

Bebe J. Pinter

WFA President



Many times good things happen after something bad. On the other hand, it may take a while. That is the case with Westies and me. Let me start at the beginning! Growing up I was surrounded by my dogs, horses, cats, rabbits, a squirrel, and parakeets. I adored all animals. In fact, I wanted to become a veterinarian and raise horses.

Speed forward in time! In the 80's, our first Westie named Rowdy came to live with my husband Randy and me. We adored him. We are avid sailors so he went everywhere with us on our boat; our sons and other relatives loved him as well. When he was almost 11 years

old, we lost him to what I now know was Pulmonary Fibrosis, a horrible, terminal disease of the lungs. It was a year before we could even think about getting another dog—but both Randy and I knew the dog had to be a Westie.

Now the good things start to happen! I was determined to buy from a breeder, someone who breeds to the standard and for the best health and disposition. After much searching I found Ashscot Westies. I started going to shows and grooming Westies with Kay McGuire, DVM and Linda Wible. Soon I joined with them as Ashscot Westies. We practice health clearances, focusing our breeding program on health, disposition and to the standard. We are best friends—like family.

In 2005, Randy and I became members of the West Highland Terrier Club of America, currently serving on the health and breeder education committees and as chair/developer, litter listing committee. I'm also very active in our local Westie club, serving in many capacities including president, vice-president, etc.

All that time I was pondering, "How can I make a difference to improve Westie health on a larger scale so that someone else will not go through what we had with our beloved Rowdy?" I learned about the Westie Foundation of America, Inc. (WFA) and its work in the health research and education arena. In 2008, I was privileged to be elected to the board, serving as vice-president of fundraising until my election as president in 2010. I am currently honored to continue serving in that capacity.

Through the WFA, I learned that not only had my Westie died from Pulmonary Fibrosis but that my mother had died from the very same disease. Now with the WFA, I am working with an organization that can not only help the little, white dogs we all love, but could pave the way to discover treatments and/or cures for humans with similar diseases.

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So what did I do in my other life? I graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and was named to the Dean's List numerous times. My latest work experience was 21 years in governmental education with responsibilities, such as: design/management of non-profit and for-profit budgets, develop proposals for grants resulting in \$1.5 million funding, negotiate and develop contracts and interlocal agreements, contributor to numerous publications for the US Department of Education and Federal Emergency Management Agency, liaison with Federal Bureau of Investigation and United States Secret Service, oversee various boards and committees, and administer multiple projects, including federal and state grant programs.