

*Dog Haus*

# Austin City Living

A high-rise condo makes the perfect home for this tenacious Westie and her parents

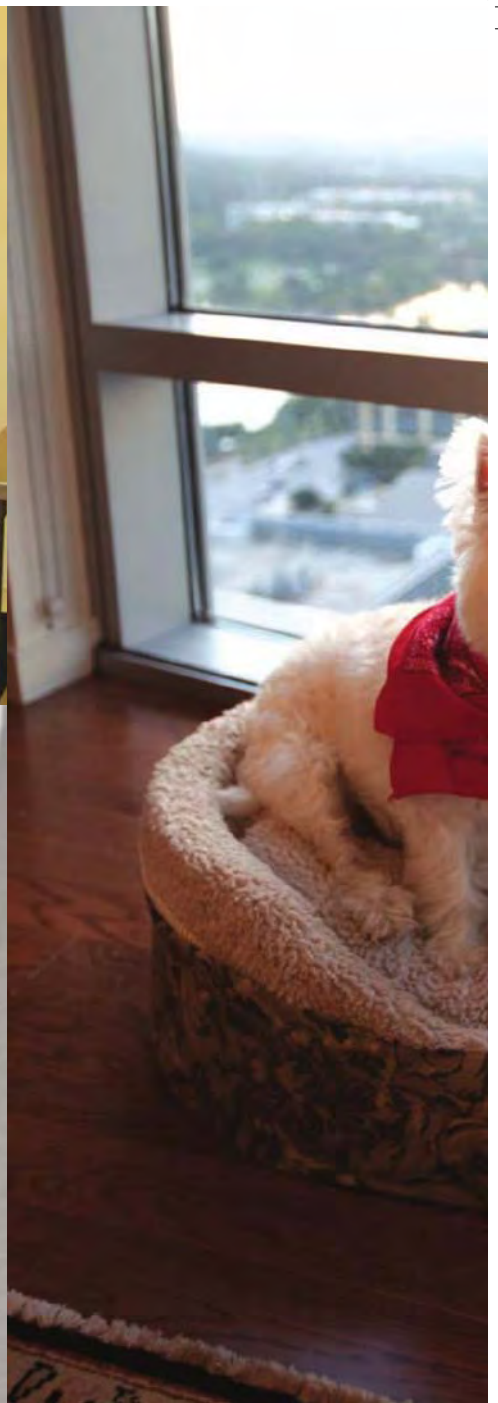
Maggie Lewis in her Austin condo.



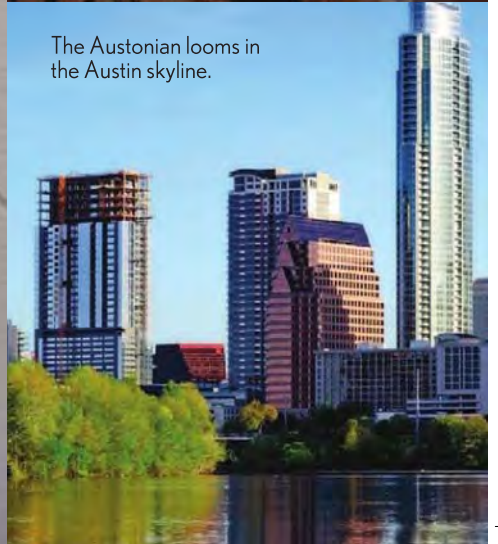
Photography by Jonathan Jackson



The grooming room at The Austonian.



Maggie enjoys The Austonian's 10th-floor pet park.



The Austonian looms in the Austin skyline.

## Dog Haus



**M**aggie Mae Lewis is a miracle dog. When she was a puppy, veterinarians diagnosed her with a stage-six heart murmur and said she probably wouldn't live to be 5. Her valves simply had to work too hard to keep her going—you could feel the tiny Westie's heart racing in her chest. Her parents, Barry and Romi Lewis, decided they would try to give her the happiest life they could for the short years she would be with them.

Thirteen years later, Maggie's still soaking in their attention.

Vets are absolutely mystified, says Romi, a retired grandmother of one. She's active, she's alert. Each year when I take her in, they say, I can't believe she's still here!

She's still here all right and living the good life. In July, she moved with her parents from a home in an Austin suburb to a high-rise condo in the city, and she's relishing her new digs. The luxury condo building, The Austonian, has a host of amenities for its canine residents, including a 600-square-foot, self-draining pet park on the 10th floor and an indoor grooming area with raised tubs and a grooming table. Maggie considers herself the building's official princess, prancing in and out of the elevator, greeting the staff with barks and playing with her four-legged friends at the park. I had been worried about living in a condo with a dog, but she is so happy here, Romi says.

So are the Lewis, who say they love the diversity of the condo's residents, the convenience of its amenities and the energy of its downtown location. Romi says her favorite times are the evenings, when the sky is dark and the lights of the city twinkle outside her windows. I always say it's magic time, she says. I can't get enough of it. I sit and look out and see the display. It's gorgeous.

The Lewis two-bedroom, two-bathroom condo incorporates much of the furniture they've accumulated over the last several decades, a mixture of contemporary pieces and Asian-inspired accents. Maggie has three beds scattered throughout the condo, plus an artistic dog bowl that Romi picked up in an Austin shop. But even though Maggie has plenty of her own areas within the condo, she can generally be found wherever her parents are—especially if they're in the kitchen. She loves eating scraps of fruits and vegetables, spinach, mushrooms, you name it, Romi says. Who knows? Maybe that's why she's lived so long.

Regardless of the reason, Maggie is still here—and still loving life. She's just a very special dog, Romi says.