

GUNFIELD GENERAL BREED ADVICE



ACTIVITIES AND HOME LIFE

The Westie breed is a member of the terrier group with a high intelligence, and medium energy level.

Owning the breed is a lifelong commitment with a lifespan of 14+ years in many cases.

The breed needs an owner who is willing to spend time on training, socialisation and exercise of their dog.

Westies do not do well left home alone all day they need company so if you are a full-time worker you will need to have a comprehensive day care package in place.

FAMILY DOG

The Westie is considered a good family dog and their nature with children is generally good, loyal and loving... however, the natural terrier instinct can provide issues with snappiness and jumping up if not well trained.

Their intelligence level also has the potential to cause problems things such as resource guarding or nose sensitivity can occur if the dog is not correctly managed and socialised so it is important if you are a parent, grandparent or regular caregiver of children that you consider the implications of owning a dog alongside children and that you are prepared for the additional socialisation and training that this involves.

You should always inform the breeder of your regular interactions with children as this will be a contributory factor when selecting the most suitable puppy for your household.

DIET

The Westie needs a high-quality diet they do not do well on high grain diets or cheap quality foods.

They do extremely well on a raw diet

Our puppies are reared on a raw diet and are supplied with a week's worth of food obtainable by ordering using the voucher code given.

The average cost of feeding a raw diet is between £1.75 and £2.25 a day;

HEALTH

Unfortunately like most breeds or crossbreeds the Westie is disposed to certain health conditions.

Some of these but not limited to are listed below.

CMO

Autoimmune conditions.

Westie Lung

Skin conditions

General allergies

Where tests are available our breeding stock are evaluated at least one parent is always tested as free of CMO

Tests are not available for everything, so we only breed from dogs who are not physically affected themselves and watch breed-lines for potential issues, We also keep coefficients of inbreeding low to reduce risk.

It is important when you are considering ownership that you ensure that you budget for a decent insurance policy to cover your dog in the unfortunate circumstance that veterinary treatment is needed.

OWNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

Before embarking on ownership of any breed of dog can bring about significant changes to lifestyle and indeed finances of course many of these changes are positive but I've listed a few basic things for you to consider before taking the plunge,

- Are you and your neighbours prepared for first sleepless nights as the puppy settles in the first week or so can be extremely challenging.
- Are you prepared for the piranha stage puppies are extremely mouthy and will need to be taught how to use their mouth acceptably.
- Do you have the time daily to exercise your dog?
- Please consider the cost and time needed to attend training sessions with your dog.
- Please account for the financial outlay of food, insurance, Grooming and routine veterinary care.
- Please consider the implications on holidays of owning a dog this will either entail holidays catered to dog friendly places or significant preplanning and financial outlay for holiday care for your dog.
- Are you prepared for your home to be less easy to tidy alongside dogs comes matted hair and dirty feet.
- Are you prepared for damage to your home and garden as a puppy grows, they are often quite destructive if left to their own devices.

Thank you for taking the time to read this basic information we hope to be able to welcome you as one of our future owners if you have any further questions about anything at all you are welcome to contact us by email, social media or by telephone. Katy & Andrew gunfieldvizslas@live.co.uk
www.gunfields.com