blanket training crate

blanket training crate is an essential tool for pet owners aiming to create a safe and comfortable environment for their dogs during crate training. This approach combines the benefits of crate training with the added comfort and security provided by a blanket, enhancing the overall experience for the pet. By incorporating a blanket into the crate setup, dogs are more likely to feel relaxed, reducing anxiety and promoting positive associations with their crate. This article explores the purpose, benefits, and best practices of using a blanket training crate, along with tips for selecting the right blankets and maintaining hygiene. Additionally, it covers common challenges faced during blanket crate training and effective solutions to ensure a smooth process. Understanding these aspects can help pet owners optimize crate training and support their pet's emotional well-being.

- Understanding Blanket Training Crate
- Benefits of Using a Blanket in Crate Training
- Choosing the Right Blanket for Crate Training
- How to Use a Blanket Training Crate Effectively
- Maintaining Hygiene and Safety in Blanket Training Crates
- Common Challenges and Solutions in Blanket Crate Training

Understanding Blanket Training Crate

A blanket training crate refers to the practice of placing a soft, comfortable blanket inside a dog crate to enhance the crate training process. Crate training is a widely recommended method for housebreaking dogs, providing them with a secure space that mimics a den-like environment. Incorporating a blanket adds warmth and cushioning, making the crate more inviting for the pet. This technique is particularly useful for puppies and dogs prone to anxiety, as the blanket can create a calming atmosphere. The blanket training crate method focuses on improving the dog's crate experience, encouraging voluntary use and reducing resistance.

Purpose of a Blanket Training Crate

The primary purpose of using a blanket training crate is to combine the benefits of crate training with added comfort. The blanket serves as a familiar object that can retain the pet's scent, which is reassuring for dogs during times of separation or stress. It also provides insulation against cold floors and hard surfaces, preventing discomfort that may discourage crate use. By enhancing the crate environment, the blanket helps dogs associate the crate with safety and relaxation, facilitating smoother training outcomes.

How Blanket Training Fits Into Overall Crate Training

Blanket training is a complementary strategy within the broader scope of crate training. While traditional crate training focuses on teaching dogs to remain calm and settled inside the crate, adding a blanket supports this by addressing the dog's emotional and physical comfort. This approach aligns with positive reinforcement techniques, where the crate becomes a positive space rather than a confinement area. Integrating a blanket into crate training routines can accelerate adaptation and improve the dog's willingness to use the crate independently.

Benefits of Using a Blanket in Crate Training

Utilizing a blanket in a training crate offers numerous advantages that enhance both the pet's experience and the effectiveness of crate training. The following benefits highlight why a blanket training crate is a valuable tool for dog owners.

Comfort and Warmth

A blanket provides a soft surface that cushions the dog's body, reducing pressure on joints and muscles. This is especially important for puppies, senior dogs, or breeds prone to joint issues. The added warmth from the blanket also helps maintain a cozy environment, which is critical in colder climates or during winter months.

Emotional Security and Reduced Anxiety

The familiar scent and softness of a blanket can create a safe haven for dogs, minimizing stress and separation anxiety. Dogs often use blankets as comfort objects, and including one in their crate helps build a positive emotional connection to the space.

Encourages Crate Use and Training Success

A crate with a comfortable blanket is more likely to be perceived as a desirable resting spot. This encourages dogs to enter voluntarily and remain calm, facilitating successful crate training and reducing behavioral issues related to crate avoidance.

Protects the Crate and Simplifies Cleaning

Blankets act as a barrier between the dog and the crate's floor, protecting the crate from scratches, dirt, and moisture. They are easier to remove and wash than cleaning the crate itself, contributing to a more hygienic environment.

Choosing the Right Blanket for Crate Training

Selecting an appropriate blanket is crucial to maximizing the benefits of a blanket training crate. The ideal blanket should meet specific criteria to ensure safety, durability, and comfort.

Material and Texture

Choose blankets made from soft, breathable materials such as fleece or cotton. These fabrics provide warmth without causing overheating and are gentle on the dog's skin. Avoid materials that shed excessively or have loose threads that could pose choking hazards.

Size and Fit

The blanket should fit comfortably inside the crate, covering the floor without bunching up excessively. Oversized blankets can create folds that may cause discomfort or become chew targets, while undersized blankets fail to provide adequate coverage.

Durability and Washability

Opt for blankets that are machine washable and resistant to wear and tear. Frequent washing is necessary to maintain hygiene, especially if the dog sheds or has accidents. Durable blankets withstand repeated laundering without losing their softness or shape.

Safety Considerations

Ensure the blanket does not have embellishments like buttons or loose threads. Choose non-toxic, pet-safe materials that do not contain harmful chemicals or dyes. Regular inspection of the blanket for damage is important to prevent ingestion of fabric pieces.

How to Use a Blanket Training Crate Effectively

Implementing a blanket training crate requires strategic steps to ensure the dog associates the crate with positive experiences and comfort.

Introducing the Blanket Gradually

Introduce the blanket to the dog outside the crate initially to familiarize it with the texture and scent. Allow the dog to sniff and lie on the blanket in a neutral space to build comfort prior to crate placement.

Placing the Blanket in the Crate

Place the blanket neatly inside the crate, ensuring it lies flat and covers the crate floor adequately. Position the blanket so it does not obstruct the door or create bulky folds that may discourage the dog from entering.

Positive Reinforcement Techniques

Encourage the dog to enter the crate with the blanket by using treats, praise, and toys. Reward calm behavior inside the crate to reinforce the association between the blanket training crate and positive outcomes.

Gradual Increase of Crate Time

Start with short periods of time in the blanket training crate and gradually increase duration as the dog becomes more comfortable. Monitor the dog's behavior to ensure the blanket is serving its intended purpose of comfort and security.

Maintaining Hygiene and Safety in Blanket Training Crates

Proper maintenance of the blanket and crate environment is essential to ensure cleanliness, safety, and longevity of the training setup.

Regular Cleaning Schedule

Establish a routine for washing the blanket at least once a week or more frequently if soiled. Use pet-safe detergents and ensure the blanket is thoroughly dried before returning it to the crate.

Inspecting for Wear and Damage

Regularly check the blanket for signs of wear, such as holes, fraying, or loose threads. Replace damaged blankets promptly to prevent ingestion or choking hazards.

Crate Cleaning Protocol

Clean the crate itself regularly by wiping down surfaces with non-toxic cleaners. Remove the blanket during cleaning to allow for thorough disinfection and drying of the crate interior.

Monitoring Dog Behavior

Observe the dog for signs of chewing or destructive behavior related to the blanket. If the dog consistently destroys blankets, consider alternative crate bedding options or consult a veterinarian or trainer for behavioral guidance.

Common Challenges and Solutions in Blanket Crate Training

While blanket training crates offer many benefits, some challenges may arise that require attention and adjustment.

Chewing and Destruction of Blankets

Some dogs may chew or shred blankets, potentially leading to ingestion of fabric. To mitigate this, select durable, chew-resistant blankets and supervise crate time initially. Providing chew toys and mental stimulation outside the crate can also reduce destructive tendencies.

Overheating Concerns

In warm climates or during summer, blankets may cause overheating. Use lightweight, breathable blankets or replace them with crate mats during hot weather to maintain comfort without excessive warmth.

Allergies and Sensitivities

Dogs with skin allergies may react to certain blanket materials or detergents. Use hypoallergenic and fragrance-free blankets and detergents to minimize irritation. Consult a veterinarian if allergic reactions persist.

Reluctance to Enter the Crate

If a dog resists entering the blanket training crate, reassess the crate environment and training approach. Ensure the blanket is clean and inviting, and employ gradual positive reinforcement methods to build voluntary crate use.

- Use chew-resistant, washable blankets to prevent destruction.
- Adjust blanket thickness according to climate conditions.
- Opt for hypoallergenic materials for sensitive dogs.

• Implement consistent positive reinforcement to encourage crate acceptance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is blanket training in crate training for dogs?

Blanket training in crate training involves using a blanket to create a cozy, den-like environment inside the crate, helping the dog feel secure and comfortable while inside.

How does a blanket help with crate training a puppy?

A blanket provides warmth and a soft surface, which makes the crate more inviting and less intimidating for a puppy, encouraging them to enter and stay calmly.

Can I use any blanket for crate training?

It's best to use a blanket that is durable, washable, and free of loose threads or small parts to prevent choking hazards. Fleece or cotton blankets are commonly used.

When should I introduce a blanket during crate training?

Introduce the blanket once your dog is somewhat familiar with the crate, typically after the initial adjustment period, to enhance comfort without overwhelming them.

Is it safe to leave a blanket in the crate overnight?

Yes, as long as the blanket is safe and your dog is not prone to chewing or ingesting fabric. Always supervise initially to ensure your dog handles the blanket well.

How do I clean and maintain blankets used in crate training?

Regularly wash the blanket with pet-safe detergent to remove odors, dirt, and allergens, ensuring a hygienic and pleasant environment for your dog.

Can blanket training help reduce crate anxiety?

Yes, providing a familiar blanket with your scent or your dog's scent can create a calming effect and reduce anxiety associated with crate confinement.

Are there alternatives to blankets for crate comfort

during training?

Yes, alternatives include crate pads, orthopedic beds, or plush mats designed specifically for crates to provide comfort while maintaining safety and durability.

Additional Resources

- 1. Blanket Training for Crate Success: A Step-by-Step Guide
 This book offers a comprehensive approach to using blankets as a tool to create a cozy and secure crate environment for your pet. It covers techniques to introduce the blanket gradually, ensuring your dog associates the crate with comfort and safety. Readers will find practical tips on selecting the right blanket and troubleshooting common challenges in crate training.
- 2. The Cozy Crate Method: Blanket Training for Anxious Dogs
 Designed specifically for dogs with anxiety, this book explains how blanket training can transform a crate into a calming sanctuary. It explores the psychological benefits of familiar scents and textures, helping pets feel more at ease. Step-by-step instructions and real-life case studies provide valuable insights for pet owners and trainers.
- 3. Mastering Crate Comfort: Blanket Training Techniques for Puppies
 Puppy owners will appreciate this guide's focus on early crate training using blankets to
 promote positive associations. It includes advice on timing, blanket placement, and
 integrating play and rest sessions. The book also addresses common puppy behaviors and
 how to manage them effectively during the training process.
- 4. Blanket Training Essentials: Creating a Safe Space in Your Dog's Crate
 This book delves into the essentials of blanket training, emphasizing the importance of creating a safe and inviting crate environment. It outlines how sensory elements like warmth and softness contribute to a pet's well-being. Readers will learn to customize training methods to suit different breeds and temperaments.
- 5. Comfort Crate: Using Blankets to Enhance Crate Training Results
 Focusing on enhancing traditional crate training, this book advocates the use of blankets to improve comfort and compliance. It presents various blanket materials and their effects on dogs, along with strategies to maintain cleanliness and hygiene. The author shares expert advice on balancing comfort with structure in crate training.
- 6. The Blanket Crate Trainer's Handbook: Practical Tips and Tricks
 This handbook provides a wealth of practical tips for dog owners looking to implement
 blanket training in their crate routines. It includes troubleshooting advice for common
 issues like blanket chewing and reluctance to enter the crate. The book is filled with userfriendly techniques supported by behavioral science.
- 7. From Fear to Fun: Transforming Crate Time with Blanket Training
 Targeting dogs fearful of crates, this book offers gentle methods to use blankets as a bridge
 to positive crate experiences. It emphasizes patience and gradual exposure, helping dogs
 build trust and confidence. The author shares inspiring success stories that illustrate the
 transformative power of blanket training.

- 8. Blanket Training Secrets: Unlocking the Power of Cozy Crates
 Discover hidden techniques in this book that reveal how blankets can significantly improve crate training outcomes. It explains the role of scent imprinting and tactile comfort in reducing crate aversion. The book is a valuable resource for trainers aiming to deepen their understanding of environmental enrichment.
- 9. Happy Crate, Happy Dog: Blanket Training Strategies for Lasting Success
 This book combines blanket training with comprehensive crate management strategies to
 foster lasting positive habits. It covers routine building, reward systems, and how to adapt
 training as your dog grows. Pet owners will find motivational guidance to maintain
 consistency and celebrate progress.

Blanket Training Crate

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blanket training crate: The American Kennel Club's Train Your Puppy Right American Kennel Club, 2012-06-05 Create the perfect training environment for your puppy with these simple steps! The American Kennel Club (AKC) is much more than just a few events that showcase the most skilled canines in the country. The AKC offers advice on everything from feeding and training your dog to caring for them throughout their lives. They have taken that know-how and put it into a puppy training manual that emphasizes common sense caring for puppies from before the dog arrives at its new home through its exciting and high-energy puppyhood. Whether dog owners are new and just learning the ropes of training a puppy or experienced owners that need a tune-up in all things puppy, Train Your Puppy Right offers something for everyone. For new dog owners, the book is a must. It shows how to best prepare the living space for the new pet as well as several life skills every dog owner should know and practice. These include: *How to prepare your home into a puppy-proof living space before the new arrival gets into everything *How to create a safe, inviting, and comfortable living area that your puppy can thrive and grow in *How to introduce the puppy to the rest of the family, including other pets and children *How to feed the puppy and what types of food it needs to grow up healthy and strong *Puppy grooming techniques to ensure comfort and promote good health *Simple yet complex training techniques *Advice on curbing unwanted or self-destructive behavior *Advice on troubleshooting common behavioral problems with your puppy *How to prepare the puppy for vet visits. For experienced owners, the book offers reminders of how to best position the puppy and the owners for success. As with children, raising a puppy often requires remembering the things you already know or have experienced, which makes The American Kennel Club's Train Your Puppy Right invaluable even to seasoned pros at dog training. There is not much a puppy can do that this book does not cover. Perhaps best of all, though, is that the book is not overcomplicated. The advice is easy to digest, and the various strategies, tactics, and tricks included are presented in simple language with easy-to-follow instructions. If you are looking for the easiest and most effective way to train your puppy, The American Kennel Club's Train Your Puppy Right is the book you need today. About the American Kennel Club: The organization was founded in 1884 and registers over one million dogs each year. The club sponsors over 22,000 events each year, including confirmation shows, agility events, obedience trials, and hunting and field competitions.

blanket training crate: The Love That Dog Training Program Larry Kay, Dawn Sylvia-Stasiewicz, 2013-07-10 Dawn Sylvia-Stasiewicz is a very special trainer. She knows dogs instinctively, and, drawing on lessons she learned from raising three children, she uses the power of positive reinforcement and bonding to train dogs to be joyful, obedient, and devoted members of a family. Dog lovers throughout the Washington, DC, area know her: She trained each of the late Senator Ted Kennedy's dogs, and when the Obama family were deciding on a puppy— and could have chosen any trainer in the world to work with—it was Ms Sylvia-Stasiewicz who trained Bo. In The Love That Dog Training Program, a lively, accessible, authoritative book, she shares her invaluable and proven program. Her method is based on positive reinforcement. She believes in trust and treats, not choke collars; in bonding, not squeezing or hitting. Her dogs are happy and self-confident, spirited yet very well-behaved. The basic program is five weeks, it takes only 15 or 20 minutes a day, and it works for both puppies and dogs, including retraining a dog with bad habits. Illustrated with step-by-step photographs, The Love That Dog Training Program covers hand-feeding. Crate training and potty training. Simple commands—sit, stay, come here—as well as more complex goals, such as bite inhibition and water safety. It shows how to avoid or correct common behavioral problems including jumping, barking, noise phobias, hiding, and more. Then: how to make your dog comfortable in the world—a dog that travels well, knows how to behave in a dog park or vet's office, is comfortable around strangers, and more. As the author points out, dog training never ends, it just gets easier—and even more rewarding.

blanket training crate: The Official Ahimsa Dog Training Manual Grisha Stewart, 2012 Ahimsa \underscript{uh-HIM-sah \ n. a Buddhist doctrine of non-violence. Add in a fun, modern, scientific approach and you've got a great way to train your dog! Dog Lovers: Learn to solve and prevent a variety of problems, including barking, fear, puppy socialization, housetraining, aggression, fear, separation anxiety, and pulling on leash. Pro Trainers: Get more ways to teach skills and solve problems. Save time on write-ups by using this book as an in-home reference for your clients. Breeders and veterinarians: Send puppies home with this book to start them off on the right paw. This 108-page book is an introduction to dog training that started as the companion exercises for Ahimsa Dog Training classes in Seattle. It has practical exercises that start from a basic level and work up through advanced work on the most important behaviors for dogs to know. This quick manual is helpful for dog trainers to use with clients or new ideas for exercises and for breeders to share with new puppy parents. Includes info on how dogs learn, clicker training, how to get rid of bad behaviors (puppy biting, fear/aggression, separation anxiety, etc.), and how to teach good behaviors, like coming when called, the name, watch, relaxation, sit, down, stay, wait, touch, walking on leash, give, go to your bed, and more!

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blanket training crate: How to Make a Puppy! Sy Guth, 2008-09-04 Dog breeding is a

wonderful and fulfilling activity. The aim of this book is to aid the novice dog breeder in establishing a methodology based on best practices and common sense to ensure the delivery and rearing of healthy puppies. The book covers the basic aspects of dog breeding from designing a kennel to a detailed description on whelping puppies to preparing weaning formulas to choosing a puppy to breed on from; vetting puppy buyers; and case lessons based on the author's own experiences. The book also presents the basics of coefficient of inbreeding; reproduction cycle and mating; record keeping; and equipment helpful in breeding dogs. The book is well illustrated to enable an easy understanding of the concepts. The reader will find this book a caring approach to breeding dogs.

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blanket training crate: 8 Week Basic Dog Handling Course - Real World Human Training for your Dog ,

blanket training crate: The Complete Guide to Shih Tzu Dogs Molly Weinfurter, 2019-02-13 Do you think you've got what it takes to care for a Shih Tzu? They're one of the most popular non-shedding small breeds, but there's a lot to know before bringing one into your life. They can be a bit stubborn, but their big personality and loving nature makes up for it. A Shih Tzu is the ideal pet for anyone who needs a dog with a perfect balance between playful and lazy. In The Complete Guide to Shih Tzus you will learn everything you need to know from start to end; how to choose a puppy, training, traveling, grooming, health care and senior care. You will also learn all about the background of the breed, its history, breed pre-disposed diseases, and special traits. All the information is specific to Shih Tzus and in easy-reading comprehensive detail. Find answers to guestions like: Is a Shih Tzu the right dog for me? I brought my Shih Tzu home. What now? How can I best train my Shih Tzu? What are some common mistakes should I avoid? This book is designed to help guide you through life with a Shih Tzu from puppy to old age and everything in between. Chapters include all the basics such as: What is a Shih Tzu? Choosing a Shih Tzu Preparing your Home for your Shih Tzu Bringing Home your Shih Tzu Basic Training Socializing with People and Animals Physical and Mental Exercise Teaching Your Shih Tzu Dealing With Unwanted Behaviors Traveling with Shih Tzus Grooming your Shih Tzu Basic Health Care Aging Shih Tzu Care Compiled by experienced Shih Tzu owner, Molly Weinfurter, the book will ensure there is nothing left for you to wonder or worry about. It will provide you with everything you need to know to help you care for, train and bond with your new Shih Tzu puppy. "The Complete Guide to Shih Tzus" will teach you exactly what you need to know before bringing your new Shih Tzu home, and prepare you to raise a happy healthy Shih Tzu well into its golden years!

blanket training crate: The Complete Guide to the Brittany Candace Darnforth, 2021-11-10 Including interviews with 7 Top Brittany breeders, author Candace Darnforth has written the perfect guidebook for any new Brittany owner! This comprehensive and easy-to-read book will prove itself invaluable as it guides you in raising a happy and healthy Brittany from puppy

to old age. Giving Brittany specific advice on topics like: Choosing the right Brittany from a breeder (or a rescue) Supplies that will make the first few months a breeze Foundational training strategies for a Brittany puppy Basic and advanced command training Introductory Field Work training Advice for living with the quirks of the Brittany breed Nutrition for a high-energy breed Basic grooming advice Preventative health care Brittany specific diseases and conditions (and how to spot them) Senior Brittany care Whether you are a long-time Brittany owner or considering bringing a Brittany into your home for the first time, this book will guide you through questions you may have. Learn the fascinating history of this breed and why they've been a favorite breed for so many years. You'll discover how to train your Brittany to interact with people and other animals, to offset bad habits, and why a good diet is essential. Use this book as your go-to guide for all things related to Brittanys. From choosing the right breeder, to grooming, to ear and eye care, it's all in this book. You'll find in-depth information about Brittanys from the moment you bring your dog home until you say your last goodbye. The Complete Guide to the Brittany is a must-read for new pet owners everywhere! It is a goldmine of practical information, plus tips and tricks that will enrich your life and that of your Brittany.

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blanket training crate: *Puppy training because puppy is just puppy!* Ron Friday, 2021-12-02 Yay... your family is growing! A puppy is coming into the house and you are already very excited. There is a lot to consider! In this guide, I will give you lots of tips as a hobby dog trainer, e.g. how to make your home puppy-friendly, feed him appropriately and train him to be a decent dog.

blanket training crate: 7 **Steps to Success Dog Obedience Training:** The Quick and Easy Guide to Having Well-Behaved Dog David Christopher, 2013-12-13 People buy dogs for many reasons. Sometimes they want a companion or perhaps they want some security. Either way, dogs make great pets and often become thought of as family members. If you have an unruly dog, then they are thought of as obnoxious but lovable family members. If anything, dogs can sometimes be a tad bit too enthusiastic and that is when obedience training comes in handy. Obedience training will help give your dog the discipline that they need to wreck less havoc in your household and will help eliminate a lot of the stress that stems from having an untrained dog. Dog training and obedience classes can be costly but they are also not necessary. It is possible to train your dog yourself, at home to follow some basic commands, such as sit, come, down, stay, heel, leave it and go to your spot. If you would like to train your dog without spending extra money for fancy classes, this is the book for you.

blanket training crate: How to Pick a Puppy Laura Vinogradov, 2023-03-02 For anyone - and everyone - thinking about bringing a dog into their life. BEFORE YOU RESCUE, ADOPT, OR BUY A DOG, READ THIS BOOK! Each year, too many dogs get surrendered, returned, or abandoned; not because they are bad dogs, and not even because the people involved are bad—but because bad choices were made. Every one of those families intended to care for the dog forever. So what went wrong? When a dog is ill-matched to its family, it is the dog that is blamed. It is the dog that is given away, or worse. Deciding to get a dog should be steeped in honest assessment, knowledge, and planning. Caring for a dog requires the same. There is a lot to know and a lot to consider. How to Pick a Puppy is the perfect guide for choosing and then caring for the right dog for you. This concise, yet thorough, guide provides a practical road map to successfully choose and care for a dog.

- \cdot Discover the breed that is right for you and your lifestyle \cdot Find a puppy who suits your personality \cdot Read which supplies are necessary; which are not \cdot Get tips for choosing a compatible vet, trainer, and boarding kennel \cdot Examine feeding options and basic dog care \cdot Learn how to travel or relocate safely with your dog \cdot ...and so much more! How to Pick a Puppy, Choosing and Caring for Your
- Forever Dog is for anyone and everyone who is considering bringing a dog into their life. BECAUSE EVERY DOG DESERVES A FOREVER HOME!

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blanket training crate: The Complete Guide to West Highland White Terriers Vanessa Richie, 2021-12-08 Using input from 8 top Westie breeders, accomplished author Vanessa Richie has created the perfect guidebook for the West Highland White Terrier. It will help any new Westie owner to raise a happy and healthy dog from puppy to old age. Covering Westie specific advice on topics such as: How to find a reputable and high-quality breeder Rescuing an older Westie from a shelter or rescue organization Preparing your home, family, and pets for the arrival of your new Westie Housetraining and crate training Nutrition for every stage of your Westies life Grooming, health care, and vet visits Physical and mental exercise needs Caring for a senior Westie in their golden years The West Highland White Terrier is everything that people typically associate with terriers: a lot of energy and personality are packed into a smaller dog. You'll find that under all of that long, coarse fur is an incredibly sturdy dog that seems like a bundle of energy. As a highly intelligent breed, Westies can be easy to train, especially if you provide the right positive reinforcements. They are a great example of why you should only use positive reinforcement - when you try to use negative reinforcement, they tend to get a lot more stubborn. That intelligence tends to make them independent, so you aren't nearly as likely to have problems with separation anxiety as you do with many other smaller breeds. Loyal and faithful, Westies are great for individuals and families. They want to play and have a great time, making them guite the entertaining addition to the family. Once they've gotten all of that energy out of their system, they make great lounging companions. It's hard to go wrong with a West Highland White Terrier because they have lived and worked very closely with people for generations. Once you have a West Highland White Terrier in

your home, it's really hard not to want to make them a permanent part of your family.

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