

The Westie Health E-Book



Common health problems, how to recognize them and what to do about them

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About this "E-Book" (electronic book)

Welcome to the first edition of the Westie E-Book, sponsored by generous support from the Westie Foundation of America. This electronic book is meant to serve as a source of information for Westie owners, breeders, veterinarians and for anyone who loves Westies.

The E-Book (really an electronic website) is organized by topic. A list of topics follows and then the link of that portion of the site will take you there with a click of a button. The material is organized by topics of general interest, and then by specific diseases that Westie seem more prone to than other dogs. Under each disease heading, is information intended for all readers. There are then areas of more detailed content (for veterinarians and scientists), but all are welcome to read through this material. References used to prepare the E-Book are listed, as are short summaries of some key articles.

This is a work in progress! Comments (wag, wag, wag!) and criticisms (grrrr!) are welcome!

Health and disease in dogs – a brief overview



Dogs are amazingly hearty and healthy. The owner of any new puppy is amazed at the number of “delectable” items puppies eat – and how they grow and prosper.

There are several things that determine the health of all dogs. First, and foremost, dogs need a nutritionally adequate and complete diet, plenty of clean, fresh water, and a safe environment (See **Diet and Environment**, below). Second, dogs need human attention to their health problems. Owners of dogs are the front line in providing regular visits to the veterinarian for vaccinations and physical examinations (See **You and Your Veterinarian**, below). Third, the breed of dogs can have a very strong influence on the development of some health problems. We know that some types of health problems, such as cancer or skin disease, are more common in some purebred dog breeds than others. One example of this is an increased incidence of bladder cancer in Scottish terrier breeds, such as the Scottie and Westie (See **How Breed Influences Health in Dogs**, below) ([reference here](#)).