



### Presidents Message:



Hi everyone and welcome to the first edition of the Tartan for 2025. I would like to thank Debbie Sklarin for doing such an outstanding job as President for the last two years. First, I would like to welcome our new board and Officers:

Lisa Blutman, President

Debbie Sklarin, Vice President

Gail Krieger, Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members, Sherry Byrd, Nancy Berger, Helaine Campbell, and Jim Gilcrest. All of us welcome your input.

Cindy Kangas remains our membership chair and welcomes applicants and questions.

During these times we have faced many challenges in holding meetings and club events. I hope in the next two years this will change. We added a board position to identify how we might encourage members to participate in the club. Nancy Berger oversees member engagement. Please let her



know what you would like to see as a member of the club. We discussed many ideas at our last Board meeting, so this edition and future editions of the Tartan will focus on things you can do with your westies where spayed and neutered dogs can participate and have fun with the owner/handler and dog. Some of these activities take place locally and not necessarily in conjunction with a regular dog show. We have been discussing having potluck lunches where we can learn about these and have our dogs participate in the beginning challenges. If these sound like fun, please let Nancy know.

## Earthdog

Earthdog tests the working ability and instincts of the small, often short-legged terriers or Dachshunds. All of these dogs were bred to hunt vermin and other quarry which lived in underground dens. Earthdog tests gauge how good a hunter your dog really is. They're non-competitive and each dog is judged on his own abilities for seeking and locating rodents underground. But fear not, rodent lovers: In these tests, rats are safely caged and not harmed! For the first Earthdog test, we let loose our dogs and they go underground in a woodframed box or tunnel. There is a single turn with a caged rat at the end of the tunnel. The classes at a licensed or member test are Introduction to Quarry (non-regular with no credit toward title), Novice Earthdog, Junior Earthdog, Senior Earthdog and Master Earthdog. The trials progress in difficulty and to attain the title of Senior Earthdog, a dog must accomplish the following: Follow a 20-foot long scent line to a tunnel entrance that the dog cannot see from ground level; track through a completely dark 30 foot tunnel containing three 90 degree turn to the rats, not to be distracted by a false entrance and exit.



## Agility

Agility is a great event for you and your dogs. It is one of the fun events televised by the American Kennel Club with challenges between owner and dog being judged on an individual basis. The dog handler, directs the dog through a pre-set of obstacle course



within a certain time limit. Dogs run off leash with no food as a reward during the agility trial. According to the American Kennel Club, “Agility is one of the fastest-growing dog sports in the country—and for good reason. It’s incredible exercise for both you and your dog, and it forges an even deeper relationship between you. Plus, it’s exhilarating to watch as your dog nimbly and quickly crawls through tunnels, weaves around poles, and leaps through tires!



## Barn Hunt

Barn Hunt is based on the traditional roles of many breeds in riding farms, barns, crop storage areas, and homes of destructive vermin. Some breeds were specifically created to fill this role, and for many of those breeds, Barn Hunt provides their first true opportunity for responsible breeders to test proper working traits in their dogs. Barn Hunt is also open to any dog of any breed or mix who wishes to play the game and can fit through an 18" wide by bale-height tall tunnel. Barn Hunt has titles, levels of increasing difficulty, and championships. Barn Hunt is an independent sport, but titles are recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC), the United Kennel Club (UKC), and the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC).

Barn Hunt holds rat care at the highest level of consideration. The rats used in Barn Hunt are beloved family pets. They jump eagerly into their safe, comfortable aerated tubes and truly enjoy interacting with the dogs.

We're a great sport for older dogs, and older people too! Tripod dogs can compete, and so can deaf dogs. Blind dogs and dogs in wheeled carts can compete in Line Drive. To get started first read the **rules**, then find a **club** near you, or even think about forming your own club. You can also find events on the **event calendar**. We hope you try it, we think you'll like it!

Barn Hunt has partnered with the U.S. Center for SafeSport to provide a safe environment for all participants.





## Fast Cat

Sure, you think your dog is fast. But have you ever wondered *how* fast? Can your dog outrun Usain Bolt, who has been called the fastest runner in the world? They just might: Usain's fastest time has been clocked at almost 28 mph – yet dogs have been known to reach speeds of 35-45 mph.

Well, you no longer have to wonder how fast your dog can run. Fast CAT® – which stands for Coursing Ability Test – is a timed 100-yard dash where dogs run one at a time, chasing a lure. It's over before you know it — and it's nothing short of awe-inspiring to watch your dog run at top speed, ears back, eyes focused, legs strong. All dogs can participate in Fast CAT, whether purebred or mixed breed.

Although it is a relatively new sport, its popularity has spread like wildfire. No wonder. According to one AKC official, "The Fast CAT® provides a terrific opportunity to introduce new participants to the world of AKC sports as one of the few events where all that is needed to compete is a dog's natural instincts."



*All information provided by the American Kennel Club or the West Highland White Terrier Club of America. Photos from the West Highland White Terrier Club of America*



There will be more information on Scent Work, Tracking, and other performance events in the next edition.

The Northern California Terrier Shows on April 10 and 11, are offering Rally (a form of obedience) and FastCat. If you are coming to support those in the conformation show, watch these two events and see if it is something you might be interested in trying.

## **Bird Flu**

Bird Flu is highly contagious. Please keep your westies away from bird droppings. While dogs have yet to get this virus, it is possible.



## San Francisco Bay West Highland White Terrier Club 2025 Calendar

Annual Meeting	January 25, 2025 General Meeting 11:00 am	Via Zoom
General Meeting	March 1, 2025, 11:30 am potluck lunch, 12:00 pm Program	Lafayette Community Center, Cedar Room
Annual Specialty	April 11, 2025	Lodi Grape Festival Grounds, Lodi, CA
Member only Fun Day	June 21, 2025 Potluck. Club provides water and Dessert	Home of Rick and Debbie Sklarin
Fall Frolic with meeting and potluck	August 16, 2025	To be determined
Holiday Lunch	December 6, 2025	To be determined



## It is still the Rainy Season

It is still the rainy season, and it can get cold in our area. Remember to dry your dog when it comes in from the outside, and keep the paws dry to keep from getting infections. If you are in the snow and there is salt on the ground, wash the dogs' paws immediately after your walk.



[images from Google images](#)



# Teeth Cleaning and Ear Cleaning

## EARS AND TEETH

Following our general meeting on March 1, at the Lafayette Community Center, Jim Gilcrest presented a program on proper ear cleaning and tooth and gum care for our Westies.

Jim brought along Nessie and Drummer to assist him and act as his models for the presentation. Jim explained that his Westies spend the evening with him on his lap and that's where all the cleaning takes place. Nessie and Drummer enjoy the attention and don't object because it's an almost nightly routine that began when they were pups. Tooth brushing happens almost nightly, and ear cleaning takes place as needed.

To clean the ears Jim uses Covertus chloredine gluconate 0.2% liquid solution. A small amount is squeezed into the ear canal. He then massages the ear for a short while. A cotton ball is used to clean the ear canal. After that's done, Jim used a Q-tip on the inside of the ear flap. Jim emphasized that the Q-tip should not be used in the ear canal.

One of the most interesting moments of Jim's presentation was watching Drummer, Jim's 4-year-old Westie. Drummer was thoroughly enjoying the attention. Jim used a triangular shaped toothbrush made for dogs. Jim applied a finger-tip sized amount of toothpaste on the brush and gently began brushing Drummer's teeth. Jim uses Verbac CET enzymatic flavored toothpaste. Jim noted that the mouth is not rinsed, and it is not necessary to brush the inside of the teeth as the enzyme in the toothpaste moves throughout the mouth.



Jim brought along toothbrushes and finger brushes. He asked members to make a donation to the club if the members wanted to take one of the brushes. Jim said the toothpaste, brushes and ear wash can be purchased on Amazon.

Thank you, Jim, for a very interesting and informative program.

If members have suggestions for programs they're interested in, please send your ideas to Nancy Berger at [nancyandwalt@comcast.net](mailto:nancyandwalt@comcast.net).



*Thank you, Ron Kangas, for capturing these phot*



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY**  
**WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB**

**2024 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*President: Lisa Blutman      Vice-President: Debbie Sklarin*

*Secretary/Treasurer: Gail Krieger*

*Board of Directors: Nancy Berger, Sherry Byrd, Jim Gilcrest, and Helaine Campbell*

**2023 COMMITTEES**

*Tartan Lisa Blutman, assisted by Gail Krieger, Rick Sklarin, Sherry Byrd*

*Awards: Debbie and Rick Sklarin*

*By-Laws: Lisa Blutman, Gail Krieger, Jim Gilcrest*

*Specialty chair: Lisa Blutman*

*Member Engagement: Nancy Berger*

*Fundraising: Lisa Blutman, Chair, Debbie Sklarin, Gail Krieger, Helaine Campbell, Marie Thompson*

*Holiday Luncheon: Marie Thompson*

*Education and Program: Gail Krieger*

*Job Descriptions: Gail Krieger*

*Historian: Helaine Campbell*

*Membership: Cindy Kangas*

*Obedience, Rally, and Performance:*

*Standing Match and Show: Gail Krieger, Chair, Lisa Blutman, Sherry Byrd*

*Sunshine: Helaine Campbell*

*Trailer and Inventory: Gail Krieger and Lisa Blutman*

*Webmaster: Linda Gilcrest*

*Web Information Coordinator: Helaine Campbell*

*WHWTC of America Liaison: Lisa Blutman*

*WHWT Foundation:*

*Westie Rescue and Placement of Northern California (WRAP) Liaison:*

Please consider volunteering your time by serving on one of the Club's committees. Volunteering is a wonderful way to meet new people and to help shape the future of our organization. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Sklarin. We need assistance with Programs, Assistant Web Master, Special Events, and Tartan.

Visit us online at <http://www.sfbaywestieclub.com> for the latest news and updates





## Rainbow Bridge

Please let us know if any of you have lost your loved pets

The HIGHLAND TARTAN is published at least four times per year in March, June, September and December. We encourage any Club Member or Subscriber to submit articles or information which they feel would be of interest to the Club. Please send material of interest to the Editor by the first day of the month of publication. All materials are published at the discretion of the Editor. Opinions are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay West Highland White Terrier Club. Send materials for publication to [lisa.blutman@aol.com](mailto:lisa.blutman@aol.com)

When submitting information for an ad, please have it camera ready. Indicate the size (full or half page) and mark the areas to be used for written copy. Copy should be typed to size on white paper. Your photos and copy will be returned, if requested.

Advertisement costs for a Full Page: \$20.00; Half Page: \$10.00; Business Card size: \$15.00; for 4 issues. Advertisements are any show wins other than specialty photos in the specialty edition or professional advertisements of interest to the membership.

Whelping Box: List litter announcements in the Tartan: Number of dog and bitch puppies, sire, dam, whelp date and breeders. \$5/ issue, members only. **This is not an advertisement for the sale of puppies.**

There is no charge for Rainbow Bridge notices.

Please make **check Payable to SFBWHWTC**. Payment must accompany advertisement. Send subscription requests to SFBWHWTC, and mail to: *Lisa Blutman 710 Wiegand Way, Dixon, CA 9562*



**GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER CLUB  
MARCH 1, 2025, Lafayette, CALIFONIRA**

President Lisa Blutman called the meeting to order at 11:49 A.M.at the Lafayette Community Center.

Members' Present: Nancy Berger, Mick Brown, Lisa Blutman, Vickie Casacca, Jim Gilcrest, Cindy Kangas, Ron Kangas, Gail Krieger, Debbie Sklarin, Rick Sklarin

Report of the President: Lisa reported AKC will not increase per dog entry fees as originally planned. She also told everyone that AKC is alerting us on legislation regarding dogs at the State Capital. The latest is to prevent breeders from giving vaccinations to their litter of pups.

Report of the Secretary/Treasurer: Gail reported a balance of \$12,762.02. \$625 in 2025 dues were received. \$300 in donations were made to the club at the time dues were paid. One member donated \$215. Expenditures approved at the last board meeting have been made. There was nothing to report on from the secretary's position.

Lisa asked Secretary Gail Krieger to give a report on the board meeting held on February 26.

Lisas asked for a motion to approve the general meeting minutes of January 25, 2025, as published in the last Tartan newsletter. Debbie Sklarin made a motion to approve the January 25 minutes. Nancy Berger seconded the motion. M/S/C.

Report of Committees:

Member Engagement: Nancy reported she has spoken with other clubs to get ideas for club programs and events. Lisa advised the members that the new position of Membership Engagement Chair is to contact our Westie club members to find out what programs and events would interest them and encourage the members to attend more meetings and events. Lisa asked the members to contact Nancy if they could contribute ideas.

Membership: Cindy Kangas reported there are no pending applications for membership.

Program: Jim Gilcrest advised he will present the program following the meeting on ear cleaning and tooth and gum care.

Specialty: Lisa advised AKC has approved the club's April 11 Specialty show and sweepstakes. Mrs. Peggy Brown will judge Westies. Mr. Michael Morgan Lynch will judge puppy and veteran sweepstakes.

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Tartan: Lisa said she will emphasize AKC performance events held in conjunction with AKC conformation shows and obedience trials. The information may help to encourage members to become active in those activities and may help club involvement.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Calendar: Lisa and Debbie will work on the 2025 calendar.

Fun Day: Debbie advised the summer Fun Day will be held at the home of Rick and Debbie Sklarin on June 21. There will be a potluck lunch following the meeting. The Fun Day is for members only.

Lisa advised a new Fall event which will be called Fall Frolic. The date will be announced soon.

Lisa asked for a motion to adjourn as there was no further new business. Debbie made the motion. Vickie Casacca seconded the motion. M/S/C, Adjourned 12:15 P.M.