

Welch's Jolly Westies

Recommended Products for your Westie puppy

We are very focused on raising and breeding only the best possible, therefore while we recommend the following products, it does not mean other products can never be used. Our Westies have never showed any signs of allergies, and we have, over the years, changed dog food, shampoos, even laundry detergents that we wash their bed in and other cleaners which we use. So while we can recommend these products, you can feel free to try others and we'd love to know what kind of results you get. The only product which we insist you use is some form of heartworm protection. Failure to protect your new Westie from the dangers of heartworms will void your contract.

Food

Your new puppy is going to eating Purina Pro Plan Savor Chicken & Rice formula with a little cooked chicken, Tripe or cottage cheese added 3 times per day. We recommend you keep your new puppy on this food for now while transitioning to their new environment, then you can switch over to whatever food suits you best. Fresh water is necessary at all times.

Grooming

We only use Chris Christensen products on all our dogs. Show quality products that out perform most of the others I have tried. No doggy smell after bathing and nice healthy coat. The key to successful grooming is to start young and be patient.

White on White shampoo: First time I used this I thought I ruined my dogs. It's blue! And it looks like you turned your Westie lavender! Leave it on 10 minutes and you'll get great whitening results without bleach. WE DO NOT EVER BLEACH OUR DOGS. If you absolutely need to bleach your Westie, we ask that you wait until at least 9 mos of age.

After U Bathe: Clears away any shampoo residue without softening a nice hard coat. Smells amazing too!

I do not shampoo my Westies unless they are very grimy. To simply get rid of outside doggy smell I mix my own dry bath powder and rub it into their coats. Tends to get rid of light grime as well.

Recipe for dry bath powder: Equal parts cornstarch baby powder, baking soda and coarse salt. Store in an airtight container. To use, grab a handful and rub into dog's coat the either towel or brush to remove excess.

Ear care is crucial for any doggy. Westies with upright ears are fortunate as they get lots of air time, however that is not to say that Westie ears are maintenance free. These ear care basics will keep your baby's ears healthy, and safeguard him/her from infection and possible hearing loss.

Baby wipes for cleaning the inside of the ear. Ear dry drops are also great for after water bathing to keep the ears clean and dry. A good pair of clamps or hemostats is useful for pulling hair out of the ear canal as well. Clean, hair-free ears are healthy ears!

Nail care: Keeping the nails trimmed does a whole lot more than keeping you and your furniture from being scratched. Neglected nails can become splayed, causing your Westie unnecessary pain. To trim the nails, we recommend a guillotine styled dog nail trimmer. Simply place the trimmer flat against the bottom of the paw pads and snip the nail parts that hang over the edge. You can grind the nail down after using a dremel tool or even an emery board for false fingernails. Always keep a bottle of Stop Bleed on hand just in case you trim too far. It happens to the best of us.

Care of the teeth: I can not stress enough how important it is to take care of your Westie's teeth. Start early brushing their teeth with an enzymatic toothpaste such as CET. My dogs love the poultry flavor the most. Approximately ½ "" on a child's size toothbrush is all you need. Just spread it on your dogs teeth at least twice a week and you're done. I also recommend dental treats after meals to help keep the tarter away between brushings. A little care now can protect your dogs "smile" for a lifetime.

Coarse coat comb: I have 2—a fancy English imported comb and a cheapo comb I got on Amazon. There is little difference. You just need to make sure you get one that is for a coarse coat.

Slicker brush: Still haven't found one my Westies like. Let me know if you find one that your new Westie doesn't want to hide under the bed.

Stripping knives/stones/ coat king: I use whatever works to keep my Westies looking great. I like my knives (dull them before using) but the coat king is a pretty darn useful tool to have. I do a serious strip of my Westies coat at 8 months, then every few months after. Pet Westies can benefit greatly from this type of grooming, especially those living in the South. I do however understand exactly how time consuming this can be and we have yet to find a local groomer here that would do the job at a reasonable rate. For me, I would rather see a Westie clipped than over-grown. The coat king has multiple purposes in my grooming kit. It pulls dead hair, breaks mats, and it very useful to cleaning up your puppy's backside.

Clippers: I am just going to say it. Don't buy crap. A \$100 clipper is going to fall apart, especially if you are intending to use it every 4-6 weeks. Good clippers are expensive, just bite the bullet. Andis is my brand, and I do include a DVD on grooming with clippers and how to hand strip in your new puppy pack.

Grooming Table: Not necessary but sure is nice to own. A good grooming table puts the puppy at exactly the right height eliminating back strain for you.

Blow dryers can be used, however if you bring in your Westies hard coat, then even without a dryer, he/she will be dry in just a few minutes. Soft-coated Westies however get wet, and stay wet. If you choose to keep your Westie in a soft coat than get him/her used to a dryer early.

A good pair of scissors. Seriously. I have several pairs, but my favorite is super sharp, very big, and balanced. I use my scissors to trim along ears, and shape my Westies' heads.

Hard Sided Crate: Get a crate that your Westie can grow into. There are dividers that can be used when the puppy is little. Crate training has many benefits, however safety is the most important. Whenever you cannot supervise your puppy please put him/her in a crate. You Tube is loaded with Crate training videos to help you through it all.

Kiddie Pool: A summer time must have! My Westies love, love, love to go swimming and yours will too! I take my Westies swimming on grooming days. Gives them a chance to have fun, get dirty and of course, cool off!

What Not To Buy

String toys: Strings can come loose and wind up in your puppy's digestive tract. No string toys period.

Stupid stuff: Vitamins, treats, supplements, additives, probiotic powders, silly fluffy toys...your puppy not only does not need these things, but they can be very dangerous to use with a very young puppy. Vitamins and supplements are not required, we do not sell them, nor do we use them. If you feed your dog a balanced diet, your dog already gets what he/she needs to stay healthy. Vitamins and supplements in my honest opinion are snake oil. Sticking with a sensible, well balanced diet is the smarter choice.

And as always, if unsure, please feel free to ask us any questions you may have concerning your new puppy's care. There are no stupid questions.

<http://WelchJollyWesties.com>