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From the Editor and Webmistress

This is the last issue of Benchmarks that I will edit and Roxanna will design. The Board has issued a policy that anything that will be on the website must be approved by the Board. In a recent email to me, John states the following: “The Board is willing to take the responsibility of eliminating articles that the Board views as improper or being aimed at people. The Board is not willing to let such articles get on the website.” This is in conflict with the freedoms that our country was founded on. We are not willing to work under these conditions.

In fact, the Benchmarks masthead clearly indicates that the opinions in articles are those of the author and not the Club, the Board or the editor. In the past, when someone disagreed with a contributor, they either contacted that person directly or wrote a letter to the editor. Everyone has been free to express their opinions, popular and unpopular.

Roxanna and I have enjoyed making eBenchmarks appealing to readers all over the world, showing off our wonderful dogs. We will find another project to take up the time and energy we have put into eBenchmarks.
In the last issue of Benchmarks, I wrote a little about hustling while we wait for the needed advancements in our health research by the scientific community. Continuing in that approach, I want to talk a little about a new effort by our Health Committee, spearheaded by the co-chair of the committee, Cecily Skinner.

Shortly, Cecily will be asking for anecdotal stories from people who have had success fighting health problems in our breed. We know there are Wheaten owners who have faced, firsthand, PLE, PLN, various forms of cancer, and other serious health issues with considerable success. There is no substitute for living with a particular health problem.

Our goal is to bring these stories into the light for discussion and possibly to help other Wheatens with similar problems and their owners. It is often helpful to the owner, just knowing what to expect from the illness and the treatment. It is also important to know what questions to ask.

This project is particularly important to me for two reasons.

The first is my concern for the dogs we have with us now that are already ill or at risk. There can be many approaches to treating an illness and maintaining as high a level of health as possible. Sharing these different approaches, knowing what has worked in different individual situations, could be a great benefit to people living with a similar situation today.

The second reason I believe this project can be important is a more long-term goal. One of the challenges we face is finding the right research program and the best researchers with whom to work. As we know, the AKC/CHF is promoting our desire for a genetic research program for PLE/PLN. So far, no one in the scientific community has come forward to work with us.

A major component of scientific advancement is observation. We see what is happening and then try to explain, scientifically, why. Then we try to prove our reasoning is correct and repeatable. Observe, develop a theory, prove our theory is correct and repeatable.

If we find that different people are having success with a given health problem using similar approaches, it could point us in a direction for additional research with long-term benefits for the breed. After all, the goal is health; how we get there is the question, and the answer may come from an unsuspected direction.

Mother Teresa was once asked how she managed to help the hundreds of thousands of people that had benefited by her kindness. Her answer was that she only worried about helping one individual at a time.

Until our big answer comes, perhaps we should try to concentrate on helping one dog at a time. They may add up.

When Cecily asks for examples of success, please help her find them.

John Giles,
President of SWTCA, Inc.
CH ORION’S RED STORM RISING “LACEY”  
July 10, 1990  
(Ch Lontree’s King Charles O’Orion x Ch Lontree Twinkle Star)  
Bred by Betsy Geertson & Joy Laylon.  
Owned and adored by Wendy & Tom Neill.  

Lacey is shown celebrating her 15th birthday  

CH MYRLIN’S SUGAR N SPICE “SUGAR”  
June 10, 1991  
(Ch Shar D’s Overdose O Andover “Brody” x Ch Myrlin’s Touch of Magic “Sally”)  

For fourteen years it’s been our privilege to know Sugar…. as a newborn, clownish puppy, happy & confident show dog, world-class jumper, bed buddy, pack leader with our other dogs, and always as our loving, lovable companion.  
Linda & Don Myers
“PEACHES”  
March 13, 1991  
(Ch Andover Hoot Done It x Ch Andover Lindy Hop)

Peaches really doesn’t like to go outside in the summer unless it time for a walk. So when I took this picture she was busy being miffed that she had to stand there. But she did stand there, and here is the picture. We keep her cut short for the Houston summer. Of course, we keep her cut rather short in the winter too, because it is not that much cooler.

She has slowed down a good bit in the last two years. Her sight and hearing have deteriorated as well, but she still gets excited when we return home even if we have been gone only 30 minutes.

Steve and Jane Macfarland

AMCANCH DOUBLON’S EXPRESSO, ROM  
“EXPRESSO”  
September 4, 1991  
(Ch Carlinayer’s A Little Wiser “Hemingway” x Ch Doubloons Lasting Imprint “Stephanie”)  
Breeder: Elena Landa

For an old guy, he does pretty well - loves to sleep and eat. The word “carrot” has him up and trotting to the kitchen for that special treat. He has managed to shake off most of the relatively minor happenings that seem to come with advanced years. Not only does he get along well with our Bouvier but recently tolerated the temporary addition of a Shih Tzu puppy.

Helen & Howie Wilson

Celebrating Long Life!

“SUKEY” KRAMER  
December 2, 1990 — June 28, 2005  
(Ch Gleanngay Medicine Wheel x Ch Gleanngay Prairie Flower)
I’d like to thank Chris for her honest and direct answers to my questions. I enjoyed her answers and learned a bit of history from her.

- **When did you first become interested in dogs?**
  You could say I was born into the dog show world. My parents, Fred & Margaret Young, were very successful handlers — specializing in Terriers. They both went on to become judges; they introduced me to the Wheaten in 1974.

- **How (and when) did you get started in Wheatens?**
  My puppy was born in May 1975 at Dan & Marjorie Shoemaker’s “Waterford Wheatens.” Peter Green went to the Shoemakers, and they selected the puppy they all thought would be successful. He was Ch. Waterford Silky Sullivan (Ch. Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford x Ch. Gilchrist’s Dena of Waterford), aka “Knuckles.”

  With that, the puppy was on his way from Pennsylvania to California. Being the terrier man my father was, he immediately put a Kerry trim on my cute Wheaten puppy. (Christine showing Knuckles, 1977-78, pictured this page) Many discussions followed on the subject of trimming, and I believe they are still going on today.

- **What is the significance of your kennel name “Krisaire”?**
  “Krisaire” is my name spelled a little differently.

- **How long have you been breeding Wheatens?**
  I have been involved with the breed since 1975.
• What Wheaten, past or present (not bred or owned by you) comes closest to your interpretation of the breed standard? Why does this Wheaten appeal to you?
  Ch. Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford: Type — Balance — Showmanship
  Ch. Gleanngay Holliday: Type — Style
  Ch. Shar D Let the Games Begin: Balance

• When did you first start judging?
  2000

• What breeds beside Wheatens, do you judge?
  Australian Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Welsh Terriers, and Dachshunds.

• As a judge, can you look back to the first BOB you awarded and the most recent one and measure the differences between then and now?
  They really have not changed much in the last five years.

• How would you assess the contribution made by imports from different countries in the last 10 years? What attributes did they bring with them and what has the impact been.
  I realize the Wheaten health issues, so I guess I would answer by saying imports have expanded the gene pool. They have NOT improved movement or tail sets.

• What “endearing” feature distinguishes the Wheaten for you from other breeds?
  They do not shed. Growing up in a Terrier household, I find the Wheaten not as intense and easier to live with. They can be clownlike and will do anything to please you.

• What was your most memorable judging assignment?
  At this point in my career, I think Great Western 2004. I was very pleased with the quality of Wheatens in the ring that weekend.
Do you also judge the Terrier Group? If so, what attributes should a Wheaten have to receive a Group placement? And conversely, what keeps a Wheaten from receiving a Group Placement?
No, I do not judge the Terrier Group; however, I will say that the Terrier Group is very competitive with only 4 placements. You have hard-coated terriers that are in such magnificent condition you can tell they have been worked on daily, and they come into the ring “asking for it” the entire time.

What is the biggest error an owner-handler makes in the show ring? What do professional handlers do that make them more successful?
Condition — most dogs with handlers are not thin or lacking muscle tone. They are clean and well presented. I find that the majority of dogs with handlers look polished — the coat has been worked on several times a week. They also try and let the dog show itself.

As a judge, what could you “never” forgive?
In the ring - dirty dogs.

What is your favorite Wheaten story?
Too many to remember— as the years go by, they seem to blend together. However, I can say most stories are told at the kitchen table of the Shoemaker home.

How are you involved in the Wheaten breed?
I do not have any Wheatens now. I lost my last girl in 2002. I now have Wire Dachshunds (Mini). I will say that my best friends are still very active in the “Wheaten World.”
• When did you first become interested in dogs?
I was never allowed to have a dog when growing up. When I got married (a long time ago), I asked my then husband for a Saint Bernard; and he got me 2. I was driving with one of them and saw a sign for a Puppy Show. Heinrich (the Saint) and I went to the show; I was talked into entering, and he won BOB over several Saints. I still have that trophy from 1969. My interest just carried on from there to Pyrs, Fox Terriers, and eventually SCWTs.

• How and when did you get started in Wheatens?
I saw the Kellers’ male, Ch. Legenderry Aonghus Eoghan, at the Beverly Hills KC show in about 1976 and was so taken by him. I contacted Audrey Weintraub in New York State and, after interviews, flew there in 1978 to get my first: Ch. Legenderry Babe in Toyland, "Munson". He passed away in 1993.

When I moved to Pennsylvania in 1980, I met Gay Dunlap and got AmBahCh. Gleanngay Holly Berry from her…she turned out to be the best. Holly passed away in 1992.

• What is the significance of your kennel name “Bantry Bay”?
I looked on a map of Ireland and saw Bantry Bay. So I picked it.

• How long have you been breeding Wheatens?
My first litter was out of Holly in about ’83. She produced Ch. Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kashmir ROM (BIS winner), Ch. Bantry Bay Kairo ROM (National & Specialty BOB), Intl. & 8 country Ch. Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kairi, and many other champions.
I also have to mention AmCan Ch. Amadens Kash Sterling ROM (9/29/88). She was the dog of my heart and was BOW at the National in 1990...handled by me. She was a Specialty winner, and she produced lovely puppies that included many winners, including the "K" and "R" litters. We lost her due to back complications 8/10/99.

What Wheaten, past or present (not bred or owned by you), comes closest to your interpretation of the breed standard? Why does this Wheaten appeal to you? This has forced me to look at old catalogues and photos...boy, how time flies! It is hard to pick one specific dog, but I can name several wonderful bitches of the past...Ch. Wildflower Morning Glory (S. Sakauye), Ch. Amadens Eighties Lady (E. Holden), Ch. Brenmoor Alpha Phalfa (Vlachos & Behan), Ch. Clanheath in the Clover (G. McNamara), Ch. Holweis Purrrfection (S. Hamilton). I have always admired moderate bitches with wonderful small ears & earset and heads-up showy attitudes. Also a male that pops to mind is Ch. Wildflower Stardust (J. Dalton).

When did you first start judging?
I began in 1996 with Wheatens and Junior Showmanship only.

What breeds beside Wheatens, do you judge?
I currently do Best In Show, the Terrier Group, 19 Working dogs, Juniors, and Toy Manchesters. Next month, I will put in for the balance of the Working Group and 3 Hounds.

As a judge, can you look back to the first BOB you awarded and the most recent one and measure the differences between then and now?
It has been so long ago that I did my first assignment, but I see in old photos that I seemed to go for a larger dog then I do now and a coat that was more highly trimmed.

How would you assess the contribution made by imports from different countries in the last 10 years? What attributes did they bring with them, and what has the impact been?
I think the imports have contributed the small ears that we were losing, nice long rectangular heads, and a dog that is in good condition. They all seem to be good eaters and feel like they have a good body under that coat. It does take them longer to come into coat. I have no preference for either "type" of SCWT when judging.
• What “endearing” feature distinguishes the Wheaten to you from other breeds?
Sometimes I stand in the ring and look around at the dogs and memories flood back to me...of dogs I have owned/known/loved and people who I have known/know and miss. They are endearing because of that. When I did Montgomery, there were several times when I “misted up” and had to stop judging and control myself.

• What was your most memorable judging assignment?
My National assignment was a joy...beautiful weather and beautiful dogs...an honor not to be surpassed. (pictured right: Candy judging the 2002 SCWTCA National Specialty at MCKC) I also enjoyed doing the New Zealand Show of Shows, where all entrants were BIS winners for the previous year...quite a challenge.

• Do you also judge the Terrier Group? If so, what attributes should a Wheaten have to receive a Group placement? And conversely, what one or two things keeps a Wheaten from receiving a Group Placement?
It is hard for a SCWT to place in the Group. First, it is so large, and there are a lot of wonderful other breeds out there. To place in the Group, the dog must stand on its own and stand out...handlers not crouching over the dog and trying to hold him together. Also, physical conditioning (i.e. proper weight) is imperative...the dogs must be fit. Pro handlers are good, but a lot of our SCWT owners are just as good...; go in there and show off.

• What is the biggest error an owner-handler makes in the show ring?
Again, crouching over the dog...trying to hold him together...; practice standing in front and baiting the dog into a stack. The first impression is very important. Study a handler you respect, and try to emulate that person.

• What is the most significant thing a professional handler does that makes them more successful in the show ring?
Their dogs are in wonderful condition...weight, coat, attitude. Sometimes too much hair is taken off, and they are too manicured. But, the best thing the handler does is bring out the attitude in the dog.

• As a judge, what could you "never" forgive?
Nasty temperament...biting...aggression. Out you go.

• What is your favorite Wheaten story?
I came home from work when I lived in Delaware. As I drove up to the house, I looked at the roof and standing on the very top peak was Ch. Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kairi. She had gone out through an open window and made her way to the top of the 2nd story. The workmen across the street said she had been there since noon...walking back and forth. I was panicked...called Gay for help (she lived a long way away), and because night was falling, I had to climb up the pitch of the roof on my stomach and try to lure Kairi with some meat. She came close enough that I could grab her leg and drag her down and into the house. I can still see her standing there like a “fiddler on the roof”.

• How are you involved in the Wheaten breed?
We have 3 Wheatens here; 2 are part import. They are our house dogs. We don’t breed any longer as the judging takes up a lot of time. I do miss the show ring though; it was fun and a great time.

Thank you.
We show our Wheatens in order to validate their characteristics as breeding stock. Whether our Wheatens are owner-handled, breeder-handled, or shown by professional handlers, the forum for such evaluation is the dog show, or conformance event.

The first goal along the evaluation path is to obtain the title Champion. Should our Wheaten earn that title, and with it additional praise from judges and other Wheaten owners and exhibitors, we may elect to compete in the Best of Breed class at shows. Winning Best of Breed makes our Wheaten eligible for Group competition with the additional goal of placing in that competition against all other terriers who have won Best of their Breed. This “Specialing” process is further proof of our Wheatens as breeding stock. Should our Wheaten place first in Group competition, the ultimate goal in showing is to win Best of Breed over all dogs competing at an all-breed dog show, aka Best In Show.

Following are all those SCWTs who have achieved that goal in American Kennel Club dog shows in the US from 1973 (when Wheatens were first recognized by the AKC) through July 2005.

Ch. Innisfree’s Annie Sullivan ROM, “Annie” (bitch)
First SCWT BIS
BIS March 17, 1974; Tidewater KC

CanAm Ch. Lontree’s Borstal Boy ROM, “Brendan” (dog) (owner-handled)
BIS October 19, 1980; Alamance KC

CanAm Ch. Marima’s Classical Jazz ROM, “Henry” (dog)
BIS January 8, 1984; Land O’Lakes KC
BIS July 21, 1984; Kishwaukee KC

CanAm Ch. Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kashmir ROM, “Kash” (dog)
BIS July 1987; Huntington KC

Ch. Andover Song N Dance Man ROM, “Harry” (dog)
BIS July 18, 1987; Willamette KC
BIS November 4, 1987; Seminole KC
BIS May 15, 1988; Rogue Valley KC
BIS April 25, 1989; Ephrata-Moses Lake KC
BIS November 19, 1989; Birmingham KC

Ch. Brenmoor’s Sparkplug ROM, “Sparky” (dog)
BIS June 1988; Flatirons KC
BIS September 1988; Butler County KC

Ch. Marima’s Easy Money, “Edward” (dog) (back-to-back, owner-handled)
BIS May 29, 1988; Illinois Valley KC
BIS May 30, 1988; Corn Belt KC
BIS October 7, 1989; Stone City KC

Ch. Doubloon’s Master of Illusion, “Sir” (dog)
BIS September 1992; Kanadasaga KC
Ch. Shar-D’s Let The Games Begin ROM, “Brett” (dog)  
(owner-handled) 
BIS March 21, 1993; Louisville KC  
BIS October 16, 1993; Palisades KC  
BIS July 7, 1994; Hockamock KC

Ch. Paisley Midnight Sun, “Chuck” (dog)  
BIS June 2, 1996; Mississippi Valley KC

Ch. Kaylynn’s August Moon, ROM “Augie” (dog)  
BIS February 25, 1998; Burlington KC  
BIS January 24, 1999; Wisconsin KC  
BIS May 15, 1999; Sangre De Cristo KC

Ch. Brenmoor’s Shampoo, “Warren” (dog)  
(back-to-back, owner-handled)  
BIS August 18, 1999; St. Clair KC  
BIS August 19, 1999; St. Clair KC

Ch. Kaylynn’s Flying Irishman, “Dougan” (dog)  
BIS November 5, 2000; Cook Inlet KC

Ch. Galway K Is For Kinsey, “Kinsey” (bitch)  
BIS June 30, 2001; Paper Cities KC

Ch. Doubloon’s Playing The Field, “Charlie” (bitch)  
(back-to-back, owner-handled)  
BIS September 25, 2004; Richland KC  
BIS September 26, 2004; Richland KC

Ch. Caraway Celebrate Life, “Kovu” (dog)  
BIS August 7, 2005; Mahoning-Shenango KC
Ch. Innisfree’s Annie Sullivan ROM, “Annie”

(O’Callahan of Sunset Hill x Croombour Crackerjill)  
Bred by E. & Jean Free; owned by Gay Sherman (Dunlap)  
Born November 22, 1970

My love affair with Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers began with Innisfree’s Annie Sullivan. The path to her breeder, Jean Free, was not a straight one. I had contacted Charlie Arnold in my search for a promising show bitch, and he deferred to Anne Elwell saying that he felt Anne to be more knowledgeable. It was she who helped me choose Annie as the most promising bitch in a litter whelped November 22, 1970 out of Jean’s Irish import, Croombour Crackerjill, and sired by Charlie’s O’Callahan of Sunset Hill. (Charlie’s original kennel name was “Cobalt” but, by this time, he had switched to “Sunset Hill”.)

In a piece written in February of 1978 for Terrier Type I said, “Annie was a city girl, born in Manhattan, slightly uptown, and exemplified the tenet, ‘You can take the girl out of the city, but you can’t take the city out of the girl!’” For despite her country upbringing, she developed into a sophisticated, rather haughty, self-possessed lady with a definite flair for show biz. She was a real showgirl, thriving on it, and as a result succeeded in becoming the first Wheaten in breed history to win an all-breed Best In Show.

Annie was a multi-group-placing bitch and made the Top Ten Terrier list on several occasions that year (1974). Roberta Campbell was showing Annie back then, and I was on a family holiday, skiing in the French Alps when I received a telegram with the news...”Happy St Patrick’s Day...Annie won BIS today at the Tidewater Kennel Club show.” I cried like a baby! Annie remained the only Wheaten bitch to hold this honor for twenty-seven years.

Gay Dunlap
Ch. Lontree’s Borstal Boy ROM, “Brendan”

(Ch. Raclee Express West O’Andover ROM x Ch. Waterford Lontree Lace ROM)
Bred by Joy Laylon; Owned by Bill Behan and Gary Vlachos
Born March 17, 1978

It’s been awhile since I have given thought to my BIS guys! Each contributed to both the breed and my evolution as a breeder/exhibitor/judge. Beginning with ”Brendan” Am.Can.Ch. Lontree’s Borstal Boy ROM, I might say... boy were we lucky! The only male in the litter, we were told that he probably wouldn’t be available as the dam’s breeder had first pick and Brendan’s breeder felt that she was looking for a male. As fate would have it, she passed on the male; so we got him!

A classic first child, Brendan always strived to exceed expectations. Many hours he would patiently stand (and sometimes doze!) on the table while I learned my craft of grooming. He hated the heat, but loved a good thunderstorm. Boy, how many times I prayed for rain with that guy! As for type, Brendan had good leg under him. This was a plus because so many Wheatens at that time were lower on leg. His front assembly was his most outstanding attribute. He was a very sound moving dog. In retrospect, I wish that I would have known about setting ears because while Brendan’s ears were medium in size and broke level with the skull, they did that ever so annoying Easty-Westy tipping out at the points! I guess one can see why I put so much emphasis on ears and proper expression now! Some things never leave you!

What Brendan had that I later came to recognize is what every guy or gal in this review has or had... PRESENCE! No matter what the attributes or shortcomings, these elite animals always carry with them into the show ring an indefinable quality that makes you notice them.

Gary Vlachos
Cindy and Brian Meyer, professional handlers, picked Henry out of the litter when he was very young, still in the whelping box. Although he loved being a show dog, he was also a wonderful companion and household pet. Henry could always be counted on to show his heart out, he just had an attitude from his very first show to his last that made everyone notice him. He was usually shown by Cindy Meyer and occasionally by Brian Meyer.

Henry has two Best In Shows and had won the breed at Montgomery County. He sired 56 American Champions and 31 Canadian Champions. After Henry retired from the show ring he was shown in Junior Showmanship by Kent and Lynn Meyer. Kent and Henry made the finals at Westminster one year.

*Cindy Meyer*
Kash was a wonderful dog. He was shown thru most of his career by Penny Belviso. They retired together, and he lived out his life with her and is buried in her back yard. They made a wonderful team, winning 7 Specialties and an All-Breed Best in 1987. He was #1 in 1986 and then #2 in 87 and 88 (while Harry was #1).

Gay Dunlap was his co-owner as she had sold me his dam, Holly. His birth was difficult because I was alone, a novice whelper, and Gay was out of town. During the whelping, he got caught in the birth canal with one leg out and the rest of him inside Holly. I was hysterical, calling Gay in New Mexico (or wherever she was) asking for help...; obviously she couldn’t help. I called a couple of other people and finally reached Janet Dalton who told me that to save Holly’s life, I just had to pull him by the leg and get him out and then get everyone to the vet. Knowing I would probably lose the puppy but not Holly, I did just that and he came out...a good size pup of 9 oz...one of seven.

When it was time to pick my pup (at probably about 2 months), Gay was the advisor. There was another pup — he became Ch. Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kabul — that I wanted to keep....but Gay said no, this other puppy — Kash — was the one. She was positive about this and very firm with me...; so Kabul went off to New Jersey, and Kash stayed with me. She was (as usual) right about the choice.
I remember the first time I showed him as a puppy in the 6-9 month class. Mary Anne Dallas and I had taken him and Kairi to judge Mr. Robert Moore. Kash went Best Of Winners, and I remember Bob asking me if I had bred him...; I said yes...and he said ‘you are going to have a lot of fun with this one.’ Boy, was he ever right!

In looking at the list of BIS SCWTs, I see that Shampoo is his grandson, Sparky is his son, Kinsey is his great granddaughter, Augie is his grandson, and Dougan is his grandson...; so he proved to be a very good producer.

I was very fortunate to have owned him and thank Gay and Holly Berry for the opportunity.

Ch. Andover Song N Dance Man ROM, “Harry”

(Ch. Gleanngay Holliday ROM x Ch. Andover Hootenanny ROM)
Bred and owned by Cindy Vogels and Jackie Gottlieb
Born April 16, 1985

Although Gay (Dunlap) had been a close friend for years, the breeding of Doc and Nanny (Ch Gleanngay Holliday and Ch. Andover Hootenanny) was the first time our breeding programs had been so closely joined. I remember Gay saying that she wondered what kind of contribution Doc would make to the breeding because Nanny was so closely linebred. Interestingly enough, Harry combined most of his parents’ best attributes while not really resembling either one.
From the time the litter got up on its feet, Harry was clearly the star. By the way, he acquired the name Harry early on because he started out life as “Dirty Harry.” No further explanations needed! Fortunately, he did mature into the typical clean, easy-to-live-with Wheaten.

After specialing Ryan (Ch Andover Express West O’Andover), we decided that if we ever had another dog worthy of a campaign, he’d go out with a professional handler. We were looking for someone who would give him “first call” in the group, and decided upon Sally Critchlow (soon to become Sally George). Cindy showed Harry at Louisville when he was 11 months old, and Sally took him home to Northern California from there. He was still in the classes at the Roving Specialty weekend in Northern California a few weeks later and took the breed from the classes to finish the only day he was shown there.

Harry was close to 20 inches tall and quite extreme which made him appear bigger. His strengths were his magnificent head, outstanding front assembly, and excellent topline, tailset, and rear. Although his coat texture went through a transition period, he did end up with lovely adult coat. He was a red puppy and always carried good color. Perhaps his greatest asset was his temperament. He was not only a fantastic show dog who never let down in the ring, but also a wonderful, steady companion. In fact, he lived with the Georges as a kennel dog from the time he was 11 months old. When he came home at six years old, he walked right into the Vogels’s kitchen and was the most wonderful house pet, finally succumbing to old age when he was just under 14 years old.

Harry established new records for the breed on every level — which haven’t been broken after 16 years. He was bred to many outstanding bitches, and his legacy lives on through his offspring.

Jackie Gottlieb
While we added more champions to our kennel now known as ‘‘Brenmoor’’, it wasn’t until a Borstal Boy grandson via the dam’s side, Ch. Brenmoor’s Sparkplug ROM, that this PRESENCE was to appear again. When I chose Ch. Bantry Bay’s Gleanngay Kashmir as the stud for this breeding, his handler Penny Belviso was a little concerned about size. Both Kash and Megan while not being too big, were certainly at the upper end of the standard in height. And breeding being so often a victim of cycles, we (the Wheaten breeders) were very focused on size at that time. But I had to have that face and ears, those unbelievably tight feet, and the wonderful legs that Kash had.

What a litter Brenmoor had (not a big one in the bunch!)! Brenmoor’s Manifold went to Sweden to become a top winning champion and producer. The bitch, Ch. Brenmoor Honeylee’s Chassis, became a foundation for John and Cindy Prokop’s kennel at that time. And Ch. Brenmoor’s Sparkplug ROM ‘‘Sparky’’ remained with us.
Sparky was a beautiful dog to lay your hands on. He fit together so well stem to stern. And while the stem on down was admirable to say the least, it was his stern that gave one goose-bumps! Tail set high and into the topline with plenty of rump behind. Beautiful angulation and drive. And going away... still one of the widest rears I have ever seen on a Wheaten.

I only had the pleasure to handle Sparky occasionally as we decided to hand him over to Allison Corn Sunderman to campaign. These were exciting times. Jackie and Cindy’s breed great Ch. Andover’s Song N Dance Man was at his best. Sparky’s sire Kash was also making his presence felt in the terrier ring.

On June 3, 1988, the SCWTCA National Roving Specialty held in Longmont, CO brought together these three greats and provided Bill and me with one of our most memorable dog showing moments ever. Ultimately on that day, Sparky was awarded the coveted Specialty Breed win. But to see those guys strutting their stuff side by side... you want to talk about PRESENCE! It was here that Sparky went on to capture the Group and eventually his first of two all-breed Best In Shows. I don’t think I remember getting on a plane to fly home!

Sparky was bred to our Ch. Brenmoor’s Nike, thus producing my all-time favorite litter: the "Alpha" litter. It was the third repeat of this breeding (I swore once I would never do that, but the quality was there, and never say never!) that produced Ch. Brenmoor’s Triple Toe Loop, the dam of our third Best In Show Wheaten.
Edward was Terri Meyer’s pet (Terri being Brian & Cindy’s daughter). Although we knew he was capable of finishing his championship as a young dog, we hadn’t thought about specialing him. Then as he grew up, we started looking at him more seriously and decided to try him as a special; and he did quite well.

Edward had three Best In Shows. Edward was also shown in Junior Showmanship and did 4H obedience with Terri Meyer; his primary role was that of a companion and family pet.

Cindy Meyer
Ch. Doubloon’s Master of Illusion, “Sir”

Sir was born in a litter that thoroughly enjoyed life and all the things it offered, which is a lot in a little guy’s life. Sir and friends (usually with Sir leading) were into everything and afraid of nothing. They made you laugh when you least expected to. Sir had a confidence and belief in who he was, and there was no time when I saw him fail to live up to that confidence either in the ring or out of it. To know Sir was to love him. He never met a person he did not like; he always had a smile lurking, and he was the sweetest and gentlest guy. Sir loved the life of being a show dog, and after he retired he thoroughly enjoyed home life – how can it get any better then that? I consider him to have the perfect temperament in a Wheaten and have judged all other Wheatens by the high standard he set in my mind.

Sir was an outstanding pup from the beginning, and he never fell apart. He was fun to show and did a lot of winning as a pup, but it was not until Jackie Gottlieb, Cindy Vogels, and Sally George fell in love with him that he went on to bigger and better things – things that I could not give him. The day that trio came into his life was a gift for all of us. Under their tutelage and help, Sir went on to do some great winning. He won several National Specialties and was the #1 Wheaten for 1991 All Systems and 1992 All Systems.

To me, Sir was the epitome of the breed standard in structure and temperament. He was a small compact package that moved with grace and style and never let down in or out of the ring. I enjoyed every minute
of watching him in the ring and miss the pleasure he brought me. He gave a lot to this world through his kindness and happy disposition, which made him an ongoing ambassador for the breed throughout his life. He was born on March 27 1989, and passed away June 2005. We will all miss him.

Elena Landa

And, from Jackie Gottlieb, "Aside from his being such a lovable dog, he was ‘out’ at a time when many of our dogs were going oversize, and Sir was a perfect 18 inches, right on the Standard. He had a lovely coat, a proper head — and best of all — he was a compact, on size dog who could move with the best of them. Balanced in angulation, short of loin, topline solid as a rock, and tail always in place, he proved that a compact dog of proper size could reach and drive. Watching Sir ‘go around’ was a joy. Sally George showed him beautifully, their love for each other obvious. But then Sir loved everyone. He lived a long, happy life and, only recently, crossed the bridge. He will be a part of our club’s older dog study.”

Ch. Shar-D’s Let The Games Begin ROM, “Brett”
I was never one for picking them when they were still wet. And there he was, one of five male pups, born 10/14/91. The first ten weeks were like any other. A pup or two went on to their perspective homes. What remained of the three, was a pup that you were ALWAYS drawn to. Within two weeks, the other two were moved on. And there he was — a standout pup.

The following four months consisted of the usual house-breaking, ear-gluing, lead-training, attempts at containing...; he was confident and sure-footed from the start. It was now July of 1992 and, fresh after having ears unglued and trimmed up for his first show, THERE HE WAS.

His first show, he was awarded BOB; and he went on from there. I do not remember where he finished, but it happened fast, and he was SO fun to show. I do not remember the details of his breed win at Devon that fall, either, but remember every step I took to win the breed the next day at Montgomery County. What a thrill! A day I will never forget. I learned from Brett what it means to give a dog their independence. Today, I believe I am a better handler, having shown him.

Our first BIS was only our second Group win. I remember not knowing where to go in line. I certainly did not know what to do after Ms. Marjorie Martorella announced that the Wheaten was BIS at the Louisville Dog Show. I called my father from the lobby to tell him we won. I found out later that he did not believe me until he saw the ribbon. It was a very big deal! However, it was everyone else who told me how many dogs we defeated and how big a deal that really was. I just believed in my dog.

Onward and upward we went. He won several specialties, many more groups, a couple more BIS wins, ended up top Wheaten a couple of years, ranked among the top terriers. I never kept track of any of it. To this day I do not know any of the numbers. What I do know is that THERE HE WAS...my total ideal. In my minds eye...perfection.

I do not remember how his campaign ended as far as the details, but know it finished off respectably, as far as the ranking system goes. The years spent in between were the absolute best.

Yes, better than the wins, because he was the greatest DOG! A few of my closest friends knew him in this light. I consider them lucky. I was the luckiest, though, because I got to watch him out in the backyard, take him for a swim in the rivers to chase fish and ducks, hike with him off-lead in the mountains. He was my dog and I was his person. There was not one time I pulled in the driveway without him DEMANDING an extra hello from me. He always got it. He was top dog in the pack, and no matter what new puppy was joining the ranks, Brett sorted them out. He ran with dogs and bitches, other breeds, and with puppies and was as steady and reliable as could be.

His win as a veteran at Montgomery County is one that I tribute to his greatness. There will never be a greater dog, for me than Brett.

Shari Boyd
"Chuck" was one of six puppies born in April 1993. I knew he was special from the time he was 4 or 5 weeks old, because he had such a high opinion of himself and was such a lovely little package — always beautifully balanced, never going through the “uglies.” I was advised, however, to place him as a pet because he was almost completely black at birth. I couldn’t bring myself to do that and decided to just wait and see what his color would be. We named him “Chuck” after Charles Barkley (1993’s NBA MVP) because — like his namesake — he was black, always in trouble, and never hesitant to speak his mind.

At 8 weeks old, Chuck got parvo. Having lost a pup in an earlier litter to parvo, I was determined that I would not lose him. As a consequence, I was over-protective of him, and he became very spoiled. He was quite claustrophobic, so he was never crated until he was around 6 months old — something of a problem, as he was rather destructive. He was also impossible to lead-train until he went to his first match at 6 months, and suddenly he got it. A gentle, reserved dog as he grew into adulthood, he always “turned on” whenever he walked into a show ring.
“Chuck” finished his championship breeder-owner handled at 20 months old. His specials career began a few months before his third birthday. He was shown as a special by Maripi Wooldridge, whom he respected, but, surprisingly, never really liked. Theirs was a purely professional relationship, but one that was very fruitful. In 1996, he was shown only a total of 6 months and finished as the #1 Wheaten All Systems, winning five specialties (including the Roving National) and his Best in Show. He was Best of Breed in February 1997 at the Westminster Kennel Club.

At 18 inches, “Chuck” is the truly moderate dog that our Standard requires. As Maripi so often said, unlike far too many correctly sized dogs, however, he is moderate without being mediocre. Although his coat and color turned out to be adequate, he is otherwise very typey, with a lovely dark eye and pigment, long neck, short back, level topline, and high tailset — and very sound — all traits that he passed on to his offspring, along with his moderate size.

Now 12 years old, he is healthy and active, still has a lot to say, but never gets in trouble. Finally, just in the last year, he no longer has to get up at the crack of dawn. He still hates his father and still keeps all the younger dogs in line. It has been a privilege and a delight to have such a loyal, loving companion who is also such a joy to look at.

Kathleen McIndoe

Ch. Kaylynn’s August Moon ROM, “Augie”
For several years, Scott & Susan Kipp (Augie’s handlers) and I had been breeding for a potential BIS dog. Augie’s dam, Ch. Kaylynn’s Sweet Clementine, had won several Group 1 placements, but never a BIS. However, she has produced two BIS winners: Augie and Kaylynn’s Flying Irishman.

I would keep a dog for a few months, and Suzy would later shake her head, and say, “No, he isn’t the one. Place him.” When Augie’s litter was born, Suzy kept saying she liked the one with the blue collar. Since I had another male at the time who had won a few groups, I wasn’t paying a whole lot of attention. When they were 10 weeks old, Suzy asked what I was doing with Blue Boy. I told her I was selling him. She immediately grabbed me by the shoulders and said, “You may NOT sell that puppy. He’s the one. If I’m wrong, you can always sell him later.” Well, clearly, Suzy was not wrong.

At about five months, I decided to take Augie to handling class — might as well help Suzy and Scott with Augie’s training. During the 2” class, another dog had diarrhea and pooped all over the mat. The owner cleaned up the area, and class continued. However, Augie absolutely refused to go over that spot on the mat! In fact, he didn’t even want to go near any part of the mats. All I could think of was, “Suzy’s going to kill me! I’ve ruined this dog.” The next week, Augie again refused to go near the terrible mat. Not good. I went to the other end of the mat, got a firm hold on Augie’s lead, and took off running. As I dragged Augie over the dreaded spot on the mat, I didn’t know if I was right or wrong in doing so; but fortunately, after several “drags,” Augie realized he wasn’t going to die, and proceeded to trot along as if nothing had ever happened. WHEW!

At seven months, Augie went to live with Suzy & Scott and stayed with them throughout his career. I can never thank them enough for seeing the potential in Augie and always caring for and showing him at his best. As for those three BIS wins, I still smile and swell with pride when I think about them. Augie has become our benchmark for breeding and we are striving for an Augie #2.

Kay Baird
Ch. Brenmoor’s Shampoo, “Warren”

Bred by Bill Behan and Gary Vlachos; owned by Gary Vlachos
Born September 9, 1997

(Ch. Kairi’s Shim Sham Man x Ch. Brenmoor’s Triple Toe Loop)

That’s right, from grandfather to grandson through the dam again! I guess, as a breeder, this is the fact that I am most proud of. And to say that I am also proud of Ch. Brenmoor’s Shampoo ROM goes without question.

I was worried when we chose ”Warren” for ourselves because he was the darkest puppy we ever kept. He was a definite sable, and the breed was seeing a lot of grey creeping into our exhibits at that time. To my amazement and experience to that point, he cleared; and to this day I am hard put to find even the occasional black hair in his jacket. But, what kept him in our kennel, was his amazing structure and proportion. Truly a ”one-piece” dog, your hand just flows over him. A head-piece and expression harking back to the great Kash, Warren improved upon his grandsire Sparky by being shorter in back and a tad higher on leg, thus a better square. And he is spot on in the height category! And did I say PRESENCE?

He hates thunder, loud noises (unlike Brendan), and the sun (like Brendan!). I remember being at Columbia Terrier Breeders, having him all done out and ready to go into the ring, when a storm came rolling in. Well, the only thing he went into was the crate! There is no consoling that boy during a storm!

We almost didn’t make it to Michigan for the shows where Warren would score his back to back Best-in-Shows! Bill and I left Pittsburgh in the wee hours of the morning, planning to arrive at the show in just enough time to set up and groom. Did I say that we didn’t plan a flat tire on the Ohio Turnpike at 3:00
a.m. into that time frame? Well, we drove way too fast and too many miles on the donut tire provided, but we made it; and Warren rewarded us.

Showing Warren to his BISs took me back to Brenmoor’s roots and the excitement I felt when I showed Brendan to his BISs. There is nothing like showing your own to that coveted title. Warren now divides his time between home and work. You see his official title at my hair salon is “Greeter, Host, and all around B(est) I(n) S(hop) dog”!

Gary Vlachos

Ch. Kaylynn’s Flying Irishman, “Dougan”

I sold Dougan to Dee knowing that she wanted to show him. She was involved in Bouviers prior to that. She came to me thru another Bouvier breeder who also bought a Wheaten from me with the idea of showing. Dougan was the 2nd pick male in the litter, but turned out to be much more successful in the show ring. Dee was living in Anchorage, Alaska, at the time she bought Dougan. Dee and Dougan were instrumental in my sending several other Wheatens to Alaska; they have also been quite successful in the shows there and in Canada.

Dougan also earned his Canadian championship, always with Dee handling him. Unfortunately, Dougan died at an early age from a severe allergic reaction to shots. Dee now lives in Washington, and is still a Wheaten owner and lover.

Kay Baird
On March 15, 1999, Ch. Galway Klassic Kelsey had her second litter, repeating the number of nine puppies. I had to make the hard decision that I would not be able to keep any puppies for myself from this litter due to personal circumstances. At eight weeks, I evaluated the puppies and was very aware that there were some very special puppies in this litter. I had the consolation that at least two of these puppies had good chances of being placed in show homes.

In my conversations with breeder-owner-handler, Bette Eckstrom, I was introduced to Karen and Geoffrey Bilda in Wisconsin. Bette agreed to show a puppy from this litter for the Bildas. So, Karen and Geoffrey were happy to make the trek from Wisconsin to North Carolina to get the female Wheaten puppy that they were unable to find in the Midwest. Having attended dog shows in the Milwaukee area, they thought they might dabble a bit in the dog show world. After all, how much work could it be? Showing the puppy to its championship might be fun.

The ninth puppy in this litter was a female, now known as Ch. Galway K is for Kinsey. Bette Eckstrom and Kinsey (named after Sue Grafton’s heroine Kinsey Milhone) were quite a team in the ring. Kinsey’s movement, structure, attitude, feminine features, and soundness enabled her to continue winning Best of Breeds long after she achieved her championship title. Kinsey is a multiple Best Of Breed winner and mul-
tiple Best In Specialty winner, culminating with her all-breed BIS in June 2001, only the second Wheaten bitch to do so at the time. Kinsey was the top Wheaten bitch in 2001 and #2 Wheaten overall. She was invited to the Westminster Kennel Club dog show three out of the four years she was on the circuit. She won Best of Opposite Sex in 2002 and Best Of Breed in 2003. Other than for Kinsey’s Westminster win in 2003, Bette handled her all the way.

Geoffrey and Karen thought the trip to North Carolina would be the longest one they would take with Kinsey. Little did they know, that trip was only the beginning. One or both of the Bildas were there for every one of Kinsey’s wins — from New York to Denver.

I am thankful to the Bildas for the wonderful home and love they have given to Kinsey and for the opportunity for this beautiful bitch to be able to demonstrate her potential and reach the goals she truly deserves. I also am thankful to Bette Eckstrom for all the care, training, and love she has given to Kinsey and for allowing Kinsey to demonstrate her wonderful personality and overall soundness in the show ring.

Ellen Amrein

Ch. Doubloon’s Playing The Field (Charlie) - Bitch

(Ch. Keepsake’s Code Of The West x Ch. Doubloon’s Field Of Dreams)
Bred and owned by Elena Landa
Born July 2, 2000

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Charlie taught me more than I ever taught her. Charlie was born a true show dog with standards all her own that I had to live up to. Charlie taught me to let go and let her do it all. She also taught me how to change with her when she decided it was time to do something different to improve herself. I followed her lead, and learned all along the way.

She was a goofy, loving, slightly serious puppy; and that made her into the Charlie of today. She is a wonderful housedog, as well as a traveling companion. Charlie has to go to work to supervise the boarding kennel — that’s just who she is. There is a lot of personality in a little body; when she smiles at you, it melts your heart. I love to see Charlie out in the yard chasing squirrels. She loves being in mud up to her elbows. When going to work with me, they used to say the only way they could tell her apart from the others puppies was because she was full of mud and debris! I never stopped her from having free access to the yard. Her coat suffered from it, but her spirit soared.

As a pup, Charlie was nice to go over at nine weeks, but at eleven weeks, she was totally different. I had an idea then that she would be a beautiful dog later in life. I always wished for a really rainy show, because she always looked better wet than after I groomed her. It does not say much for my grooming, but I wished people could have seen her wet — now that’s pretty!

I knew that Charlie had something special the first time she hit the ring at six months old. She walked in and said, “Here I am,” full into herself and not needing anyone on the other end of the leash. It was like she had already done this a thousand times. The show was noisy, with baseballs being thrown against a tarp right next to the ring. This affected a lot of the dogs, including the adults, but not Charlie. I don’t even think she heard them. Charlie was too dignified inside the ring to ever let down. She was aware of what was going on at all times, and she kept me on my toes for a lot of it. I think that with age, she learned to relax when it was not needed — she did not relax inside the ring, but waiting outside to go in. In the last year, she laid down for the first time to conserve energy (self-taught). When it was time to show, she would be mentally ready the minute she stood up. Charlie comes to life in the ring with a different personality than at home. A confidence, that you normally do not see, comes together the minute she walks through the ring ropes. People have complimented me on the work that I have done with her, but I’ve had to tell them it was all her.

My first Best In Show winner, Ch Doubloon’s Master of Illusion, “Sir,” shown by Sally George, received his Best In Show on the East Coast the weekend before Montgomery County Kennel Club. Charlie won her Best In Shows on the West Coast on the same weekend — 12 years later.

I still cannot believe that the little, silly puppy would make all my dreams come true. I have been blessed with a once-in-a-lifetime dog that I have learned much from, and I cherish the memories that she has given me along the way.

Elena Landa
At a very young age, Ch. Caraway Celebrate Life “Kovu” demonstrated show potential by capturing the attention of all who evaluated the litter. He thought well of himself as a youngster in the whelping box, and Kovu’s confidence grew even stronger with time. He consistently demonstrates the coveted SCWT temperament and is a happy, fun-loving guy who firmly plants all four to spar when called upon to do so. This is something that cannot be taught, but is a gift.

What a thrill Kovu’s litter has been and continues to be. They were born on the 16th birthday of their great-great-granddam Cara, whom we had to put down just two weeks prior. The litter theme, Circle of Life, was selected in Cara’s honor.

Kovu was the early favorite of several well-known breeders and handlers, so we held him back for Montgomery weekend and showed two littermates, Ch. Caraway Spirit of Life “Bailey” and Ch. Caraway Circle of Life “Kiara”, to WD and WB under breeder-judge Sue Goldberg (Shandalee) at the 2004 SCWTCA Roving Specialty in conjunction with the Great Western Terrier Association shows. Kiara also won Sweeps under breeder-judge Beverly McDonald (Greentree). The following fall during Montgomery weekend, Kiara again won Sweeps under breeder-judge Bonney Snyder (Bonney), and Kovu went BOB from the Open Dog class.
under breeder judge Gay Dunlap (Gleanngay). We are fortunate to have had a litter of such tremendous quality, and thank all who have rewarded their attributes.

At this writing, we are but seven months into Kovu’s specials career, and his BIS is less than a week old. Having placed in group competition during each of the three most prestigious and largest entry Terrier specialty weekends, Kovu is currently #1 SCWT All Systems and #15 Terrier. These accomplishments, however, are of minor importance in comparison to our primary goal, which is for Kovu to represent the breed well. Many fellow breeders’ success is showcased in this article as represented by multiple BIS wins. We congratulate each one and hope that, at the end of Kovu’s career, he stands among their dogs as noteworthy ambassadors of the breed.

We have every confidence that Kovu will reach his full potential under the expert and seasoned guidance of breeder-handler Shari Boyd Carusi. BIS SCTWs are not foreign to Shari, as she piloted Brett, her own co-bred Shar-D SCWT, to three BISs. We celebrate Shari and Dee’s success and are thankful to have Shari guiding Kovu’s career.
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<td>Wheatstone Forest</td>
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<td>26-Jun-04</td>
<td>Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Ch Claddaghs Star Studded Ceili</td>
<td>Ch Starlight Dream Lover</td>
<td>Claddaghs Granuaile O’Malley</td>
<td>18-Mar-03</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11a</td>
<td>Ch Bonney Marchael Sorceress</td>
<td>Ch Bonney Nip &amp; Tuckit</td>
<td>Bonney Cara Mia</td>
<td>5-Jun-03</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11b</td>
<td>Ch Lissadell Dotcom</td>
<td>Ch Lissadell Cajun Comet</td>
<td>Ch Lissadell Stroll’n For A Buck</td>
<td>28-Dec-98</td>
<td>Dog</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Ch Gallagher’s Diamond Girl</td>
<td>Ch Hilltop’s Diamond Gem</td>
<td>Ch Gallagher’s Uptown Girl</td>
<td>9-Nov-02</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Ch Orion’s Ya Talkin To Me</td>
<td>Ch Marquee’s Tricks Of The Trade</td>
<td>Ch Brenmoor’s People Will Talk*</td>
<td>19-Jun-03</td>
<td>Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Ch Keepsake’s The Chaz Singer</td>
<td>Ch Ballymena’s Wild Wild West</td>
<td>Keepsake’s Corky Statham</td>
<td>10-Dec-99</td>
<td>Dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16a</td>
<td>Ch Marquee’s Music Of The Night</td>
<td>Soldiersong Fianna Boy</td>
<td>Ch Marquee’s Secret Vintage</td>
<td>3-Feb-04</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>16b</td>
<td>Ch Winterwheat’s Second Chance</td>
<td>Ch Lakkas Ulmas</td>
<td>Ch Winterwheat Galway Classic</td>
<td>8-Jun-02</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Ch Grian Annie O’Klee</td>
<td>Ch Mil Mear’s Hold The Dream</td>
<td>Ch Grian Makin’ Whoopi</td>
<td>22-Apr-02</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
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<tr>
<td>19a</td>
<td>Ch Andover Wildrose High On Life</td>
<td>Ch Andoverheatherstone Ru Sirius</td>
<td>Ch Andover Magic Maid</td>
<td>2-Oct-03</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19b</td>
<td>Ch Meirleac’s Diamond In The Ruff</td>
<td>Ch Meirleac’s The Lion Hearted</td>
<td>Ch Meirleac’s Kiss My Lass</td>
<td>21-Jul-02</td>
<td>Bitch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* OA NAP NAJ NJP
“March to the Arch” was the theme for our Specialty show this year that was held at the beautiful Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO. On Specialty day, eighteen puppies and junior dogs competed in Sweepstakes Classes with breeder Mrs. Ann Leigh (Starlight). This year’s sweeps winners received hand-made wooden boxes with a Wheaten design for 2nd-4th places in each class and framed tiles with Wheaten designs for the 1st place winner in each class. The Best in Sweeps and Best Opposite received oak toyboxes decorated with Wheaten cut-outs for storing all their toys.

Thirty-eight dogs and bitches then competed in the Regular Classes that were judged by Mr. Lanny Hirstein. Pewter trophies were given for 1th - 4th 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 some placements.

Mrs. Penny Hirstein, Mr. Allen Pepper, and Mr. Bill Potter rounded out the weekend’s breed judging. The Greater St. Louis Club provided prizes for Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Best of Breed, and Best of Opposite Sex for all three days of companion shows.

All weekend, the weather was warm, as usual; and the rain held off until the Wheatens were done judging on Monday, and everyone was packed up and ready to leave.

The St. Louis Club provided cold drinks and hot coffee all four days along with snacks and goodies provided by various members of the Club. On Friday, a special treat of “liver” sno-cones were provided for the dogs, compliments of Club members Pat & Jack Williams who own a sno-cone stand in the St. Louis area. A few more humanly appetizing sno-cone flavors were also available for those humans who needed a refreshing snack.

Also available on Friday was a full line of boutique items including t-shirts representing the show logo (see above left). Handmade purses with Wheaten appliqués, note cards, and wooden yard signs with various sayings were all available for purchase.

Friday evening was capped off with a buffet dinner held at the Holiday Inn at Six Flags. The dinner was delicious as always with the high point of the evening being the hotly contested Silent Auction that was run by Susan McGee and Bonnie Kanter. This year’s items were as good, if not better, than those in the past! Some of the items auctioned off included a stained glass of a Wheaten, a hand-painted glass Wheaten cookie jar, and several hand-stitched Wheaten items.

The charity raffle was also conducted at the dinner, with Jan Van Ness and Cindy Jansen managing the raffle activities. Over $400 was taken in for the raffle that is donated in its entirety to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America Endowment Fund for Wheaten Health.

Our weekend was full of fun, friends, and competition. We thank everyone who came to participate and for all the wonderful Club members who contributed their time and talents to make the show weekend truly special!

Cindy Shea, Co-Chairman
Rolla Missouri Kennel Club (1) 6/03/2005
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS SWEEPSTAKES
JUDGE: Mrs. Ann Leigh

Best in Sweepstakes
GREENTREE SKELLIG’S JENDU TABOO
(Ch Wheaten Rebel’s Carlos Santana x Ch Greentree Bayberry Aviance), 09/29/2004, bitch
Breeder: Sandra & Rod Ives & Bev & Kevin McDonald. Owner: Dana Frady & Bev & Kevin McDonald

Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes
SHAR-D’S E’IRE GENTL’MN AT HART
(Ch Shar-D’s Stunt Man x Shar-D’s It Wasn’t Me), 10/26/2004, dog
Breeder: Dee Boyd & Nora Lee Smiley; Owner: Amy Brooks Fowler & Dee Boyd
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS REGULAR CLASSES JUDGE: Mr. Landis (Lanny) Hirstein

Winners Dog/Best of Winners/Best of Breed
WINDISLE MEDOC
(Wheatstone Forrest x Windisle Champagne), 06/26/2004
Breeder: Stig Jureen; Owner(s): Christine Thorpe & L Kromash & S Robinson
Agent: Tracy A Szaras-Deloria, AKC Reg Handler

Winners Bitch
DOUBLOON’S SOLAS SORCERESS
(Ch Azlough’s Twist Of Fate x Ch Doubloon’s Fielder’s Choice), 09/13/2003
Breeder(s): Elena Landa & Ann Nelson; Owner(s): Bonnie Kanter & Elena Landa
Best of Opposite Sex
CH MEIRLEAC’S DIAMOND IN THE RUFF
(Ch Meirleac’s The Lion Hearted x Ch Meirleac’s Kiss My Lass), 07/21/2002
Breeder-Owner: Ronnie Copland

For complete results go to http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbsrfmbd?wtshky=ROLL104347

Rolla Missouri Kennel Club (2) 6/04/2005
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS JUDGE: Mrs Paige (Penny) Hirstein

Winners Dog/Best of Winners/Best of Breed/Group 4
WINDISLE MEDOC
(Wheatstone Forrest x Windisle Champagne), 06/26/2004
Breeder: Stig Jureen; Owner: Christine Thorpe & L Kromash & S Robinson
Agent: Tracy A Szaras-Delorria, AKC Reg Handler

Winners Bitch
GLENAMON ABSOLUTELY ROSEY
(Ch Marquee’s Tricks Of The Trade x Ch Gleennday Quintessa), 03/04/2004
Breeder(s): Scott & Sherry Amon & Gay Dunlap & Dana Frady; Owner(s): Scott & Sherry Amon & Amanda Amon & Gay Dunlap

Best of Opposite Sex
CH MEIRLEAC’S DIAMOND IN THE RUFF
(Ch Meirleac’s The Lion Hearted x Ch Meirleac’s Kiss My Lass), 07/21/2002
Breeder-Owner: Ronnie Copland

For complete results go to http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbsrfmbd?wtshky=ROLL104407
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club (1) 6/05/2005
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS JUDGE: Mr Allan E Pepper

Winners Dog
SPRINGMOOR CYRUS
(Ch Fairfield’s Cyclone x Ch Jancrest Katy Did At Springmoor), 08/05/2003
Breeder-Owner: Norma Miller

Winners Bitch/Best of Winners
ERINGLO CUDDLEBUG
(Ch Heartstring’s Toast To Tara x Ch Saddlebrook Eringlo I’m Fancy), 6/14/2003
Breeder(s)-Owner(s): Dennis & Cindy Shea

Best of Opposite Sex
CH SADDLEBROOK BATTERY INCLUDED
(Ch Dundalk The Stroke of Midnight x Ch Saddlebrook Talula Bankhead), 03/30/2004
Breeder(s)-Owner(s): Stan & Jinx Moore

Best of Breed
CH REYEM NO SQUATIN ON MY SPURS
(Ch Lissadell Big x Ch Reyem’s Abrie Cadabrie), 10/25/2003
Breeder(s)-Owner(s): Kay L Baird & Gwen M Meyer

For complete results http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbsrfmbd?wtshky=MSVA162445

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club (2) 6/06/2005
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS JUDGE: Mr William F Potter II

Winners Dog
SPRINGMOOR CYRUS
(Ch Fairfield’s Cyclone x Ch Jancrest Katy Did At Springmoor), 08/05/2003
Breeder-Owner: Norma Miller

Winners Bitch/Best of Winners/Best of Opposite Sex
CLANHEATH CLOVER N’ BLOOM
(Ch Dundalk the Stroke of Midnight x Ch Clanheath Crimson ‘n Clover), 05/30/2004
Breeder: Gwynne G. McNamara; Owner: Susan L. Banovic; Agent: Karen E Jordan

Best of Breed/Group 2
CH REYEM NO SQUATIN ON MY SPURS
(Ch Lissadell Big x Ch Reyem’s Abrie Cadabrie), 10/25/2003
Breeder(s)-Owner(s): Kay L Baird & Gwen M Meyer

For complete results go to http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbsrfmbd?wtshky=MSVA162535
SPORTING TERRIER CLUB OF GREATER VICTORIA

Lori Ann Davis

VICTORIAN SPORTING TERRIER WEEKEND JUNE 12TH & 13TH

Class winners over 6 months go together for the Challenge Certificate (CC). CC Dog and CC Bitch compete for Best Of Breed, the winner of that is replaced by the Reserve CC of the same sex to compete for Runner Up BOB. Champions and novices all compete together.

Results of the Sporting Terrier Club of Victoria under judge Mrs Gay Dunlap (USA):

Baby Dog (2) (3-6 months)

1st — Collard’s DANCASTER SECRET AGENT (30.01.05) Ch Dancestar Zero O Seven x Ch Dancestar Homecoming Queen

2nd — O’Kelly’s LARNOOK KING OF SWING (28.12.04) AmCh Geragold Orla Finlandia x AmCh Geragold Tinkers Wedding (imp USA)

Minor Dog (no entries) (6-9 months)

Puppy Dog (3 — 1 abs) (6-12 months)

1st — Collard & Gray’s DANCASTER PIRATES GOLD (28.07.04) Ch Larnook Hotspur Hero x Ch Larnook Eureka Gold

2nd — Newson’s RYWANI BENNYBOOS TOO (19.06.04) Ch Rywani Tim Tooraree x Ch Rywani Miss Tiggy Winkle

Junior Dog (1) (12-18 months)

1st — Collard & Davey’s CH DANCASTER ACE O DIAMOND (23.02.04) Ch Larnook Globetrotter x Ch Larnook Diamond Tiara

Intermediate Dog (1) (18-36 months)

1st — Davis & Collard’s CH DANCASTER ZERO O SEVEN (03.02.03) Ch Larnook Gleangay Ice Spy (ai) x Ch Larnook Diamond Tiara

Aust Bred Dog (1) (absent bitch entered in this class incorrectly) (6mths+ bred in Aust)

1st — Hervey-Tennyson’s CH LARNOOK FIG JAM (26.03.02) Larnook Dom Perignon x Ch Larnook Softshoe Shuffle

Open Dog (1) (6 months & over)

1st — Collard’s CH DANCASTER NUREYEV AT (31.01.02) Ch Larnook Xanadu x Ch Larnook Diamond Tiara

CC — CH DANCASTER NUREYEV AT

Res — CH DANCASTER ZERO O SEVEN
Baby Bitch (3)
1st — Collard’s DANCESTAR JEZZABEL (30.01.05) Ch Dancestar Zero O Seven x Ch Dancestar Homecoming Queen (Best Baby)
2nd — Davis’ DANCESTAR QUEEN O SPIES (30.01.05) Ch Dancestar Zero O Seven x Ch Dancestar Homecoming Queen
3rd — O’Kelly’s LARNOOK KIT KELLY (28.12.04) AmCh Geragold Orla Finlandia x AmCh Geragold Tinkers Wedding (imp USA)

Minor Bitch (1 abs)

Junior Bitch (1)
1st — Young’s LARNOOK INDIGO SKY (23.01.04) Ch Larnook Gleangay Ice Spy (ai) x Ch Larnook Zenith Dancer (Best Junior)

Intermediate Bitch (2 — 1 abs)
1st — Newson’s CH RYWANI JILLEE TOO (11.03.03) Ch Rywani Tim Tooraree x Stevelyn That’s All Right (imp UK)

Aust Bred Bitch (2)
1st — O’Kelly’s CH LARNOOK GEISHA GIRL (31.08.02) Ch Larnook Gleangay Ice Spy (ai) x Ch Larnook Unchained Melody (ai) (Best AB)
2nd — Broders & Collard’s TCHOKLAT BRANDY CRUSTA (11.07.04) Ch Larnook Hotspur Hero x Ch Dancestar Minelli At

Open Bitch (1 abs)
CC — LARNOOK INDIGO SKY
Res — LARNOOK GEISHA GIRL
Best of Breed — CH DANCESTAR NUREYEV AT
Runner Up — CH DANCESTAR ZERO O SEVEN

The next day at the Rare Terrier Breeds show under judge Mrs Lee Pieterse:
Dog CC & BOB — Collard’s CH DANCESTAR NUREYEV AT
Res Dog CC & R/up — Collard & Davey’s CH DANCESTAR ACE O DIAMOND
Bitch CC — O’Kelly’s CH LARNOOK GEISHA GIRL
Res Bitch CC — Newson’s CH RYWANI JILLEE TOO
We all had a great time and loved seeing an entry of 20 Wheatens (5 absentees). Thank you to those Victorian enthusiasts who made the interstaters feel very welcome.

The lecture given by Mrs Dunlap (breeder of 30 odd years) on the Monday afternoon — which is the one given to aspiring judges in the US — had interested judges almost outnumbering the Wheaten exhibitors (!!) was fabulous and very informative including many photos for comparison, with a very frank Q&A time discussing health issues, testing practises, genetic diversity, coats, colour, movement and temperament. Many members on the list would be interested to know that Mrs Dunlap is trying very hard to educate American judges on the correct soft, silky, shiny, wavy coats, as was evident in her lecture and by many of the photos used.

I’d like to especially thank Norman Gray for doing the honours with the video camera for the judging under less than ideal conditions — a camera hogging steward and the noise indoors was quite formidable! The tape has come out very well and goes for around 30 minutes. Please let me know if you would like a copy.
Rebel With Four Paws

Usually when I am asked to write a bit about our Specialty weekend I report the wins, the judge, and the weather. It was a tremendous circuit that kicked off on Thursday with the Great Western Terrier All Terrier Futurity Competition, followed with the Great Western Terrier shows on Friday and Saturday; Sunday was the Long Beach Kennel Club show, and Monday was the Kennel Club of Beverly Hills show. We had great weather, terrific food, a fabulous entry, and wonderful fun. The dogs were extraordinary, and I congratulate everyone for their ribbons and victories.

But the thing that stands out in my mind was how wonderful Wheaten people are. In the movie “Rebel Without a Cause”, the three stars — Natalie Wood, Sal Mineo, and James Dean — have their own families; but they bond together to form a little group that fills their needs.

We’ve made a family. A family of Wheaten lovers. It is amazing to see the camaraderie that abounds at our show site and throughout the country and even more amazing to see the kindness and generosity that exists between anyone who has a Wheaten on the other end of a leash.

Wheatens have bound us together. It must be something about that loving spirit that is covered in hair that brings out the best in each and every one of us. Think about it for a moment...people that compete in the ring against you helping you groom, they clap for your win, cheer for your accomplishment, cry for your loss. They cheer you on to when you don’t think you can go on, in life or in the ring. They volunteered to do our auction, they packed and unpacked stuff for the show, they even sold tee shirts! Just like a family. You did it. You made our weekend perfect. Thank you.

So for all those that have given us a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on, an ear to talk to...from my heart to yours, thank you. Welcome to the family!
Futurity Winner: STRATFORD THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND
(Ch Bonney Walkin Happy x Ch Stratford Worth The ExSpence); Bitch; August 15, 2004
Bred by Molly O’Connell. Owned by breeder & Meg Ryan.
The 2005 Great Western SCWTSC Boutique!
Best in Sweepstakes: STRATFORD TOP PRIORITY
(Ch Bryr Rose Degas x Ch Stratford First Class Fare). Dog. May 24, 2004
Bred by Molly O’Connell & Susan Sellars. Owned by Erin Huntsinger & Molly O’Connell.
Best of Opposite Sex: STRATFORD THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND
(Ch Bonney Walkin Happy x Ch Stratford Worth The ExSpence); Bitch, August 15, 2004
Bred by Molly O’Connell. Owned by breeder & Meg Ryan.

For complete results go to http://www.jbradshaw.com/941/ind54.htm
When I was first asked to judge your specialty, I was thrilled; but after I had accepted, I questioned my decision over and over, for Wheatens are not one of “my” breeds; and although I have shown them, I have not been around too many puppies and adolescents and didn’t know if I would be able to fully understand their changes in development. I have judged your breed many times; and generally, with small numbers and quality often questionable, I have had more trouble finding animals that pleased me on a consistent basis. So you can understand my feelings. Anyway, I had accepted; and I was convinced that not only was I going to enjoy myself, but this specialty was going to have some really nice dogs.

I was not disappointed; we were blessed with a beautiful, typical Southern California day with a gentle breeze from the ocean. All the dogs were relaxed, and I noticed hardly any shy ones.

The males that emerged as triumphant for Winners and Reserve headed a really pleasing entry of dogs. These two, as they went around the ring together looked very similar in size and make and shape. Both were the ‘sort’ that I had hoped to find. I was looking for balance, moderation, soundness, and a beautiful flowing coat. The dog who was Winners never put a foot down wrong; he was presented and handled beautifully. This was definitely his day and just outshowed the dog who was Reserve.

The females were delightful, and I thought the Winners’ class beautiful. There were some lovely youngsters here, so I think the future is rosey. The Winners Bitch is a knockout. Not a big one, but with her lovely type, balance, and personality, she is hard not to notice! She particularly shines when she moves and is breathtaking from the side. I was thrilled to have her in my ring, and was not surprised to read what a great weekend she had. The Reserve bitch also was lovely, she had a little more to her, I loved her expression, she just lost on the go-around, but a very worthy winner here.

The Specials class was super and fun to judge. The breed was won by a dog that I have admired from outside the ring but have never had my hands on. He is just a beautiful animal to go over, and I was thrilled that he didn’t disappoint when he moved. He is a real stallion of a dog who is elegant but has an unusual combination of substance without any hint of coarseness. As he went around the ring, I felt that he had something to ‘give away’ as a stud dog. I hope this is the case, as I feel that dog shows are about evaluating breeding stock. The Best of Opposite went to a beautiful bitch who pleased in all departments, very feminine, and moving and showing really well. Giving out the Awards Of Merit was quite a job with nit-picking decisions; there were some lovely Specials here, and I remember thinking that I rarely see quality of this caliber at general dog shows. Best Of Winners, unfortunately, was no contest as the Winners Bitch was shown by someone other than her owner, and she was not a happy camper! I was a bit disappointed in this. I was not in the least disappointed in putting the dog Best Of Winners, but had she shown, as she did in the classes, the Winners Bitch was capable of even greater things.

I think overall I was impressed by the improvements that have been made in coat and temperament, but feel that the color of the eye and tailsets are the areas that need the most improvement.

I really enjoyed meeting you Wheaten people, most were new to me. I appreciated very much the sportsmanship showed with applause after every class. I was thrilled to be invited to your dinner. Everyone was so gracious and friendly, I really had a good time. Thank you for inviting me to come to California. It was an honor and a pleasure to judge your very good dogs.

Richard Powell
Best of Breed: CH CARAWAY CELEBRATE LIFE
Bred by Beth Verner, Betty Chapman, & Gary Crawley. Owned by Beth Verner and Betty Chapman.
Best of Opposite Sex: CH CLADDAGHS STAR STUDDED CEILI

Winners Dog/Best of Winners: VINTAGE GREEN BERET BALLAD
Bred & owned by Brian Ness & Michael Weiss.
Winners Bitch: STRATFORD THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND ME
Bred by Molly O’Connell. Owned by breeder & Meg Ryan.

Reserve Winners Dog: STRATFORD TOP PRIORITY
(Ch Bryr Rose Degas x Ch Stratford First Class Fare). Dog.
Bred by Molly O’Connell & Susan Sellars. Owned by Erin Huntsinger & Molly O’Connell.

Reserve Winners Bitch: SALTNSEA CALIFORNIA DREAMIN
(Ch Bonney Midnight Spice Dreams x Ch Andover Saltnsea Down Under). Bitch.

Awards of Merit:

CH SCOHO STRATFORD CAYENNE PEPPER
Bred by Molly O’Connell, Sandra Scott, M. Hogan. & L. Sarff. Owned by Meg Ryan & Sandra Scott.

MARQUEE BIRTHDAY SUIT
(Ch Heartstrings Toast To Tara x Ch Marquee’s Spellcaster). Dog. August12,2002.

CH MARQUEE’S MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

For complete results go to http://www.jbradshaw.com/941/ind53.htm
GWTA 2005 OBEDIENCE
Judge: Mr. Larry Andrus

Novice B: 1st place, score 191.0
HULLABALOO SPOONFUL OF SUGAR RN
(Ch Hullabaloo Ashford to a T x Ch Hullabaloo Tea Cozy). Bitch. April 4, 2000.
Bred by Elaine Nerrie. Owned by breeder & Clyde Schauer.

For complete results go to http://www.jbradshaw.com/941/ind67.htm

GWTA 2005 RALLY
Judge: Mrs. Pauline Andrus

Advanced B: 1st place, score 92.
CH DOUNAM’S FIREWEED RN NA NAJ CDX
Bred & owned by Linda Fussel & Doug & Naomi Stewart.

Novice B: Q, score 85.
CH DOUBLON’S NON RETURNABLE
Bred by Elaine & Bob Azerolo & Elena Landa. Owned by Elena Landa.

Novice B: Q, 87.
DOUNAM’S BLITZEN
(Ch Heartstring’s Toast to Tara x Ch Dounam’s Snickers). Bitch. December 24, 2000.
Bred by Doug & Naomi Stewart. Owned by breeders & Linda Fussel.

For complete results go to http://www.jbradshaw.com/141/cat.htm
**2005 LONG BEACH KENNEL CLUB**  
**Judge: Mr. Fred G. Ferris**

Best of Breed/Group 3: **CH CARAWAY CELEBRATE LIFE**  
(Ch Bonney Midnight Spice Dream x Ch Caraway Golden Moonshadow).  
Bred by Beth Verner, Betty Chapman & Gary Crawley. Owned by Beth Verner & Betty Chapman.

Best of Opposite Sex: **CH GALLAGHER’S DIAMOND GIRL**  
(Ch Hilltop’s Diamond Gem x Ch Gallagher’s Uptown Girl).  

Winners Dog/Best of Winners: **LONTREE DESERT STAR**  
(Ch Paisley Power Play x Ch Lontree Cactus Cait).  
Bred & owned by Joy Laylon.

Reserve Winners Dog: **VINTAGE GREEN BERET BALLAD**  
(Ch Soldiersong Fianna Boy x Ch Marquee’s Secret Vintage).  
Bred & owned by Brian Ness & Michael Weiss.

Winners Bitch: **STRATFORD THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND**  
(Ch Bonney Walkin Happy x Ch Stratford Worth The Exspence).  
Bred by Molly O’Connell. Owned by breeder & Meg Ryan.

Reserve Winners Bitch: **STARLIGHT SHINE**  
(Ch Bonney Midnight Spice Dreams x Ch Starlight Shiny Stockings).  

For complete results go to [http://www.jbradshaw.com/72/ind86.htm](http://www.jbradshaw.com/72/ind86.htm)

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**RALLY ADVANCED B**  
**Judge: Ms. Sandy Walton**

Score: 87. **CH DOUNAM’S FIREWEED RN NA NAJ CDX**  
(Ch Heartstrings Toast To Tara x Ch Dounam’s Maid Marian).  
Bred & owned by Linda Fussel and Doug & Naomi Stewart.

Score: 92. **CH DOUBLOON’S NON RETURNABLE**  
(Ch Westland’s Guiness of Troy x Ch Doubloon’s Choc O’ Latte)  
Bred by Elaine & Bob Azerolo & Elena Landa. Owned by Elena Landa.

Score: 75. **DOUNAM’S BLITZEN**  
(Ch Heartstrings Toast to Tara x Ch Dounam’s Snickers).  
Bred by Doug & Naomi Stewart. Owned by Linda Fussel & breeders.

For complete rally results go to [http://www.jbradshaw.com/172/index.htm](http://www.jbradshaw.com/172/index.htm)
KENNEL CLUB OF BEVERLY HILLS
Judge: Ms. Linda C. More

Best of Breed: CH CARAWAY CELEBRATE LIFE
(Ch Bonney Midnight Spice Dream x Ch Caraway Golden Moonshadow).
Bred by Beth Verner, Betty Chapman, & Gary Crawley. Owned by Beth Verner & Betty Chapman.

Best of Opposite Sex: CH GALLAGHER’S DIAMOND GIRL
(Ch Hilltop’s Diamond Gem x Ch Gallagher’s Uptown Girl).

Winners Dog/Best of Winners: VINTAGE GREEN BERET BALLAD
(CanCh Soldiersong Fianna Boy x Ch Marquee’s Secret Vintage).
Bred & owned by Brian Ness & Michael Weiss.

Reserve Winners Dog: STRATFORD TOP PRIORITY
(Ch Bryr Rose Degas x Ch Stratford First Class Fare).
Bred by Molly O’Connell & Susan Sellars. Owned by Erin Huntsinger & Molly O’Connell.

Winners Bitch: SALTNSEA DREAM WEAVER
(Ch Bonney Midnight Spice Dreams x Ch Andover Saltnsea Down Under).

Reserve Winners Bitch: GEMSTONE’S MARQUEE CUT
(Ch Marquee Tricks of the Trade x Ch Gallagher’s Diamond Girl).

For complete results go to http://www.jbradshaw.com/73/ind86.htm

RALLY EXCELLENT B
Judge: Ms. Sandy Walton

Score: 95. CH DOUNAM’S FIREWEED RN NA NAJ CDX
(Ch Heartstrings Toast To Tara x Ch Dounam’s Maid Marian).
Bred & owned by Linda Fussel and Doug & Naomi Stewart.

Score: 90. SEABREEZE FIRST BUOY MURPHY CD AX OAJ
(Ch Doubloons Gangster x Ch Harbour Hill Summer Sundance).
Bred by Nancy & Randy Graves and Susan Sakauye. Owned by Merrillee Ford & Nancy Graves.

For complete rally results go to http://www.jbradshaw.com/173/index.htm
SWEEPSTAKES JUDGE: Mrs. Carol Shaltz

Best of Breed in Sweepstakes: MIL MEAR GERAGOLD HOW FAR?
(Ch Ellora Bastion x Geragold Tobar Einne), 01/08/2005, Dog.
Bred by Monica Kipp & Neil O’Sullivan. Owned by Breeders and Susan Kipp.

Best of Opposite Sex: GERAGOLD MAXIMUM JOY
(Ch Honeylee’s Bye My Fair Whind x Ch Geragold Daughter Of Aran), 08/24/2004, Bitch.
Bred by Gerard Thompson & Dr Neil O’Sullivan. Owned by Breeders and F Roushar & R Bedford.

REGULAR CLASSES JUDGE: Mr Robert J Moore

Best of Breed: CH TIFFEN’S DOCKERS NICE PANTS
(Ch Winterwheat Shance Of A Lifetime x Tiffen’s Kaffi Molly O’Shea), 12/15/2003, Dog.
Bred & Owned by Nancy Lynn Holland.

Best of Opposite Sex: CH WINTERWHEAT’S O’MALLEY O’MY OAJ
(By Ch Lakkus Ulmus-Ch Winterwheat’s Galway Klassic), 06/08/2002, Bitch.
Bred by Bette Eckstrom & Karen Bilda. Owned by Cherie & Steve Burch & Bette Eckstrom.

Winners Dog/Best of Winners: MIL MEAR GERAGOLD HOW FAR?
(Ch Ellora Bastion x Geragold Tobar Einne), 01/08/2005.
Bred by Monica Kipp & Neil O’Sullivan. Owned by Breeders & Susan Kipp.

Winners Bitch: KILKENNY’S SPRING DIAMOND
(Ch Galway Winterwheat JNA Chase x Ch Kilkenny’s Forget Me Not), 04/30/2002.
Bred by Richard & Susan Stasinski. Owned by Dennis & Julie Glazewski.

Reserve Winners Dog: WINTERWHEAT JUST DEW IT
(Villa Rosas Abernaudd O’Holweit x Ch Winterwheat Whipped Crème), 10/12/2004.
Bred by Bette A & Kari Eckstrom. Owned by Sara Schlough.

Reserve Winners Bitch: GOLDEN LAKE’S CELTIC ROSE
(Ch Meirleac’s Quarterback Sneak x Golden Lake’s Poppy), 07/10/2000.
Bred & owned by Anne M Fahner.

For complete results go to: http://www.onofrio.com/execpgm/wbsrfmbd?wtshky=CSGM151812
MONTGOMERY’05 TERRIER AGILITY CLUSTER
T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS, AND VESTS AVAILABLE!!!

Shirts have the 2005 Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster logo as shown to the left here.
Vests have logo of the four breeds of the sponsoring trial clubs. T-shirts are 100% heavy-
weight pre-shrunk cotton. Boxy Crew Sweatshirts are 100% ringspun cotton. Fleece Vests are
100% micro-fil polyester fleece.

Order by September 6, 2005 for pick up during the show weekend October 4-7
at Kimberton Fair Grounds.*

*Add $5 for shipping if you are not picking order up at the Trial. We will probably have some extras and also taking orders at the Trial.

Name__________________________
Address___________________________
Phone_________________________ Email________________________

T-shirts are 100 percent heavy weight pre-shrunk cotton:
Color: Sage____ Sunburst____ Mocha____ Periwinkle____, Size: Small____ Med____ L____ XL____ 2XL____
$20 ea. ______ t-shirts = $________

Boxy Crew Sweatshirts are 100% ringspun cotton:
Color: Celery____ Lavendar____ Skye Blue____ Periwinkle____, Size: Small____ Med____ L____ XL____ 2XL____
$35 ea. ______ sweatshirts = $________

Fleece Vest 100% Micro-fil polyester fleece:
Color: Crimson____ Charcoal____ Navy____, Size: Small____ Med____ L____ XL____ 2XL____
$40 ea. ______ fleece vest = $________

*Pick up at showsite? Yes____ No____; If not, include $5 for shipping in your check total. = $________

Orders must be received no later than September 6, 2005! Make checks payable to SCWTCA, Inc. and mail to:
Carol Hadnot Crouch, 322 Ge-Mar Ave, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823-3317 (phone: 814-359-2482, email:CarolC1@adelphia.net)
I think we can all agree that Wheaten puppies are just too cute for words. This year’s Montgomery fundraiser\* is a truly magnificent tapestry quality pillow that will feature the adorable Wheaten puppy shown on the front cover of the “Illustrated Breed Standard.” This 17 x 17 inch pillow, exclusive to our national club, shows the puppy standing on a dark black and green background embellished with trees and flowers. The black cording and backing on this pillow should compliment any décor. This lovely pillow also coordinates very nicely with the Wheaten afghan so popular the last two years.

We have also made this piece very affordable! Buy one for yourself...; treat your puppy owners...; buy an extra to have on hand. Who can resist?

The price of each pillow is $30 and can be picked up at Friday’s Boutique during MCKC’05 weekend. If you won’t be at the National Specialty, or if you wish to have the pillow delivered directly to you (or a friend), please add $10 per pillow for shipping (in Canada add $12 per pillow). Shipments to all other countries will be quoted on a per order basis.

Fundraiser chair: Kayce Healy
(503.244.1880)
rhealy119@comcast.net

\*Proceeds will offset expenses of the 2005 MCKC weekend.

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**WHEATEN PUP PILLOW ORDER FORM**

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$_______ for ____ pillow(s) at $30 each

$_______ shipping: $10 ea. (US) or $12 ea. (Canada)

$_______ total enclosed

Deadline for orders: September 7, 2005

Mail to:
Kayce Healy,
7260 SW Westgate Way,
Portland OR 97225-1131 USA
Believe it or not, the 2005 Montgomery Specialty Weekend is right around the corner. We will once again be headquartered at the beautiful Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia. Prepare to embark on yet another leg of your Incredible Journey.

There will be many exciting attractions along your path this year — including the historical Morris and Essex Show, an All Terrier Obedience Trial, a new venue for our Specialty* — as well as many other familiar places to visit! You’ll reunite with old friends and have many stories of past journeys to share and future memories to make. So, mark your calendars for October 4th – 9th, and don’t miss the fun!

Schedule of Events:

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4th**
- Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster
  - Sponsor, SCWTCA, Inc.
  - Kimberton Fire Company
  - Fair Grounds, Kimberton

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th**
- Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster
  - Kimberton Fire Company
  - Fair Grounds, Kimberton

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6th**
- Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster
  - Kimberton Fire Company
  - Fair Grounds, Kimberton
- All Terrier Obedience Trial
  - Kimberton Fire Company
  - Fair Grounds, Kimberton
- Morris and Essex Dog Show
  - Colonial Park, Somerset, NJ
- Hospitality
  - Crowne Plaza

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th**
- Montgomery Terrier Agility Cluster
  - Kimberton Fire Company
  - Fair Grounds, Kimberton
- Breeders Education
  - Crowne Plaza
- Hatboro Dog Show
  - Middletown Grange Fair Grounds, Wrightstown
- Wheaten Wares Boutique
  - Crowne Plaza
- SCWTCA Annual Dinner, Meeting, & Awards
  - Crowne Plaza

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th**
- SCWTCA 11th Annual Obedience Trial
  - Crowne Plaza
- Devon Dog Show
  - Horse Show Grounds, Ludwig’s Corner
- Canine Good Citizen Testing
  - Crowne Plaza
- SCWTCA Puppy Sweepstakes
  - Crowne Plaza

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9th**
- SCWTCA National Specialty
  - *Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell
- Judge: Cindy Vogels

Helping hands are always needed and appreciated, especially after the Annual Meeting on Friday for the Obedience set up and on Saturday to rearrange the ring between Obedience Trials and Sweepstakes.

For those of you who aren’t members but are still interested in all the information about the weekend, please visit the SCWTCA web site (www.scwtca.org). Maps of the areas are on the website in the MCKC’05 section.
Please note the new venue for the MCKC show and our Specialty. We’re all very excited about this change because there will be 3 entrances: one for motorhomes, one for spectators, and one for exhibitors. There will be plenty of parking on asphalt for everyone, AND the new site is closer and easier to find than the old one. Now, if the weather will only cooperate, things will be perfect!!

You can find a map of Sunday’s show location at http://www.mc3.edu/gen/MAPS/CAMPUS.HTM.

All exhibitors will enter on Cathcart Road — from the South, take 202 to Skippack Pike; turn right then left at light to Cathcart; from the North, on 202 turn left at Morris Road light, pass main entrance of College and turn right on Cathcart.

Judges, Officials, and Handicapped enter the College Main Gate on Morris Road; this is also the entrance on Saturday for motorhome parking.

Spectators’ entrance is on 202 at Tournament Drive (stoplight).

Appropriate signage will be displayed.
MCKC’05 EXTRAS: CAFÉ PRESS!
Click and Shop for your Favorite Wheaten Treasures
T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Totes, Notecards, and more ...

The incredible journey with our Wheatens has taken each of us down many
different roads. From the Irish farm dog roaming the fields, the gentle therapy
dog bringing joy where there is little, the obedience dog discerning articles, the
agility dog jumping through hoops, the foibles of a young puppy, to the glory of
a Montgomery winner—the depth and breadth of our shared experience is
amazing.

Renowned dog artist Cathie Helf has captured our world in a montage
of stunning color. Her beautiful work is being offered this year on a
variety of items. Visit our online shop today to order t-shirts, sweat-
shirts, totes, note cards, a baby bib and more. All items carry a
30-day money back guarantee.

You don’t have to wait until Montgomery
weekend to enjoy your selections. All purchases
will be mailed directly from Café Press to you
within several days of ordering. Pay with your
credit card through the Café Press secure
website: www.cafepress.com/scwtca/

All proceeds will be used to offset the
expenses of the
2005 SCWTCA Specialty Weekend.

Chairpersons:
Robyn Alexander, 1403 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94702-2117 (510.548.8190)
robyn@derryhumma.com
and
Marcia Weisman, 4323 Gregory St., Oakland, CA 94619-2238 (510.530.5371)
scwt4@comcast.net.
The SCWTCA, Inc., is pleased to sponsor the MCKC 2005 Educational Seminar, Friday morning, October 7, 2005, from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity for SCWT breeders and owners to learn more about puppy socialization, evaluation, and placement from the experts.

Eileen Bohn, of Minnesota, will be the primary presenter. Eileen is the Director of Programs and a cofounder of Helping Paws Inc, an organization that trains service dogs for individuals with physical disabilities. During the last 25 years, Eileen has titled dogs in obedience, tracking, and conformation; has taught general public obedience classes; and has co-developed a dog training program for “at-risk teens.” At Helping Paws, Eileen has instituted a program to breed dogs with appropriate temperaments for service dog work. She has “puppy tested” numerous breeds of dogs over the past 20 years with Wheatens being the most frequently tested. Eileen lives with 8 Golden Retrievers and is a member of GRCA, GTCGRC, and APDT.

Helen Moreland will assist Eileen with the presentation. Helen has owned and bred SCWTs since 1974 and, during this time, has owned and co-owned numerous conformation champions. For the past 20 years, she has worked closely with Eileen Bohn and other breeders in the areas of puppy socialization, evaluation, and placement. Helen is presently Vice-President of SCWTCA, Inc.

Workshop content will include:

- Socialization experiences for puppies
- Initial contact with prospective buyers — utilizing potential buyer questionnaires
- Puppy testing and evaluation
  - puppy testing tools
  - components of the test, what values mean
  - actual testing of a litter, if possible
- Matching puppies to their buyers — utilizing prospective owner questionnaires and puppy tests
- Getting new puppy owners off to a great start
- Follow up and ongoing support once puppies are placed.

Eileen and Helen plan to distribute a questionnaire to all SCWTCA members via the Internet to seek information about their practices in these areas. This information will be compiled and shared at the MCKC seminar.
"Best Friends!"

Sweater raffle for two best friends to support one of the Colony Dogs, 7.5-yr-old Cysteine.

Tickets on sale now!
$5 for one or
$25 for six tickets.

Hand-knit sweaters
with Wheaten design!
Donated by
Carol Carlson & Sean

All proceeds support
the PLE/PLN Colony Dogs
at NC State.

Sweaters will be knit to fit,
of colors and material(s)
chosen by the winner,
including acrylic & wool,
acrylic, or cotton.

Go to
http://www.colonydogs.org
& click on the
sweater raffle link.

DRAWING WILL BE
MONTGOMERY
WEEKEND!

Please make checks payable to:
NC Veterinary Medical Foundation.
Send checks along with your name, address, telephone number, & email address to:
Shirley Gee, 458 Watertown St #2, Newton, MA 02460-1450.
If you have questions, contact Shirley at geesh@bc.edu.
All Wheatens and their owners are welcome to join me to take the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test (CGC) on Saturday, October 8, 2005 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia, PA. Pre-registration is required, including entry fee of $12. Dogs should be at least 6 months old. Pre-entries must be received by September 21, 2005. Limit is 20 entries. Any questions, please contact me, Suzanne Stone, the CGC Evaluator, at my e-mail address (SUZESTONE@aol.com), or call me at: 631-754-4586.

Take this golden opportunity to be tested by a CGC evaluator who is a fellow Wheaten lover! Start your incredible Wheaten journey with the CGC, and follow it up with any or all of the wonderful performance venues your versatile Wheaten Terrier can enjoy: obedience, rally, agility, sheep-herding, therapy dog, tracking, or freestyle. The best thing that can happen is that you and your Wheaten pass the test with flying colors and get a lovely certificate from the AKC while having a fun time! The worst thing that can happen is that you find out what you and your Wheaten need to work on.

This is not formal obedience — you can talk to your dog! 
You do not need to strive for perfection - just good behavior!

There are 10 parts to the CGC test. Work on these in advance so to be ready:
1. Accepting a Friendly Stranger — Evaluator approaches, shakes hands with the handler, not touching the dog.
2. Sitting Politely for Petting — Evaluator pets dog; dog must show no shyness or resentment.
3. Appearance & Grooming — Evaluator inspects dog, combs or brushes lightly, examines ears & each front foot.
4. Out for a Walk — Handler takes dog for a short walk including right turn, left turn, about turn, & stop.
5. Walking through a Crowd — Dog and handler walk close to several people; dog may show casual interest but not jump up.
6. Sit & Down on Command & Staying in Place — Handler shows dog can do sit & down, then chooses a position, leaves dog, goes to the end of a 20 ft. line, & returns immediately.
7. Coming when Called — With dog still on 20 ft. line from Test 6, handler walks out 10 ft. & calls the dog.
8. Reaction to Another Dog — Two handlers & dogs approach, shake hands, exchange pleasantries, & move on. Dogs can show casual interest. (Dogs are each on left — on the outsides of each handler).
9. Reaction to Distractions — Distractions are presented (e.g., dropped book, wheeling a dolly by); dog may not panic or show aggression.
10. Supervised Separation — Handler goes out of sight for 3 minutes while dog is held on a 6 ft. lead by someone other than the handler.

With some training and practice, these 10 test parts are doable by WHEATENS! Give it a try! You’ll be proud of your good-natured little leprechauns!
You will be asked to sign a registration form at the Crowne Plaza test site, agreeing to the following:

_ I will be responsible for my dog's health needs. These include:
  * routine veterinary care including check-ups and vaccines
  * adequate nutrition through proper diet, clean water at all times
  * daily exercise and regular bathing and grooming.

_ I will be responsible for my dog's safety:
  * I will properly control my dog by providing fencing where appropriate, not letting my dog run loose, and using a leash in public.
  * I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification (which may include collar, tags, tattoos, or microchip ID).

_ I will not allow my dog to infringe on the rights of others:
  * I will not allow my dog to run loose in the neighborhood.
  * I will not allow my dog to be a nuisance to others by barking while in the yard, in a hotel room, etc.
  * I will pick up and properly dispose of my dog's waste in all public areas such as on the grounds of hotels, on sidewalks, parks, etc.

_ I will be responsible for my dog's quality of life:
  * I understand that basic training is beneficial to all dogs.
  * I will give my dog attention and playtime.
  * I understand that owning a dog is a commitment in time and caring.

---

**Pre-Registration Form: Canine Good Citizen Test for SCWTs**


*Pre-entries must be received by September 21, 2005!*

Confirmation will follow, from me, with instructions regarding acceptable leashes and collars. Bringing one's own dog brush is optional. Please complete the following so that I can pre-enter it on the official registration form that I'll send to the AKC:

- Is your dog spayed or neutered?  **Yes**  **No**
- Does your dog have an AKC or ILP Number?  **Yes**  **No**

If "yes," list number here: ____________________________

( ) Mr. ( ) Mrs. ( ) Ms.

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Phone ____________________________ E-Mail ____________________________ @

**Dog's Name** ____________________________ (as you want it to appear on certificate - registered names will appear for registered dogs)

Dog's Age _______ years _______ months

Please enclose an entry fee of: $12.00 (US funds) with check made out to SCWTCA, Inc. with this form, and send both to: Suzanne Stone, 28 Meade Drive, Centerport, NY 11721.
DONORS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION FUND
Donations to the Public Information Fund go for education of prospective buyers and encouraging people to purchase from a responsible breeder. Some of the materials we produce are:

- club ads in magazines;
- newspaper ads in cities that have puppy mills or brokers advertising
- club flyers that people request from the club
- handouts for local clubs

Send your contribution to Kenna Kachel, 29200 Southfield Rd, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076. Make check payable to SCWTCA, Inc. (US funds only).

DONORS TO SCWTCA RESCUE FUND
Donations to the rescue fund maintain the SCWTCA, Inc. Rescue Project. The funds are used to provide veterinary examinations, inoculations, special diets, spaying and neutering, and other medical costs for our rescued dogs. The funds also provide for office expenses such as long distance phone calls, a computer phone line, and office and printing supplies. A rescue flyer for shelters was recently created and distributed using donations. This effort fulfills part of the rescue mission of educating the shelters and the public about Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers in need of good homes.

Bob & Genie Kline
Mr & Mrs William Lee III
in Memory of Syzzy Turbidy
in Memory of Syzzy Turbidy

Send your contribution to Kenna Kachel, 29200 Southfield Rd, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076. Make check payable to SCWTCA, Inc. (US funds only).

DONORS TO SCWTCA HEALTH ENDOWMENT
The Board of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America and the Endowment Board thank the following for their generous donations. Donations either fund grants selected by the SCWT Endowment Fund Board or provide matching funds for grants approved by the American Kennel Club/Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF).

Caraway Wheatens,
Beth Verner & Betty Chapman
Karen Kukucha and Jon Whitters
in Memory of “Emma”
Alan, Shelley & Kelsey Newman in Memory
of CH Andover Magic Lamp “Bertie”
& Honor of Jackie Gottlieb

SCWTC of Greater St. Louis
Dennis & Cindy Shea in Memory
of Clara Azerolo
Pam & Bob Tinnelly in Memory
of Caraway Banner News “Scoop”

Send your contribution to Rosemary Berg, 37953 Center Ridge Dr., North Ridgeville, OH 44039-2821. Make check payable to SCWTCA Endowment (US funds only), or contribute online via the SCWTCA website http://www.scwtca.org/cashdonations.html
The Board of the SCWT Genetic Research Project and Wheaten owners, everywhere, wish to thank the following for their generous donations to the fund.

The SCWT Genetic Research Fund, in cooperation with the AKC/CHF, will sponsor genetic research into the canine genome specifically aimed at identifying the genes responsible for the transference of PLE/PLN. This information will make it possible for the development of testing protocols to identify Wheatens with protein-wasting diseases.

Kathy Clarke in Honor of Stud Fee

Betty Chapman & Beth Verner in Honor of Litter of “Haley” (Ch Caraway Golden Moonshadow)

Kathy Drobnak

Helen Fraguela in Honor of “Garbo”

Jackie Gottlieb in Memory of “Mugsy” and in Honor of Wheaten & Welsh Litters, Karen Greenberg, Roni Andrews, & Pat Bajorias

Susan Jacobsen in Honor of Litter

Lynden & Janita McCormack in Honor of Cormak Wheatens (Australia)

Judith Martin

Jana Ann Meier in Memory of “Shammy” (Ch Deryni Guardian Angel) and in Honor of “Tyler”

David Ronsheim

SCWTC of Great Britain

Barbara Smith in Memory of “Catie”

Dana Sumner (proceeds from Stuffie sales)

We currently have new raffle items on our website at www.scwtgrf.com. Drawings will be held at MCKC and at the Sun Country Terrier Specialty in Phoenix, Az.

To join our effort with a tax deductible donation, make your check payable to AKC/CHF SCWT Genetic Research Fund and mail to: David Ronsheim, Project Financial Officer, 14837 N. 25th Drive #11, Phoenix, AZ 85023-5082. Or, visit our web site (http://www.scwtgrf.com) to make an online donation through PayPal or to purchase raffle tickets for the Wheaten Rocking Horse or Wheaten Puppet/Doll (see GRF ad).
SCWT GENETIC RESEARCH FUND RAFFLES

Your children or grandchildren will love either treasure. No kids...? What great conversation pieces for your home!

WHEATEN ROCKER
Created by Dana Sumner, the originator of “Stuffies.”

Drawing will be held at the Terrier Specialty in Phoenix, November 2005.

ONE-OF-A-KIND, LIFESIZED WHEATEN PUPPET DOLL

Created by Joanne Vohs, who makes the Wheaten dolls for sale on the SCWTGRF website.

Drawing will be held at Montgomery in October 2005.

Tickets are $5 each, 6 for $20, 30 for $100, and/or 60 for $175. Be sure to note for which raffle item you want tickets.

To buy online using PayPal, go to http://www.scwtgrf.com. Or, by mail, make check payable to ‘AKC-CHF SCWT GRF Fund’ and send to:
David Ronsheim
Project Financial Officer
14837 N. 25th Drive #11
Phoenix, AZ 85023-5082
SCWT HEARTS FOR HEALTH
The perfect gift to celebrate the joy and love our Wheatens give us — they're always in our hearts!
These beautiful etched-glass hearts feature the work of noted artist Beth Babos
— wonderful gifts for new puppy owners or beloved breeders!

Unique accents for your home and office!

Proceeds support Wheaten Health!

$20.00 each + postage/insurance: U.S. $3.50, Canada $4.00, Europe $8.50
Make check (U.S. funds only) payable to: SCWTCA. Mail to: Ann Leigh, 35157 Cornet Way, Palm Desert CA 92211-3028

Name__________________________________________
Address_________________________________________
City________________________________________________
State_____ Zip_____
Phone__________________________ Email______________

Total Hearts_____________ $____________________
Postage__________________________
Total Amount of Check $____________________

The heart paperweights are also available through our website at www.scwtca.org in the “What’s New” section.
If you have any questions, send email to: sleigh@dc.rr.com
Wheaten Dolls
Second in a series of Limited Edition Dolls

Joanne Vohs has designed North American coated and Irish coated Wheaten Dolls available now until Montgomery 2005 exclusively for the Wheaten Health Fund

Dolls are 6 inches tall, cuddly and absolutely charming — vests are removable!

North American coated Doll

$75.00 each
+ postage/insurance:
U.S.: $8.50 for 1, $12.50 for 2, $18.50 for 4, $24.50 for 6
Foreign: $30 for 1 or 2 dolls
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Make check payable to: SCWTCA
(U.S. funds only).

Mail order to:
Ann Leigh
35157 Cornet Way
Palm Desert CA
92211-3028

If you have any questions,
send email to:
sleigh@dc.rr.com
THOUGHTS ABOUT RESCUE

Warning! This column may contain material that will make you uneasy!

Pure breed rescue is a topic dear to the hearts of all breed fanciers. “It is my breed, and even though I didn’t bring this dog into the world, I am responsible for its life.” Generous donations of time, energy, and money are funneled into rescue. Photos of happy, thriving rescued pups adorn my Welsh Terrier fund raising calendar. If the dog is a ------ (you can fill in your choice of breed), we must do everything to make this animal happy, and healthy, get rehab if necessary, and find it a “forever home.” Some dogs in need are easily re-homed. They were successful pets, with no objectionable habits.

However, many rescue candidates were impulse purchases from irresponsible breeders or pet shops. It is now up to the caring breeders and pet owners to summon resources to take care of their needs. Not that our actions discourage the backyard breeders and pet shops from continuing the behavior that caused the problems! It is now becoming clear that they are taking good homes away from responsible breeders. I’ve been told that excellent breeder exhibitors in one area are cutting back on their breeding programs due to price competition from backyard breeders and puppy mills in that area. This means that more puppies will be placed in rescue and, further, that more Wheatens will be bred by persons who do not understand the gene pool and who probably don’t do the requisite testing. Here lies a pitfall for rescue efforts.

This pitfall is in the area of RESPONSIBILITY. When thinking rescue, we consider possible behavior problems, and evaluate dogs for destructiveness and aggression. However, when we have a health issue in the breed, it adds another dimension. Can we ethically place a dog that may in a short time develop a health issue and even die prematurely? We do have an early warning test — the ERD — that can predict possible kidney problems ahead. Should every pup placed be tested for early protein loss as well as being evaluated for behavior? At the very least, the prospective owner should be made aware of the health issues in the breed, and the dog being placed screened for possible renal problems.

Affected dogs could be placed as “special needs” dogs, sent off with adequate instructions. Because renal failure can be asymptomatic until kidneys are 90% destroyed, a seemingly healthy 4-year-old can be dead in a year. If this is a rescue, implemented by an official group, all issues of legal responsibility must be covered. When acting as a club, we endanger the club if we do not cover all areas. What individuals do on their own devolves only on that individual. We cannot let “bleeding hearts” blind us to the liabilities at stake.

Happily placed and loved rescue dogs are an important part of our lives. Every Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier commands our recognition and respect. But we must come to terms with reality, and do these placements only with every safeguard in place. Ours is a litigious society, and to continue our good work, we need to be cautious.
Prelude: “You gotta do what you gotta do.”

I often heard these words from my brother. They came to me the other day when the Benchmarks editor told me she was directed by the SCWTCA President to scrutinize “The Devil’s Advocate” before publishing and to submit it to the Board if necessary.

Elsewhere in this issue, she tells readers she has resigned rather than be directed to censor.

In theology, the devil often masquerades as good to tempt people to evil. It is the Devil’s Advocate who probes to make sure that there is no evil hiding beneath the seeming good.

Perhaps it is the tenor of the times to confuse the two.

If the current SCWTCA Board believes they’re best serving the club by determining which articles are “proper” for your consumption, that’s their choice. I don’t “gotta” play in this forum.

So what’s below is the final “Devil’s Advocate”, published some 11 years after the first one. Like previous articles, I expect some of you will love it and some will hate it. If you talk about the issues in it...and even argue about it...this Devil’s Advocate will have done her job.

“WHOSE DOG IS IT, ANYWAY?”

People always suggest I write about certain topics near and dear to them. Well, that’s not exactly correct. Their subjects aren’t “dear” to them...; it’s that right then, they’re really hacked off about something.

I do welcome suggestions. Keep ‘em coming. Just remember, it’s my byline. I do the ranting. So sometimes, suggestions sit in my mental In Box for a bit, waiting for me to get exercised about them.

This is one that needed to be kept company by a few more thoughts as well as needing to wait for another time. It started when a friend was grumbling about a potential stud contract. It was slowly joined by some other examples and was about to emerge some time ago when another writer took it on. So I let it ferment longer.

When I saw a newsletter about negotiations, I knew the time had come. One article contained this quote from someone at MIT’s Technology Licensing Office:

“We strive for “wise” agreements – ones that benefit all sides so the deal will last.”

It seems to me that we need to start writing contracts...stud agreements and sales contracts...that are “wise agreements”.

My friend who started the whole thing was incensed about demands made before a breeding would even be considered. These came not from the stud dog owner but from the owner of the stud dog’s parent.
(Incidentally, both my friend and the stud dog owner are very experienced breeders.) In essence, this individual, who had no ownership interest in either future parent, wanted to exert control two generations down the line.

(As an aside, some time later I heard about a stud agreement where the stud dog owner wanted to determine where puppies would be placed. They weren’t taking any responsibility for the normal things a breeder does...just deciding who went where...or let’s be really clear here, blackballing people.)

Phew! I gotta tell you guys...I just don’t have the time or the energy to pull those kinds of stunts. More than that, I don’t have the cojones to think I know that much.

While I sympathized with my friend, my advice was simple: you sign it, you deserve what you get. You want to do that breeding...great. Just remember, you’re getting another partner in your breeding program. If it’s worth it, go for it. If you don’t want that partner, walk away.

Me, the only breeder-partner I want for more than a litter or two is the one whose name I share. And my co-owner and co-breeder experiences have been good. Maybe the day will come when there’s a breeding or dog I want so much I’ll agree to anything. In the meantime, I figure I’m the reason the puppies are being born; I’m responsible for them until the day they die; so I make the decisions, right or wrong.

Then there are the other contracts...accompanying the puppies we sell. There’s a big difference with these contracts...we’re not often dealing from positions of equal “strength.” It’s easy for me to think some of the agreements I hear about are taking advantage of the situation.

The extremes...pure pet homes and experienced breeder homes...are rarely problematic. Contracts for abject pets...the ones with bad bites, light eyes, pink pigment, and short legs...aren’t usually a problem. No one wants to put such a puppy in a home where he or she may become the foundation for a backyard breeder or worry a puppy we place winds up in a shelter. Those are problems most of us can figure out how to avoid contractually, even if reality can intrude.

The other end is the experienced breeders and owners who purchase from each other. That’s similar to my friend’s stud dog agreement: if you don’t have your eyes wide open, it’s nobody’s fault but your own. You know what it means. In my mind, if someone’s bred a couple of litters, they have a track record...; if you don’t think they’ve earned the right to call their own shots, don’t do the deal.

The middle of the continuum is thornier. The marginal show dogs or the potentially breedable dogs. The “pet” owner who is willing to let the breeder show and breed. The owner who wants to try their hand at showing and maybe breeding.

I can see this one from both sides. As a breeder, you never know what’s going to happen...whether the new owner will really finish the dog, really do health testing, really select a good mate and not just the most convenient. You worry assurances are made just to get a puppy. So contingencies are piled on.

From the would-be owner’s perspective: wait a second, whose dog is this anyway? What am I paying for? How come I’m doing all the work and paying all the money... and by the way, my dog isn’t even home with me...and what am I getting out of it?

Those can be hard questions to answer. No pet shop or backyard breeder makes a prospective owner ask them. And if reports I’m hearing throughout the country are true, demand for Wheatens is receding; the end of the glut of owners who will agree to anything is likely at hand.

While everyone has a different approach, I think we should all strive for “wise” agreements. Give something to get something. You want a dog shown? Pay some bills. Do some work. You want a dog bred? Pay some more bills. Do some more work. It’s your hobby, not theirs. Admit it...to yourself at least...; you’re getting a lot out of this deal: another champion, another litter, and you still have space for a dog you’d rather keep.

Another article in the same newsletter a few months later had a title I think best applies: “Winners Don’t Take All.”
I have heard that the dropout rate for people getting started in the sport of dogs is every three to five years. These numbers really surprise me, and I wonder why these people, who were so enthusiastic in the beginning, lost interest after such a short time. This dropout rate could have, in my opinion, decreased tremendously if the novices had good mentors. I have been in the conformation side of the sport for three years and I have been training dogs for six years. Being involved with Wheaten Terriers for such a short time, I have learned many things about grooming, showing, and training. Some of this knowledge was gleaned from books and the internet. However, the majority of my education came from my mentors. They graciously took me, a rank novice, under their wings and taught me more valuable lessons than I could ever learn from a book.

There are few things that I have really and truly wanted with all of my being. One of those things was getting an internship with a local dog trainer. The other was a mentorship from a Wheaten breeder whose help and advice I desperately needed and wanted. Though I learned much about the business and obedience training side of dogs from my internship, I have learned greater lessons from my mentorship. Aside from learning how to properly pack for traveling and how to hold a lead in my hand so the end doesn’t flap around, I have learned how to win graciously and never to lose confidence in myself or my dog when I lost in the ring. Being a good sport and helping others when they need it was also essential learning. Along with the mental side of showing, I was taught how to stack and gait my dog to her best advantage. I am learning how to groom her, and I have learned how to take the best care of her when we are at a long distance show. Now that I am becoming more interested in the breeding aspect of dogs, my mentor has allowed me to watch a litter being born. She has also help fine tune my eye for show potential puppies.

I know that mentoring is a hard job, and I know that I am not the easiest person to get along with. I can’t tell you how many times I wanted to quit because I was on a very long losing streak in the show ring. My mentor was there for me, like a coach, and told me to shake it off, that it was only one day and one judge. When we won, and ultimately finished, my mentor was there celebrating along with me as though my dog were hers.

Not only did I learn skills that are necessary for dog handling and care, I have learned valuable life skills during my time with my mentor and friend. Dedication and passion for a chosen goal, close bonds and friendships with others, and the love of the breed that we all have chosen, have been instilled, not just in my mind, but also in my soul. The time I have spent with my mentor has been one of the most wonderful and rewarding experiences in my life and I wouldn’t trade it for anything. My mentor has given me roots for a solid foundation, and now she is starting to give me my wings; so I can create my own legacy. I still have much to learn from her and others, for I will never know everything there is to know about Wheaten Terriers or dogs in general. But this I do know: Mentoring continually renews my thirst for knowledge — and my love of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.
THE UK KENNEL CLUB’S
VULNERABLE NATIVE BREEDS PROJECT

By Paul Keevil (Dandie Dinmont enthusiast and KC VNB Committee Member)

Back in June 2003, following concerns expressed in a number of quarters, the Kennel Club in London started to investigate the decline in popularity of many of the indigenous breeds of dog from the UK and Ireland. The KC drew a line in the sand at 300 registrations a year and identified 28 breeds that were not achieving this level. Take, as an example, the Sealyham Terrier. Just before the last war, well over a thousand puppies a year could be expected to be registered with the KC each year; in 2004, that had declined to just 51. The Sealyham is not alone either; last year, 14 British or Irish breeds had less than 125 puppies registered at the KC, many of these breeds once popular but now in serious decline. (See lists at end.)

Questionnaires were sent out to the various breeds clubs and when all the replies had been collated, it was decided that a committee/working party was set up to look into the matter and try to find solutions. Then there did appear to exist; and a sub-committee was set up to consider the various issues involved. Back in December 2003, the influential publication ran an article titled “Country Life” ran an article titled "This British Dog". The 4-page article "British and Irish Dog Breeds Preservation", represented on the KC working party, and the two are co-operating closely. At first it was felt that we need to raise the profile of many of the general public just don’t know they exist. We will assist breeders in producing healthy and fertile dogs. We will also need to look at the wider issues of assisting breed clubs and breeders continue to breed healthy and fertile dogs. We will be DNA banks, artificial insemination and semen banks (at present restricted in the UK), to dogs within a breed for one reason or another, (i.e. working to find others that might cooperate with the KC registered umbrella, (i.e. working to find others that might cooperate with the KC registration umbrella, (i.e. working to find others that might cooperate with the KC registration umbrella). Then there is the issue of "outcrossing", that is when a breed is "similar" breed for an injection of "new blood" then bred back pure to its own breed etc. In addition there are health, welfare and rescue issues which have to be considered too.

The question I have been asked most in the last 12 months is "why have these breeds gone into decline?" There appears to be no single cause, and each breed seems to have its own unique set of problems. However, there does seem to be agreement that the increased number of "foreign" breeds imported and bred...
in the UK may well be a factor. If people are buying foreign, then they are not buying British. A bit like the British motorcycle industry, I suppose you could say. Back before the last war, the UK KC recognized just 89 breeds, with about 54 being British or Irish. Last year that figure had risen to over 200 recognized breeds, of which 63 are UK breeds. Then there is fashion; Terriers were immensely popular between the wars, but for some in the UK they are forever to be associated with flat caps and tweed skirts. In the 50s no self-respecting starlet would be seen without her Poodle, whilst in the 60s the Afghan became immensely popular. Just recently in the 80s and 90s, we have seen the rise of “macho” designer dogs like the Rottweiler and Neapolitan Mastiff; so fashion goes in cycles. However, whilst some UK breeds have maintained their popularity and some have even increased (take, for example, the Cocker and Springer Spaniels or the Westie and Border Terriers), many are now giving real cause for concern for their future.

Health has not really been an issue for these breeds declining. Many of the Terrier breeds live over 15 years as a matter of course and, in my opinion, their health is no better or worse than many other UK breeds. However, once they decline to the numbers we see now, there is always the concern about declining gene pools and narrowing of the genetic bases from which we have to breed. Within any population of dogs that are registered, very few of them actually become parents in their own right. So where you have numerically few registrations, you have even fewer dogs becoming the continued parental base of that breed.

Many of the breeds on the KC VNB list have small litters. In our own breed for example, the year on year average in the UK is just 3 pups per litter, whilst many of the gundogs can have over 10 pups as a matter of routine. Nearly all the VNB’s are now being kept by a hardcore of dedicated breed enthusiasts, but because of changes to our social, economic and legislative circumstances it is now no longer practical to keep a large breeding kennel in the UK. Most enthusiasts will at the most just have 2 or perhaps 3 breeding animals at any one time and have a litter when it is time for them to have another puppy, passing the remainder on to pet homes. These animals are then usually not bred from. What many of these breeds need now, are new younger owners to take them on and breed them for the future in a sustainable and sensible way.

With the steady rise in property prices in the UK, more couples have to go out to work, making it impractical to take on a dog. Many homes now are without gardens and more and more people in Cities now live in apartments or flats. The cost of raising a family puts a strain on a family financially, and with the increased availability of such things as satellite TV and home cinema, means that dogs are no longer kept as a means of “entertainment”, as they were in the “pre-TV” years, where dog ownership was a highly social activity.

So what can be done to arrest the decline? There is no “Silver Bullet”, no ‘one size fit’s all’ solution. The first thing that many breeds and their breed clubs have to do is recognize that a problem actually does exist. Many breeds in the UK are a bit of a “closed shop” are can be very over protective and worried about the breed “getting into the wrong hands”. The Kennel Club is keen to work with the breed clubs on this project, the support of the clubs, who are after all the experts on their own breeds, is absolutely crucial. I have to say that so far some breed clubs have been, how shall I say, slow to come on board and it is important that the project is handled with tact and diplomacy. It may well be that some breed clubs will have to completely re-assess the way they operate, become more open to new ideas and more welcoming to newer and younger owners if their breeds are to move forward to a secure future. This will take time and it is important that all parties concerned continue to consult each other in an open and constructive way.

This will be a long term project, it will be 5/10 years before we see any worthwhile benefit. The answer is not simply to just breed more puppies. Any increase in a breeds population has to be done in a considered, sustainable and achievable way, the last thing anyone wants to see is more dogs going into breed rescue. Some breeds like the Bloodhound or Otterhound are highly specialized and the “right type” of owners are just not easy to find.

In my next article I hope to be able to deal specifically with the problems facing the Dandie Dinmont Terrier, not just in the UK but internationally. If you have any comments, observations or suggestions with
regard to the VNB project or the decline or otherwise of the Dandie, then please e-mail me (paul.keevil@btinternet.com)

Bottom 20 British and Irish Breeds in terms of Puppy Registrations during 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Registrations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Otterhound</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Glen of Imaal Terrier</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Skye Terrier</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sealyham Terrier</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Smooth Collie</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sussex Spaniel</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dandie Dinmont Terrier</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Field Spaniel</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>English Toy Terrier</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Manchester Terrier</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Smooth Collie</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Irish Red &amp; White Setter</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Norwich Terrier</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bloodhound</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Curly Coated Retriever</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lancashire Heeler</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>King Charles Spaniel</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Clumber Spaniel</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Lakeland Terrier</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 10 Most Popular Breeds in England during 2004 (KC Puppy Registrations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Breed</th>
<th>Registrations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Labrador Retriever</td>
<td>45,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cocker Spaniel (English)</td>
<td>16,608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Springer Spaniel</td>
<td>14,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>German Shepherd Dog (Alsatian)</td>
<td>13,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Staffordshire Bull Terrier</td>
<td>12,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cavalier King Charles Spaniel</td>
<td>10,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Golden Retriever</td>
<td>10,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>West Highland White Terrier</td>
<td>10,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Boxer</td>
<td>9,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Border Terrier</td>
<td>7,355</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 28 breeds initially identified by the KC as being “Vulnerable” are as follows:

(This list may change during 2005)

**TOY GROUP (2):** English Toy Terrier (Black & Tan), King Charles Spaniel.

**PASTORAL GROUP (3):** Smooth Collie, Lancashire Heeler, Cardigan Welsh Corgi.

**HOUND GROUP (3):** Bloodhound, Deerhound, Greyhound, Otterhound.


(Note: since the compilation of this list, the KC has added the Miniature Bull Terrier to the VNB list making 29 breeds in total.)
The Open Registry is a joint project of SCWTCA-sponsored research at North Carolina State University, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Guelph (in 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 U-Penn maintains the Registry at the request of the SCWTCA during the summers when she has some free time from her teaching and veterinary work.

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 a membership form, visit the SCWTCA website at http://www.scwtca.org/scwtopenregistry.html. If you would like to receive a complete list of Open Registry members, email kccarlson@comcast.net.

Carol Gibbs
Ingrid Hollinger
Scott & Kathleen Ostrander-Bowers
Kathryn Hackney
Eric Landon
Rich Pisula
Andrea Hand
Esther McGee
Meg Ryan
Daniel Handal
Nichele & Don Nelson
Joan L. Simonson
Anne Harding
Chadwick Nerndon
Naomi M. Smith
Viviana & Ronald Hetherington
David & Suzanne Noe
Nancy & Roger Stonell
Membership Form
for joining the
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Open Registry

I hereby apply for membership in the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Open Registry. I agree to forward pedigrees and medical data for all Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers that I own or have bred who may be affected with protein-losing enteropathy (PLE), protein-losing nephropathy (PLN), juvenile renal disease (JRD)/renal dysplasia (RD), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), renal failure (RF), and/or Addison’s disease to the SCWT Open Registry, c/o Dr. Meryl Littman, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, 3900 Delancey Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010.

I release to the Registry the right to publish the names of any dogs I own or have owned or which have produced offspring that are confirmed to be affected with PLE, PLN, JRD/RD, and/or Addison’s disease. In exchange for complete listing of the Open Registry, I agree to hold the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America, Inc., The Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Association of Canada, Dr. Meryl Littman, and the University of Pennsylvania harmless from any liability associated with disclosure of my information contained in the Open Registry and will indemnify them for any costs incurred defending legal actions associated with the provision of my pedigree information to inquiring parties. I understand this release is a condition of membership in the Open Registry.

I understand that I will receive a copy of the Open Registry annually and that I am expected to review it for accuracy as to any dogs of mine that have been listed. It also is my duty to inform the SCWTCA Health Committee’s Sub-Chairperson in charge of the Open Registry and Dr. Littman of any errors immediately so that corrections can be made to prevent communicating information harmful to my ownership interests or erroneous information which might prove harmful to others using this Registry. Once a dog is on the Registry, it will remain there permanently regardless of change in ownership or owner’s membership in the Registry. However, an individual’s membership may be terminated at any time by writing a letter requesting such action to the Treasurer of the SCWTCA, Inc.

Name:___________________________________________________________________________________
Name:___________________________________________________________________________________
Street Address:____________________________________________________________________________
City:____________________________________State:__________Country:___________Zip code:_______
Phone Number:_________________________________________________________Email Address:_______________________________
Signature:_________________________________________________________Date:__________________
Signature:_________________________________________________________Date:__________________

Dues are $15 per household for lifetime membership.
Make check (US funds only) payable to: SCWTCA, Inc.
Send to Kenna Kachel, Treasurer, 29200 Southfield Rd, Suite 100, Southfield, MI 48076

Updated 2/01 (HCjsp)
Updated 5/04
Updated 10/04
Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers, an Irish breed known for its alert, happy disposition, is also known for being predisposed to two protein-wasting diseases. Protein-losing enteropathy (PLE) and protein-losing nephropathy (PLN) are diseases in which dogs lose so much protein into their gastrointestinal system or kidneys that it can affect their health.

PLE affects the gastrointestinal system; PLN affects the kidneys. While some Wheatens develop only one disease, others get both. Some dogs show no clinical signs, whereas others have life-threatening signs. The prognosis is often fairly poor, but current research may make a difference.

A Genetic Component

Shelly Vaden, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM, professor of internal medicine at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in Raleigh, has been studying PLE and PLN in Wheaten Terriers for the past 10 years. “Both syndromes undoubtedly have a familial or genetic component,” she says. “But they also are most likely influenced by environmental factors. The extent to which these environmental factors influence disease expression is not fully known.”

Food allergies may be one environmental influence that impacts the manifestation of the syndromes. “We know that food allergies are prevalent in affected dogs, but we don’t know if they are a cause or a result of the disease,” Vaden says.

“PLE is one of the most severe manifestations of inflammatory bowel disease,” Vaden says. Signs may include diarrhea, anorexia, lethargy, weight loss, edema or ascites (fluid in the abdominal cavity), and respiratory difficulty from fluid in the chest.

Commonly PLE and PLN appear around 4 to 6 years of age, with no gender predilection. One of the complex aspects of the syndromes is that every dog is different. Some with minimal signs die quickly, yet those with serious manifestations can be managed and do well. “It has to do with differential expression of the disease, but it has not been established whether this is due to genetic differences or environmental differences,” Vaden says.

Seeking a Genetic Marker

Reports of PLE and PLN occurring in closely related Wheatens were first noted in 1990 by Meryl P. Littman, V.M.D., DACVIM, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, who collaborates on PLE/PLN research with Vaden. They hope to find a genetic marker for both conditions. Once a marker has been identified, breeders will be able to test their dogs to determine which ones carry the PLE and PLN genes and thus which ones to avoid breeding.

“Dr. Littman reported data from 222 affected Wheatens of which 34 percent had PLE, 38 percent had PLN, and 28 percent had both PLE and PLN,” Vaden says. “The incidence of sub-clinical PLE or PLN (meaning dogs with PLE or PLN that are below the clinical limit of detection of the other syndrome) has not been
determined. Lack of a genetic marker and a uniform screening program in the at-risk population may result in an underestimate of the disease prevalence.

Firsthand Experience

Nancy Land in Bluffton, S.C., had a Wheaten named “Hotsie” who developed both diseases. “Routine testing alerted me to possible problems when Hotsie was 7 years old,” Land says. “She had diarrhea and vomiting in the early stages, but it was corrected with medication.”

No other disease was found, so her veterinarian conferred with Littman. Testing consisting of a biochemical profile, complete blood count, routine urinalysis, urine protein/creatinine ratio, MA test for microalbuminuria, and a fecal API test determined Hotsie suffered from both syndromes. On a hypoallergenic diet and medication, Hotsie lived for three years after diagnosis. “Because of the outstanding work the researchers have made on PLE and PLN, she enjoyed a good quality of life,” Land says.

Sara Schlough of McFarland, Wis., raises Wheatens that participate in agility, tracking, obedience, conformation and flyball. Her dog “Elmo” was 6 years old when he was diagnosed with PLN. “That’s the age many Wheatens die of these diseases, so that’s partially why I decided to do the API test. Elmo had a little less energy, but we thought it was age.” Elmo also had sebaceous cysts, a skin condition causing itchy feet, and he would chew his feet raw.

After the API test and other testing that indicated PLE/PLN, Schlough switched to a hypoallergenic diet, and Elmo stopped chewing his feet and the cysts cleared up.

“If an owner health tests his dog following our researchers’ testing protocol and PLE or its underlying disease is identified early, you can use dietary management as part of the treatment to improve the quality of the dog’s life,” says Janet Petros of San Francisco. Petros lost over half of her breeding program to PLE/PLN syndromes. Of the five Wheatens at home now, three are diagnosed with either PLN or PLE and are being medically managed. Many puppies from that line are being medically managed as well.

“In 1986, I purchased a show bitch, bred her once, and a puppy died of renal failure at age 2,” Petros says. “After consulting with the veterinary renal specialist, who thought this puppy might have died of renal dysplasia (RD), we immediately started to ultrasound test all of our dogs’ kidneys. We found that one of the littermates had slight kidney abnormalities. However, her dam tested within the normal range. The specialist we were working with saw no reason not to breed the dam again, but with careful selection of the sire. I bred her again into another line with no reported incidents of RD. She lived a healthy life until she was shockingly diagnosed with PLE/PLN at 10. My heart sank.”

After Petros’s foundation bitch turned out to have PLN/PLE, she stopped breeding and decided to educate other breeders and owners about the syndromes. While serving as the health chairwoman for the national parent club for three years and a member of the board of directors and vice president of the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Endowment Board, Petros felt that members needed to be more informed.

“I took Vaden (Shelly Vaden, D.V.M., DACVIM, of North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine) and Littman’s (Meryl P. Littman, V.M.D., DACVIM, of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine) information and created a seminar. I was the presenter, a conduit for their knowledge from research and practice. I wanted to give information that was easy to understand and that was truthful.”

She took her show on the road and gave 15 seminars in the United States and Canada, and one in Great Britain. It was a daylong seminar, and each participant took home a hardcopy of the presentation.

Determining PLE/PLN

To help determine PLE/PLN in Wheaten Terriers, Vaden recommends having a health screening at 6 months of age and every 6 months thereafter until a dog is 3 years old. After that, an annual screening
is fine. She recommends the following screening tests and encourages owners to ask their veterinarian to run all the tests because some are not routine.

- **Biochemical profile**
  - Total protein
  -Albumin
  -Creatinine
  -Blood urea nitrogen
  -Cholesterol
  -Sodium (Na)
  -Potassium (K)
  -Phosphorus

- **Complete Blood Count**

- **Routine Urinalysis**
  -Specific gravity
  -Dipstick
  -Urinary sediment

- **Urine Protein/Creatinine Ratio**

- **The ERD or MA Test for Microalbuminuria (Optional — an indicator of early disease)**

- **The Fecal API Test (Optional — an indicator of early disease)**

The fecal API, or fecal alpha 1-proteinase inhibitor, is a good screening tool for PLE, even before other clinical signs develop, Vaden explains. Awareness of the MA test for micro-albuminuria is increasing among veterinarians. Neither of the tests provides a definitive diagnosis as other conditions can cause an abnormal fecal API or MA result. “I think this causes frustration in folks who want an absolute answer. Unfortunately, in medicine, that is not always possible,” Vaden says.

Additionally, the health committee made available to owners and breeders a Fecal API & MA screening tool kit. These are not stand-alone tests and should be used in concert with the researchers’ recommended blood and urine tests. The kit contains instructions on how to appropriately collect fecal samples for three consecutive days and to take a urine sample. It also details how to freeze the samples and prepare the included cooler/gel packs for shipping to Vaden for testing. For information, visit www.scwtca.org/fecalapi.html or e-mail Toni Vincent at FecalAPIKit@aol.com.

**A Bright Future**

Though both conditions, protein-losing enteropathy (PLE) and protein-losing nephropathy (PLN), can be difficult to determine and sometimes even harder to manage, progress is being made in better understanding the conditions. The future looks bright for Irish Wheatens as scientists work to find the genetic markers for both conditions.

As Petros says, “We have come a tremendous way as a result of the researchers’ hard work.”

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*Thanks,*
*Barb Fawver*
*Editor*
Several years ago Texas A & M University (TAMU) introduced a new screening test for protein loss in the gastrointestinal tract called the Fecal Alpha1 Proteinase Inhibitor. The test was made available to Wheaten owners as an optional test in addition to their regular blood and urine testing.

In reviewing API tests over the last two years, TAMU has implemented a major restructuring of the way they interpret results of the test. These changes resulted from increased experience with the test and accumulation of a greater statistical base for them to work from.

What follows are comments from Dr. Craig Ruaux, BVSc(Hons) PhD MACVSc, Research Scientist, Gastrointestinal Laboratory, Dept. of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at Texas A & M University with additional input from Dr. David A. Williams, MA VetMB PhD MRCVS DECVP/CA/DACVIM, a Professor at Texas A & M who is also the creator of the Fecal API Test:

“As you know, we have always asked for three samples from differing bowel movements and then assayed each sample separately and interpreted them separately. The previous interpretation was pretty straightforward in that we said that documentation of any single sample with a concentration greater than 5.7 micrograms/gram indicated increased protein loss into the gastrointestinal tract.

What we have found from more recent work, though, is that a proportion of clinically healthy dogs will have a single sample greater than 5.7 micrograms/gram when randomly sampled. As the actual aim of this test is to integrate the results from three samples to estimate gastrointestinal protein losses over a 24-hour period, we altered the way in which we handle the data from the three samples. Unfortunately, this has made things a little more difficult in terms of interpretation. I’ll try and explain the method as clearly as I can.”

- Currently, each sample is reported with a value. Any individual sample with a value between 0 and 5.7 micrograms/gram is reported with the following interpretation:

  ‘Result for this single sample is within the normal range. Please see the interpretation of mean (average) and maximum values below.’

- A sample with a value between 5.7 and 15 micrograms/gram is reported with interpretation:

  ‘Elevated value for a single sample. An elevated value from a single sample alone is not considered diagnostic for PLE. Please see interpretation of mean and maximum values below.’

- And any sample with a value greater than 15 is reported as follows:

  ‘Any individual sample greater than 15.0 micrograms/gram is considered consistent with intestinal disease associated with protein loss. Please also see interpretation of mean and maximal values below’

- The computer calculates the mean value of the three samples, and determines the maximum value within the set of three, then reports these values. The interpretations for the mean value are:

  ‘0 - 9 micrograms/gram: Value is within the normal range.
  Mean greater than 9 micrograms/gram: Consistent with intestinal disease associated with protein loss.’

- For the maximal values, the interpretation is:

  ‘Any single sample greater than 15 micrograms/gram is consistent with intestinal disease and protein loss.’

- The clinical interpretation of the Fecal API results should be based on the Mean and Maximal Values, rather than on the individual values.
Dr. Ruaux offers the following examples of test interpretation:

“With this method of interpretation, a dog with, say, 1.2, 2.5, and 7 micrograms/gram from the three samples will be called ‘within normal range’, based on the mean value of those three samples. A dog with 2.3, 2.1, and 18 micrograms/gram will be called ‘abnormal’, based on the maximal value; and a dog with 9.5, 9.8, and 11 micrograms/gram will be called ‘abnormal’, based on the mean.

The cases that always gave us the greatest concern when interpreting under our original scheme were those that fell into the first example above (1.2, 2.5, and 7 micrograms/gram). We would previously have diagnosed PLE because of that single ‘7’. Based on a large longitudinal study of healthy dogs, we now know that this sort of pattern can be seen in healthy dogs; and thus, we were at risk of making a false positive diagnosis. With the new interpretation, we avoid making these sorts of false positives. We still have the concern of dogs with a pattern similar to the third example (9.5, 9.8, and 11 micrograms/gram), but the mean is not high enough to make the diagnosis – which may happen when all three samples are in the upper end of ‘normal’ or slightly high (6.5, 5.7, and 9; for instance). Thankfully, though, these sorts of results are uncommon; and thus, we don’t think we have a high false negative rate.

Based on our new findings, we are comfortable that any single sample >15micrograms/gram is markedly abnormal, and even in isolation, it is sufficient to make the diagnosis of PLE. 95% of normal dogs have a mean value < 9, so that is where we put the threshold for the interpretations based on Mean Values. It is important to keep in mind that a corollary of “95% of normal dogs have a mean < 9” is that about 5% of ostensibly healthy dogs will have a mean value greater than 9 micrograms/gram.

I hope this clarifies a little the new interpretation system. We need to emphasize that the above interpretations are based on properly collected samples..., that is, spontaneous defecation, not feces collected using a fecal loop or digital manipulation...both of which can cause enough trauma to the rectal mucosa to give a “false” positive (the test itself would be correct, the result is just elevated because of the local trauma).

Dr. David Williams and I would also like to stress that it is important that these interpretations are just information to be used in the context of broader evaluation of any patient. Whenever you get equivocal results, we recommend repeat testing after 6 months. It is also important to remember that an abnormal test result does not mean that the patient will eventually show clinical signs of disease and get sick — but, it is not “normal.”

Following our dialogue, I posed the following questions to Dr. Williams and Dr. Ruaux:

• How do vets get the tubes for the collections, and how are they to be sent to you? Is there a form that vets must use when submitting the test?

Veterinarians can obtain sets of the tubes and detailed instructions for submission by contacting the GI Lab at Texas A&M University (phone (979.862.2861 or email gilab@cvm.tamu.edu). The veterinarian will also receive a copy of our form for submission of the samples. We cannot supply the tubes directly to owners, because they are a medical device which can only be supplied by prescription.*

• Who receives the results of the test...the owner or their vet?

The results of the test and interpretation is given to the veterinarian, not the owner. This is because the interpretation of the results, and giving advice to the owner, is an act of veterinary science; and legally this can only be carried out by a veterinarian who is licensed to practice by the state. We are not licensed to practice in all states of the U.S. and thus cannot deal directly with the owner.

• Is a copy of the API results sent to Dr. Shelly Vaden at North Carolina State to aid in her research?

Only if this is requested by the veterinarian who submits the sample. Without consent of the owner, we cannot legally share the results of the test with anybody other than the veterinarian who submits the sample. To do otherwise would invade on the privacy of the owner.

• Do the samples have to be taken on three consecutive days, or can they be done several days apart?

The stool collections do not need to be on three consecutive days, just three separate fresh bowel movements. Most people do one collection each day, but this is not critical. Collecting samples several days
apart may increase the variability of the results a little, but it is unlikely to change things enough that the interpretations would differ.

• Can the Fecal API be used effectively in areas of the country where problems like “Giardia” are very prevalent? The test can be used effectively in areas where Giardiasis is prevalent, but it is important to realize that any gastrointestinal disease that damages the mucosa of the intestine can lead to PLE. So if a dog lives in an area where Giardia is very common, it is important that it has been checked for by either fecal flotation or ELISA. If the dog is Giardia positive, we would recommend treating for the Giardia and having the dog test free before using the A1PI test to check for PLE.

• At what age should we begin testing, and how often should the test be repeated? In a clinically healthy dog, I think at least annual screening makes sense; as this way, you increase the likelihood that you will make a diagnosis before the dog becomes severely ill; and this means you can start treatment earlier and get a better effect. If a dog comes from a line that has a history of severe problems, I would recommend screening more frequently as it is more likely that the dog will eventually be affected.

• Is a dog considered clear for PLE at any point? Unfortunately, there is no way to declare a dog “free” of PLE with the Fecal API test. Obviously, a dog that has been negative throughout its life is less and less likely to be affected as it ages; but it is possible for disease to manifest later in life, so we can never conclusively say that a dog is free of disease. All we can say is that there has been no evidence of PLE up until the time at which the samples are taken.

• What are the approximate charges to have the test done at TAMU? I can’t answer this question directly as different veterinarians apply differing handling, shipping, and interpretation charges to the fee that we charge them for carrying out this test.*

*Note: Fecal API/Urine MA collection kits are available through our club representative, Toni Vincent, at FecalAPIkit@aol.com.

The FecalAPI/Urine MA kit is designed by a professional packing engineer specifically for the frozen, overnight transportation of the fecal & urine samples to NCSU. The kit includes: shipping container, Styrofoam cooler, high-quality gel packs, 3 Fecal API tubes, 3 level sticks, 3 MA tubes, 1 pipette for urine collection, submission form, instructions, and Fed Ex form.

The kit is $25 (including shipping). It is for one dog’s collection samples. The cost to perform the Fecal API is $45. There is no cost for the MA test, at this time, as Dr. Shelly Vaden is collecting data for her research. You are responsible for the Fed Ex overnight shipping to NCSU in Raleigh, NC. When the kit arrives at NCSU, Tonya repackages the fecal samples and sends them to Texas A & M; she sends the urine to the lab they use for MA.

Compare this to the cost of having your vet handle the packaging and shipping of the fecal samples directly to Texas A & M. In either case, you have to collect and freeze the fecal samples yourself. By purchasing the kit and shipping it yourself, you are assured that the samples will arrive frozen at the lab.
Recently, veterinarians and veterinary laboratories have been offering testing for Microalbuminuria (MA). Some owners and breeders have begun MA testing for their Wheatens while others still have some questions.

Microalbuminuria is the presence of albumin in the urine at a lower concentration than can be found on other tests done during urinalysis, such as the urine dipstick. In humans, MA can be a predictor of proteinuria and can be used to predict early renal disease. (Source: Fricks article and commentary of Dr. Shelly Vaden, North Carolina State University,)

This has led veterinary researchers to look at measuring MA in dogs and, eventually, to the creation of an in-office test (e.g., Heska’s E.R.D. Heathscreen™) that displays a semi-qualitative measure of MA (i.e., ‘negative’, ‘low positive’, ‘high positive’, etc). Now, some veterinary laboratories offer a quantitative (numerical values) test for MA that can be run during a urinalysis when other tests are run.

What does this mean to Wheaten owners and breeders? Drs. Shelley Vaden and Meryl Littman, researchers into protein-losing diseases in Wheatens, have written that while they need more data, MA is a predictor of the proteinuria of PLN in some dogs.

Dr. Vaden encourages all Wheaten owners to test for MA annually in one of the following ways:

1. Your veterinarian can run the “in-office” test…the “Heska ERD”.
2. Your veterinarian can request MA testing when he sends out the urinalysis sample during annual screening.

Dr. Vaden would like to track the general Wheaten population and welcomes copies of all test results for future research; healthy dogs are just as important as affected dogs. We cannot depend solely on our researchers to find answers — this is a way we can all contribute. To see how you can contribute, read the last FAQ.

Want more information? Check the FAQs below. Unless otherwise noted, all responses are from Dr. Shelly Vaden, June 2005. Referenced articles are in Benchmarks, unless otherwise noted.

**General Information about MA**

- What is Microalbuminuria?
  
  MA, in the dog, is defined as a urinary albumin concentration between 1.0 and 30.0 mg/dl. Albumin is a protein that is not normally filtered by the glomerular capillary wall in the kidney and should not appear in the urine. (Dr. Shelly Vaden, 2005)

- Why should a Wheaten owner test for MA?
  
  In humans, it has been shown that MA is a consistent predictor of proteinuria and is used to predict early renal disease. Dogs, such as SCWTs that develop glomerular disease (e.g., PLN), can be genetically predisposed to renal disease. A preliminary study found that these dogs and their cross-bred progeny had a higher prevalence of MA than clinically normal dogs. (Source: Fricks article, 2005)
• What is the relationship between MA and PLN?
MA can be detected by an increase in either the ANTECH urine albumin test or the Heska ERD test and may be an indication of early PLN.

• What is the relationship between MA and RD?
RD is a disease in which the kidney does not develop normally. Fetal tissues, including fetal glomeruli, remain in the kidney long after these tissues should have matured. Progressive renal failure ensues. Along with progressive renal failure, glomerulosclerosis develops. These abnormal glomeruli may leak albumin, leading to MA. Likewise, the abnormal tubules may not reabsorb albumin that has accidentally escaped through more normal glomeruli. In this situation, MA may not precede the clinical onset of RD as it does with PLN; rather, they would be present at around the same time.

• What is the relationship between MA and other kidney disease?
Anytime there is damage to the glomeruli, which can be primary or secondary, there is leakage of albumin into the filtrate. The filtrate is the fluid that, after being modified by the remainder of the kidney, will eventually become urine. If the tubules are unable to absorb the albumin in the filtrate, either because there is too much albumin or because the tubules are also damaged, the albumin will appear in the urine. This will lead to a positive MA test.

• What other than kidney disease can cause a positive MA result?
Any condition where there is increased loss of albumin into the urine will cause an increased urine albumin. These MA tests are not specific for PLN of SCWT. (Vaden article, 2002)
The following diseases can produce MA (Source: Heska website):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental disease</th>
<th>Pyoderma</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immune-mediated diseases</td>
<td>Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heartworm disease</td>
<td>Ehrlichiosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lyme disease</td>
<td>Diabetes mellitus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyperadrenocorticism</td>
<td>Cushing’s disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>Neoplasia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Testing for MA

• How do I test for MA?
Your veterinarian may offer an "in-office" test, the Heska E.R.D. Healthscreen®. You can also have your veterinarian request to have testing for MA added onto a normal urinalysis panel if the lab (such as Amtech) used offers MA Testing. (Source, Fricks article)

• What is the E.R.D test? Is that different from an “MA” test done by the lab?
Both tests detect the presence of MA in the urine.
The E.R.D. test is a “semi-qualitative” test done in your vet’s office. The results will not be in numbers but will be characterized as ‘negative’, ‘low positive’, ‘medium positive’, or ‘high positive’. A ‘negative’ means that the sample has less than 1.0 mg/dl MA. (Source: Heska website)
The test done by the lab (such as Amtech) is quantitative. The result will be a number in mg/dl, such as 0.5 mg/dl, 2.5 mg/dl, etc. The lab results will include a “normal” range, i.e., below a certain mg/dl level.
Discuss all results with your veterinarian.
• My vet doesn’t have the in-house ERD test. How can I test for MA?  
You can ask to have a quantitative MA test added by the lab (such as Amtech) to your Wheaten’s annual screening if the test is available.

• Which test should I do?  
That choice is between you and your veterinarian. One difference is that the in-house E.R.D. is quick and you may have your results that day. The lab test may take a few days.

• Is there any special protocol…, e.g., fasting, first urine, special diet or handling, free catch or cystocentesis, etc…required prior to testing for MA for getting the most reliable results?  
The MA tests can be run in any urine sample collected by any means providing the sample is not discolored by the presence of blood (for example: if the dog also has a urinary tract infection). The dog does not need to be prepared in any particular way prior to providing the urine specimen.

Who should test

• My wheaten is a pet. Should I test him for MA?  
All SCWT should be tested, at least annually. (Vaden article, 2002)

• My wheaten is a pet but his close relatives (parents or siblings) are being bred. Should I test him for MA?  
All SCWT should be tested, at least annually. (Vaden article, 2002)

• My wheaten will be bred. Should I test him for MA?  
All SCWT should be tested, at least annually. (Vaden article, 2002)

• How old should my Wheaten be when I start testing for MA? At what age can I stop?  
Because the familial nephropathy occurring in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers occurs later in life, testing in these dogs should begin no later than 1 year of age and continue annually throughout a Wheaten’s life. (Vaden 2003)

A study of over 3,000 dogs showed a higher prevalence of MA as dogs reach age 9 and over. (See “Does age affect MA results?”)

• I test my dog regularly. All his urinalysis results are very good and his UPC is consistently at 0.1 or lower. Why should I do an MA, too?  
The MA test is the most sensitive test of urine protein. This means that this test will become positive at urine albumin concentrations that are lower than will be detected by other tests, but still abnormal. Most dogs with a high positive MA will also have an abnormal UPC.

Understanding MA results

• Does age affect MA results?  
In a large study of 3041 veterinary clinic staff-owned dogs from over 350 veterinary clinics, the overall prevalence of MA was 24.7%. The health status of the dogs was not reported. A statistically significant correlation was found between increasing age and MA, with 36% of dogs 9-11 years of age and 49.1% of dogs 12 and older demonstrating MA. These findings appear to be in agreement with previous reports of an increased incidence of certain types of glomerular disease in older dogs. (Vaden 2003).
The lab my vet uses for testing MA recently increased its “normal” range from less than 1.0 mg/dl to less than 2.5 mg/dl. If my Wheaten’s results are between 1.0 and 2.5, does that mean it is a normal reading?

The lab recently revised their “normal” readings because the majority of dogs tested fell in this range. It has been my experience, with our colony dogs, that those who test between 1 and 2.5 mg/dl progress to higher values. Perhaps a dog that tests in that range should have another urine sample checked in 6 months instead of one year. Again, it is those dogs that have a progressive increase that are the ones to be concerned about.

Is the Wheaten “normal” different than the “normal” for all dogs in general?

No. There is no evidence that would suggest this at this point.

What is the relationship between MA and Urine Protein Creatinine ratio (UPC) values?

The MA test and the UPC ratio are both means to assess urine protein. The MA test only measures urine albumin where as the UPC ratio measures total protein in the urine, including albumin. The test for MA is more sensitive and will be abnormal first. Dogs with MA values that progress to the high positive and very high positive will likely have an abnormal UPC ratio.

Do the following impact MA results: Exposure to tick-borne diseases (Lyme, Erlichia, RMSP) that shows up according to tests but with no active disease or treatment or active tick-borne disease followed by treatment? Will vaccination with the Lyme Vaccine impact results?

An animal can develop MA anytime there is damage to the glomerular membrane. Most tick-borne diseases can cause damage of the basement membrane and therefore lead to MA. Theoretically, the MA should resolve with appropriate treatment of the tick-borne disease. Vaccination should not lead to MA unless there is an adverse reaction to the vaccine.

If the results are impacted, what should I do?

Retest following appropriate treatment.

Do I need to do both the MA and the UPC tests every time I test my dogs? If not, when do I test for MA, and when should I run the UPC?

No. The MA test is an early indicator and might be abnormal before the UPC. This should be used during the screening process. Once the MA test results are high positive or above, the UPC will at some point become abnormal and can be followed beyond that point.

If there is a protein-losing problem, will it show up first in the MA, in the UPC, or in the urine dipstick results?

The studies out of our lab show that the MA test is positive first, in most dogs. Some dogs progress so quickly that the window of finding MA, before the UPC ratio is positive, may be quite narrow and missed. Urine dipstick results suffer from many false positives. They should not be relied on, because better tests are available.

Is there a point in the progression of MA detected (increase in value) at which one would stop testing for MA and only test the UPC ratio?

Once the MA is more than a medium positive, the UPC ratio should be abnormal and can be followed instead.

Since the evidence suggests that the majority of older dogs will show microalbumin, does this indicate “age-related” kidney issues versus disease such as PLN, if the UPC ratio and blood testing show no indications of disease?

This is a very good question. Older dogs can develop age-related changes in the kidney called glomerulosclerosis. Glomerulosclerosis can be associated with mild proteinuria and, therefore, MA. However, older
dogs are also at risk to develop other diseases, that cause primary or secondary damage to the glomeruli, which will also cause proteinuria and MA. So, MA in an older dog may indicate age-related changes to the kidney or the development of a glomerular disease, such as PLN of SCWT.

- I've seen testing where the UPC ratio is 0.3 on a younger dog, yet the MA is low. Why would that be? A UPC ratio of 0.3 is within the normal range. The UPC ratio measures all urine proteins, whereas the MA test is specific for urine albumin, which is only one of the urine proteins.

- When the MA is higher than normal, what should be done?

  Good question. Again, we need more data. If the urine albumin concentration is progressively increasing in a given dog, there is good evidence to suggest that this dog will progress to develop overt proteinuria (e.g., PLN). The question of when to intervene has not been answered completely. However, we know that proteinuria can lead to progressive damage to the kidneys and eventual renal failure. Therefore, animals that have persistent MA may be at risk for eventual renal failure.

  Medications that have been shown to reduce the magnitude of proteinuria, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors like benazepril (Lotensin®) or enalapril (Enacard®, Vasotec®), should be given to dogs with established proteinuria. We do not yet know the benefit of these drugs in animals that have only MA. Likewise, low-dose aspirin may be of benefit in dogs with persistent proteinuria.

  The question of appropriate diet also needs to be answered. If PLN develops because of long-standing inflammation in the gut and perhaps food allergies, would affected dogs benefit more from a hydrolysate diet or from a renal diet? This answer is just not known. The best diet may be a renal diet that is made from hydrolyzed proteins, but such a diet is not available. Because the lesions in the kidneys have probably been there for a long time before the dog develops proteinuria and we know that animals with renal disease benefit from a renal diet, my general leaning is to feed dogs that have only PLN a renal diet. If however, they have combined PLN and overt PLE, they may be managed better overall if they are fed a hydrolysate diet. In any case, it is best to work with a veterinarian and individualize the affected dog's care. (Vaden article, 2002)

**Research and MA**

- Is there an advantage of having my dog's MA test sent through NC State?

  There is no longer a need to send the urine samples through NC State. There is a point of care test that is now available through the veterinarian. The dogs can be screened with that test locally. If positive, urine samples can be sent to Antech labs for quantification of the albumin concentration in the urine.

  However, we would like data from all dogs that are screened. We need to know about the dogs that have negative test results as well as the positives. Otherwise, our prevalence data will be erroneous. (Vaden article, 2002)

- It seems to me that people would be more apt to participate in testing if they knew it was adding to your research rather than just an “add-on” test for breeders?

  I suspect that MA will also be invaluable for early detection in SCWTs, but we need a larger population before we can confirm this. (Vaden article, 2002)

- Are you interested in a large number of dogs being MA-tested in addition to a biochemical profile, complete blood count, routine urinalysis, and protein/creatinine ratio so that you will have a “population study”?

  Absolutely. This is essential for us to understand the microalbuminuria data. We would like to have all urine albumin data sent to us. (Vaden article, 2002)
• Are you interested in any particular age group?
  A good cross-sampling of dogs of all ages would be great. (Vaden article, 2002)

• Do you also want results of blood and urine on the dogs that are tested for MA?
  Yes, if available. Most people are good about sending this to us, but we would certainly like that to be emphasized. (Vaden article, 2002)

• What should we do with these test results?
  Send test results from ERD, MA, and UPC testing as well as any other lab work that has been done on your dog(s). If you have been doing routine tests over the years, send the results from each year.
  If you use a spreadsheet or other tracking program to record the actual values of all tests, you can send that in lieu of hard copies of the results from the labs.
  Dr. Vaden is especially interested in healthy dogs. If she only sees results from affected dogs, results are too skewed to be of any use. Although this will not be a statistically significant sample, information will give her a picture of the community of Wheatens.

Send the following:

  • Name of Dog
  • Age
  • Sex
  • Test results of ERD, MA, and/or UPC
  • Any other lab data, e.g., bloodwork, urinalysis
  • Pedigree

Send information to:

  Tonya Harris, College of Veterinary Medicine
  North Carolina State University
  4700 Hillsborough St., Room B236
  Raleigh, NC 27606
  Phone: 919-513-6206, FAX: 919-513-6336
  tonya_liewter@ncsu.edu

Additional Resources

• Q&A with Dr. Littman: “Canine Health Online - Q & A.” 31.1 Benchmarks (March 2003): 80-96.”
• Antech Labs article: http://www.antechdiagnostics.com/clients/antechNews/2004/feb04_02.htm
• Heska (maker of the in-office ERD test) website: http://www.heska.com/erd/index.asp
• DVM News article: http://www.dvmnewsmagazine.com/dvm/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=73072
• Fricks, Crystal B, DVM, et. al, ”Microalbuminuria in the Dog: Detection and Significance” 31.2 Benchmarks (June 2005)
• More information on Lab Results: Health Websites for SCWTs.” 31.4 Benchmarks (December 2003) : 69-71

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Health Coordinator’s Note: We’d like to thank those of you who provided us with very interesting questions for Dr. Vaden, as well as many of the resources for more information. We hope all Wheaten owners will find the information beneficial for their health testing protocols.

About Shelly Vaden, PhD DVM, DACVIM

Dr. Vaden is on the faculty of North Carolina State University in the Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine. Her faculty position is Professor of Internal Medicine. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia. Dr. Vaden’s clinical interests include general internal medicine and diseases of the upper and lower urinary tract.

Her Professional Experience & Qualifications include:

- Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Medicine
- Internship, New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell
- Combined residency/graduate program in Small Animal Internal Medicine, North Carolina State University
- Her Research Area is diseases of the kidney, with many of her projects focused on glomerulonephritis. She has a specific interest in protein-losing enteropathy and nephropathy (PLE and PLN) of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.
THE ULTIMATE PUPPY TOOLKIT...

Fun, interactive, and easy to understand, the Toolkit has 6 clearly written booklet modules with photos utilizing proven reward-based techniques.

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On Jun 1, 2005, Bonnie O'Connor asked the following questions on the Breeders Listserv. The answers that she received deserve sharing with Wheaten owners worldwide.

"I have several questions for this group.

- Since so many of our Wheatens are competing in the Performance areas of our sport, I was wondering if any breeders are breeding for the specific characteristics that make a good performance dog?
- What are the valued performance traits? I would assume you want a dog that is willing to please, has a drive to succeed, has prey drive, is fairly smart...what else?
- And how can a breeder identify a good future performer in the whelping box? Are there books that help with this?

I have people asking me about dogs that they can use for Agility, and my knowledge is limited."

And here are the responses:

First from Bob Merrie:

"I love this question! I love it that we have reached the point where even a few people even care! And I look forward to see the opinions of breeders and owners of Performance dogs.

My theory is that the Alpha types generally make the best Performance dogs. I look for the dominant, most obnoxious, noisy, feisty, pup in the litter box. The one that does everything first. The one that watches you every minute.

As they get older and yet still before they are placed, you can see how they react to basic commands like Sit, Down, and Come, taught by hand signals with bait as the lure (see the Sirius puppy training books and tapes). Are they food motivated? It's hard to train if they aren't. Will they play with toys? Play tug? This is a tough one, because in my experience most Wheaten puppies love to play with and chase toys, but they lose interest as they get older. I've never had a Wheaten that will play tug, chase balls or Frisbees as an adult, and I really envy the owners of those that do. This trait is so useful in training and rewarding in Agility and Obedience. Just watch the handlers of the BCs!

And, let's not neglect the structure of the dog, particularly for Agility. Agility is very hard on a dog. They are expected to go fast, jump, turn fast, contort their bodies to go through tunnels, race up and down A-frames and come to a quick stop at the bottom — two on A, two off. This puts a terrific strain on their bodies. We are lucky that
the conformation of the Wheaten seems well suited to the rigors of Agility. Their medium size avoids the problems the very large and very small breeds have with some of the obstacles that don't change size, e.g. the A-frame and the tunnel. Most Wheatens have no problem with the height of the jumps they must make, and they love to jump. They can turn quicker than most breeds. The Wheaten Standard calls for a dog that is configured well to do all these things, so you want one that meets the structural Standards."

From Cecily Skinner:

"I'll speak for a friend who has Wheaten offspring related to me. She has shown in Obedience and now Agility for years and started in Miniature Schnauzers. When she was picking her first Wheaten puppy, she looked for one that naturally would retrieve. That particular puppy was independent and very clever. If you set something on top of the crate, he'd see if he could get it off and, if not, he'd go inside the crate and look up to see if he could get it that way. He retrieved at 8 weeks. He became a Champion at 10 months and took to that ring well. He went on to achieve multiple Obedience and Agility titles—all "tails up"! Her second dog, a female, hates it; and she now has a new male puppy who acts very much like the first at 4 months...we'll see.

She told me she looks for an independent, more dominant type puppy for Performance. She said they are challenging but worth the effort."

From Hilde Myhre:

"Of all things to consider for a Performance dog, 'boldness' seems to be the most important trait according to a set of scientific papers published by Keneth Svarthberg in Sweden.

He checked for associations between the temperament testing results (carried out when the dog was below 18 months and avoiding dogs with competition-experienced owners to avoid a bias) on the one hand, and the results that these dogs later achieved in various performance events on the other hand.

'Bold' dogs, defined as dogs with high marks for sociability, playfulness, and curiosity, and low marks for fear, did much better than the others. So I would tend to agree with Bob and others: look for a confident, curious, and outgoing puppy.

'Independent' in itself is probably however not such a good trait — a dog that doesn't take to people (like the many large guard dog breeds) is definitely more difficult to motivate! However, what we perceive as independence in a baby puppy is probably in most cases just confidence. Which is a good trait!
"Liveliness" can sometimes mask lack of confidence. I have made that mistake myself and others too. There is one puppy that is running around and doing things all the time, and we think this must be the most brave and outgoing and confident puppy. Later this puppy turns out to be a slightly nervous, very lively, but not very confident dog at all. Still, if all other traits are the same, I would of course prefer the livelier dog to a more lazy sibling. A boost of energy is always useful in Performance events."

From Willie Rueda:

"I agree with Hilde that independence can be difficult to ascertain in origin. While I have not as a rule bred for Performance (that seems to be changing), it would seem that as puppy traits — what I look for and what are good for Performance are not exclusive. We have included temperament testing (thank you Carol and Betsy) of our puppies since '99 and found that the key to evaluation is removing the puppy from the litter and familiar surroundings. This is not original thinking, but certainly confirmed by our observation. A "confident" puppy in the litter is not always so on its own. While interpretation of testing can be limited through one's experience and subjectivity, I think you can see volumes at that 7-week-old temperament test that seems to carry through adulthood."

From Kickie Norby:

"I also agree with Hilde and Willie, but I would add a couple of days to the 7-week-old pups. Normally the pups come into a special age at 7 weeks, when it comes to temperament; but sometimes the litter can be a bit late, especially if they were born too early. We also use to do a kind of puppy test similar to what has been described, and we used to wait to pick in the litter until the pups are as close to 8 weeks as possible. We also have some puppy buyers who use their dogs for hunting, and the puppy test has helped us to find the right ones."

From Beth Sorenson:

"I do try to breed for Performance. Over the lifetime of my dogs, I show them in many more Performance events than breed shows, so it is very important to me to pick the right working puppy. I am also breeding for structure, type, and health, but I won't address those things in this post.

In choosing a sire, it would be ideal to pick one that has proven working ability, but few intact males are competing in Performance events. I have a list of questions I ask to try to determine drive and temperament. The general things I am looking for are drive, focus, trainability, stability, and livability. In a given breeding, I am trying to balance what my bitch brings to the table — since I work my bitches, I know their Performance strengths and weaknesses.

I do temperament test my litters. In the past, I have used the Volhard test; but in the future, I am planning to use a modification of that test developed by Sheila Booth. (It is called "Positive Puppy Preview" and is available on audio tape). The basic tests are similar, but her unique perspective tries to determine if a pup's drive can overcome its stress, and (in my opinion) she has a better way of assessing food and toy drive and the ability to switch between them. I am working with a Wheaten now that has great retrieve, toy, and food drive and will gladly switch between them, but in my experience she is an exception.

I agree that I look for a bold and curious puppy, but not an independent one. Ideally I would like a bright, high-drive pup (toy and food) with great focus and people sociability. Energy level is somewhat important, but the ideal working puppy has what we call an "off switch" and isn't difficult to live with. I agree that the "busy body" pup in the litter can often be unfocused and/or nervous. I also like a puppy with what I call "body awareness". These pups may be slightly touch sensitive, but they are coordinated, and they seem to be more careful jumpers.

I also try to evaluate the litter both individually and as a group with a variety of games. I take the pups into a yard, get their attention and run. The pups all chase me and once they are close I feed each one a
treat then run off again. I look for the pups that find
the game exciting - even after quite a few repetitions
they are pushing me for more. Some pups wander off
or lose interest if they aren't the first one fed. I also
look for the puppy that wants to be with me in gen-
eral and maintains eye contact. On a given day any
puppy can perform worse, but if you try this a num-ber of times you can get a good picture of the litter. I
also teach each puppy individually - it can be sit, spin
in a circle, whatever. I prefer the puppy that learns
quickly, doesn't get bored with the game and is pushy.
I am also looking for resilience - if I change the game
slightly the pup should keep trying or offer an alterna-
tive behavior rather than giving up. I work each puppy
away from the litter at least every other day so I can
evaluate their behavior one-on-one.

Finally, part of what makes a great performance dog
is the teamwork - everybody has a different training
style. If you like a pushy puppy, a more docile puppy
may disappoint you, while if you like a more biddable puppy, the pushy puppy may frustrate you. I believe
there are many WheatenT that would make great performance dogs given the chance!"

From Elaine Nerrie:

"I can't resist chiming in here as the breeder half of Hullabaloo...Bob missed seeing his Agility buddy, Vin-
nie The Weasel, while Vinnie was still a whelping box resident, as Vinnie came from a co-bred litter. Our
owners had moved out of our area, so I trekked back and forth to supervise and critique the litter.

I had NO intention of keeping one of the puppies as we had a full house and a male already, but every
time I visited, there was this obnoxious, noisy, feisty (Bob nailed it) little weasel standing in the middle
of his littersmates, owning the territory. By the time we were sending puppies home, I had to have him in
spite of the fact that several of his siblings were "way better than he was - lucky Anna - and complicated
by the fact that the co-breeder was an attorney who smelled blood in the water and actually got me to
buy the puppy out of my own litter!

I drove at least a hundred miles before I felt secure in the fact that I'd really escaped with this little bun-
dle of attitude, ego, and energy - have you ever seen "Good Fellas" and Joe Peschi's character? - and
then started to wonder what the heck I was going to do with him. Bold? Oh, yeah. Bold. Who knew from
Agility at this point, twelve years ago? This puppy was just irresistible, for whatever reason. Thank God,
the AKC came up with something for him to do........

On the other hand, we have "Cozy," the neediest dog in the universe, who would be an instant reject for
Performance activities; truly a Soft-Headed Wheaten Terrier. She's at least Vinnie's equal in Agility and,
until I ruined it by breeding her, much faster. I think as the polar opposite to "Bold" she is painfully anx-
ious to follow directions to the letter (once she can grasp the idea). The trick is for Bob to stay on track
for her, whereas Vinnie always has his plan down perfectly and gives Bob hell in case of handler error.

I'm stunned at the idea of Wheatens being used as hunting dogs, in spite of their heritage as such. How
many of you had an instant picture of Wheatens you have known and loved actually doing something like
retrieving a bird or treeing a possum? My version has definite comedic overtones."
Vinnie The Weasel (pictured on the next page), who celebrated his 12th birthday on May 6th, has been having lots of fun this year doing Rally, AKC’s new performance venue. Rally started officially January 1st this year. There are three Title levels similar to those in Obedience and Agility: “Novice”, “Advanced” and “Excellent”. Vinnie qualified twice this weekend at the Santa Cruz Kennel Club trials in the Excellent B Class. These were his 2nd and 3rd qualifying scores required to gain the Rally Excellent Title (RE) (his 23rd AKC Title). He had a run of 9 straight qualifying rounds to achieve titles at all three levels.

Most Rally exercises are just variations of those used in Obedience and Agility and, for the most part, are duck soup for an experienced Performance Dog. Some of the Station Signs that tell you what you should have your dog do at each station are another matter, and are rather easy to misinterpret by the handler (at least by this handler) until you have a bit of experience; and so it really is a teamwork experience with the human member usually the one to mess up. Unlike Obedience and Agility however, there is a lot of leeway for messing up; for instance, you are allowed to repeat an exercise that was done wrong and only lose 3 points. And while an exercise that is not done correctly will cost 10 points, you can still qualify with 70 points out of 100; so there is a lot of room for error.

Vinnie has a great disdain for one exercise that is not in regular Obedience. It is one where you come to a standing stop and then back up 3 paces with the dog backing up with you in the heel position and remaining standing throughout. Well, Vinnie knows “back up” very well from a sitting heel position but has no use for this silly variation and wants to back up sitting not standing and lets me know how wrong this is by barking at me. As it turns out, the last station both days this weekend was this very exercise. I was concerned to see it was included but actually happy it was the last one, since, once he get upset with me and starts barking, he doesn’t stop! Continuous barking is a fault, and you can lose points up to disqualification depending on the severity of the barking and what side of the bed the Judge got up on that day. Anyway he did this exercise “his way” both days and let me know how wrong I was to expect otherwise. And since I can recognize cranky old man behavior when I see it, I decided not to re-do these and to just accept the 10 point deduction. On Sunday, as it turned out, he had done pretty well up to that point — since those were the only points he lost, as he scored 90 to quality and earn his new title.

Also on Sunday, Clyde Schauer, who has two Wheatens of our breeding, Vinnie’s half-sister “Grace” (Ch Hullabaloo Ten Cents A Dance CD, RN, CGC) and “Crystal” (Hullabaloo Spoonful of Sugar CD, RN, CGC), qualified both dogs in Advanced Rally. Crystal, a Vinnie daughter, is a chip off the old block having attained her Obedience Companion Dog (CD) title just a few weeks ago.

Let me make another plug for getting your Wheatens involved in training and Performance events. Wheatens, like most dogs, are happiest and really thrive when they have a purpose. Most of us don’t have a farm for them to be useful on, so why not try Tracking or Obedience or Agility or Herding or Therapy dog or Rally? Training a dog can and should be fun for you and the dog, whatever type of activity you and your dog prefer. Wheaten temperaments differ, so you will need to take that into account. If you are just getting started, don’t worry about competing. Just have fun with the training. Teach them tricks!

At a minimum, I think all our dogs should be trained sufficiently to earn a Canine Good Citizen Title (CGC), if only so we can claim to be responsible Dog owners. Sign up for the test at Montgomery!

For Competition, Rally is a good starting point. It is easy to train for. You can signal, talk to, and encourage your dog as much as you want and at the Novice level it is all on lead. It will also give you a better sense of whether your Wheaten is suitable for going on to Obedience or Agility or not.

Go for it!
When I first heard about AKC offering the new Rally Obedience event, Dagwood wasn’t even born yet. It sounded like an exciting venue that allowed you to interact with the dog, keeping it fun like our Wheatens need it to be. It also offered a “springboard” into traditional, more formal obedience.

Rally-0 is an event which is compared to Rally car-racing and canine agility in that there is a course set up with stations (from 10-20, depending on the level) where you and your dog must perform the designated exercise as each station’s sign tells you to do. It is important to know your signs (50 different ones) and what each requirement is.

The total possible score is 100 with a minimum of 70 to qualify. And while there are only full points taken off, it would have to be a rather obvious infraction (i.e., a crooked sit AND sitting too far away) to be considered a one point deduction.

At first it may seem Rally is too “easy” or too “lenient,” but there are ways to lose points and many ways to Non-Qualify. Missing a sign, for example, would be an NQ. The first level — Novice — is all done on leash, but a “consistent tight lead” would constitute an NQ. Advanced and Excellent levels are more challenging by being off-leash. Though teams are timed, this is not a race. Course times are used only when breaking a tie in the score.

On January 1, 2005, AKC approved several clubs around the country to hold first-ever sanctioned Rally trials, some starting at 12:01 a.m. We entered the Westmoreland County Obedience Club Rally trials (near Pittsburgh) to be one of the first dogs to make history. At 12:17 a.m. ET on January 2, we earned our third leg for the RN (Rally Novice) title. A couple of weeks later, we earned the RA (Rally Advanced) title and then followed up with the RE (Rally Excellent) title on March 11.

Forging on, we entered every available Rally trial we could find within driving distance to get our 10-leg RAE title, which is somewhat like the UDX in that you must enter and qualify in both Advanced and Excellent courses (at the same trial). This called a “Double Q”. Dagwood DQ’d 10 times in a row with 11 placements, and while he never did quite reach 1st Place, he did get a few 99s and 100s under his belt, er, collar.

Recently we learned that Dagwood was not just the first Wheaten to earn that title, but the first Terrier in the country to do so, behind five other dogs who have achieved this new AKC title.* With two agility titles also this year, this makes six titles in less than six months. Not bad for a little three-year-old.

The best part about Rally is that you can TALK to your dog, praising, even repeating commands the entire time in the ring. Almost anything is allowed except touching the dog or obvious corrections. This interaction is something Dagwood needs, since he is a very sensitive, soft-tempered dog. Rally has been a way to keep him motivated and happy. I’m sure his Granddaddy Happy Jack would be proud.

*(Editor’s note: The others getting the RAE title are two Shelties, one Doberman, one Rottweiler, and one Pembroke Welsh Corgi. This is based on AKC Awards January through May 2005).
Jeter completed his 150th Therapy Dog visit on June 9, 2005 and was awarded a TDIAOV title (Therapy Dogs International Active Outstanding Volunteer). We visit AHRC, a school for kids with disabilities on Thursday afternoons; and during the last six years, we’ve made a lot of friends.

Several kids right now are very special to us. A little boy named Chris used to be able to walk Jeter on a lead. It was, in fact, incentive for him to walk the entire hallway — something that was not easy for him to do. Now he is confined to a wheelchair, but still gets a big kick out of "walking" Jeter up the hallway.

I encourage the kids to say, "Take it, Jeter" when they offer him a piece of kibble — a phrase that is difficult for many of the kids to say — but they manage. Jeter is especially good with kids in wheelchairs, one of whom was originally very frightened of all dogs, including Jeter — an understandable feeling since they are not able to get up and walk away. In any case, with a gradual introduction and seeing Jeter loving up the kids in his class, Sammy is now Jeter’s good friend. A big smile comes across his face when Jeter gives him kisses.

Then there is “JF” (John Francis) who is as sweet as sugar and gets lots of kisses from Jeter in exchange for lots of pieces of kibble. Jessica, also in a wheelchair, never raises her head except to say "hi" to Jeter; she immediately puts her hand up to Jeter’s face for him to lick. Lonny is graduating this year; he’s the same size he was when we started at AHRC 6 years ago. He still has a special connection with Jeter and has always had therapy dog interaction as part of his Individual Education Program (IEP); Lonny doesn’t talk but knows how to sign “more.”

Michelle towers over me at 16 years old and likes to train Jeter and have him do tricks for her. One day she was in a lousy mood and didn’t want to participate in an activity with her class. As soon as I brought Jeter over to her, Michelle perked up. I said, "You can’t be sad anymore, because Jeter’s here!" She started to smile, got some good loving from Jeter and then went over to her class to join them.

Jeter connects beautifully with a smiling teenager who can’t hear or speak but signs “dog” and enjoys petting Jeter. Jesse is very sight impaired and loves to feel Jeter’s hair; and when I ask him if it’s soft or hard, he says it’s hard! The excitement on Jesse’s face when he knows Jeter is nearby, with him bouncing up and down, makes coming to the school all the more worthwhile.

The kids and teachers love it when Jeter and I do “freestyle” dancing. I bring a CD player with me, and Jeter keeps in step a great deal better than my husband! We’re not exactly ready for any competition, but the kids enjoy it.

Jeter passed his Therapy Dog test at 18 months, and we started visits to AHRC shortly thereafter. Hopefully, we’ll get in another 150 therapy dog visits. If you’ve considered doing therapy dog visits with your dog, don’t think twice. It’s one of the best things Jeter and I have ever done.
What can one say about their first dog? I have a saying that I have used for the past decade — “It’s all Catie’s fault!” Catie was my first Wheaten, my first show dog, my first champion, and the foundation of Acacia Wheatens. When I traveled to pick up Catie, my mom asked me what I was going to name my new puppy; I had no idea, and I was going to let the dog fit the name. As a horticulturist, I knew I needed a plant name. Acacia is a filler flower many florists use in cut flower arrangements; it is also a plant family with great diversity — a perfect name for a horticulturist’s dog. Catie was just a name that came out when I thought of Acacia. So Catie it was. Helen’s one comment to me, I will always remember — “I think you will like her if you can get her to calm down!” Well, she did calm down, and we loved her for 14 ½ years. Oh, Catie was a true Wheaten; she was a champion at knocking down the trash to get a snack; she told me when it was time for dinner; you couldn’t say the word ride, car or go without her running to the door; and play — Catie played up until the end, not for as long, because she had the hard job of holding the pillows down! She really like nap time as she aged. Catie even enjoyed her great-grandchildren, unless they were trying to eat her cookie. I couldn’t have asked for a better dog, and I will always remember her with a smile on my face.

When researching dogs, I was unaware of the health problems in the breed (all dogs have issues, right!). I expected I would have her for 10 to 12 years, the life expectancy for a mid-size dog. As the health problems became more talked about, I was really hoping for Catie to live 12 years. She did more than that; and Catie never was ill, never had problems with allergies: could eat anything (including ½ a turkey left on the counter) without missing a beat. I am one of the lucky ones, having my foundation bitch living healthy for so long. This is something I would wish for everyone. Catie’s necropsy results basically said she died of old age. Multiple organ shutdowns: liver, lungs, and heart appeared to be the focus. Good news for my breeding program. Catie is/was part of the Geriatric Study; maybe she will continue to be an important part of the Wheaten world.

My first dog show was the St. Louis Specialty when Catie was 6 months and one week old. The people were wonderful; I can never thank all that helped me that first weekend enough; and, Ronnie, you didn’t have to spend half the night grooming a newcomers dog, but you did and that deserves a special thanks. Catie went on to win her class at the specialty; we came home with ribbons and a trophy! (OK, she was the only one in her class, but that didn’t matter.) I continued to show Catie until she decided she didn’t need to show for mom; she loves me no matter, so I sent her to a handler. It was hard to be without her,
but she was only gone a few weeks, coming home a champion from the Colorado Specialty, going Winners Bitch two of the three days and Reserve Winners Bitch the other day. Next, it was time to think about breeding her.

Catie’s first litter was one I will always remember: the puppies were due on Christmas Eve, and I was set on having another girl, a daughter. I didn’t care if she was a show dog or not; I was going to keep a girl! When Catie started into labor, my mother (a retired O.B. nurse) started with her cleaning, the floor was vacuumed, the windows cleaned, the walls washed and, yes, we even vacuumed the ceiling. Mom wanted it sterile! We were expecting 4 or 5 puppies (that is what the vet counted on the x-ray) so here we go... Boy, Boy, Boy, Boy and then Boy... A whole litter of boys, where was my girl? Just when I was resigned to keep a boy (after all what choice was I given?) out pops a girl. This was MY girl! That girl later became Ch Acacia’s Christmas Expresso, #1 Wheaten bitch in 1995. Catie went on to produce 7 champions in her 3 litters. Two of Catie’s daughters became ROMs, several children or grandchildren have been ranked in the top 25 Wheatens, and I can track almost 30 champions back to Catie.

I am sure Catie is in heaven (Yes there are dogs in heaven, after all it wouldn’t be heaven without dogs.) waiting until the next time we will meet. She is playing with everyone she can, cleaning faces of those that need cleaning and she sleeping on a pile of pillows she shares with her playmates that preceded her — of course, she has a bowl of cookies next to her. Oh, if God thinks of throwing something good to eat in the trash, don’t worry; Catie will be there to knock the can over to get the leftovers. I cherish the memories we shared. I will miss you, my sweet, and I will continue to hold you in my heart. Until we meet again.

There you have it... I have enjoyed spending time at dog shows, traveling some years from California to Pennsylvania. I look forward to competing in the future with more of Catie’s great (and great-great) grandchildren. I owe a lot to my first girl and every time I enter the ring I will give thanks to her and to those of you that have helped me move forward. Hopefully, we can say with confidence that Wheatens will live to the ripe old age of 14, like Catie.

If we have crossed paths at a show, if you have one of my pets, or if you have admired any of the Acacia dogs in the ring like Ch. Acacia’s Christmas Expresso, Ch. Acacia’s Moonshine, Ch Acacia’s Kona Expresso, or Ch. Acacia’s Farmer Expresso (All Group-winning Wheatens), remember - ”It’s all Catie’s fault!”
Louis (the French pronunciation, please — just the way Louis Armstrong liked it!) was a very loving companion to us for almost fifteen years. He loved people, life and, above all, loved tennis balls. He was the consummate ball catcher and retriever. For hours on end he would chase after the ball, catch it, and return it for another throw. He delighted in it. Should you tire of playing with him, he would bring the ball to you, dripping with doggie spit, and place it against your leg, leaving a nice round wet spot on your trousers. He would catch the ball anyway you threw it: underhand, overhand, bouncing to him, and bouncing off a wall he would catch it on the fly. His favorite play was the throw up onto the roof; waiting anxiously for it to come rolling off the roof, he would sprint catching it before it hit the ground. And, of course, returning it for yet another throw. He was with Leo (and half-cousin Gnarly — their sires, Kash & Kairo, were full brothers) when they were living in Denver for about three years. Gnarly’s participation in the games was to try and prevent Louis from returning the ball, employing various unsuccessful blocking techniques. This was especially fun for them in Denver’s snow.

Back in California, Louis discovered the joy of swimming — the only Wheaten we ever had who loved to swim. If there was a person swimming in the pool, he took on the job of lifeguard; and thinking the swimmer was in trouble (which, of course, was never the case), he would dive into the pool to the rescue. Even if there was no person in the pool, a simple command, like “Louis, jump in the pool” would precipitate a running leap and belly-flop splash into the pool, and then swim to the pool steps, climb out, and once again another flying leap and splash. Like playing catch, he would keep up the run, dive, swim, climb out routine until a short break was needed, after which, of course, yet another round of diving.

When not busy being a sporting terrier, Louis was the perfect gentleman; he
loved the ladies, and he loved showering them with nuzzlings and kissings -- total strangers at Nordstrom's blushed and giggled as Louis begged them to let him snuggle. He was an excellent escort whether we were shopping or dining or going to appointments or classes at the university.

Louis slowed gradually in his later years. His spirit was willing, but his body was growing weak. We built some steps for him so he could get up on the bed at night. Eventually, that proved too hard for him; and he continued his sleeping on a very comfy cushion next to the bed. His eyes would light up occasionally when presented with the tennis ball, and would even catch it, but tired of that after a few throws. In spite of this decline, he continued his daily exploration of the yard, going from one end to the other sniffing everything, studiously examining the shrubs, trees, and any fruit that had fallen — throughout, his tail was up and wagging - occasionally, a manly leg-lifted pee just to make sure his mark was still there.

His annual check-ups showed him to be in good health for his age, and we provided him with the appropriate diet and medications to keep his health and cognition as sound as possible. And they did help in the last few years, keeping his weight in line, his bones strong, and his mind perky. We had thought that he might live as long as his mother, Shannon (Ch Springsong Lazy River), had lived — to nearly 17 years. Alas, he had his first episode with Canine Laryngeal Paralysis while at the Veterinarian’s, in March of this year during his semi-annual geezer checkup. The disease was gradual and progressive, but no major episode again until mid-June, when he required overnight care at our local animal ER, and then several days’ care at our Veterinarians’ clinic. He had a quiet pleasant week after that, but then the episodes repeated several times during the following week, again requiring ER care. Heavy sedation to keep him calm was required, and this meant really no quality of life. We let him go in early July. He is part of the SCWT Geriatric Study, as is his mom.
Better days are shining through*...

Ollie began his show career at age 6 months and 3 days, going BOS in Sweeps at the DelVal Specialty.

After that, there were even “better days” ahead.

He finished with 5 majors in his next 5 shows.

Ollie will spend some time growing up at home with the Branches...with occasional visits to the specials ring.

Co-owned by Gary, Sophia, Taylor and Gavin Branch
Co-bred by Michael Wasylkiw & Mike Kempinsky

CH Banner Better Days
(CH Dundalk’s The Stroke of Midnight, ROM x CH Banner Devil in the Details)

Always owner-breeder handled.

Banner Wheatens ✶ Owners, breeders, handlers John & Pam Mandeville ✶ conbrio@patmedia.net ✶ 732.846.5866

**“Better Days”, Bruce Springsteen**
Ch. CLADDAGH'S STAR STUDDED CEILI
Great Western Terrier Association
SCWTSCSC Specialty

"Ceili"
(Ch. Starlight Dream Lover x Claddagh’s Granuaile O’Malley)

At the "star-studded" event that was the SCWT Club of Southern Cal Specialty, Ceili garners BOS over 25 class bitches and 11 bitch specials!

Our appreciation to judge Mr. Richard Powell.

Ventura Dog Fanciers Association, Group 2 - judge Mr. Jon Cole
No Ca Terrier Association, AOM – judge Mr. Kenneth Kauffman

Owned, groomed & handled by Viviana Hetherington, 714-963-1545, vphether@earthlink.net
Bred by Karla Baer Cohen & Jim Cohen, Claddagh Wheatens, Glendale, CA Claddagh3@earthlink.net
Belle completed her championship with 4 majors and 4 BOBs over top* specials.

Thank you,
Beverly & Kevin McDonald and Nancy & Jo Pedersen for this lovely girl.

Helen Fraguela
7221 W. Cypresshead Dr.
Parkland, Florida 33067

* top 20 per June 2005 Benchmarks
CH. HARBOUR HILL FWY OFF RAMP
(Ch Harbour Hill Porsche Carrera x Ch Aranbriars Adonis)

Winners Dog – Hatboro Dog Club under judge Mr. Michael Dougherty (handler, Susie Olivera), FREEWAY is sparingly specialised by owner/breeder Susan Sakauye; and he thanks the following judges for his recent BOB wins: Mrs. Elaine Young, Mr. Joe Walton, Mrs. Shona Probble, Mrs. Janie Bousek, Mr. Wayne Bousek, Mr. Robert Shreve, Mrs. Marcia Feld, Ms. Christine Carter, and Mrs. Robert Forsythe.

CH HARBOUR HILL PEPPERMINT PATTY, “SNICKERS”
(Ch Doublongs Myths N Magic x Ch Harbour Hill Czarina)
is a NEW MOM!

“SNICKERS” proudly presents her...

...“DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES” KIDS
(Ch Bonney’s Nip N Tuckit x Ch Harbour Hill Peppermint Patty)

Harbour Hill Under House Arrest “CARLOS”

Harbour Hill Bree Van De Kamp “BREE”

Harbour Hill at Wisteria Lane “MARY ALICE”

From CLASSIC PEANUTS: the Peanut(s) Never Falls Far From The Tree!

Watch for equally lovely littermates: Harbour Hill Runway Model “Gabrielle”, Harbour Hill Dirty Laundry "Edie", and Harbour Hill Mike Delfino "Mikey".

HARBOUR HILL
Susan Sakauye
Ssakauye@AOL.COM
Winners Dog — Hatboro Dog Club
under judge Mr. Michael Dougherty
(handler, Susie Olivera),
FREeway is sparingly specialised by
owner/breeder Susan Sakauye;
and he thanks the following judges for
his recent BOB wins: Mrs. Elaine Young,
Mr. Joe Walton, Mrs. Shona Prebble,
Mrs. Janie Bousek, Mr. Wayne Bousek,
Mr. Robert Shreve, Mrs. Marcia Feld,
Ms. Christine Carter,
and Mrs. Robert Forsythe.

From CLASSIC PEANUTS:
the Peanut doesn’t fall far from the tree!

Ch Harbour Hill Peppermint Patty, ”Snickers”
(Ch Doubloons Myths N Magic x Ch Harbour Hill Czarinha)
is a NEW MOM!

”SNICKERS” proudly presents her...

Watch for equally lovely littermates: Harbour Hill Runway Model (Gabrielle),
Harbour Hill Dirty Laundry (Edie), and Harbour Hill Mike Delfino (Mikey).

Harbour Hill Under House Arrest
”CARLOS”

Harbour Hill Bree Van De Kamp
”BREE”

Harbour Hill at Wisteria Lane
”MARY ALICE”

Harbour Hill FWY Off Ramp
(Ch Harbour Hill Porsche Carrera x Ch Aranbriers Adonis)
CH LONTREE 24 KARAT OF MORNINGSTAR

"The Breeder’s Choice"

"Casey" has been shown in a limited number of shows this year. However, he is getting recognition from the most respected SCWT breeders.

Owner
Doreen Gordin, Eldorado Gold
623-434-6555

Handlers
Alison Miller
& Vickey Williams

Flash: Casey takes Best in Specialty 2005 Greater Denver SCWTC under judge Betty-Anne Stenmark!
(Ch Lontree 24 Karat of Morningstar “Casey” x Ch Michaleen’s Song of Kerry)

This is Casey’s lovely young daughter winning at back-to-back shows on her way to becoming a champion, owner-handled.

Bred, owned, & handled by Pat Weir, Michaleen Wheatens.
NEW CHAMPION LONESTAR’S GOLDEN SNITCH
(Ch. Lonestar Crazy For You X Ch. Kaler Midnight Mac Attack)

Many thanks to Mrs. Lehnig, Mrs. Beattie, Mr. Kaufman, Mr. Ward, & Mr. R. Murphy for recognizing the quality of this lovely bitch!!!!!

Bred/owned/loved by Lonestar Wheatens: Tom & Wendy Neill, 610-489-4048
"GWEN & JACK"
AN EXCITING TEAM - ON THE MOVE!

PHOTO CREDIT: KATHY HARMER

TRÉBOL LABOUR LEADER
CH GERAGOLD ORLA FINLANDIA x CH TREBOL TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

BRED AND OWNED BY: WENDY + WILLIE RUEDA
OWNED AND LOVED BY: ELIZABETH BELL
TREBOL@TOAD.NET

EXPERT CONDITIONING AND HANDLING BY: GWEN + KENT MEYER
PHONE: 815-547-5778
eBENCHMARKS/BENCHMARKS

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

eBENCHMARKS EDITOR:
Carol Carlson, 21 N. Vintage Rd., Paradise, PA 17562  kccarlson@comcast.net

eBENCHMARKS DESIGN & LAYOUT:
Roxanna Springer, 1102 Linwood Pl., Escondido, CA 92027  rsprsng@aol.com

eBENCHMARKS PRINT COORDINATOR:
Merrillee Ford, 2669 Montrose Pl., Santa Barbara, CA 93105  merrillee@aol.com

eBENCHMARKS PRINT SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS & CIRCULATION/ADDRESS CHANGES:
Ronnie Copland, 415 George St., Elgin, IL 60120  wheaten@wideopenwest.com

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**Fecal API / Urine MA Kits**
Toni Vincent-Fisher, FecalAPIkit@aol.com

**MCKC’05 Coordinator**
Lance Canter, landmarkwheatens@yahoo.com

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