

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER

FOOD/TREATS/WATER:

Always keep a fresh bowl of water available. We feed and recommend Purina Pro Plan Performance dry food kibble. Your puppy is accustomed to eating 3 times a day. The feeding amount should be increased if the puppy is quickly eating this amount of food. Remember, even though your puppy is weaned, he/she may not like eating in a new environment, especially without litter mates. ALWAYS confine the puppy to his/her crate, with food. A baby playpen or exercise pen works well for meals and naps. New puppies are very infantile in their development and haven't sufficient focus to locate food and eat properly without aid.

SHOTS/VETERINARY CARE:

Puppies are up to date on the puppy series of shots when leaving for their new home. Owners are provided their shot record and the veterinarian of their choice must continue with the puppy series of shots. All of our dogs are kept on a monthly dose of Trifexis for heartworm disease and blood tested yearly. Monthly heartworm preventative should start at 3 months old.

STOOLS:

Check your puppy's bottom for stool sticking every day. Some puppies will develop a loose stool and/or contract giardia or coccidiosis from the stress of leaving his/her familiar home and family. This does not mean your puppy came from an unclean environment or "bad" kennel. These common maladies can be inexpensively treated with medicine from your veterinarian.

CRATES:

Although puppies should not be confined to a crate for long periods, crates are a safe, controlled atmosphere for your dog/puppy. Most dogs/puppies prefer to have their own area to have some quiet time during the day and at night. It is much safer for your dog/puppy to have an area where it can be housed safely when you have company or are away from home. Crates can also be of assistance in house training. An appropriate size crate for a Westie is approximately 28" x 20.5" x 21.5". A larger size crate is also acceptable.

POTTY TRAINING:

The best way to potty train a puppy is to control the potty area. A folding round exercise pen set up on your lawn, which clips together at each end to form a circle, is helpful to keep puppy focused on his/her "job". Dogs naturally sniff out an area's perimeter before going potty. If you keep the area small, this process will go much faster, and with fewer distractions running a whole yard may impose.

Every time you pick up your puppy, take him/her outside first. If your puppy has been napping, take him/her out immediately upon waking up. First thing in the morning and last task before you go to bed are important "out" times. Above all, patience. Puppies are unpredictable and have accidents just like human babies. The younger the puppy, the more frequently they potty. Just remember that this too shall pass. All puppies grow up to be dogs, who only potty a few times per day.

GROOMING:

We recommend bathing in a good quality shampoo. Carefully comb and brush out any matted hairs. Blow dry. Keep their nails short. We recommend scheduling regular appointments with a professional groomer.

EXERCISE:

You need to put your dog/puppy out to potty at regular intervals during the day. Please keep your dog/puppy in sight and never leave them unattended. Dog/puppies have a unique way of getting into things. Westie puppies will enjoy free exercise in a safe, secure space to help them develop. Exercise will greatly aid in your Westie's physical and mental development.

COLLAR:

We use a collar about 10-14 inches in diameter and not very thick, and a leash which is about 6 feet in length. We also recommend a slip leash.

TOYS:

Westies like all kinds of toys, especially the soft and cuddly ones, as well as latex. They are very playful and will have big fun with their toys for hours. They also love to play fetch. We recommend toys that are not easily torn apart. We also recommend natural chews, such as cow hooves.

