BENCHMARKS EDITOR

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**From the President...**

**“It’s A Celebration!”  September 30- October 5, 2008**

I love September! Those hot, humid days and nights are disappearing and some mornings there is even an exciting snap to the air. Plus, planning my trip to Montgomery begins in earnest. This creates a pervading mood of happy anticipation of greeting old friends, seeing the cute puppies in sweepstakes and shopping at the boutique, just to mention a few of the highlights! Of course, the competition beginning on Tuesday, September 30, with Terrier Agility and going through Sunday, October 5th, can lead one to a Wheaten overdose; particularly for new attendees who have never seen that many SCWTs in one place. We are celebrating our 35th year in regular AKC competition, so we will be honoring those early members who had the courage and foresight to get full AKC recognition for SCWTs.

This year I am especially looking forward to the Veteran Sweepstakes, which precedes Puppy Sweepstakes on Saturday, October 4th. Veteran Sweepstakes allows spayed and neutered exhibits, so it is unique as compared to the veteran classes held in regular breed competition. It has been quite a while since SCWTCA has held a special event for our seniors. I remember how much fun it was years ago, to dust off our first champion, Cara, for a “Parade of Champions” held in conjunction with our national specialty and to see all the past legends I had only read about.

The Education Seminar presented on Thursday, October 2 by Ed and Pat Gilbert (authors of the book: *K-9 Structure & Terminology*) is designed to give attendees a greater understanding and skill in analyzing canine structure and movement...important factors in choosing your next potential conformation champion or performance title holder. Check the mailer for the registration deadline as this seminar has a maximum enrollment and is open to non-SCWTCA members as well as members.

Popular last year and therefore repeated by demand is “Ask the Breeder,” an informal get together with an opportunity to converse with long-time successful breeders. This year the breeders are: Gay Dunlap (Gleanngay Wheatsens) and Shari Robinson (Keepsake Wheatsens). They will be available at the headquarters hotel on Thursday afternoon from 4-6 PM to discuss a wide range of breeding topics.

To provide more opportunity to meet and greet members, there are two SCWTCA Hospitality Receptions this year: Thursday evening 6-8PM and Sunday evening: 7-???

Also, for those who haven’t had their dogs donate a blood sample yet, there is a DNA Blood draw from 4-8 PM on Thursday at the headquarters hotel.

I could go on and on about special events, for it is a packed, extended weekend of SCWTCA activities. However, I need to start preparing the agenda for the membership meeting, awards, and other events held in conjunction at annual dinner, Friday, October 3rd. Hope to see you there!

Betty Chapman

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**From the Editor...**

**When More Is Not Necessarily Better**

Ok, after finally succeeding in inputting Leo Springer’s 2007 Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Champions (pages 4 and 5 of this issue), I was left a bit annoyed both at the AKC, for allowing as many letters in a dog’s registered name as one wishes, and at the breeders who have taken the AKC up on it! Good grief. We now have some registered names that come close to being entire sentences! Granted that in this electronic age, we are no longer required to write said names on entry forms multitudinous times nor must they be typed into pedigrees until we are cross eyed! That’s a good thing. There was a time when the thought of creating a long name caused great angst. In point of fact, I dropped the “s” after my kennel name following my first litter because it was just that much more work on my typewriter. We’re talking pre-computer days folks and that meant typing pedigrees on an old fashioned typewriter! For many of us, pedigrees back then were legal size, landscape. Marjorie Shoemaker had an old IBM with a long carriage so she did not have to fold her pedigrees in half. I was so jealous!

All of this aside, I gratefully accept and relish with pride the various suffixes on our amazing performance dogs, I don’t care how many letters follow their name...we should all be proud of them! I think the champion of lots-of-letters-behind-a-name is Vinnie The Weasel.

But these long drawn out registered names that have nothing to do with ability or aptitude seem a bit over-the-top. We met the creative challenge for lo those many years, keeping names to 25 characters or less. If nothing else, think about how your name is going to fit on a pedigree or, in this case, on an Excel sheet, in a catalog or an ad before you go wild with words and letters.

**Judge’s Selection Mayhem**

While on the subject of more not necessarily being better, I was dismayed at the length of the judge’s list from which we must choose three names for our 2010 Montgomery Specialty. Thirteen columns of them...approximately 670 names in all. Not that there is inherently anything wrong with listing all of the foreign judges qualified to judge our breed but ferreting out our own US judges from this list will more than likely be a daunting task for those members who will be voting with little knowledge of who is who. This is a prime example of why we should offer associate memberships. Many of our members don’t know one US judge from another, let alone be able to distinguish them from the foreign ones. Perhaps they should not be voting. However, so long as we do not offer associate memberships, these members feel they have a duty and a responsibility to vote. And rightly so...certainly a double-edged sword...damned if they do, damned if they don’t.

Back to the list. If we are to include foreign judges, can we at least separate them out? Two lists instead of one, please. The job is formidable enough without trying to figure out who is American, who might speak English and, above all, who may or may not appreciate our American Wheaten Terriers.
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The path to Annie's breeder, Jean Free, was circuitous. My initial contact was with Charlie Arnold of Sunset Hill. Charlie deferred to Anne Elwell on the grounds that Anne was more knowledgeable than he. It was Anne, a protégé of Kerry Blue breeder, Horace Judd Perry, who helped me settle on "Annie" as the most promising bitch in a litter out of Jean's Irish import, Croombour Crackerjill, and sired by Charlie Arnold's O'Callahan of Sunset Hill. O'Callahan, one line down from being an import himself, was of pure Irish bloodlines.

Annie Sullivan was born in November of 1970, a couple of days prior to my 38th birthday and, true to her name, became a guiding force in my life. She was a city girl, born in Manhattan slightly uptown and, if I may be allowed some poetic license, exemplified the tenet, "you can take the girl out of the city but you can't take the city out of the girl." In spite of her small town upbringings she became a haughty, self-possessed lady with a definite flair for show biz. My daughter, Carey, was a youngster and obviously relating to her history lessons and the story of Columbus and Isabella when she dubbed Annie "Queen Isanannie." Annie was also known at home as "The Star." To be sure, she was a showgirl. Although born on the cusp, she was totally Scorpio while I am Sagittarius to the max. We had our differences to be sure. At her first match I met other Wheaten people for the first time, among them a very young Emily Holden and Pat Devlin. Annie proceeded to throw a "hissy-fit" in the ring, whirling and fighting the lead. Emily, directly behind me, advised me to get her out of the ring. And I remember thinking, "Why would I do that? I must have won the class because I ended up in the ring with Pat Devlin, showing a male. She looked at Annie and asked disdainfully, "What is that?" In my naivety, I thought she didn't know... mine certainly did not look like hers! I said she was a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier and she replied, "A little large, don't you think?" Interesting that our early experiences can be quite negative, proving that we must have broad shoulders from the very beginning!

I introduced myself to Jackie Gottlieb at the First Governor's Foot Guard show in Hartford when Annie was still but a pup, and showed off pictures of her. I was looking for reassurance from Jackie that Annie would be at least as pretty as her young Stephen Dedalus of Andover (Sweeney) whom Jackie was showing in the Miscellaneous Class. We would in later years laugh about this and many other experiences saying that we were the blind leading the blind! Jackie and I became fast friends once Annie was old enough to enter the...
show ring. I was living in Hartsdale, NY (Westchester County) and Jackie lived in Rockville Center on Long Island, when we would meet in some preordained spot, usually a McDonald's where she would park her Cadillac and leave it for the weekend. From there we would travel together to various dog shows throughout the Northeast with Annie and Sweeney in tow.

We did not have crate dollies. Jackie used a little red wagon and I had a hand made job, flat with little wheels that maneuvered rather poorly across the typical dog show terrain. (I could not do it today!) My tack box was an old wooden egg crate stained forest green. Our dogs were trained to lay on their sides for grooming, like an Old English…I laugh every time I visualize this…no wonder the old guard terrier folks had a hard time reconciling our Wheaten with their “real” terriers! I must add, however, that there are times when I wish I still trained my pups to lie down on the grooming table…when I am trying to cut nails, trim between pads or shave tummies.

One of my favorite recollections is of the time Jackie and I drove together to either the Wilmington KC show or the Harrisburg show. We are in disagreement on which but it really doesn’t matter. It was a benched show and for whatever reason we were late in arriving. The fact went unnoticed by the powers that be but, dutiful citizens that we were, we turned ourselves in to the superintendent. He looked at us like we were crazy and basically said something akin to “Ladies, get lost!”

By the time our breed was recognized, October 1, 1973, Annie had whelped her first litter sired by Stephen Dedalus. One of the pups, Gleanngay Gingerbread Man, was Winners Dog to Annie’s Winners Bitch. Annie was BOW and, consequently, since there were as yet no specials, BOB at Devon that first Montgomery weekend. Annie was also Best Of Breed at Montgomery. Roberta Campbell, a professional handler then, piloted Annie to her championship. She finished two weekends later, making her our third Wheaten champion. Casey finished that first weekend with three BOBs and Belma finished the weekend following. Who’s to say how things might have gone had Jackie not decided to put Sweeney with handler Clifford Hallmark. Billy Kendrick, the judge at Hatboro on Friday, was heard to be asking, “Where is that nice Mrs Gottlieb?” Rue the day!

Subsequently, Annie became the first Wheaten champion dam of a champion when Gingerbread Man, “Mikey”, finished in early March of 1974. Annie was the first Wheaten Terrier to win Best In Show, St Patrick’s Day 1974, and remained the only SCWT bitch to be so honored for 27 years. She was multi group placing and made the Top Ten Terriers list on several occasions that first year. She was already boasting four champion offspring from her first litter and so, despite her love for her work and ignoring her obvious disdain for motherhood, I took her by the paw and dragged her home, hoping that she would carve another niche for herself. Annie’s record as a producer became, for me, her raison d’être. A foundation bitch par excellence, her achievements in this vein were with singular paucity of effort. She did herself and me proud in the whelping box, producing twenty champions from only five litters, many serving as foundation stock for other breeders. Most notable was Janet (Turner) Dalton’s foundation bitch, Ch Gleanngay Gotta Be Me, sired by Ch Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford. This bitch was the beginning of Wildflower which in turn spawned Legacy and figured prominently in the Paisley line.

Annie remained robust all her life. She came into this world on November 22, 1970 and left it over 15 years later on December 19, 1985. She was both regal and arrogant until the day she died.
A recent online discussion made me think I might not be ethical enough for some of you.

Someone asked was it “cricket” to continue showing in the classes on a specialty weekend when a dog finishes the first day or right before the weekend.

High dudgeon ensued.

Most responses thought it was unsportsmanlike to “take away” a major from another dog – well, actually, most thought it was a crime to show a finished dog. There were some who thought it ok to show the dog at the specialty itself, but not at companion shows.

As an aside, that’s a distinction without a difference. If it’s a crime to show a finished dog, it’s still a crime whether it’s the show the day before the specialty or the actual specialty. But then the thing about ethics so often is they’re in the eye of the beholder…particularly beholders who just got beat.

In general, I disagreed with the majority…there’s a surprise.

What most bothered me was the implication of “taking away” a major. Uh…exactly what entitles anyone to any win?

Hey, I get as frustrated as anyone else trying to find that last &^%$ major. I want Sam to finish his pretty bitch and get the heck out of my way. I’m as competitive as anyone else…and can be cranky when I lose. I also know I’m not entitled to anything in the show ring, save a judge’s honest opinion.

Sure, it’s aggravating to go reserve on a specialty weekend to a dog that just finished. It’s disappointing to just miss an exciting win. But remember, you lost to the dog you would have met in the classes last week, not Mr. BIS. Maybe he’s a puppy who had an unexpected fast run through the classes. Where’s the sympathy for that owner’s disappointment at pulling a very nice dog not yet ready to go up against seasoned specials? Don’t feel sorry for him? Good, me either because skipping the specialty rather than moving the dog up would be his choice, not a mandate.

Let’s also remember good sportsmanship means gritting your teeth, congratulating the winner…and throwing your temper tantrum in your car.

I was bemused that many posters considered showing a finished dog, good enough to beat a big specialty entry, unsportsmanlike with no serious discussion about other unsportsmanlike dog show behavior.

So here’s a two-part quiz: Part One: which of the following is bad sportsmanship?

1. A show chair personally exhibiting at another show during the specialty weekend.
2. Exhibiting to the breeder or owner of your dog’s sire.
3. Entering pet-quality “fillers” to make a major.
4. Not entering shows or breaking a major in order to deny a win to another exhibitor…aka “why should I make points for Jane?”
5. And #4’s companion action, not showing a dog over a weekend when it’s been beaten the previous day or two.
6. A specialty coordinator personally exhibiting at the specialty.
7. In a competitive stud dog class, reminding the judge of the wins he/she just gave to the get.
8. Showing a dog in the classes who finished last week.
9. Losing, then accusing the judge of playing favorites by putting up the other dog.
10. Showing a dog in the classes who finished yesterday.
11. Telling the judge the incorrect age of your oversized dog.
12. A show chair personally exhibiting at his/her own show.
13. Telling the judge the wins he/she previously gave to your dog.
14. Some of the above.
15. Only those that violate AKC rules (Extra credit: Identify them, cite the rule and send me an email at banner-scwt@yahoo.com. Answers, including those who score 100%, in the next column.)
16. All of the above.

Anybody squirm? I have personally heard or observed all 13 in the Wheaten ring. I bet you have more examples.

I made this list because more than one person suggested that SCWTCA should establish guidelines and make them enforceable through the Code of Ethics.

Ooooh. My favorite combo. Self-righteousness and Codes of Ethics.

Something I like so much, I have a favorite response: get real. (I really have a different comment but as AKC frequently reminds us, this is a family sport.)

First, I’m skeptical AKC would let a club prohibit behaviors permitted under AKC’s rules and regulations. Speaking of which, AKC has a Code of Sportsmanship, printed in most premium lists.
and catalogs. If you’ve missed it, take a look here: http://www.akc.org/pdfs/AKC_code_of_sportsmanship.pdf. Do you see a laundry list? No, just expectations of appropriate behavior.

Look at my list again…what did I leave out? See, there’s the problem with putting laundry lists in Codes of Ethics. Let alone that it tends to muddy the purpose of COEs or will never pass the membership…been there, done that.

Finally…getting real about COEs means enforcement. I hear complaints that COEs aren’t “strong” enough and people aren’t held to them.

So let’s find out in Part Two of my test. Take out a pen and paper. Select the item from my laundry list you think is most unSPORTsmanlike. Your choice.

First question: What should be done to the offender? Suspension from SCWTCA? Slap on the wrist? Tarring and feathering?

Jot down what you think is appropriate punishment before reading further.

Second question: What if the offender is one of your closest friends? Or the offender had bred to your stud dog or has helped groom your dogs or traveled to shows with you or shared a room at Montgomery or is your spouse’s best friend or is an officer in your local club…and on and on. Now what should be done?

Right. Unless you are prepared to turn in your buddy, spare me the indignation.

I can’t end this without citing my favorite post from the “showing finished dogs” discussion…just to prove ethics is often in the eye of the beholder. Someone admired a professional handler who had been “forced” to show a dog that finished prior to MCKC and responded “ethically” by firing the client…after the MCKC weekend. (Yes, those are direct quotes but my emphasis added.)

Now, I know I am not always up on all the gossip. But in the 23 years I’ve attended MCKC, I don’t ever remember hearing about a crazed exhibitor putting a .45 to the head of a handler’s family or employees:

“Show my dog in the classes or the kid gets it!!!”

That just might’ve stuck in my mind.

Tell me the handler said to the client “Sorry, I don’t play the game that way. Either move the dog up or find another handler. Here’s my big MCKC weekend fee back.”

That would impress me. Someone postponing an “ethical” choice to a time when the check has cleared is just grandstanding.

Let’s have a little perspective here. We want fair competition, for sure. But at the end of the day, we should want the best dog, presented honestly…no dye, no braces, no fixed appendages, no drugs…to win. Talk about ethics in relation to the dogs or breeding…then I’ll join your outrage.

Until then…those of you thinking about pulling a .45 on your handler…remember, we’re all watching. ✖

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Stud Dog’s Lament

My job is making puppies
And I get two tries at that
They pat me on the head and say “Good Boy”,
and that is that.

It’s half my job to give ‘em
teeth and toplines, fronts and other,
Remember, it’s just Half my job . . .,
they also have a mother.

It’s not my job to carry pups
And make ’em grow and nurse ’em
And feed and clean and teach ’em –
That’s for “mother” and a person.

It’s not my job to wean
And feed the calcium and food
And stack and gait and housebreak and
Make ’em a “showing” brood.

It’s not my job to plan the breeding,
And learn what produces well,
To study pedigrees, learn what’s there,
And pick out those to sell.

It’s not my job to guarantee champs,
The breeder picks the pair,
To mate and whelp and feed and show,
and HOPE the champ is there.

It’s not my job to be on hand
when points are given out.
The breeder, owner, dam and friends
Take credit with a shout.

It’s not my job to deliver a winner.
It’s only genes I sell,
But let the puppies turn out bad …
And guess who catches HELL.

-- Author Unknown --
Our Specialty show this year was again held at the beautiful Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO on Friday, May 30, 2008.

Best In Sweeps was **Doubloon's Playing For Keeps**, bred by Elena Landa and owned by her breeder and Susan McGee, the latter handling. Presenter is Cindy Shea. Sire, Ch Windisle Medoc; dam, Ch Doubloon's Playing The Field.

Edgewood Hooligan was **BOS Sweeps** from the 6-9 Puppy Dog Class. Breeder owned by Carl McGill (pictured). Louise Bishoff handled him. Sired by Ch Mil Mear Geragold How Far, out of Ch Edgewood Bugaboo Bamboo.

Twenty three puppies and junior dogs competed in Sweepstakes classes with Liz Hansen, a Standard Schnauzer breeder, judging the classes. This year’s sweep class winners took home an embroidered Wheaten hand towel. 2nd through 4th place in each class received a stuffed toy. The Best in Sweeps and Best Opposite received a hand painted glass wall-hanging with the show logo on them created by club member JoAnne Vogt.

Forty-two dogs and bitches then competed in the Regular classes that were judged by Karen C Wilson. Pewter trophies were given for first through fourth place class winners and for Winners Dog, Reserve Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Reserve Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex and Best of Breed. Purina also donated trophies for many of the placements.

**Ch Doubloon’s Ultimate Player**, was **Best Of Breed**. She was shown by breeder/owner/handler, Elena Landa. Sire: Ch Lonestar’s Order Of The Phoenix; dam: Ch Doubloon’s Playing The Field.

Lunch was served after the breed judging compliments of the Club. The Club also provided refreshments and snacks for the rest of the weekend shows and prizes for Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Winners Dog, & Winners Bitch.
The Specialty dinner was incredible again this year and we had a really exciting raffle and Silent Auction in conjunction with the dinner. Over $500 was taken in by the raffle and was donated in its entirety to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America Endowment Fund for Wheaten Health.

**Best Opposite Sex** was awarded to *Ch Lovesong’s Dream Along With Me*, bred by Nona Mansfield and owned by Nona and William Mansfield. Sire is Dernyi Head Over Heels out of Ch Gleanngay Daydream.

*Winners Dog* was *Burdigan’s In Living Color*, sired by *Ch Greentree Darcove Fairy Tale* out of *Ch Doubloon’s Finger Painting*. Bred by Julie Burdick and Elena Landa, he was owner handled by Julie.

*Jendu Navy*, owned by Catherine Perron, was **Winners Bitch and Best Of Winners**. She was bred by Dana Frady and Beverly & Kevin McDonald and was handled by Dana. Sire is *Ch Mil Mear Geragold How Far* and her dam is *Ch Greentree Skellig’s Jendu Taboo*.

Susan McGee’s bitch, *Doubloon’s Playing For Keeps*, in addition to being named **BISweeps**, was **Reserve WB**. She is co-owned by her breeder, Elena Landa.

Our weekend was full of fun, friends and competition. We thank everyone who came to participate. Thanks as well to all the wonderful club members and friends who contributed their time and talents to make the show weekend truly special!
Betty M Orapchuck

July 5, 1928 - June 18, 2008

A Blessing For Betty

May your bowl always be full of kibble.
May your water dish never run dry.
May the sun continue to warm and soothe your being.
May your walks be long and soft upon your feet.
May the rain fall ever so gently to refresh and comfort your body.
May your world be covered with the bluest of blue forget-me-nots.
And finally Betty,
May you be an ever vigilant angel to all of us who loved you so very much and
May you always and forever feel the warm, soft touch of a Wheaten’s paw upon your soul.

Kathy and Ed, Sue and Brad, Amy and Mark, Larry, Jeff, Brittany, Emille and George, Nataley, John and Dottie, Betty Ann, Cindy, Lillian and James, Joy, Arctic Paws, Hazel and Gerald, Vickie, Trudy, Michael and Michelle, Krystle and Sharon........and all the many more who knew and loved her.
A life-long lover of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Betty is shown on the opposite page with her special loves, Maya, Missie, Mikey, Mollie and Meghan (in the rear). She loved to dress them up on special occasions like St Patrick’s Day, seen in the photo below. She was a long time member of the Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club. Betty showed her own dogs and each year held a Wheaten picnic for her extended “Wilobet” family and their Wheatens, most of them bred by her. Betty is survived by her son, Larry, and a host of caring friends who have chosen to honor her with this tribute following her passing.

These pages are through the kindness of SCWTCA member, Kathryn Johnson
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier AKC dog and litter registrations have risen steadily over the years, peaking in 2001 and then falling steadily through 2007.

One could speculate that the obvious reason for this decline is because fewer Wheatens are being produced. Another possibility is that Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers coming from puppy mills and backyard breeders are being registered through organizations other than the American Kennel Club.

Total AKC dog and litter registrations have also been declining, but the percentage decline in SCWT dog and litter registrations from 2001 to 2007 has been substantially greater than total AKC dog and litter registrations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCWT Dog Registrations</td>
<td>2,409</td>
<td>1,589</td>
<td>-34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCWT Litter Registrations</td>
<td>1,009</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKC Dog Registrations</td>
<td>1,081,335</td>
<td>812,452</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKC Litter Registrations</td>
<td>461,863</td>
<td>392,334</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A lot more analysis of a lot more data would be required to determine the reasons for the declines in SCWT dog and litter registrations. For example, knowing how many dog and litter registrations were from SCWTCA members and how many from other breeders might provide some insight into the decline. Litter registrations are down, but not near as much as dog registrations. Are pet owners choosing not to register their Wheatens, or perhaps registering them with other registries? And if so, why?

SCWTCA New Members Announced

Meggan Abboud  Mary Peltier
Gail Kania    Patricia Simrell

WELCOME!
Bendacht And The Award Goes To
Winners Bitch and Best of Winners
Great Western’s SCWTC of Southern California Specialty

Thanks to Peggy Browne for handling Emmy
and
Appreciation to Breeder Judge Candace Way for choosing her!

Bred by
Michael DeCarlo
Bonita Snyder

Owned by
Mary Jo Carr
Michael DeCarlo & Bonita Snyder
THE THIRD STEP
By Peter Gaeta

(reprinted from the AKC Judges Newsletter, The Standard, Summer 2008 with permission of the author)

Jim Smith, Delegate for the Dalmation Club of America, recently submitted the following provocative scenario that applies to judges as well as exhibits for whom it is intended. – Ed

I recently came across two statements which I believe every one of us, as breeders and exhibitors, should keep in mind.

The first is by W. Cothran Campbell from his book Rascals and Racehorses: A Sporting Man's Life. In it he describes the great horse Kelso as follows: "He didn't take your breath away. He was no matinee idol – just a plain brown wrapper . . . And from a conformation standpoint, he would have been unspectacular but awfully hard to fault."

A friend in another breed referred to a dog as being a “Triumph of mediocrity.”

How many of us are guilty of thinking that we have a real topper when in reality “Unspectacular but awfully hard to fault,” and “Triumph of mediocrity” are what we have?

Of far greater concern than our own shortcomings in evaluating our dogs is the question of how many judges think they are putting up a topper when in fact it is an animal that fits the other descriptions.

Mr. Smith's vignette should provoke you, as a conformation dog show judge, to rethink your role in the judging process.

I used to think the judging of dogs is a two-step process, it is rather a three-step process. Step one: the judge is charged with the responsibility to rank dogs class by class. Step two: the judge also has a responsibility to rate the dogs judged. It is not enough to say which are better than which. The true challenge of judging dogs and the test of a judge's insight is the determination of which, if any, exhibits are worthy.

You must remember that there is no entitlement connected with entering a class or, for that matter, winning a class. That is to say, there is no guarantee of a blue ribbon, or a ribbon at all, in a class regardless of its size. It is also to say that a blue ribbon is no guarantee of a Winner's ribbon. Awards can and should be withheld on the basis of quality, worth or whatever you wish to call it. And ribbons may be withheld at any level. This second step in judging dogs is all-important, and a judge is not finished until this consideration is made and awards are made, or not, accordingly. Do not stop judging and place a class before you are finished with the difficult and sometimes uncomfortable task of rating the entry.

Step three is silence. Once you have ranked your classes and rated your selections, your responsibility is satisfied: finished. The judge who is compelled to discuss the latest “Topper” he found this morning or last week forsakes the office of judge and becomes the agent to the dog(s). At that point he/she has invited, indeed commanded, scrutiny each time another judge puts his/her hands on “Topper”, and, by the way announced that he/she has abdicated judgeship and become loyal cheerleader. No others need apply. I will not speculate on why judges become cheerleaders, but I cannot think of a possibility that is flattering.

Truth: If Topper is spectacular, you insult your colleagues' intelligence when you assume they may not find him. Truth: if Topper is spectacular, and your colleagues are competent, they will find him. Truth: Topper may well by your “Triumph of mediocrity, and you will be better served to not advertise it. Truth: you are the judge not the cheerleader.

Whether you are at the judges’ cocktail party, dinner or luncheon or are just at your kennel club meeting, be mindful that you expressed your opinion when you pointed. Thereafter, in the interest of fair play and your own reputation, silence is the best third step.

Editor's Note: Peter Gaeta is AKC's Director of Judging Operations.

Jim Smith, a Smooth Fox Terrier breeder of note, did indeed write his piece for us, as breeders, and Mr Gaeta chose to apply it to the judging process. Either way it is stimulating, and perhaps provides us with additional insight into the judging realm. We should all be mindful of the admonition shared by another judge recently: “ALWAYS THINK OF WHAT YOU’RE SAYING (OR DOING) BEFORE YOU SAY (OR DO) WHAT YOU’RE THINKING!”
STUD DOG CLASS
GREAT WESTERN TERRIER ASSOCIATION
JUNE 22, 2008

Ch Andover Saltnsea Big Baby (Connor)
BOW from, the 6-9 month puppy dog class
Great Western weekend 2004
Ch Lissadell Big x Ch Andover Dear Prudence

Breeder
Jackie Gottlieb

Owners
Susan Jacobsen & Eric Taylor
We breeders all have shared the sentiment, “the bitches are so strong, where are the males?” We know so many of our promising male puppies wind up under the kitchen table in a lovely pet home, happy, but lost to the future of the breed. Connor could well have been one of those little boys. There was only one bitch in the litter, and she was promised to the sire’s owner. Susan, who already owned a Prudence daughter, had wanted a bitch, but she decided to take this appealing little boy.

Pru was past 8 when I met the sire, little Hanks, and knew he was the perfect match for this large girl. Litter sister to Ch Andover Make A Wish, BOB at Montgomery and a cobby little fellow, she excelled in head, gait and especially temperament. Here was the opportunity to reduce size without sacrificing that outgoing, happy, very steady temperament I prize in the breed. I sent her to Dr Robert Hutchinson, and at past age 9 she easily whelped her litter of 5 and nursed them until they left home. Connor finished his championship at 10 months, and enjoyed the good life with Craig and Susan, becoming Craig’s co-pilot. It is thanks to the Jacobsen’s foresight and care that his potential was realized. All the girls who have been at “Camp Jacobsen” have come home radiant and in whelp.

Thank you Susan and Craig for being the puppy owners we all dream of.

Pictured, left to right: Susan with Connor, Jackie with Hammy (Ch Andover Mayhem Magic), David Holy with Anjo (Wildrose Andover Part Time Angel), Winners Dog on the day, Nancy Butler with Rainey (Trigo’s Puesta Del Sol), Linda Dryden with Spring (Wildrose Andover the Renascent) and Bobby Ott with Pink (Andover Wildrose Let’s Get This Party Started).
No, this article isn’t about the Westminster Kennel Club Best in Show Winner, Ch Felicity’s Diamond Jim (James). It’s about a fairly new exercising aid for both dogs and their owners that will immediately take the guilt from your mind about not exercising those folks (dogs) in your care and put a smile on your face for keeping your dog healthy. Our Wheatens need exercise and this is a great way to fulfill the need to keep them fit.

For years, as an alternative to walking their dogs, canine owners have been taking their dogs out for exercise while riding their bikes and trying to hold on to them with a common leash attached to the dog’s collar. Often they tie the leash or rope to a post under the bicycle seat or even to the steering wheel column. Some, depending upon the dog of course, have met with a small degree of success, but more often than not this experiment was soon found NOT to be the answer. If the animal is spooked for any one of a multitude of reasons…chasing squirrels, rabbits, the mailman, etc., the bike and its rider are easily pulled over from the side, often resulting in injuries to the rider, the dog and, least important, the bike. “This is not a good thing, Martha.”

I first saw “The Springer” advertised last year and thought after reviewing the ad that it had some merit. The inventor (a Norwegian gentleman) has adapted a coiled tension spring that bolts to the main support column of the bike, near the center of gravity. A strong steel piece of tubing directs the all-important coil-spring out, away from the biker’s leg and pedal area, and lowers it to the ground thereby reducing the torque of the dog’s tugs. A small extension, like a short “mast”, on the top of the coil spring, allows the leash to approach the dog from above keeping the leash clear of the dog’s paws. Obviously this is of prime importance and one of the reasons why other similar devices may put your dog in harm’s way. The combined weight of the biker along with the placement of the coiled tension spring nullifies any sideward lurch of the dog. In fact, you barely feel any tug at all, and the dog quickly gets back into step with the biker.

The ingenuity of “The Springer” is that if a dog lunges out away from the bike, “Springer” absorbs and reduces the force of the dog’s tug experienced by the biker by up to 90%, according to the write-up. You would feel less than one-tenth of the tug with the Springer installed, compared to the full force of the tug without it. The force of a strong dog is therefore reduced to that of a cat.

Attached to your bike, the unit sticks out about twelve inches. A simple stainless steel cotter pin attaches the coiled tension spring to the bike and is easily removed within seconds for normal bike use. There is a strong braided 1/4” rope (leash) attached to the Springer with a plastic safety release connection. This connects to a simple figure 8 web halter that goes on to your dog. I upgraded the halter that comes with the package, and bought car (automobile) halters for my dogs. I feel they are better fitting and more comfortable than the one supplied in the package.
The Springer units are priced about $60.00 in some pet stores, and approximately $15.00 less in catalogs. They are easily installed on your bike. Of course dogs hooked up to a bicycle in any way would have to keep up to the speed of the cyclist. With hardly any effort at all, the slowest pace I go with my Wheatens is about the same speed you would encounter during a brisk walk. The fastest pace I have let my dogs go is a controlled gallop.

If you are considering looking into this, please keep in mind it is an athletic endeavor. It does take time and patience to train your dog and yourself in coordinating movements. For instance, when I come to a corner and want to turn left, I slow down the bike, put my left foot out...like putting your left arm out the window when driving a car and turning. This gives your Wheaten the clue that he is turning left. Turning right is no problem, as the bike would be turning away from the dog. I have my Springer attached to the left side of my bike. Initially, walking the dog hooked up to the unit and getting them accustomed to the procedure is important. Also, I would recommend that you exercise your dog(s) on a quiet street or in a public park.

Hopefully the accompanying photos will clear up any questions you may have. Again, if looking for an alternate means of exercising your dog(s), this is a good one. It works and while your time spent exercising benefits your Wheaten it is great exercise for you as well!

A FEW TIPS
1. Start out slowly and allow your dog to get into shape.
2. Exercise mid-morning or earlier, while still fairly cool
3. As with any exercise, periodically check your dog's paws
   (Note I said exercise and not a walk. There is a big difference between casually walking your dog and exercising in this manner).
4. When you return make sure a cool drink is waiting for your best friend.

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The level of enthusiasm for and participation in the SCWT DNA bank at the Canine Phenome Project has been outstanding. Research to locate the genes involved in PLE/PLN is about to begin.

The Wheaten Sibling Pairs Study is ready to move forward. Dr Gary Johnson has written an AKC Canine Health Foundation grant proposal to study the genes involved in PLE/PLN in Wheaten. The study will compare DNA from 20 pairs of Wheaten siblings. In each pair, one sibling was affected with PLE and/or PLN and the other was unaffected at 11.5 years of age. This is the first research study resulting from participation in the Canine Phenome Project.

Substantial progress has been made in collecting DNA samples for the Canine Phenome Project. Over 700 samples are stored at the University of Missouri Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory. Dedicated owners and hard-working volunteers who organized collection clinics have made this possible. SCWTCA, the SCWTCA Endowment and the SCWT Genetic Research Fund supported the project.

Current Status of Wheaten Sibling Pairs Study:

Dr. Johnson, at the University of Missouri Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory, has sent a grant proposal to the Canine Health Foundation (CHF) for a study to map the genes involved in PLE/PLN in Wheatens. The first step is a DNA sequence analysis comparing the genetic variation between unaffected and affected siblings. Additional fine mapping of the genes will be needed. The SCWTCA website includes more information about this study at http://www.scwtca.org/health/siblings.htm. When the grant proposal is approved, funding will be needed.

This summer the lab assembled pedigree information and verified samples for mapping. Liz Hansen, breed club liaison, said that Dr. Johnson “was quite pleased with what he saw” when he looked at the extended family group assembled. Additional samples needed are expected to be received soon. When all the samples become available, Liz says that they “should be able to move this forward pretty quickly.”

As stated previously, funding for the study will be needed. Typically, when CHF approves a grant proposal, they request funding from interested groups. This would include the three Wheaten groups mentioned above. In some cases CHF will provide or match a portion of those funds. The CHF grant proposal and approval process are explained on their website, www.akcchf.org.

Current Status of the SCWT Canine Phenome Project:

There are over 700 SCWT DNA samples stored at the University of Missouri as of July 28, 2009. Most have been received in the past seven months and most are part of the Canine Phenome Project. To date, fifteen blood collection clinics have been held resulting in 609 DNA samples. The additional samples were sent by individual owners, beginning in late 2006 with “at-risk” (elderly or ill) dogs. For the first 1000 dogs participating, the SCWTCA Endowment will pay half the DNA extraction fee for samples sent to the CPP, reducing the cost to owners to $20.

Data collection from owners is on-going. As of July 28, owners of 488 Wheatens have completed the health survey. It is very important that owners submitting samples complete the online enrollment and health survey for each dog. There are instructions at http://www.scwtca.org/health/dnabank.htm. A summary of results of the health survey may be viewed at www.caninephenome.org by clicking on “Breeds” and then on “Soft Coated Wheatens”.

An expanded version of “Frequently Asked Questions About CPP” appears in the Wheaten Health News, April 2008 issue, http://www.scwtca.org/health/healthnews.htm. It includes information on the purpose of the project, participation procedures, sample requirements, privacy policy, research use of DNA, the Sibling Pairs Study and information sources.

Blood Collection Clinic Update:

Blood collection clinics have been very helpful in adding samples to the CPP DNA Bank. They are a convenient and less expensive way for many owners to participate. Fifteen blood collection clinics have been held. The pilot clinic was held in August 2007 with the other fourteen held from January through June 2008.

Local Wheaten clubs and other groups of interested Wheaten owners are encouraged to organize blood collection clinics. Files of “how-to” information and sample forms are available from Elaine Azerolo eazerolo@centurytel.net. Clinic costs for veterinary services, veterinary supplies and for shipping samples will be
funded by SCWTCA, the SCWTCA Endowment and the SCWT Genetic Research Fund.

Photos and reports on the clinics appear in the Wheaten Health News www.scwtca.org/health/healthnews.htm. Many people helped make the clinics successful including all the owners who brought their Wheaten’s. The organizers of the clinics deserve recognition for their contribution to this effort. They are: Molly O’Connell (pilot clinic, CO), Caroline Goldberg and Ann Leigh (CA), Kenna Kachel (MI), Holly Craig (PA), Gayle Frank and Debbie Scurr (FL), Jana Carraway and Toni Vincent (OR), Pat Bajoras (AZ), Priscilla Tims, (Ontario, Canada), Ronnie Copland(IL), Cindy Shea (MO), Lee Martin and Bonnie O’Connor (TX), Helen Larson (Manitoba, Canada), Cynthia Stokvis (MN), Pat Rutherford (CA), and Nancy Andersen (WI).

Clinics Scheduled:

A clinic will be held during the SCWTCA National Specialty weekend, on Thursday, October 2 beginning at 4 pm. See pages 24 - 27 for more information or contact Holly Craig, hollycraig@mac.com. Two clinics are scheduled for August, before this issue of Benchmarks will be available. One will be held in conjunction with the Canadian National Specialty, August 24 in Cornwall, Ontario, Canada organized by Peggy Warren. The second will be held August 31 in Bothell WA, organized by Toni Vincent.

In early June the American Kennel Club and the AKC Canine Health Foundation introduced their new podcast series, featuring lectures from the highly successful AKC-CHF Breeders Symposia. Future podcasts will also provide responsible breeders and pet owners an inside look at the work being done by the AKC and the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

The podcasts feature leading scientists and researchers who have spoken at AKC-CHF Breeder Symposia as well as CHF grant recipients. New podcasts will be released every two weeks and can be accessed directly from either the American Kennel Club website in the Breeders section www.akc.org/breeders/ or the AKC Canine Health Foundation website at http://www.akcchf.org/ click on podcasts or go directly to Genome Barks at http://www.akc-akcchf.libsyn.com/.

Currently posted podcasts are:

- Matthew Ellinwood DVM, PhD discussing how the field of genetics can assist in developing the tools necessary for responsible breeders.
- Sharon Center DVM talks about the research being done to correct some common genetic liver disorders.
- Dr. Lin Kauffman discusses common reproduction issues.
- Dr. Sarah Stone discusses cataracts, one of the most common health issues facing both humans and their canine companions.

“The podcast series will be the AKC Canine Health Foundation’s audio portal to exciting presenters, researchers, and investigators demonstrating their expertise and experience in the fight against canine health disorders and disease,” states Cindy Vogels, president of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. “AKC/CHF-funded researchers and experts will offer their keen insight and findings on research studies involving those diseases which are of greatest concern to the dog-owning and breeding communities and we’re proud to feature them in this way.”

“The American Kennel Club is pleased to support both the Breeders Symposia and the podcast series, which will enable anyone interested in better breeding to access this important information,” states Ron Rella, the American Kennel Club’s Director of Project Administration. “Future podcasts will include overviews of AKC initiatives such as Public Education, Companion Animal Recovery, Government Relations, and Veterinary Outreach among others. We hope to offer an ‘inside view’ of the AKC and its outstanding programs and services which truly make us the ‘dog’s champion.’”

If dogs could talk, it would take a lot of fun out of owning one!

Andy Rooney
“Not That You Asked”
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier DNA Bank
Canine Phenome Project

Lend A Helping Strand at MCKC!

Wheaten DNA (blood) Collection
Thursday, October 2, 2008
4 to 8 p.m.
Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel
4th Floor
King of Prussia, PA 19406
Join us for a group Wheaten blood drive Thursday October 2nd, with the purpose of collecting as many samples as possible. This is our opportunity to make a significant donation to the breed and to help provide the genetic material for future genetic research! Pedigree not required, just a purebred Wheaten! The goal is to collect over 1000 genetic samples in 2008! We need to Lend a Helping Strand!

Purpose

The purpose of the Canine Phenome Project is to establish a DNA bank with supporting data for use by researchers to identify the genes responsible for canine diseases and other characteristics. For Wheaten owners, it is an opportunity to store DNA from Wheatens for future use by researchers interested in finding the genetic cause of PLE, PLN, RD, Addison's, and/or other diseases.

How It Works

The Canine Phenome Project is a genetic research project. It receives blood samples, extracts the DNA, and stores it for use in approved research. It also collects information about the individual dog contributing the DNA. Online survey forms are completed by the owner to record health and other information. The owner may update information at any time. Data on each individual dog is kept confidential unless the owner authorizes access.

How to Participate

E-mail Holly Craig at hollycraig@mac.com to request your time preference. We will do our best to accommodate your request. We are allotting 5 minutes per dog. The blood draw will start promptly at 4 p.m. and last until 8 p.m.

What You Need to Do

1. Enroll your dog online:
   a) Go to www.caninephenome.org.
   b) Select Enroll Your Dog.
   c) Select Sign Up Here.
   d) Enter your contact information including an email address. An individual password will be emailed to you immediately.
   e) Login using the password sent to you.
   f) Select Enroll a New Dog.
   g) Complete the Identification information for your dog. AKC number and name, call name, sex, date of birth, microchip and/or tattoo number, name and AKC number of sire and dam
   h) Select Submit DNA Sample on dog's profile page which appears next.
   i) Print and sign the resulting DNA Submission Form and bring this submission form with you to the Blood Draw on October 2nd. A separate form is needed for each participating dog.

2. Reserve your time slot by completing the form included in the MCKC Mailer or e-mail Holly Craig at hollycraig@mac.com

3. Bring a check for $20 payable to the University of Missouri for each dog participating.

4. Please have a copy of your dog's pedigree on hand to be included with their blood. If you do not have a printed copy of the pedigree, you can e-mail the following Information to hollycraig@mac.com and she will have the pedigree waiting for you.
NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
August 1, 2008

The Open Registry is a joint project of SCWTCA-sponsored research at NC State University, University of PA and the University of Guelph (Canada). Its purpose is to publish information on confirmed cases of genetic diseases in Wheatens and to maintain health and genetic records for SCWTCA-sponsored research. Dr. Meryl Littman at Penn maintains the Registry at the request of SCWTCA.

Members of the Open Registry agree to forward pedigrees and medical data for all Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers they own, have owned or bred who may be affected with Protein-losing Enteropathy/Nephropathy, Addison's Disease, Renal Dysplasia or Irritable Bowel Disease to the SCWT Open Registry, c/o Dr. Littman. For membership form, visit SCWTCA web site at http://www.scwtca.org/scwtopenregistry.html. If you would like to receive complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.

Audrey Hackel       Sherri Kase-McKensie       Michelle Golden
I never thought I’d see the day when the cover article in the staid New York Times Magazine Section would be titled “Pill Popping Canines”. That occurred July 13. The pills in question are mood altering and weight control drugs, and pharmaceutical companies are cashing in on the pet gravy train. We all know that while conscientious breeders are ‘in the hole” financially as costs and gas go up, pet related businesses represent a large and profitable part of the national economy. Why then, when being fed elaborate diets of “boutique” foods, and being inundated with more toys than any normal child, are our pets in need of psychological therapy? Or are they just “in tune” with our society in general?

Many animal behaviorists lament this approach to behavior problems, preferring behavior modification. These methods are based on using reflex rather than thinking modes. For a long time behaviorists denied that animals could “reflect” or “think,” but because we share such a large percentage of genes, including those of the limbic portion of the brain which involves cognitive characteristics, many scientists now believe that while the animals may not think exactly the way we do, similarities do exist. Dr Nicholas Dodman of Tufts School of medicine is a pioneer in combining both approaches. He believes that using the drugs makes the animal more easily handled, and more amenable to a rehab program. Cynics do point out that the average pet owner is just looking for a magic pill, and will likely neglect or ignore the training instructions.

Back in the good old days of “Lassie,” we never heard of overweight dogs, separation anxiety, or OCD (obsessive compulsory disorder). Lifestyles have changed, and with these changes a completely different life for the average house pet. Both man and his canine companion evolved as hunter gatherers. Lives were devoted to finding and protecting food. While our methods of earning a living are different but demanding, the average pet has no job at all, and his dinner is delivered in a bowl, to be devoured in a few minutes. Many pets live with working couples and are alone from 8 to 5. Hard working owners want to come home to docile, loving animals, ready to be petted, perhaps taken on little walks and probably taken to bed. We go to the gym to stay in shape, but Fido has few opportunities to use his facilities or his muscles.

I always laughed at the way pet owners delight in their dog or cat’s neurotic behavior. Up until recently more severe examples of bad behavior resulted in euthanasia. Today we look at the pet owner as the possible cause, and possible agent of change. Try as we do to screen potential puppy buyers, mis-matches do occur. Since the average pet buyer obtains his pet from a source other than a “reputable breeder,” there is a tremendous market for mood altering drugs in canines. It looks as though “big pharm” is in on the wave of the future. I might venture that a pill could be better than a bark collar, and no doubt more effective, but I hope we can continue to screen our puppy buyers and find owners who have the time and resources to deal with our active, exuberant Wheats.

When pioneering behaviorists like Dr Dodman made the connection with the 98% genetic mutuality of the two species and began treating animals with the drugs psychiatrists had been using on humans, we entered a new era. What we used to term “anthropomorphism,” we now call “humanization.” A new “One” medical approach is developing. Physicians and veterinarians are working together. Clomicalm differs from Prozac only in that it is chewable, and beef flavored. As medicine focuses more and more on genetics, we can truly appreciate the value of the canine role in research and application. As dogs were bred closer and closer to achieve breed identity, the canine genome narrowed. When it was mapped, it became valuable because of the resulting ease to identify patterns. The canine shorter life span made it easier to track mutations and patterns of inheritance. This paves the way to find genes responsible for coat, body shape and surely, in the future, aberrant behavior.

Do try to find the Times article. It is a fun read! 

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“GRANDMA’S ATTIC” ... Big Pharm enters The Pet Business
Jackie Gottlieb

No psychoneurosis here! Ahh...nothing so sweet as a roll in the soft grass of summer with a smiley faced frisbee...and not a care in the world....

benchmarks . volume 36 . number 3 . page 27
T he fog lifted just as the green, wooden gypsy cart rumbled onto the lush field. From its crooked little chimney a thin curl of smoke rose like a ribbon, the colorful beads jangled against the door, all greeting the early morning with a cheerful hello. Madam Wheatenski drove the cart amid the tents already up for the caravan. She set her table in the soft grass, put out her Tarot cards and gently placed her crystal ball “just so” on the black tablecloth. She sat down; overcome by her vision...I see ribbons in your future...bright smiles, good food, lots of sunshine and many ribbons. I see friends, people are clapping, people are smiling, and you are surrounded by ribbons. Your future looks bright.

The vision was so right! Madam Wheatenski’s cart stayed in the ring the whole weekend, along with her special Wheaten Tarot cards, Wheaten and gypsy artwork. Thanks to the imagination and hard work of Joan Johnson and Caroline Filing, their friend Barbara and the Fabulous artwork of Jody Sylvester.

The weekend began on Friday, June 20 with a Supported Entry at the Long Beach Kennel Club Show. Judging was done by Lydia Coleman Hutchinson.

Marilyn Smith and Merrilee Ford spun their magic over the hospitality table all day! Scones, cold watermelon, quiche, each bite more wonderful than the next.

Saturday was also a supported entry for the Beverly Hills Kennel Club and was judged by Clay Coady.

Merrilee Ford and Marilyn Smith along with Marilyn’s family made hospitality really memorable.

That evening we had our annual “Dinner on the Green.” During dinner Jim Herzog on behalf of SCWTCSC presented a beautiful bowl to Richard and Sonya Urquhart for their dedication to the breed. The Urquharts are moving to Alabama.

After dinner, Stephen Steging, our auctioneer extraordinare, auctioned off the gypsy Wheaten centerpiece and the ring decorations. The lively auction was full of laughter and heartfelt friendship. Thanks to Cecily Jones Skinner for making dinner arrangements. It was delicious!

The next morning was our SCWTCSC Specialty, Sweepstakes was judged by Gwen Meyer and the breed judge was Candy Way.

Hospitality was presented by Michael La Motte and Marc Boyer. Our Amazing Raffle chaired by Jeanine Flavell and Myrna Flavell was held on Sunday this year. The wondrous items that Jeanine and her mother collect were truly a delight to see – thank you to all that contributed.

Throughout the weekend we had many people that pitched in and help make our specialty weekend enchanted.

Cart drivers: Jose Contreras, Jim Cohen and Merrilee Ford
Bow Wow Boutique: Miriam Kahan
Raffle: Jeanine Flavell, Myrna Flavell
Decorations: Joan Johnson, Carolyn Filing, Merrilee Ford and Barbara Murray
Keeper of the Gold: Connie Koehler
Hospitality: Marilyn Smith, Merrilee Ford, Michael La Motte, Marc Boyer, the Apogee’s and the SCWTCSC friends and members
Dinner: Cecily Jones Skinner, Artwork: Jody Sylvester

Thank you and may your future always be bright! Merrilee Ford, Karla Baer Cohen, Madam Wheatenski and the entire SCWTCSC membership.

BEST OF BREED and a GROUP 4 was CH KINCORA TARA GOLD DIGGER. She was bred by Cecily Skinner, Kayce Healy, R Buccigross and J Berelowitz. Owned by Barbrar Zapf, Kayce and Cecily. Sire is Ch Starlight Treasure Chest; dam, Ch Kincora Tara Twice Told Tail.
I would like to thank the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California for asking me to judge their sweepstakes this year. It was an honor and I had a wonderful time. My husband and I have exhibited at Great Western several times over the years so it was great to return and see many good friends.

I was pleased with the entry that was brought to examine.

Anyone who knows me well knows that movement is important, especially front and rear. Front assembly and good front movement is something that our breed still needs a bit of help with. I also like a beautiful side gait with true reach and drive. Movement and outline were two especially important attributes I was looking for.

One of the things that I have noticed, and maybe I give puppies more grace about this because I come from Irish Setters, is that sweepstakes is taken too seriously at times. With Irish, legs are going all different directions and, because of their size and rollicking temperaments, when you are judging sweeps if you can find 3-4 great strides sometimes that's what you have to go on for movement if the puppy is well balanced. These are babies and I had decided going into this that if I found something I liked, I needed to see three to four great strides also. So many things can play into the day. Now granted, in general, Wheats are much more put together at a younger age and are more of a package, but still several factors come into play. How many days has this puppy been exhibited and I was now seeing them on the last day, in the heat of the day, and with lack of experience. I tried to take these things into consideration and that’s why I will give pups the benefit of the doubt.

The 6-9 puppy dog class was a nice class. It was steep in quality and had beautiful coats. I particularly liked the length of head on my class winner, but he could have had a smaller ear. He was very clean coming and going.

9-12 puppy dog. The type of dogs I admire and aspire to breed are short backed square dogs. I have had some in depth conversations with fellow breeders about the state of our breed concerning the length of back we are seeing today. My 9-12 dog class was a tough class for me because of this debate. The two dogs are both lovely. My second place dog was very short backed but its movement was effected by side winding when coming and going. I see this often when a dog’s back is almost too short. My 1st place dog was longer backed than my second place but was more balanced overall coming, going and on side gait. Second place dog had a beautiful coat. I would like to see a little more head and a little more butt behind the tail. This was a hard class for me. I liked both the dogs very much.

My 12-18 puppy dog class was a lovely one and I wish I had more ribbons to give out. My winner, which later went on to become my Best of Opposite pick, is a very nice dog. His coat was like silk to touch and deep in color. Nice lay back of shoulder and great body to go over. He was very clean in movement.

Onto the girls... The 6-9 bitches was a cute class. Boy, our brassy little girls have minds of their own sometimes. My first and second were very similar in type. On a given day I could have flipped the placing. They are both nicely balanced, nice length of skull, nice eye with good pigment. Third place just needed more practice and once we got her out of the sun I saw the strides I was looking for. I had my eye on the fourth place winner as she walked into the ring. She is wonderful to go over and nice and square. She was giving her owner a run for the money but on the last go around I saw the movement that I thought she could produce after feeling her.

Then 9-12 entered the ring. This class was stunning. There were some beautiful bitches in this class. My fourth place bitch was very nice, square and had a soft wavy coat. My third place bitch I really liked. She can be a little happy in her front but once she works it out, is very clean. Very nice going away and steady going around. Very nice Irish coated package.

My second place bitch was lovely. It was a challenge between my first and second place winners. The deciding factor for me was the first place bitch was cleaner coming at you than the second place bitch. They are both very similar going away. The first place bitch is very well put together and when I put my hands on her everything fit together beautifully. She had beautiful reach and drive with a very steady topline. She was one also that was curbing at times because of the heat, but when she hits her stride her carriage was truly wonderful to see. She embodied so much of the type I love that she was the dog to beat for Best in Sweeps at that point. I do not want to minimize the second place bitch by saying this. The second place bitch is a stunning bitch also. I need to say that if the first place bitch had not been there the second place bitch would have been my Best in Sweeps. I hope I have expressed how beautiful both these bitches are and can’t wait to see more of them.
in the future. Thank you for bringing this class to me.

12-18 Bitch class was also a fun class to judge. Some very beautiful bitches and another class that I wish I had more ribbons for. My first place bitch was a nice size and the first thing that comes to mind is square. Nice overall balance, nice eye and pigment. The second place bitch was very nice also, I would like to see a little more length of head. A very nice moving bitch. My third and fourth place bitches were both very nice, the third was just a little better package.

Overall, I was really pleased to see the quality and it is improving as I think back over dogs I have competed against in the past, mostly from the west coast. Kudos to you! We still need help with our movement. Fronts remain an issue and sometimes I saw rears that were too tight. I was very pleased with heads, I had a few instances where I would have liked a little more length and fill in the muzzles but overall quite nice. Nice to see dark eyes and some really good pigment. I still like to see the deep pigment of the day when it looked like someone took black mascara a ¼ inch thick around the eye. Only had one light eye and pigment. I did have a couple of level bites and one undershot.

I was impressed with the body, bone and substance. This is something in the past that has concerned me. Some of our Wheatens were getting too weedy. Thank you again for this honor. I had a great time with this assignment.

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**SCWTSC Specialty Critique**

**Judge Candy Way**

**HOT, HOT, HOT AT THE SCWTC of SC SPECIALTY**

It was a hot day in Long Beach, both in the air and in the ring. A gypsy had told me the competition would be glorious and it was. Beautifully presented dogs and bitches.

It is always a pleasure to come “home” to SCWTC of SC. When I lived in L.A., I was a member and have fond memories of attending our shows at the Seminary, the Rose Bowl area and somewhere in Northridge. Today it was great to see so many long time friends. Due to AKC judging restrictions, I wasn’t able to come to the Saturday night dinner where there would have been a lot more time to socialize! My ring stewards, Lynne and Wilma, were just wonderful, keeping everything moving and lots of water.

I felt the overall entry quality was very high. Size seems to be under control with very few over our limits of 17”-18” and 18”-19”. Excessive coat trimming and the “pouffy” headpieces also seem to have been greatly reduced. There was good length of coat on flanks, leg furnishings and heads.

The majority of entries were in good weight and condition. It is very disappointing for a judge to see a dog in glorious coat, but the body is all ribs and vertebrae. That isn’t a healthy condition.

Unfortunately there were a lot of large, round and light colored eyes. Also a couple of undershot bites and numerous dropped incisors. While both of these are aesthetic, they still do not conform to our standard nor are they attractive. I also saw a number of short forefaces, resulting in incorrect head proportion.

The BOB winner, Ch Kincora Tara Gold Digger, was beautifully trimmed and presented. This girl moved easily and cleanly on the go-round and the down and back. She had good body shape, lovely ears and proper head proportions. A tails-up attitude even in the heat.

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BENDACHT AND THE AWARD GOES TO was WINNERS BITCH/BEST OF WINNERS. Bred by Michael DeCarlo & Bonita Snyder, she is owned by MJ Carr and her breeders. Ch Starlight Crusin’ Topanga X Bendacht Singular Sensation.

WINNERS DOG, WILDROSE ANDOVER PART TIME ANGEL, was handled by one of his breeder/owners, David Holy. His other breeder owners are Jackie Gottlieb and Linda Dryden (pictured on the right). Sire: Ch Andover Saltsea Big Baby, dam: Ch Andover Wildrose High On Life.

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Continued from page 29

Continued on page 31
BOS to Ch Harbour Hill Mike Delfino, a very masculine dog that I had admired at Hatboro two years ago. He has filled out nicely, showing good length of neck and a great “butt”. Nicely presented and trimmed. His head was also clean and of good proportions.

WD to Wildrose Andover Part Time Angel, nicely balanced, good headpiece and eye. Proper skull/foreface length and bite. Covered ground well.

It was a pleasure to see our three Veteran Dogs and the Veteran Bitch. All in glorious coat, condition and attitude. Ranging in age from 7 to 11, owners Beth, Leo and Roxanne, Venda and Caroline should be very proud of them. It is always difficult to place a Veterans Class….they are all winners.

The three AOMs went to Ch Doubloon’s Playing for Keeps, Ch Doubloon’s Ultimate Player and Ch Dhowden American Dream. All contending to the end….it was an exceptional Specials Class. It is a true honor to judge a Specialty of your own breed. To think that the members would put that trust in you as the judge makes your decision making even more important. I love our breed and am glad to see that it is continuing in great shape. Congratulations to all of you, the exhibitors and breeders, for doing this. And thank you club members, for the hospitality, warmth and friendship over the years!!!

AWARD OF MERIT to CH DOUBLOON’S PLAYING FOR KEEPS, bred by Elena Landa and co-owned by her breeder and Susan McGee, the latter handling. Sire: Ch Windisle Medoc, dam: Ch Doubloon’s Playing The Field.

AWARD OF MERIT to CH DOWDEN AMERICAN DREAM. Breeder owned by Denise Bendelewski, his sire is Ch Frolic’s Squeeze Play out of Ch Dhowden C’Dar Dreams Of Cardif.

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Editor’s Note: There were no photos made available of the RWB, Westridge Sugar Magnolia, or the AOM, Ch Doubloon’s Ultimate Player.
to our wheatens, 14 years and older!

compiled by toni vincent

DAKOTA “CODY”

September ? 1991

Cody was surrendered to a shelter in Waynesville, NC in August of 1997 because the previous owners were “weary of dealing with an old dog”. His age is uncertain, but based on documents given to the shelter we believe that he will celebrate his seventeenth birthday around September 1. The same documents indicate that he is a purebred and has lived most of his life in North and South Carolina. The previous owners lost his registration papers.

Cody is unusual for his Irish conformation and light, curly coat. He is a large male, who probably weighed nearly fifty pounds in his prime. We have been unable to identify his breeder.

Cody is a very dignified old gentleman. He is perfectly toilet trained and will always take himself to the door despite his arthritis. Cody sleeps a lot, but he enjoys being with a loving human family. After eating, he usually makes a great show of rubbing his big muzzle on the furniture and then resting his chin on a human's knee. He loves being scratched behind the ears. He is no shrinking violet, and resists with a growl any attempt by our female Wheaten to push him around. We call him our “Coda bear”.

Robert P. Johnston II

CH PITTERPAT’S MAGIC CARPET RIDE “TASSEL”

CH PITTERPAT’S ARABIAN KNIGHTS “MURRAY”

PITTERPAT’S HERE’S THE DEAL “EDISON”

August 26 1994

Ch Legacy In Shining Armor X Ch O’Sheehan’s Co-Star

Tassel is blessed with one of the sweetest and happiest dispositions of any dog I have ever met. While she needs help getting in and out of the car and stairs to get on and off the bed, she can still catch a piece of chicken in mid air!

Wendy Beers DVM

Murray, aka Arabian Knights, came to us on the occasion of my husband’s 40th birthday, and much to the delight of our two kids who had never had a dog of their own (family allergies). He has been a real trouper, traveling with us up to Tahoe and even sailing with us on our boat in his yellow life jacket. While he climbs fewer stairs and jumps up on less furniture these days he is still very spirited and very loved!

Susan May

Edison, or “Eddie” as we call him, has been the light of our lives. When my son was 8 we got our adorable Wheatie; that same son just graduated from college in May. Life with Eddie has been one adventure after another; from the time he “shook a rat dead” to the one and only blue ribbon he won, not for best in show, but for herding sheep! Our neighbors call him “Chief of Security” since he has always barked at everyone who dares to walk down the street. My niece, 10 years old at the time, decided she loved Eddie so much that she wanted to marry him. All my nieces participated in the elaborate wedding, complete with costumes! My mother calls Edison her “granddog” and has added his name to her charm bracelet along with all her grandchildren. Now, as we lovingly help Eddie into the last phase of his life, we rejoice in the good days-when he can greet us at the door with a Wheaten welcome, or jump onto the bed unassisted. I know many people say that the best aspect of dogs is the way they love us unconditionally, but I disagree. While it is wonderful to be loved by a dog, I believe that the real beauty of dogs is that they “allow us” to love them. They demand food and attention from us, and in return they let us bestow them with love. This is demonstrated when they roll over to let us rub their soft pink bellies. We have been so lucky to have loved Eddie for 14 years!

Joanne Levy-Prewitt
to our seniors, 14 years or older...

**CH BRIARLYN STAR HUNTER QUEST  “HUNTER”**

August 28 1994

Ch Legacy Wildwest Wildflower X Ch Briarlyn Starburst

We have had a lot of wonderful “firsts” in our lives with Hunter. Being we’d never had a male Wheaten before, showing him, watching him get his championship, seeing the beautiful litters he has produced and watching some of them in the ring also has really been exciting for us. This spring, due to the miracle of frozen semen, he was, at the age of 13, a father yet again to five beautiful little girls.

Following his career as a show dog, he decided he really enjoyed nursing home visits. He had a knack for knowing how to approach people who were withdrawn that was wonderful to watch.

Age has not dampened his enthusiasm for travel. He would ride in the car all day if you’d let him. He is a seasoned traveler, having been all over the US and Canada with us over the years. Hunter has enriched our lives beyond measure. We feel blessed to have him.

Karen & Bob Costin

Breeders: Denise Daniel and Lynne Carothers

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**LUELLEN HAPPY GO LUCKY BOY  “REILLY (AKA REILLY ROO)”**

July 26 1993

Ch Lontree Five Star Generally X Brearah’s Daydream Believer

Reilly continues to go strong. Although Reilly has slowed down a bit, he still loves to run to the edge of the yard and greet anyone walking by, whether it be human or canine. Reilly eagerly awaits his dinner every night, and looks forward to his 2 Milk Bones every morning! Happy 15th Birthday Reilly, we love you SO much!

Sharon & Terry Gainer & family

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**CH LUELLEN BOY OH BOY  “ROLLY”**

July 26 1993

Ch Lontree Five Star Generally x Brearah’s Daydream Believer

Rolly celebrated his 15th birthday this summer. He is still a super boy even though he has slowed down just a bit. Rolly enjoys his naps on the couch and his daily piece of hot dog (you have to hide the pill somewhere!). He always knows when dinner time has arrived and looks forward to special treats. We love our old boy very much.

Pat & Bob Robeski
MAROC LIQUOR “MAUDE”

Bred by Mrs. Mary O’Carroll, our beloved Maude (Maroc Liquor) was born in County Offaly, Ireland. She was bought over to Coopersburg PA in August 1993 by Emily Holden and Anne Holahan. Maude had many litters but somewhere along the way she had a bad accident and lost a good part of her tongue. The vets assumed she would not be able to look after the puppies. Maude proved them wrong and did a wonderful job! When Maude retired at the age of 6 years, we adopted her and she has enjoyed her life with us, bossing our other Wheatens around. Maude was the “matriarch” up until the end. She will be sorely missed. Lynne and Chris Spooner

MARAYNE’S WHEATLANDS CARLYN, CD “CARLY”

Carly was the family dog, raised with our children and imbedded in our memories. She was part of all of our family pictures as our children grew. She opened our eyes to the wonderful world of Wheatens and we couldn’t imagine not having her be a part of our family. It was a very sad and difficult day when we took her for her final trip to the vets. I will always remember those big dark trusting eyes staring up at me and the quiet lonely ride home.

Kristen and Darryl Williams & Family

WOOLAND’S SECRET WP CALLINAN “WINSTON”

Today, I awoke and went over to cuddle you and knew. Today, we said goodbye to our Winston, my best friend, companion, family member, sire, grandsire, great grandsire...All the years, from March 1993- June 2008; all the wonderful memories and the smiles you brought to us...from the time you were the most stubborn puppy in puppy kindergarten to being brave and fighting now. You were my first ‘show’ Wheaten and when we all recognized you didn’t like showing, we abandoned that path and let you be the much adored king of the house. Always elegant, you were bright and alert to the end; brave as we say goodbye knowing it’s time. We are so sad that our 15+ years together has come to an end but you will never stop living in our hearts with love and we know you are always with us. I am glad you were healthy to the end. I am glad you attended the Wheaten Kidney Clinic and saw some of your offspring. I know you are being greeted by Logan, Britanny and my mom. Still it is so hard to say good-bye. With love always, Winston, you will be in our hearts as we miss your daily gift of happy, humorous and loving antics.

Cyndi Stokvis and Dale Schmidt and Kathy Eichman
Tara, Woodlands Loganberry Love (daughter) and Libby, CH Woodland’s Rhapsody n Love (grand daughter).
Celebrating Long Life, continued....

CHERMAR’S MAIDEN OF THE DAWN  “DAPHNE”

April 21 1992 - July 21 2008

Am Can Ch Sunshine’s Lad of Chermar, CD X Kimarus’ Miss Melinda Sue

About Daphne:

Daphne was never a prospect in the ring. Instead of the “show gene” from the many champions in her pedigree, she got an abundance of the “terrier temperament gene” that made her a feisty lass who ruled her roost, backed off from no one (canine or human), and enjoyed every bit of life -- as much as we enjoyed her. Our Maiden is gone, but the Dawn lights our fond memories of her every day.

Mel and Marcie Granick

SCWTCA Endowment Fund, Inc.
a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, donations are deductible for federal tax purposes

The SCWT Heritage Society

The Board of the Endowment thanks the following people for generously including the Endowment in their estate plans.

Carol Carlson
Richard and Toni Vincent Fisher
Susan McGee

Stan and Jinx Moore
Sue and Jim Little

You can make a Difference by Leaving a Lasting Legacy!

The SCWTCA Endowment is committed to supporting health-related research for the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

Planned gifts are charitable contributions achieving both your philanthropic and personal/family tax-planning and financial objectives. The legacy you leave with the Endowment is one that will last a lifetime. Every gift you give, no matter the size, can make an impact on the future health of Wheaten Terriers.

We invite you to include the Endowment in your philanthropic planning by becoming a member of the Endowment’s Heritage Society. When you notify us of your intention to make a planned gift, you will be honored as a member of the SCWT Heritage Society. Additionally, as a society member, you’ll receive invitations to annual recognition events and special events, as well as recognition in SCWTCA, Inc. publications.

Types of gifts:

Your Heritage Society gift can take many forms -- from an outright gift to trust arrangements that benefit a surviving spouse, from a bequest under a will to a gift that provides for you and your family. Here are some of the options:

• Wills, Bequests:
  Leave specific assets or a portion of your estate.

• Outright Gifts:
  Give cash; publicly traded securities; bonds.

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Gifts offering lifetime income for you and your spouse. Set up a charitable remainder unitrust or a charitable remainder annuity trust.

Gifts of Income. Set up a charitable lead trust.

Many of these options offer significant tax advantages. Be sure to seek the advice of your financial planner, lawyer, or advisor to decide which choice offers the greatest benefit and obtain details on these plans.

When giving securities, please let us know that your gift is coming, by contacting Treasurer, Rosemary Berg, 37953 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44039, 440-327-5373, twaggin@alltel.net. For instructions on how to transfer securities, have your financial advisor contact Brian Morgan, Buckeye Advisors, LLC at 1-800-548-6730. brianderekmorgan@hotmail.com. Buckeye Advisors, LLC is the Investment Advisor for the SCWTCA Endowment, Inc.

If you have any questions, contact one of the Endowment Board members:

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- Susan McGee, Missouri (Vice-Chair) kcsweatie@aol.com
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- Beth Verner, Illinois (Director) bverner@ilstu.edu
- Toni Vincent-Fisher, Washington (Director) tonivincent@aol.com

Waaaaa...why oh why can’t I be a show dog???
I’m pretty enough, smart enough and, DOGgone it, everybody loves me!
BREED STANDARD OF AN EXHIBITOR

CHARACTERISTICS
A pleasant intelligent person, helpful, considerate, attentive and of a sporting demeanor. Always willing to give advice and assistance to newcomers, or to others needing it. Attentive to the needs of the dogs being handled, and presents each dog to its best advantage.

GENERAL APPEARANCE
A neat, smart, fit looking individual, well-groomed, well shod and well-equipped, who moves freely both in and out of the ring.

TEMPERAMENT
Calm, confident, unhurried and friendly.

HEAD
Neither big nor pin headed. Skull broad to allow for plenty of brain power. Expression pleasant and smiling, regardless of judges’ decisions, other exhibitors’ actions and the dog’s behavior. Nose small so as to not be stuck into where it is not wanted.

EYES
Sharp and bright, observant of other exhibitor’s locations, judge’s hand signals and the movement and position of all dogs in the ring.

MOUTH
Usually best kept closed except to briefly answer judge’s questions or to congratulate successful exhibitors. Teeth clean, white and presented in a smiling fashion at all times.

NECK
Long enough to hold the head up proudly and flexible enough to turn the head as to observe everything that is happening in the ring. Should never be stuck out.

FOREQUARTERS
Shoulders broad and able to shrug off unsporting comments from other exhibitors. Arms of sufficient length and strength to extend a handshake to the winners, keep a firm hold on the dog, collect any prize cards, and give a friendly pat to the dog all at the same time.

BODY
Sufficiently slim as to not impede other exhibitors leaving the ring and to not completely block the judge’s view of all the dogs behind.

HINDQUARTERS
Well developed and strong so as to be able to move the dog in the ring at its optimum speed.

FEET
Firmly on the ground as this is only a sport after all. To be kept out of the mouth at all times.

GAIT
Free moving and graceful, moving in harmony with the dog’s speed.

COAT
Dress should be neat, clean and tidy, neither flamboyant nor immodest, but designed to allow free movement without distraction to any dog in the ring. Feet should be well shod in practical shoes to allow for easy movement.

COLOR
Should be chosen to complement the color of the dog, or if several different colored dogs are being handled, to at least not completely hide the outline of any dog; e.g., wearing a long black skirt when showing a black dog.

SIZE
Exhibitors may come in all sizes and shapes, the only limitation being ability to do justice to the dog when in the ring.

MAJOR FAULTS
Dirty or scruffy appearance, grumpy, vicious or flustered temperament; swollen head; loud mouth, especially when used for insulting comments or bad language; unsporting behavior; unkempt dress.

Author unknown
Background art by Jody Sylvester
I t was the summer of 1965. John, my doctor husband, and I had just settled in Fairborn, Ohio, where he was fulfilling his military obligation as a USAF flight surgeon at Wright-Patterson AFB. We had bought our first home and were looking forward to starting a family after eight years of marriage, during which I worked and he went through graduate school, medical school, and an internship. Our first “baby” arrived November 11, 1965. He came with a fancy Gaelic name, Byrack Bunter, but we named him “Finnegan” and called him “Finn,” sometimes “Finney,” for short. He was a Wheaten puppy straight from Ireland and he became #34 in the SCWTCA studbook.

I had grown up with Wire Fox Terriers and missed having a dog since I married. We were just too busy. But soon after moving to Ohio, I was looking through a neighbor’s AKC magazine and saw a picture of the cutest, fluffiest dog. He was Gramachree’s Minute Man C.D. (Rory) from the O’Connor family’s kennel, Gramachree Wheatens. It was love at first sight, and I told John, “I want one!” The contact was listed as Margaret (Maggie) O’Connor in Brooklyn New York. Maggie, an elementary school teacher by profession, and her family (mother, A. Cecelia, and brother Tom, a Catholic priest) were raising Wheatens in Brooklyn. Maggie also was president of the fledgling Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America.

Tirelessly and totally devoted to introducing and promoting the breed in America, Maggie’s dream was to see Wheatens grow in number and spread throughout the country so they would be eligible for AKC registration. As the official SCWTCA contact, Maggie fielded inquiries about the breed, along with requests for puppies. She ran an “adoption agency” of sorts, finding puppies from the few American breeders and importing the best pups from Ireland. Her Irish “partner” was Maureen Holmes, a longtime and well-known Wheaten breeder (Holmenocks Kennels in County Kildare). She found and shipped across the Atlantic many of the dogs that became the American Wheatens’ founding stock.

I began corresponding with Maggie in July 1965, asking how could we get a puppy. She quickly responded, telling me about Rory, the dog in the picture who belonged to her sister, Eileen. Her loving descriptions of Rory sealed the decision for us. How soon could we get a puppy? At the time, Maggie didn’t know of any available puppies, but she said she would find one for us. And she did.

In October 1965, we received a telegram from Maggie: “Male Irish puppy available if interested. Must have immediate answer.” Less than a month later, John and I went to the Dayton airport to pick up Finnegan. Maureen Holmes had taken a pick of a litter, sired by her Holmenocks Grand Coup out of Mullinahone Lass owned by B. Byrne, a reputable breeder in County Carlow. She shipped Finn from Shannon Airport in County Clare to Kennedy International where Maggie picked him up. And, as was her practice in accepting imports, she had Finn checked out by her vet, gave him a bit of a rest at her house before sending him on to his new home with us. In my mind’s eye, I still see that little black-whiskered face peering out of his crate. Our lives and hearts were never the same – but blissfully better – after we brought him home.

The best way to tell Finnegan’s story is to reach back in my memory and highlight snippets from life with him over almost 13 years. Here are some of our fondest and funniest memories of this very gentle, sweet dog.
Recently retired from a career in public relations, I was still somewhat in the PR mode and thought what a good story Finn would be for the Dayton newspaper - not only because of his breed, but also because he watched television. He would sit in front of the set and especially liked shows with action like dancing or animal acts. If I turned the TV off, he'd look at me and whine, or go around and check the back of the set to see what was wrong with it. I called the Dayton Daily News. A reporter came to the house, saw for himself how Finn was glued to the TV, and he wrote a great story with the headline: "Doggone TV Addict from Ireland." It ran in January 1966 with photos of Finn doing "his thing." I had a lot of inquiries about the breed, which I passed on to Maggie O'Connor.

There were only two other known Wheaten Terriers in Ohio in 1965. One was a female – Grants Hill Aurora, better known as "Darlene" – who was owned by an elderly couple, Joe and Evelyn Beyer, in Dayton. Maggie urged me to get in touch with the Beyers and consider breeding Finn and Darlene. Long story short, the Beyers anxiously agreed to the mating, which took place in our backyard in the fall of 1966. In November, Darlene gave birth to four pups – two of each – with my assistance. It was a weekday and our husbands were at work when Evelyn called and asked me to please come over. Darlene was having the puppies. I didn't know anything about birthing puppies, so I called my husband for his instructions from his OB/GYN training. By the time I got to the Beyers, three puppies had been born, but the last little guy needed help getting out and breathing. They all turned out just fine and healthy. John, Mark, Finn and I made weekly visits to see them.

When Finn's puppies were eight weeks old, I called the newspaper again to report the blessed event. Another story – "Born to Love…Rare, Irish and Frisky" complete with puppy pictures was featured in the Daily News in January 1967. The Beyers received 80 calls from prospective adoptive parents for the quartet. They kept one female; the others went to loving homes in Dayton.

Besides becoming a "newshound" with a lot of publicity, Finn also was shown. John entered him in the Miscellaneous Class at the Dayton Kennel Club show in April 1967. Finn was registered with the Irish Kennel Club, but we couldn't show him until we sent his papers in to the AKC to get Indefinite Listing Privilege (ILP) for him. At that time, Wheats were being shown in a Miscellaneous group that included Akitas, Shih Tzus, and a few other breeds that weren't yet recognized by the AKC. Maggie O'Connor was very excited about the growth of Wheaten Terriers in Ohio in numbers and awareness. I had stayed in close touch with Maggie and was shocked and saddened when I got word that she had died suddenly of a heart attack with her dogs at her side on May 1, 1967.

In the summer of 1967, we moved back to Miami for John to enter a four-year urology residency. Wherever I took Finn, people would stop, admire and pet him, and ask me, "What kind of dog is that?" In January 1968, John showed Finn at the Greater Miami Dog Club show, and Finn took a first! In May of that year, we welcomed a baby girl, Elizabeth Ann (Beth), to the family, and Finn seemed delighted to have two little ones to love, play with, and protect.

In 1969, I pitched a story on Finn – the lone Miami Wheaten and one of only two in the state – to the Miami Herald. December 22, 1969, a big story, almost a full page, appeared in the Herald with photos of Beth sitting on Finn's back. The headline read, "How Much Is That Wheaten Terrier in the Window? Wheaten Terrier?!" And the calls started coming in. People wanted a Wheaten. I helped them find puppies through the club. As new puppies would arrive, I'd invite all Miami Wheatens and their owners to a "Wheaten Wing-Ding" in our backyard. Finn would sit like a king and watch the pups frolic around him. By the time we left Miami in 1971, there were 17 Wheaten Terriers in the Miami area – all due to Finn's fame.

Finn's Wheaten family was growing, too. In 1969 and 1970, he became a father for the second and third times. Maggie had told us about a female Wheaten in Vero Beach owned by Audrey Biemann. Her registered name was Countess of Marretthays (called "Laurie"). Audrey had bred dogs before, so we just offered Finn's "services" and I stayed out of canine "midwifery."

In lieu of a stud fee, I took a puppy from the second Miami litter to sell to a couple from Detroit who had contacted me about getting a puppy. They were visiting in Ft. Lauderdale and asked me to bring Finn up so they could see what a Wheaten looked like "in person." I got Finn all fluffed up and we went to visit. The couple was staying in a villa with a pool. While waiting for the man to come home, Finn walked right into the pool, sinking like a ton of bricks. When he surfaced, I pulled him out, and you know what a wet Wheaten looks like! No matter, they wanted a puppy. Finn's last litter had been born. I chose a puppy and picked up "Finnegan Jr." when he was eight weeks old. I kept "Junior" until we had to let "Junior" go.

For all the fun and funny things that happened over the first few years that we had Finn, there was a tragedy and a mystery that rocked our idyllic Wheaten world. One male puppy out of Finn's first Florida litter of three males, and two females out of the second litter of six puppies (three of each), went blind before they were one year old. And Laurie, their mother, was killed by a car in 1970, so she couldn't be examined. The diagnosis was retinal atrophy, a congenital and hereditary eye disease. I wrote to Finn's Irish breeder, and the SCWTCA contacted Maureen Holmes. Both said they had never heard of anything like this in the Irish Wheatens. I also wrote to various veterinary experts for opinions and the club followed through. It was concluded the gene must have come...
from Laurie, also an Irish import. However, we had Finn neutered. No more puppies for him. Finn spent the rest of his days happily and peacefully with our family through moves to Tampa, Panama City, Florida, and finally Roswell, Georgia, where he died in January 1978 of a rare cancerous kidney tumor. We buried him in a pet cemetery beneath a tree with a headstone that simply says:

Finnegan
1965-1978
So loved by
The Adams Family
John, Pat, Mark and Beth

In June 1978, Gleanngay Good News – Gilligan – came into our lives and took over the job of raising Mark and Beth through their teenage years. The son of Ch Koop’s Kilkenny of Woodridge and Gay Dunlap’s Ch Innisfree’s Annie Sullivan, Gilley took to the show rings in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania with Gay. in May/June 1979, winning a 1st in Open Dogs in each of his first five shows. He came home a champion and retired to be just our funny, beloved Gilligan. He died in March 1993, three days before his fifteenth birthday.

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Shari Boyd Carusi’s Wheaten Pet Grooming DVD
In honor of the Colony Dogs

Not sure how to properly trim your Wheaten using a Clipper and Thinning Shears? Want to learn how to dremel nails or to brush your Wheaten’s coat? This DVD will show you how to put a great pet trim on your Wheaten.

Are you tired of picking up your Wheaten from the groomer and they look like another breed? Do you want to learn to trim your own dog? If so, this is exactly what you need!

Shari Boyd Carusi is a Breeder of Top Winning Wheatens and a Professional Handler.

The cost is $25 per DVD for up to 4 DVD’s or $20 each for 5 or more DVD’s ordered at the same time. Shipping is $3.99 within the U.S.

Make checks payable to NC Veterinary Medical Foundation and mail this form along with your check to Holly Craig, 45 Dayleview Road, Berwyn, PA 19312.

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Thank you for supporting the Colony Dogs!

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National Institute of Health (NIH)

Proposal to
The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America

What follows here is NIH’s proposal for a genetic study focused on our breed’s health. Given the scope of this proposal and the feedback (both pro and con) shared on our “Lists” we feel it is appropriate to print it, along with some of the Q & A’s that arose as a result of these shared sentiments. We end with an insightful piece by Bonnie O’Connor, entitled “And Then Victor McKusick Died.”

May 12, 2008
Dear Members of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Health Committee;

The Ostrander Laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute at NIH is proposing a new genetic study focused on the health of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. You will find a full description of this study following this letter. In short, we would like to collect a large set of blood samples and health information on a cohort of young Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers that we can follow through the majority of their life to ascertain the number and frequency of genetic diseases segregating within a single population. We would then follow with full genome scans for association on those diseases that are determined to have a strong genetic component in the breed and for which sufficient cases and controls have been identified. At the same time we would like to collect morphological data (i.e. body measurements such as height at the shoulders or width of the chest, coat type, variation in coloring, etc.). These data can be used to help find the genes that are involved in body development, such as skeletal growth, and allow us to get an abundance of information from a single genome scan.

While this proposal addresses the submission of young dogs for life time follow-up, we will also collect dogs of all ages that have current diagnoses to be banked in the lab for inclusion in the disease studies that develop from this project. In addition, we will happily work with any researchers with which the club has current collaborations to make sure that the samples are used to their full potential to the betterment of SCWT health.

Please take our proposal into careful consideration as we are suggesting a long term collaboration that requires a commitment from both of our organizations in order to see it through. We are very excited about the prospects of this study and look forward to working with the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier club for many fruitful years to come.

Sincerely,
Heidi G. Parker
Staff Scientist
Cancer Genetic Branch
National Human Genome Research Institute
National Institutes of Health

The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Lifetime Health Study

The Ostrander Laboratory at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) would like to enlist the support of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club and Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier fanciers nationwide, to begin a lifetime health study of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. Our aim is to use a combination of blood samples, physical measurements and health information to examine a variety of health issues important in the breed. We will then determine the extent at which these health and morphological differences are genetic in basis, and to use this information and the genetic data we obtain to find genes important in disease susceptibility and progression, as well as to understand the genetic basis of canine body shape and size.

The Benefits of a Lifetime Health Study

The Lifetime Study of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier will be a ten-year effort following the life events and health status of approximately 1,000 dogs. The participants will be enrolled over the next two years with a blood sample and opening health survey. We will then follow with annual surveys to assess the current and continuing health of the dogs. These surveys will change slightly year to year sometimes including more environmental questions and at least one survey will include body measurements and appearance. We will use the health information provided from these dogs to determine the incidence of disease within the breed and calculate the inheritance of each. Those diseases or conditions that are found to have a strong inherited component will be analyzed further to find the regions of genome associated with the disease or condition.

By starting with a group of young dogs from all parts of the country, we will not prejudice our study toward a single disease and instead continued on page 42.
will be able to identify multiple diseases or conditions that may be troubling the population. We will also be able to provide a better estimate of the true extent of the diseases within the breed and possibly identify environmental components that may be affecting susceptibility. We will also be identifying control dogs at the same time as affected dogs making the move to mapping much more efficient. By working with a full population-based set, we will be able to reuse genetic data for each successive study enabling us to map many more traits from a single sample set rather than starting anew for each study.

Lifetime Health Study Participation

In order to be successful, this study will require a commitment from the owners who enroll their dogs. We are aiming for 1,000 dogs with annual follow up for approximately 10 years. This means that we will have to enroll more than 1,000 in order to account for unforeseen events that may prevent continued participation for a small sub-set of the dogs. At enrollment these dogs should be between the ages of one and four. While the Ostrander lab will cover the cost of the database, DNA extraction and storage, and all of the molecular biology experiments, we will not be able to reimburse for veterinary bills or shipping so this small expense will fall to the owner at the outset. We will provide blood drawing supplies for group draws at specialties and will send kits to owners for collections at private veterinarians. In addition to a blood sample, we ask that owners provide the name and sex of the dog, AKC or other registration number, owner contact information, and a signed consent form. We will also want copies of veterinary reports showing any diagnoses as they are made as well as any laboratory reports from the same. As the study progresses, we may determine that an additional blood sample is required. If we conclude at some future point that necropsies are necessary for any part of the study, we will attempt to obtain funding from the Canine Health Foundation or a similar source to offset the costs for the owners.

All genetic and contact information collected for each dog will remain confidential. Specifically, an owner's participation in the study, their dog's pedigree, all health information provided, and any data we get from a dog's DNA sample will not be disclosed to any breeders, Club personnel, the AKC, or the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

If owners are currently working with other researchers on specific disease studies please let us know and, with permission, we will happily send samples to those researchers as we receive diagnoses that fit their particular requirements.

Our work would not be possible without the participation of responsive owners and enthusiastic clubs. We are sincerely looking forward to working with the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier club on this auspicious project and hope that you feel the same.

With great expectations,

Heidi Parker, PhD

Staff Scientist, Ostrander Canine Genomics Lab, CGB/NHGRI/NIH

About The Ostrander Lab

The Ostrander lab has been a leader in the field of canine genetics since its inception over 15 years ago. We built the first linkage map of the dog and completed at least five iterations that have brought us to a map of over 4500 markers. Our lab has published more than 90 papers on canine genetics and wrote the white paper that resulted in the multi-million dollar canine genome sequence completed in 2005. We currently have active projects focused on finding genes for several types of cancer, hip dysplasia, Addison's disease, osteoarthritis and a variety of complex physical traits. Finally, we are interested in understanding the architecture of the canine genome and the historical relationships between breeds.

Questions and Answers with Dr Heidi Parker

SCWTCA INVOLVEMENT

What would be SCWTCA's involvement and/or responsibility in recruiting 1000 subjects, responsibilities after the 1000 are acquired and would we be asked to recruit more subjects at any time over the 10 years?

We will expect the SCWTCA to promote the study, to help get information about the study out to the members and the community through websites, newsletters and meetings; to arrange for centralized blood collections at SCWT functions such as specialties and/or rallies when possible; and to encourage members to participate and to keep up with annual surveys. We will try to collect more than 1000 samples within the first two years in order prepare for a percentage of drop outs.

TEST SUBJECTS:

Is there a specific reason you chose the SCWT for this project? Protein wasting diseases are not prevalent human diseases. What makes Wheatens "useful"?

We are not focusing on only one disease in this study. We would like to get information on a multitude of disorders that occur within a single population. The SCWT makes an attractive study subject for many reasons. The breed is small but not rare therefore collecting information on 1000 dogs is possible and yet comprises a significant percentage of the population from which to calculate risk factors and prevalence of disease. While the SCWT is at high risk for some genetic disorders it has not affected the overall lifespan of the breed. The SCWT seems to show an average occurrence of the common canine diseases allowing us the opportunity to obtain inheritance and risk information that will prove useful to the canine community as a whole. The club and owners are already cognizant of the appearance of genetic disorders therefore we expect that health check-ups are performed regularly and that there will be an increased interest in participating in a lifetime study.
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Who can participate?

All Wheatens (will be) accepted if he/she has a pedigree and an involved owner who is willing to participate. The dog does not have to be AKC registered, but a pedigree must be available. It does not have to be certified, only accurate.

For NIH purposes, would this program be open to Wheatens internationally (we have large Wheaten populations in Great Britain and Sweden, for example)?

Yes, international participate is welcome as long as pedigree information is available and the participants are willing to keep up with annual updates.

We are only interested in (the) pedigree because it tells us how the participants are related. Import pedigrees will be welcome in the study as they will likely represent lines not available in the States.

What “relatedness” or diversity of pedigree will the researchers want to see? Will the researchers want several dogs from the same pedigree (complete litters collected) or samples from more unrelated dogs?

We will collect both as families and unrelated individuals provide different information to a genetic study.

Would relatedness be tested through genotyping?

Not for individual dogs but statistical relatedness for the breed as a whole (heterozygosity, haplotype sharing, inbreeding coefficients, etc.) will likely come out of the first genome scan.

Does a cost to owners bias participation in the program?

Does this bias the results if cost is an issue, do the dogs that participate represent a level of dogs that are better maintained? Should we be concerned with this bias in the samples?

The cost to owners is fairly low so I wouldn’t expect it to cause a significant bias but that is probably better answered by the club.

Average cost to owner –

A blood draw - $10-$20 sometimes free if combined with a regular check up or other blood work or if done at a club sponsored collection

Postage – approximately $2 to send the sample through the mail

Survey – free if done online, $0.50 if mailed in each year

What is the expected percentage of loss due to “unforeseen events that may prevent continued participation”? How many dogs, minimum, needed at the finish?

I cannot accurately estimate the rate at which participants will drop out of the study as this is the first lifetime study we have attempted. For general health surveys we have seen a better than 65% response rate. We would expect that number to be higher for this study because the participants are entering with the knowledge that they are expected to respond to annual requests for updates. This is the primary area that we would expect the club to assist us in, encouraging the participants to stay in the study. The study will continue as long as there are participants but the information we will be able to obtain will decrease substantially if the majority stop responding.

What can a breed club do to minimize that loss/mitigation plans?

We will start by collecting more than the suggested 1000 participants. Beyond that, the club can keep information about the study circulating to encourage participation and enthusiasm.

You wrote that you would like a desired age range for the study but have said you’d accept dogs of any age to bank the DNA for possible correlation, etc., with the findings in this project, correct?

Yes.

Since we are a small breed, would it make sense to use our healthy geriatric dogs as controls, after necropsy (as we know dogs can appear healthy and test healthy, yet show signs of PLN, PLE or RD at necropsy)?

They would be welcome as controls to be banked for mapping studies but would not be considered as part of the lifetime study. The original 1000 dogs will provide both cases and controls.

How is a study starting with 1-4 year old dogs more random than a study recruiting as many dogs as possible across the country? Both are random. Would old healthy dogs weight the results as they do not represent the total population of dogs in their generation, but only the healthy ones? Is there a concern that owners with known affected dogs will participate at a higher percentage or even lower percentage, thus biasing the data?

Collecting all ages at once would give us a snapshot of what is happening in the breed at this time. What we want is to collect all participants at a young age and then follow their health progress through the different stages of life.

Can the samples of 1-3 year old dogs at CPP be accepted for this project.

We cannot base a project of this magnitude on samples and information held by another researcher in a separate location. We have certainly shared samples with Dr. Johnson on many projects in the past but that depends entirely on his own research plans for the samples that he has collected. We can make no promises that those samples will be available to us or that they will be useful as the owners that donated them knew nothing about the lifetime study at the time.

**HEALTH SURVEY:**

Will the researchers work with SCWTCA to develop the health survey or with Drs. Littman and Vaden?

We will be happy to consider input from the Health Committee on the survey. After the club has decided to support the study I will contact your other collaborators to see if they would like to be involved and in what capacity. The survey has not been designed yet. When it is available, it will be provided to the Health Committee and the Board.
And Then Victor McKusick Died... by Bonnie O'Connor

I decided to actually read the files that were posted about this study. When reading the Q & A that answered a question about why Wheatsen were useful for this type of study, I thought “My God, this is exactly why the Amish were chosen for genetic studies in the early 1960’s”, which leads us directly to Victor McKusick. Learn about this project here: http://scwtca.org/health/index.htm#v24/n3/full/ng0300_203.html

Dr. Victor McKusick is the sole reason we are having this discussion today. He was one of the first to work with the Amish community (in the early 1960’s) studying their diseases. Interesting article on this work can be read here: http://www.nature.com/ng/journal/v24/n3/full/ng0300_203.html

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Will you provide this by email and/or USPS? The survey can be filled out on our website, through email, or through USPS. We will give the owners the option to send in paper copies or to use the website.

This will be a large data storage project. How will surveys be accumulated and kept? How will data be stored? We have databases designed specifically for storing information for our projects maintained here at the National Institutes of Health.

PROJECT REPORTS AND UPDATES:
Have you identified a schedule for project reports and what data or reports will be shared with SCWTCA? Raw data will not be seen outside of the laboratory as that is kept confidential from all but the researchers working on it. We will provide summaries and statistics to the club regarding the findings and any publications that come from this project will also be shared. We will provide annual updates for the club regarding the status of the study and any results obtained.

Would an NIH program representative be willing to participate on a listerv with owners and members of the health committee? Such a list would likely be a low volume list, but would encourage participation in the project and an open, educational environment. I don’t see why not.

Should Drs. Littman and Vaden be invited to participate as consultants? (Reasoning: their knowledge of Wheatsen would be valuable with respect to data collection, data sorting, interactions, segregations, and confounding variables). We will consider working with other collaborators and sharing information as we gather data that may be of use to them.

BUDGET
Does this proposal come under a NIH grant? There is no specific grant for this project. It is being funded directly through our laboratory at the National Institutes of Health. We receive funding for other projects from the AKC-CHF and information about them can be found on their website. The project does not have to be submitted to a review board.

Who specifically funds this proposal, or what budget provides the funds? This proposal will be funded by the intramural program at the National Institutes of Health through the Ostrander Laboratory. No formal budget has been established since the project is being funded directly by our lab.

Will necropsies be included in the project? If so, is there funding to pay owners for necropsy? At this time we are not planning for necropsies. If we determine that they will be necessary in the future, we will apply for additional funds in order to cover the costs.

GENERAL QUESTIONS
How does this differ from the Georgie Project? Why isn’t this being done on PWDs? The Georgie Project has been in progress for several years now. Wouldn’t using that data base and samples yield more immediate results? What lessons learned from the Georgie Project can be applied to this project?

The Georgie project is a wonderful example of a population study such as the one we are currently considering. They collected a large number of individuals from a single population in order to study multiple traits. The main differences are that the Georgie project is an unending collection where as the SCWT lifetime study has a beginning and an end. Participants in the Georgie project joined at all ages therefore the information available is widely varied across the study. The Georgie project concentrated very heavily on skeletal composition where as the SCWT lifetime study will focus primarily on disease. And, most importantly, the Georgie project provided information on the Portuguese water dog while the SCWT lifetime study will provide information about Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier health.

How is the project designed to provide assurances this will continue for 10 years? The only assurance of continuance comes from the knowledge that quitting half way through will mean a significant waste of time and funds on both our parts. ♦

This was first published as an email. It has been edited by the author for clarity.

I promised myself I was not going to write about the NIH study. I had already sent an email to Betty and Cecily so the Health Committee and the Board knew how I felt.

My decision about the NIH study was to commit only to the dogs in my house with arrangements made with Lee to continue my dog’s participation if I could not. It was a KISS solution.

And then Victor McKusick died.
He is the visionary father of medical genetics who spent his whole working life at Johns Hopkins and who proposed the sequencing of the human genome (about 40 years ago) which he lived to see completed. He was also one of the first to realize that animal models can be used to study human diseases. See obituary here: http://groups.google.com/group/alt.obituaries/msg/42aa08e28a7fa624

And I was hooked by the dream. What dream? The dream of finding answers. Answers for Wheatens, for all dogs and possibly for humans.

It is easy (well, sort of) to get owners to give their pup’s DNA BUT the 10 year commitment is a sticking point. Taking personal responsibility for all of my pups in the study doesn’t work for me for two reasons. 1. If we lose me, we probably lose all of my dogs. 2. It keeps the burden on me and that’s a deal breaker for me.

I decided that I needed to take a step back, use the brains God gave me and think about ways that I could get more of my pups in the study AND keep the 10 year commitment which is vital to the success of this project. I decided to try the concept of “buy-in”. In management and decision making, buy-in signifies the commitment of interested or affected parties to a decision to ‘buy in’ to the decision, that is, to agree to give it support, often by having been involved in its formulation. (from Wikipedia)

Once I got to the buy-in concept things became much more simple. If the puppy owner does not buy-in, the puppy’s DNA is not collected. If the puppy owner buys-in to please me, “I suppose I could let YOU do that” the puppy is not collected. If the puppy owner enthusiastically agrees and says things like - “What a wonderful idea! My pup will be in a NIH study - that’s really cool!” That’s the puppy that will be collected.

Next I needed to figure out my “sales” pitch. Last night I called three of my puppy owners and talked to them about the study. I called a person who works in a medical field, a young couple and a retired broker. The first thing that I made clear to them was that they absolutely did NOT have to do this. In fact, I did not want them to commit to this unless they were enthusiastic about the study and would be diligent about maintaining the 10 year commitment. I also made it clear that after we got the actual blood collected it was between them and the NIH and I was out of the picture unless they had a question about the info the NIH wanted.

The first person that I called was my medical person who had participated in the Canine Phenome Project (CPP). When we were done talking I asked why she did not ask me why the CPP DNA at U of Mo could not be used for this. The response was that the NIH needed to rely on their own source of DNA for this type of “discovery project” because they could not be sure how much they would need. Plus the NIH Research Oversight Committee would insist on control over the DNA to assure the integrity of the project.

The other two people had many more questions. I am going to list some of them because I found it interesting to see how people think and what they are concerned about.

Questions by topic:

How do they get the DNA? Will it hurt? How many times will they need to get DNA? Will there ever be anything surgically done to the dog? (Answer, no!) Could they just have their vet do it or did it need to done with a group of other Wheatens?

Some questions about cost, but that was not a big deal for these three pet owners.

What exactly would their commitment be? How would they fulfill it? Did they need to remember to do something or would they be reminded? (Answer - NIH would remind them but then they needed to do what was requested in a timely manner.)

Here was a biggie: All three brought up this point. Would the club be getting updates and if they were, could they also get the updates? (Answer, the club would be getting yearly updates, plus summaries and statistics. Thank goodness I had the Q & A for this answer!) I would suggest that the club look into ways of making this information available to all participants. It would also be a way of keeping interest in the project high for the long term.

All of the usual questions about how they would be doing the yearly surveys, online, by email or by mail.

At the end of each conversation I told them that I did not want their answer right then, but I wanted them to think about it overnight and send me an email in the morning with their decision. I reiterated that saying yes or no to the project was totally up to them.

I have now received answers from all three and all of them have decided that they want to participate in this study with their dog. :-) They are all fully committed for the 10 year period. They are excited about being involved. One of these three has genetic diseases in their family and was really excited about their dog’s participating.

So Victor McKusick died and brought back to me the awe that I always felt about his work in genetics. And that’s why I decided to find a way to commit more dogs and became enthusiastic about the NIH project. 

I think we are drawn to dogs because they are the uninhibited creatures we might be if we weren’t certain we knew better. They fight for honor at the first challenge, make love with no moral restraint, and they do not for all their marvelous instincts appear to know about death. Being such wonderfully uncomplicated beings, they need us to do their worrying. ~George Bird Evans
2009 SCWTCA Calendar

Sneak peek at next year's calendar... great gift idea!

Pick up next year's calendar at Montgomery or at www.scwtca.org arriving in October!
“MIKEY” thanks the following judges for his recent Best of Breed wins:

Dr. Robert Smith, Mr. Ray Bay, Mr. Stephen Hubbell, Ms. Gay Dunlap, Mr. Fred Ferris, Mr. Thomas Yates, Mr. Jon Cole, Mr. Carlos Navarro, Mrs. Wyoma Clouss, Mr. Norm Kenney, Dr. John Shelton, Mrs. Peggy Haas, Mr. Robert Sharp, Mrs. Michelle Billings, Mrs. Pamela Peat, Mr. Robert Stein, Mr. Robert Shreve, Ms Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine, Mrs. Glenda Dawkins, and Mrs. Elaine Mathis.

Our appreciation to judge Mrs. Candy Way for his BOS at GWTA and to Mrs. Sue Goldberg for his Eukanuba AOM.

Breeder/Co-Owner:  
Susan K. Sakauye  
ssakauye@aol.com  

Handler:  
Gabriel Rangel & Team Rangel

Owner:  
Mathew & Laurel Thomas
Covering The World Dog Show...

In Stockholm Sweden by Hilde Nybom

World Dog Show and International Breeders’ Seminar

The first time I participated in a World Dog Show was 2000 in Italy. A total of 16,000 dogs were being shown in a luxuriously blue-carpeted, air-conditioned exhibition hall in Milan during four days. Although dogs and handlers came from all over the world, Italians of course dominated and we saw literally hundreds of Neapolitan Mastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes and other popular breeds. Wheaten Terriers are, however, not very popular. Harry O’Donoghue from Ireland had drawn an entry of only 61 Wheatens of which 49 participated, and truth be told - quality dogs were not abundant! Nevertheless, I was very happy when my girl, Lakkas Salvia, won the Italian certificate and was runner-up to the CACIB (International certificate) and World Winner title. We had placed, honorably, at the world’s largest dog show...

The World Dog Show is held annually in one of the FCI (Fédération Cynologique International) countries, usually in Europe but occasionally also in e.g., South America. Total number of dogs is usually 10,000–20,000 but wheaten entries have ranged only from approx. 10 to 100 with the largest probably being Netherlands in 2002 and Poland in 2006.

The first week in July, 2008, it was finally time for Sweden to host the World Dog Show in the exhibition halls at Alvsjö in Stockholm. More than 20,000 dogs from 56 countries were entered. In addition, numerous circuit shows were also arranged, most of them outdoors at Almare Staket, just north of Stockholm. Thus 146 Wheatens were entered at the World Terrier Festival on Wednesday, 159 at the World Wide Wheaten specialty on Thursday and 198 at the World Dog Show on Saturday. In total, the 503 entries for these three days represented 258 different dogs, definitely making this the largest Wheaten happening ever to occur in Sweden and possibly in all of Europe. Most of the entered dogs of course came from Sweden. On the Big Day, i.e. the World Dog Show on Saturday, 116 of the 177 participants had Swedish owners, while 20 came from Finland, 15 from Norway, 11 from Russia, 8 from Germany, 5 from Netherlands and 2 from Great Britain. Five US-born dogs (one each from Geragold, Kaler and Mil Mear, and two from Honeylee) were shown but these had European owners.

Luckily, the weather was really fine all days and everything (except lines for parking space!) went rather smoothly. Due to the large number of entries and the need for time to write an individual critique for each dog, we had two judges each day which made life quite hectic for those of us who wanted to show - or at least look at - both males and females. Luckily, we had a large number of experienced and very helpful Wheaten people at hand; I thus persuaded an Australian breeder whom I knew only from the internet, to handle an open class male, which she did very well!

Since the judges came from different countries (Sweden, Ireland, Finland and Germany) and clearly had very different views on what constitutes an ideal Wheaten, we saw different winners in most classes most of the days, with one very notable exception: Ch Cameron Hunnicut managed to win BOB both on Wednesday and Saturday (was not shown on Thursday). BOS on Saturday was Ch Seamrog She's Got The Look (who was BOB at the World Dog Show in Poland). The full results and photos can be found on this webpage: www.kennelseamrog.se, click on ‘Shownews’, and then scroll down to ‘Final Update of photos for WDS’, ‘photos from World Wide Wheaten’, and ‘Photos from WTF’.

Now, you may have noticed that there was no show for Wheatens on Friday - ah, finally a free day you may think, a day for sleeping late, sightseeing or just being plain lazy? But not so. Anticipating the possibilities of gathering a large number of Wheaten enthusiasts, the Swedish Wheaten Terrier Club had decided to arrange an International Breeders’ seminar on the ‘free’ day. The goal was to provide an overview of the breeding activities in different coun-

The two most successful males: Ch Cameron Hunnicut (right) handled by breeder-owner Helene Hulthén wins the CACIB and World Winner title while Persica Champinjon, handled by Linnea Luthman, wins the Swedish certificate (CAC) and the reserve CACIB. Judge is Paul Stanton from Sweden.
tries, and to learn more about how breeders and breed clubs act

in order to improve for example mentality and physical health of
their Wheatens.

All breed clubs known to us were therefore contacted in April
of 2008, and asked to send a representative who could give a 15-
minute presentation of the breeding activities in their country. A
list of questions was provided to help speakers focus on the topics
targeted by the seminar organizers.

Interest exceeded our wildest expectations, and 99 participants,
41 from Sweden and the remainder from 12 other countries, took
part in this seminar. The main program consisted of 10 breed pre-
sentations from the same number of different countries, followed
by some questions and discussion. During coffee break, there was
also time to catch up with old friends, make some bargains (year-
books, T-shirts etc) and learn more about what is going on in dif-
ferent countries. Printed handouts with the most pertinent infor-
mation for each country were given out to the attendees. These,
as well as the pdf-files used for illustrating the oral presentations,
are available on a new website, http://www.wheatenbreedersgroup.
com. Hopefully this new site will provide useful info for Wheaten
breeders around the world.
To benefit the SCWT Health Fund, the SCWTCA, Inc. is pleased to offer an original 2”x2.5” 14K yellow gold and malachite cabochon pendant hand-painted with a portrait of your favorite dog * by artist, Beth Babos.

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Special thanks to everyone who braved the heat and humidity at Great Western to cheer Nicole on in the Group!!! The support meant a lot!

Owners: Barbara Zapf
Cecily Skinner
Kayce Healy

Breeders: Kayce Healy Cecily Skinner
Co-bred with R. Buccigross
and J. Berelowitz

Handlers: Shari Boyd Carusi
R. C. Carusi
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