

# Buying a West Highland White Terrier Puppy

## What to expect from a Breeder who puts Health, Welfare and Temperament First



### ✓ **Essential Documents**

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
- KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
- Microchip Registration Certificate
- Temporary Pet Health Insurance
- Vaccination Certificate
- Copies of Health Certificates

#### *A good breeder will*

- have socialised and habituated the puppy
- provide a supply of food
- provide a blanket smelling of Mum
- follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding

### ✓ **Health Certificates (both parents)**

#### **BVA/KC Health Schemes**

- **Hip dysplasia (HD)**
- **Eye scheme; Hereditary cataract** (annual testing); **Multiple ocular defects** (litter screening); **Persistent pupillary membranes** (litter screening); **Primary lens luxation**
- **Patella - Putnam patella luxation scheme**

#### **DNA Tests available**

- Craniomandibular osteopathy
- Pyruvate kinase deficiency (PKD)
- Globoid cell leukodystrophy

**Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)**  
[www.thewesthighlandwhiteterrierclubofengland.co.uk](http://www.thewesthighlandwhiteterrierclubofengland.co.uk)  
[www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html](http://www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html)



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## Brief Disease Explanation

If in doubt ask your vet for guidance

### Health Schemes - testing available

**Hip dysplasia** - abnormal formation of the hip, pain and lameness

**Eye diseases** - leading to blindness and other serious defects

**Luxating patella** - abnormal joint in hind leg, pain and lameness

### DNA Tests - available

**Cranio-mandibular osteopathy** - abnormal growth of lower jaw

**Globoid cell leukodystrophy** - nerve and spinal cord dysfunction

**Pyruvate kinase deficiency** - anaemia, lack of red blood cells

### Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

**Atopy** - skin allergy (very common)

**Cranial cruciate ligament disease** - rupture of knee ligament

**Keratoconjunctivitis sicca ('dry eye')** painful, can lead to ulcers

**Pulmonary fibrosis (Westie lung disease)** - progressive, coughing and tiredness

**Portosystemic shunt** - abnormal blood vessel leading to serious liver damage

**Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency** - pancreatic failure, appetite but loss of weight

**Legg-calve-perthes disease** - failure of blood supply to thigh bone, painful arthritis

**Hepatitis** - liver disease

**Diabetes** - not enough insulin produced

**Demodicosis** - skin disease caused by demodex mites

