

WESTIE FOUNDATION of AMERICA, INC
BIOBANK

Dear Westie Owner:

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. The Westie Foundation of America, Inc. (WFA) has entered an agreement with *Azenta, US, Inc* to store DNA from West Highland White Terriers. All Westies of any age, regardless of pedigree, are eligible to support our efforts. The Westie does not need to be registered with the AKC or any other registry.

We appreciate your willingness to participate in this important project. Your contribution of a blood sample from your Westie will have an impact on Westie health in that it will serve as an important resource for researchers studying diseases that affect our breed. With technology advancing rapidly, we want to be in position to take advantage of these advances to benefit the health and well-being of Westies worldwide.

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

- One PAXgene 2.5 ml collection tube with label and bubble wrap pouch for each tube
- The **Biobank Sample Collection Procedure**
- A cardboard shipping box
- An envelope addressed to Ann Marie Holowathy, coordinator of the biobank
- A **DNA Sample Submission Form** which is to be filled out and sent to *Azenta, US, Inc.* with the blood sample. If you are submitting samples from more than one Westie, fill out the back of this form, the **Canine Bulk Sample Submission Form**.
- A **WFA Biobank Agreement** and **WFA Biobank Health Survey** which are to be filled out for each sample submitted. These forms should be mailed in the enclosed envelope to Ann Marie Holowathy, 145 Bunker Street, Doylestown, PA 18901.

Ask your veterinarian to collect a sample of blood from your Westie following the instructions included in the kit. Then ship the blood sample to *Azenta, US, Inc* via UPS 2nd Day Air. We recommend that you schedule the blood draw and ship the samples early in the week. Request a pre-paid shipping label from Ann Marie Holowathy a few days before the blood draw. **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 visit westiefoundation.org/biobank or contact Ann Marie Holowathy at aholowathy@msn.com.

Thank you for supporting this important project.

Sincerely,

Kay McGuire, DVM
Vice-President Health, Westie Foundation of America, Inc
health@westiefoundation.org

