's Guide to West Highland White Terriers*, Dawn Martin (TFH Publications 1996), **ISBN 0793827655**.
- *Guide to Owning a West Highland White Terrier*, Martin Wallace (TFH Publications 1996), **ISBN 0793818656**.
- *The West Highland White Terrier: An Owner's Guide to a Happy Healthy Pet*, Seymour N. Weiss (Howell Book House Inc 1996), **ISBN 0876054947**.
- *West Highland White Terrier*, Penelope Ruggles-Smythe (Interpret Publishing 1999), **ISBN 1902389123**.
- *West Highland White Terrier: An Owner's Guide*, Robert Killick (**Collins** 2003), **ISBN 000717831X**.

Internet

[[edit](#)]

- ↑ "**Distinctive white coat**" : quote from "West Highland White Terriers - Good Dogs Wear White" article (*Dog & Kennel Magazine*, online edition). Retrieved on January 11, 2008.
- ↑ "**Cesar Living Products**" . Cesar.com. Retrieved on 2007-12-02.
- ↑ **a b c d e f** "West Highland White Terrier Breed Standard" . The **Kennel Club**. **2006-05-10**. Retrieved on 2009-01-06.
- ↑ http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/westhighland.htm
- ↑ **a b c d** "American Kennel Club Official Breed Standard" . West Highland White Terrier Club of America. **1989-02-01**. Retrieved on 2009-01-06.

External links

[[edit](#)]

- **West Highland White Terrier** at the **Open Directory Project**

Wikimedia Commons has media related to: ***West Highland***



White Terrier

v • d • e

Terriers by FCI section

Large and medium-sized Terriers	<p>Brazilian Terrier · Jagdterrier · Airedale Terrier · Bedlington Terrier · Border Terrier · Fox Terrier (Smooth) · Fox Terrier (Wire) · Lakeland Terrier · Manchester Terrier · Parson Russell Terrier · Welsh Terrier · Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier · Irish Terrier · Kerry Blue Terrier · Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier</p>
Small-sized Terriers	<p>Australian Terrier · Jack Russell Terrier · Cairn Terrier · Dandie Dinmont Terrier · Norfolk Terrier · Norwich Terrier · Scottish Terrier · Sealyham Terrier · Skye Terrier · West Highland White Terrier · Nihon Teria · Český Teriér</p>
Bull type Terriers	<p>Bull Terrier (Standard) · Miniature Bull Terrier · Staffordshire Bull Terrier · American Staffordshire Terrier</p>
Toy Terriers	<p>Australian Silky Terrier · English Toy Terrier (Black & Tan) · Russkiy Toy · Yorkshire Terrier</p>
Not categorized by FCI as Terrier (may be in another Group, or not recognised)	<p>American Hairless Terrier · Australian Silky Terrier · Boston Terrier · Dutch Smoushond · English Toy Terrier · Irish Staffordshire Terrier · Miniature Fox Terrier · Old English Terrier · Patterdale Terrier · Pit Bull Terrier · Plummer Terrier · Rat Terrier · Russian Black Terrier · Sporting Lucas Terrier · Teddy Roosevelt Terrier · Tenterfield Terrier · Tibetan Terrier · Toy Fox Terrier · Toy Manchester Terrier</p>

Categories: [Dog breeds](#) | [Terriers](#) | [Dog breeds originating in Scotland](#)



This page was last modified on 3 March 2009, at 05:31.

All text is available under the terms of the [GNU Free](#)

[Documentation License](#). (See [Copyrights](#) for details.)



Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a U.S. registered 501(c)(3) tax-deductible nonprofit charity.

[Privacy policy](#)

[About Wikipedia](#)

[Disclaimers](#)