

WESTIE FOUNDATION of AMERICA, INC.

Dear Westie Owner:

The Westie Foundation of America, Inc. (WFA) has entered an agreement with *Resero Genomics* in Salt Lake City, Utah to store DNA from our West Highland White Terriers. The **WFA Biobank** was established to provide a repository of high-quality West Highland White Terrier DNA for use in research projects and to preserve the genetic heritage of the breed.

We appreciate your willingness to participate in this important project. Your contribution will have an impact on Westie health both now and for years to come. The **WFA Biobank** will serve as an important asset for both breeders and researchers. With technology advancing rapidly, we want to be in position to take advantage of these tools to benefit the health and well-being of our breed.

We provide sample collection kits to Westie owners upon request. Each kit includes the following:

- One PAXgene blue top 2.5 ml collection tube
- Instructions for collection of the sample (**Biobank Sample Collection Procedure**). Take these instructions with you when you meet with your veterinarian.
- A plastic zip-lock baggie with a small paper towel placed inside
- A shipping box and poly-mailer with a pre-addressed label for shipment to *Resero Genomics*
- A **Sample Submission Form/Agreement** which is to be filled out and sent to *Resero Genomics*. If you are submitting samples from more than one Westie, fill out page two of the Sample Submission Form as well.
- A **WFA Biobank Agreement** and **WFA Biobank Health Survey** which is to be filled out for each sample submitted. These forms should be emailed or mailed to Kay McGuire, DVM in the enclosed envelope.

Please ask your veterinarian to collect a sample of blood from your Westie following the instructions included in the kit. Then ship the sample to *Resero Genomics*. Expensive overnight or 2-day shipping with ice packs is NOT needed thanks to the special tubes we have provided. We recommend that you schedule the blood draw and ship the samples on the same day, early in the week.

The management of the DNA and costs for storage will be entrusted to the Westie Foundation of America, Inc. All health information from the health survey will be cataloged in a confidential data base.

For more information about this project please visit the WFA website at www.westiefoundation.org or contact Dr. Kay McGuire at health@westiefoundation.org.

Thank you again for supporting this important project.

Sincerely,

Kay McGuire, DVM
Vice-President Health
Westie Foundation of America, Inc