

**Naomi Brown,**  
*WFA Director*

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My journey with Westies began in 1996 when I found a little white dog, in very poor condition, wandering a mall parking lot. With no success in finding his owners, "Toto" became part of our family. There my Westie journey begins. Like potato chips, you can't have just one. A few years later we purchased our first show dog from Nancy Schoch of Windsong Westies.

It was at Montgomery in 1999 that I was introduced to Sue Thomson of Ashgate Kennel in England. The following spring, my late husband, Carl, and I traveled to Sue's home and purchased my first Ashgate girl. Since that time Sue and I have developed a strong friendship and are fortunate to see each other several times a year. I have come to depend on her wealth of knowledge and common sense approach to breeding. I am

a member of the West Highland White Terrier Club of England and stay in contact with several members. I was fortunate to travel with Sue to their Special Celebration Centenary Championship Show in June of 2006 in Dumfries, Scotland. Sue honored me by asking that I take her affix as mine: Ashgate U.S. It is with great pride that I use Ashgate U.S. as my kennel name and I strive to breed for health and temperament. Along with being on the Board of the Westie Foundation, I am also a member of the WHWTCA and the WHWTC of New England.

I work full time for the Bristol County District Attorney where I am assigned to the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit, investigating homicides and cold cases.

For me, breeding Westies is so rewarding. Everyone enjoys different aspects of this sport and my passion is breeding. To produce a healthy, well-constructed Westie with good temperament is something that I take very seriously. We are the caretakers of our breed and with this is a tremendous responsibility; from the decision on which dogs to mate, the whelping of the litter, the rearing of healthy puppies, to their evaluation and finally, a difficult task for me . . . the placement of my precious little ones. The Westie Foundation offers a wealth of information on health issues and the well being of our Westies. We need to look carefully at what we are producing and test the health of our breeding stock. The Foundation is always willing to go the extra mile to help.