BENCHMARKS

a publication of the SCWTCA, Inc
volume 34, number 4
december 2006

featuring

Montgomery 2006
Interviews With Two New Board Members
Great Western Judge’s Critique
Greater Denver Specialty
Thoughts, After More Than Thirty Years of Breeding
Happy Birthday Seniors
What We Have Learned From The Colony Dogs
The Essence of Type

molly in the pachasandra
photo by marie weicker

Wishing All a Happy Holiday!
From the President...

“If only I may grow firmer, simpler, quieter, warmer.”
Statesman Dag Hammarskjöld

What a profound thought for life as an individual...and as a group.

Firmness of intent for the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America is to consider above all else the welfare of the breed and refrain from actions contrary to the best interest of the breed or the club. With this in mind, we will continue to develop a solid foundation within our club and with our members, always depending on the volunteers who make us strong.

Simplicity of thought, word and action strengthens the path to the achievement of our goals...and they are many. These include education of owners, breeders, handlers, judges and the public, courtesy and fairness in all canine activities, responsibility for our dogs and our breed in every arena, seeking ideal veterinary care and investigating options to improve the health of our dogs now and in the future.

Quietness is speaking our thoughts when they are useful, helpful and productive. This includes reasonable criticism but not innuendoes or attacks. Suggestions on how to improve or change, clarification of ideas, offers to help and actual support of one another's efforts can occur while striving to achieve our common goal, to work for the good of the dogs and the betterment of the breed.

Warmth (or compassion and understanding) is a gift we can share with each other. Thanks to the volunteers who do the work that makes this club successful and allows the events to occur, research to be sought and information shared...the quiet workers behind the scenes.

Helen J Moreland

From the Editor...

Some months back I wrote in my AKC Gazette column of my great dismay over all the years, thirty-two to be exact, that the Wheaten had spent as low man on the Terrier "totem pole". That, no matter the quality, our dogs rarely got a nod from group judges. A Group I was almost unheard of and we could darn near count on one hand the number of Bests In Show garnered by our breed. A Wheaten had never ranked as a top five Terrier. In the entire thirty-two year history as a recognized AKC breed, the Wheaten had placed in the group at Montgomery only twice and never once had it placed in the group at Hatboro or Devon. Well, folks, we have finally come of age! Whatever your thoughts or judgments, put them aside for the moment and bask in the glory that is finally ours. The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, statistically speaking, became the biggest winner Montgomery Weekend 2006 with two Bests In Show, a Group II and a Group III. I stayed through the day for Hatboro I and stood ring side with goose bumps on my arms and tears in my eyes as Desmond Murphy stood in the middle of the BIS ring and announced for all to hear, "Today it will be the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier!"

Ch Caraway Celebrate Life and his handler, our own Shari Boyd Carusi are an awesome team and deserve all the accolades coming to them. For those who do not know, Shari grew up with Wheatens, cutting her teeth on them so to speak, and became a talented Junior Handler. I can't remember a time I did not know her. Shari has grown into a gifted handler and a gracious competitor.

Whatever pride we may now feel about our breed in the wake of Shari and Kovu's accomplishments, the time has come for breeders to honor the SCWT standard. I am not speaking about size here, although it seems strange to me that judges have no problem ignoring size on the upper end while totally discounting dogs and bitches that appear small. I speak to the fact that this is a square dog. We are losing length of leg while gaining length of back and many are making this correct. Comments overheard at ringside include, “That dog has too much leg” or “Leggy bitch but she's pretty”. Cindy Vogels has written about the current trend, loss of correct make and shape, in this issue of Benchmarks on page 28, in her piece entitled The Essence of Type. Good read.

Gay Dunlap
always love coming to Southern California. Especially the Great Western Terrier Association’s Group Shows with it’s promise of seeing friends separated only by geography, the anticipation of good dogs and keen competition, and of course that legendary California sunshine!

Did I say hot? Boy was it hot! Unfortunately with the change of venue for the shows our ring afforded all of us little escape from the ever-present sun. It seemed to me that the morning fog I recall in years past that kept the sun at bay until midday, abandoned us this year! I say this only to explain for those who attended, that while it is always my intention to sort through my exhibits expeditiously while allowing each exhibitor and their dogs the ring-time they deserve, I had to modify some of my procedures to allow for the heat.

Kudos to the puppies! After having been expertly adjudicated on in Sweepstakes by longtime friend and breeder Ann Leigh (Starlight), they did a quick turn-around and re-entered the ring for the regular classes. They all held up and showed amazingly well!

Doubloon’s High Stakes Player topped my puppy dog 6-9 class. This guy had nice overall balance, good reach of neck, pleasing side gait, with a good ear to give him proper expression.

A lone entry in the 9-12 class was Marquee’s Storm The Bastille. This handsome boy sported a nice coat with good wave. A masculine head set off by a well-set ear added to the package!

The 12-18 class was the largest of the dog classes this day. The winner Glenamon Gleannay He’s Key 2Me captured my eye upon entering the ring and held it throughout. He was properly sized and of square proportions with good length of leg under him. He carried good substance under a fine Wheaten jacket, also an excellent ear and expression. His side gait was pleasing as he held his outline with good reach and drive.

My Bred by Exhibitor class brought me a dog of excellent type and soundness. A lovely dark eye with an excellent ear, a black nose large for size of dog, an outstanding go-around. These factors combined for a very pleasing “Wheaten” package!

Competition in the Winners Dog class came down to two very worthy exhibits. Edgewood Dream Catcher took the honors this day by dint of his superior movement on the down and back, and his outstanding Wheaten jacket (did I say sheen!) that really contributed to his overall Wheaten “look”.

Reserve to my Open Dog, Westridge Back To Waterford. Very pleasing type, better sized than my Winners Dog, but had to bow this time to some virtues in my Winners Dog that I felt contributed more to the overall Wheaten type I was looking for.

The 6-9 Puppy Bitch class was won by Doubloon’s Ultimate Player, a litter sister to “High Stakes Player” who topped his respective class earlier. Carrying all of the attributes of her brother with a feminine twist garnered her this win. The stylish, Paisley American Girl captured the 9-12 Puppy Bitch class. She is a beautifully sized bitch of good pro-
portions of head to neck to back. A correct ear and eye lends to her expression. She painted a beautiful picture of proper sporting terrier movement and outline on her go-around. Eringlo Boomerang took the honors in the 12 to 18 Bitch class. This bitch had the solid robust body coupled with the smooth transitions that I look for! She carried her silhouette nicely on the go-around. She had good leg under "Wheaten". She is to my eye one of the best examples of proper Wheaten side-gait out there at the moment!

Harbor Hill Dirty Laundry, a littermate to the Novice Bitch "Housewife" (although their birthdates don't match in the catalog!), won the American Bred Bitch class. I was very pleased in awarding her this class. She was very nicely sized and of good balance, nice ear. A good silhouette coupled with nice reach and drive on her go-around moved her into the 1st position!

Open Bitches brought to me the largest entry for the ladies today. My choice for the top position was Andover Carey Hurrah. This bitch oozed Wheaten type! Of good height at the shoulders, she had the solid robust body befitting a Wheaten bitch of her age. She had good legs and used them well. A coat with lovely wave added to her overall quality.

Winners Bitch was my toughest choice for the day. I wish I could have had two! My final nod went to my Bred By, Aran Built A Betr Mouse Trap. Beautiful jacket, so feminine, so Wheaten in type! She has great legs and as I said before uses them in an outstanding fashion! I would have liked her to measure smaller (especially for her age)...that is the breeder in me, but as a judge I have to take it for the day.

My Reserve Bitch, Andover Carey Hurrah, was outstanding too in so many positive ways. I remember another breeder judge stating after having judged the national at Montgomery that if she were able to have awarded the Reserve Winners Dog that day an AOM she would have! I feel the same with this bitch. That judge was Cindy Vogels, the dog was my "Shampoo"! The irony doesn't escape me!

My Veteran Dog class was awarded to Ch Lissadell Dot Com. what can I say...he makes me smile! His quality and type are timeless.

Best of Breed brought to me a dog I have not seen before. Ch Stratford Top Priority was of a make, shape, and size that our standard calls for. His a good solid body transitioning from one element to the next smoothly. Nothing was out of place, nothing was extreme, and he was very pleasing to the eye. He sported a quality mature jacket adding to his appeal. His legs were...
continued from page 5

as honest as the rest of him, carrying him down and back and around the ring in proper fashion. A masculine head with a good ear size and set (I might have fussed with how he carried his one ear) lent itself to his overall appeal. Expertly presented, he deserved this honor.

BOW and BOS went to the Bred By/Winners Bitch, “Mouse Trap”.

AOM went to:
Ch Lissadell Dot Com (dog)
Ch Westridge Back to Limerick (bitch)
Ch Lontree Desert Star (dog)

In general my choices were made on overall impression, which dogs projected the type unique to the Wheaten Terrier most to me.

Too often I had to sacrifice proper size either because it was totally absent in a class, or those that fell within the correct size range didn’t possess enough merits to carry them to the top in their respective classes. My BOB was the sole exception for the day.

This seems to be a "sticky wicket" in our breed. I suggest more of you to either buy, or make better use of your wicket! Remember our standard states that over or under the size called for in dogs and bitches is a MAJOR FAULT to be penalized accordingly by its degree of deviation from those measurements! Our amplification in the Illustrated Standard says: "An oversize Wheaten approaches the Airedale in type… These measurements are precise and must be respected. Every effort must be made to fix the breeds size within these boundaries."

Recently I taught a class on Wheatens to prospective judges of our breed. In the afternoon session live dogs were presented in a “dog show” class format. We had many fine examples of varying types. What I found interesting was that while most had no problem placing an oversize exhibit of obvious qualities in their final line-up, not one considered a very typey exhibit that was just barely undershot! Both major faults! I dare say many of us react in the same way. Why are some faults so easily set aside and others aren’t?

The other area we have to be aware of is the increasing width of the backsulls! All too many sported these blocky backsulls with pronounced zygomatic arches!

members to the exhibitors work so hard to make a Specialty happen. I can only thank-you again for trusting me with this assignment.

---

SCWTSC
Sweepstakes Winners

The two photos shown below were not received in time to be included with Sweeps Judge Ann Leigh’s critique, which appeared in the September issue of Benchmarks. We include them here...better late than never!

AOM - Ch Lontree Desert Star
Ch Paisley Power Play X Ch Lontree Cactus Cait
Breeder/Owner - Joy K Laylon

Judge Ann Leigh awarded Best In Sweeps at the SCWTSC Specialty to Eureka Elevator Man
Ch Bonney Walkin Happy X Eureka Keepsake All That Jazz
Breeder - Doug Mylcraine, Shari Robinson & Jocelyn Slatin
Owner - Doug Mylcraine

Judge Ann Leigh awarded BOS Sweeps at the SCWTSC Specialty to Doubloon’s Unimtate Player
Ch Lonestar’s Order of the Phoenix X Ch Doubloon’s Playing the Field
Breeder/Owner - Elena Landa

benchmarks . volume 34 . number 4 . page 6
An Interview With A New SCWTCA Board Member
Betty Chapman, Caraway Wheatens

1 How & when did you first become interested in Wheatens?

When our old Miniature Schnauzer passed away we searched for a slightly larger terrier breed. A friend had just bought a Wheaten and when we saw her, it was love at first sight. That was spring of 1987.

2 When did you get your first Wheaten?

We began the search by going to the AKC website and attending local dog shows and finally found a litter from a SCWTCA, Inc member who lived in Bensenville, IL. Her upcoming litter was planned for July 1987. We asked to be allowed to see the pups and select one. The breeder humored us by allowing us to administer the temperament test as a factor in selecting our puppy and quickly informed us that the puppy we picked was one of two “show potentials”. Nine months later we accompanied the breeder and our SCWT to a show, and were hooked!

3 When did you join SCWTCA?

Not until I retired did I become a member of SCWTCA. Because my partner and co-breeder, Beth Verner, has been a SCWTCA member for several years, I had benefited by access to the journals, shows, etc. In retirement (2001), I felt it was time to pay my dues and give back to the club as an active member.

4 What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?

I have not previously held office in the club. Over the past two decades, I have supported the showing of our Caraway dogs at the various SCWTCA specialties, helped the clubs as a ring steward, supported speakers in the educational seminars with logistics, performed occasional report writing and rescue assistance and co-coordinated the educational programming for a national independent health conference for SCWTs at Keystone Resort in Colorado. Most recently I served on the SCWTCA Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

5 What all breed, obedience, agility or breed clubs do you belong to? How are you involved (offices, committees, etc.)? Do you have any other special club or work experience; e.g., PTA, that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA Board?

I belong to all breed clubs in Bloomington, Illinois and in our North Carolina retirement community. My most important work is helping with logistics for the eye (CERF) clinics traditionally associated with the Bloomington show. Other boards of significance I have served on include 6 years on the local Salvation Army board (two years as President) and 8 years on the United Way Board. Including three years as a committee chair and member of the Executive Committee. My 25 yr + employment career as an upper level university administrator has given me a lot of experience with committees, regulatory bodies, public speaking, budgets, report writing, etc.

6 Do you own any other breeds and if so what? How many litters have you bred and what breeds?

We only have SCWT. We have bred 10 SCWT litters over the past two decades producing 54 offspring and Including 21 champions and one ROM. In addition we owned and managed a SCWT stud dog that produced 106 get.

7 Who was your first finished champion, performance titleholder, etc?

Our first wheaten was Ch Bhan Or Natural “E” Classic Cara, from whence came the kennel name, Caraway; as Cara always had her way!!!

8 What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?

To spare our breeder and ourselves the embarrassment of first-time handling blunders, we entered a show several states away so no one we knew would see us make fools of ourselves the first time in the ring. Achieving points was not on our radar screen; we entered the show simply to practice handling skills in a “real world” environment. Pleasantly surprised and overjoyed by winning the Puppy Class, Beth exited the ring with a blue ribbon and we thought we were done for the day. The other exhibitors, now friends, had to push Beth back in the ring again and again all the way to a Best of Winners ribbon, which also happened to be a major!

Feeling pretty good about the accomplishment and not understanding why folks complained about how difficult it was to acquire a major, we thought: “This is fairly easy.” Humility was just around the corner, as Beth showed Cara twenty-five more times before getting another single point! That’s the dog show world, full of highs and lows.

9 If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?

I want to take the report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and seek adoption by the Board, AKC and membership of those sections where there is majority agreement. Realistically this will take more than a year since it does require approval from all three groups, but I will be chairing the subcommittee responsible for pushing it along.
What Have We Learned From The Colony Dogs?

Dr. Shelly Vaden, September 28, 2006

It has been twelve years since the first dogs were born into our colony of dogs for the study of PLE and PLN in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. These dogs were bred with several goals in mind. What have we accomplished and where do we need to go?

The first goal was to determine the mode of inheritance of this disorder. In order to do this, one of our male dogs was bred to a beagle to create Wheagles. These dogs were then sequentially evaluated over time. Some of the Wheagles developed overt disease. This would suggest that the disease is inherited as a dominant trait. However, the prevalence of disease within the colony of purebred dogs is high, supportive of an autosomal recessive mode of inheritance. Determination of the exact mode of inheritance may require a second outcross breeding to a dog of a breed other than a SCWT or a beagle. At this point in time, we cannot say with certainty that Beagles do not have a similar abnormality that is complicating the phenotypic expression of PLE and PLN in our Wheagles. DNA has been harvested from all of our dogs. It is also possible that if a genetic marker for this disease is discovered, we will be able to confirm the mode of inheritance through application of the marker.

Our second goal was to sequentially evaluate dogs to gain a better understanding of the development of clinical signs of this disease, so that we could make better recommendations for screening SCWT. We have been able to effectively achieve this goal. We know that increases in fecal API are prevalent throughout the colony (and the general population of SCWT). These precede the onset of PLN. However, overt PLE, as manifested by decreased serum protein concentrations, does not always precede the onset of PLN. Those dogs developing overt PLE had significantly greater number of fecal API samples >15 ug/g. This information is very useful because it suggests that the enteric disease may have a pathogenic role in the renal disease, as suspected. It has also helped us to establish that to be an effective screening tool, evaluation of fecal API must be initiated in dogs that are less than 3 years of age and continued annually lifelong. We have worked with investigators at Texas A&M to longitudinally evaluate the prevalence of increased fecal API in apparently normal dogs who do not have overt signs of enteric disease. This study has allowed us to generate more refined recommendations for breeders and pet owners. As for PLN, we found that microalbuminuria is highly prevalent in SCWT of our colony. It often precedes the onset of increased urine protein/creatinine ratios, which is a standard test used to screen dogs for proteinuria. Some dogs of our colony had sporadic microalbuminuria and some have increased values that are not progressively increasing. However, we know that microalbuminuria that is persistent and of increasing magnitude is the best early predictor of PLN.

We have also been evaluating the therapeutic benefit of sodium cromoglycate administration and hydrolysate diet consumption in the affected SCWT of our colony. This has been a more difficult study to perform because our other objectives require that we follow the disease to a later state than that in which we might generally intervene therapeutically by today’s standards. However, even in these latter stages of disease, it appears as if there may be a beneficial effect of these interventions in some dogs. However, individual dogs may not respond. More dogs need to be entered into the treatment study to determine if these effects are real and to determine what are the identifiable differences between responders and non-responders. We have also determined that treatment with the elemental diet, Vionex®, helps alleviate the severe manifestations of PLE. It would be great to apply these findings to a large clinical study of SCWT in the general population who are affected with PLE or PLN or both.

As a final part of these studies, we have been feeding a litter of dogs a hydrolysate diet since weaning. Although it is still too early to say, it appears that this diet may delay the onset of PLE, and possibly, PLN but probably does not prevent the disease. However, this data is preliminary and absolute conclusions cannot be made at this time. Furthermore, direct applications of these findings to the general population of dogs will be difficult.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the colony dogs, you can make it by check or credit card:

Please make checks payable to NC Veterinary Medical Foundation. Indicate that it is for Wheaten/Wheagle Pledge Drive

Send to: NC Veterinary Medical Foundation, Inc.
4700 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27606-1499

Charge my: ( ) Visa ( ) MC Name as appears on card: _________________________

Card #: _____________________ Expiration Date: ____________ Signed: _________________________

Visit the Colony Dogs at http://www.colonydogs.org/
A Question for Dr Meryl Littman......

Question:

Why do we use enalapril for PLN when the info sheet states that it should not be used for kidney problems in animals? Quotes from the info sheet say “Because of concerns regarding the ability of enalapril to lead to kidney damage, kidney parameters (BUN and creatinine) should be measured prior to enalapril use, again 3 to 7 days after enalapril therapy has started, and periodically thereafter” and “Enalapril probably should not be used in patients with impaired kidney function.” For complete article see website http://www.veterinarypartner.com/Content.plx?P=A&A=535&S=1&SourceID=52

Answer from Dr. Littman:

The website above is good, but it’s a little old, and doesn’t include newer information. Although cardiologists using ACE inhibitors for their heart disease patients were sometimes seeing renal side effects, nephrologists have known for many years that ACE inhibitors actually help renal function in their renal patients! We use enalapril (Vasotec, Enacard), benazepril (Lotensin, Fortekor), or other ACE inhibitors for dogs with PLN because the evidence shows they are helpful in reducing the amount of protein lost into the urine, helpful to reduce further kidney damage, and they also help in decreasing blood pressure, often a problem in dogs with PLN. There are many papers of studies in humans and in dogs, but the main two I would recommend are these:


The main reason ACE inhibitors are used for proteinuria is that they dilate the efferent arteriole at the glomerulus as well as the afferent arteriole, and this decreases the glomerular filtration pressure (which is not the same as glomerular filtration rate) so that less protein is lost into the urine. Other drugs which dilate the afferent arteriole, such as vasodilators and other antihypertensives, don’t dilate the efferent arteriole, so the ACE inhibitors or another class of drug called angiotensin II receptor analogs (eg, Losartan, Hyzaar, Cozaar) are the best for decreasing proteinuria and decreasing further renal damage from proteinuria’s effect on the renal tubules.

The reason for possible kidney problems from enalapril or other ACE inhibitors stems from the fact that these drugs decrease blood pressure and therefore can decrease renal blood flow. If a dog is getting these drugs because of heart failure, that dog already has poor cardiac output and poor renal perfusion, and giving it an ACE inhibitor may decrease blood flow further to a borderline or dangerous zone. In addition, the diuretics such as furosemide (Lasix or Salix) which may be given to decrease the workload for the heart by decreasing blood volume (causing slight dehydration) would also tend to decrease renal perfusion. So we certainly would need to assess kidney function very closely in that situation.

But in dogs with normal heart function and normal cardiac output, who are receiving ACE inhibitor therapy to help decrease proteinuria, the blood pressure tends to be normal or high (the opposite of the heart failure situation). In fact, hypertension is often a problem, and the ACE inhibitors are proven to help the kidneys, rather than hurt them. In the ACVIM Consensus Statement on proteinuria (http://www.acvim.org/index.aspx?id=322), the specialists wrote that ACE inhibitors should be used as treatment for proteinuria. Of course all dogs with renal failure should be monitored, but the scenario is completely different in the PLN patients compared to the heart failure patients.

There is still controversy about whether benazepril is a better choice than enalapril for dogs in kidney failure. My observation is that is doesn’t appear to matter clinically, at least not until renal failure is very severe. Since more studies have been done with enalapril, it appears that enalapril is fine to use in dogs with PLN and renal failure. In severe renal failure, I would adjust the dose downward, in deference to the fact that enalapril is excreted into the urine, and as kidney function deteriorates, excretion may decline causing a higher blood level of enalapril. Of course it is important to continue to monitor the blood and urine test results and blood pressure measurements in dogs with PLN. With progression of illness, there are additional medications, diet changes, or dose adjustments that may be needed because of decreasing body weight and renal excretion of drugs normally excreted into the urine.
Hearty Congratulations
to all Montgomery weekend winners and placers

Special admiration for those who came out of retirement on top of their game:
  Charlie at the end of Elena’s lead
  and
  Lovey with Willie in tow

We sincerely appreciate everyone’s support
  for Kovu and Shari

Not only were we aware of your good vibes throughout the weekend,
  but it was also apparent to Thursday’s Best in Show judge who said:

“I do not think I have ever given an award that was
  as appreciated by so many breeders within a breed! . . .
  All weekend the Wheaten people went out of their way
  to thank me. It makes you realize what a great bunch
  of people they really are.”

You are the best and we thank you from the depths of our hearts.

Caraway
Beth Verner & Betty Chapman
MCKC Judge Jon Cole with CH CARAWAY CELEBRATE LIFE shown by Shari Boyd Carusi

photo courtesy of sandra hurd

DOING OUR BEST TO MAKE US “ALL” PROUD!
THOUGHTS, AFTER MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS OF
DOG BREEDING

by Dess June

Reprinted with permission from Tassels and Tales, the official publication of the Bedlington Terrier Club of America, and from the author. Fall Issue, 2005

I love having puppies in my house. I love having a bitch in whelp, the actual whelping and the wonderful anticipation of opening each little sack. Is it a boy or a girl? Is it blue or liver? Does it have all of its parts? Watching them gain weight, open their eyes, and be weaned onto solid food is an entertaining experience.

And then they grow, and you deal with lots of shredded paper, lots of food and plenty of noise. It’s still a joy. They start to show their personalities and you start to decide which one goes to which home. And, most serious of all, you have to decide which one to keep, yourself, for the future.

This is the part that’s payback for what you’ve done in the past. And, it’s what you’ve decided are the genetics for what happens to your bloodline in the future. This may not be the Bedlington that’s going to be a great winner. But, if you keep and breed this one, it’s part of what you want your dogs to be, forever.

It used to be the fashion for dog people to say, “Oh, I only breed, carefully, not more than once every three years”. People who say that are really not breeders. They’re dog owners who decided to have a litter. There’s no way that one can develop a bloodline without breeding relatively often.

Without those puppies, each one of which carries the genes of their ancestors, a breeder can’t tell what their bloodline will produce regarding health, temperament and conformation.

Breeding is both simple and complicated. Some traits are obvious in the breeding stock, be they desirable or not. That’s the simple part. The complicated part comes when Mother Nature drops a surprise into your lap.

The complicated part comes when Mother Nature drops a surprise into your lap. You may have no way of knowing that’s going to happen, either because you’ve never seen this particular “surprise” before in your line or because you’ve opted for diversity and used an outcross that brings you something that was never divulged. “Oh, boy, look what I have now”. You should go without saying that if you’ve been around for a while, you have a pretty good idea where all of the bodies are buried, so to speak. Even then, you may get that surprise. Let’s say that there were no surprises in this last litter. The puppy that you decide to keep has the right stuff, at least so far. Maybe this puppy has more than just the right stuff in certain areas, but maybe other areas are less than wonderful. Would you use this puppy for breeding? It depends on whether you’re planning ahead or you just wanted the next big winner. If it’s the big winner, you know that’s not going to happen because this dog doesn’t have all of the right stuff.

But this dog is so strong in areas that you need that you go ahead and use him/her in your breeding program.

That first generation may be very nice, but maybe they don’t have the “look” that you want, although they’re very good in many ways. So what do you do? You take one of those dogs and breed it to a dog (now’s the time to go out) with the “look”, but maybe lacking some of the strong traits that made you keep the original pup in the first place. That second generation out of the original pup will probably be more what you may have had in mind.

The point here is that one very seldom gets instant gratification from the occasional litter. It does happen. I’ve seen it happen. And then the lucky “breeder” keeps trying to get the same thing again using the same two dogs. Guess what? It never happens again. Those genes are there forever and although they’re the same genes, the combination in any one litter may possibly get it right...once.

Another problem can arise when a breeder is so enamored of their bloodline that they find it difficult to use anyone else’s breeding. Sometimes it’s fear, sometimes it’s pride and sometimes they never see anything that they like as well as what they have. This will work if the breeder has solved all of the problems in their line. Sorry – there’s no bloodline without some problems. “Gee, I can’t seem to get rid of this tuft of green hair that grows on my bloodline’s right foot”. They can’t get rid of it because they keep using the same dogs. When a breeder uses the same dogs over and over, their traits are pretty well set. One of the definitions of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

The whole point of these musings is that, in order to get where you want to be as a breeder, you must plan beyond the next litter. You can’t possibly learn enough about evaluating puppies from the once-in-a-while litter. You need to keep track of the puppies that you didn’t keep. You need to look at dogs at shows or anywhere. That big winner may not be the perfect way to go because those genes are not a “fit” for your line. What do you want? Do you want a winning show dog? Do you want a companion that’s still good enough for show? Do you want a dog that fits the standard and is sound in temperament and health? These traits are not exclusive to each other, but if you get two out of three, plan to use what you have to set those traits in your bloodline for the future.

I’ve reached the point that I’m thinking less and less about breeding, at least with the dogs that I have in my home. My pleasure now, is in holding hands with the folks who have my bloodline and helping them plan for the future. Paying it forward...◆
AKC/CHF SCWT-GRF

Working together to ensure long life for the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

What do all the letters mean?

American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF)
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Genetic Research Fund (SCWT-GRF)

What is the purpose of SCWT-GRF?

This is a fund dedicated to raising money to investigate genetic disease specific to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. Projects will be managed by AKC/CHF.

What is happening with the SCWT-GRF fund?

The SCWT-GRF, in cooperation with the SCWTCA Health committee and the SCWT Endowment Fund, is happy to announce joint participation in a research project, guided by Dr. Gary Johnson, University of Missouri Veterinary School (Columbia) Phenome Project. Dr. Johnson is presently completing a study of Fanconi syndrome, a kidney problem in Basenjis. SCWT-GRF is not affiliated with SCWTCA, Inc. All funds raised will be made available to SCWTCA, Inc. for genetic research projects.

Where will we begin?

Dr. Johnson looks forward to the use of alleles to find a genetic test for protein losing in Wheatens. The process will begin with the collection of blood for conversion to DNA along with a questionnaire. This data will be used to study disease, and in the future, physical and behavioral issues specific to our breed. The DNA stored as part of the Phenome Project will also be available for any future genetic research.

How can we help?

Many Wheaten fanciers and breeders have already donated over $47,000 to the fund. But, more is needed. Some breeders set aside a portion of stud fees and puppy sales, others have honored an individual or a special dog. There are unique and exciting items in our boutique and on our web site for sale or for raffle. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, please contact any member of the SCWT-GRF and visit this web site to see the progress of this research project and to see many items for purchase or raffle.

http://www.scwtgrf.com/grffirstpage.html

Neil O’Sullivan, PhD, Jackie Gottlieb, David Ronsheim, Roni Andrews, Kathy Clarke, Willie Rueda, GRF Directors, & Dana Sumner, creative sponsor.
By Golly Mollie - A New Champion!

“MOLLIE”
CH WYNDMERE’S MOLLIE OF WILLOBET

CH PAISLEY FOREVER MAN X CH LONTREE EVERLASTING LACE

A special Wheatie thank you to Judge Stephen Hurt and all others who admired her impressive good looks and fluid movement

BREEDER: KATHY & ED JOHNSON . OWNER: BETTY ORAPCHUCK & KATHY JOHNSON
EXPERTLY HANDLED BY MICHELLE AND MICHAEL SCOTT, ASSISED BY KRISTLE GRAHAM
Congratulations to “Cubby”
Our first Wheaten MACH 3
And her teammate, Lisa Sponsler

To earn each MACH (Master Agility Championship) title, Cubby scored 750 championship (speed) points & 20 double qualifying scores from the Excellent B Standard Agility class & the Excellent B Jumpers with Weaves Class.

To be MACH 3, Cubby accomplished this 3 times.

Good Luck to “Cubby” & Lisa & the other Wheatens Competing at the AKC Agility Invitational (Long Beach, CA) in December “Draco” with Larry Dalan; “Kylie” with John Unruh; “Portia” with Larry Dalan; and “Ripley” with Beth Sorenson.

Congratulations to “Nikki,” the #1 Wheaten in Agility, and her handler, Bill Nelson who will be in CA to receive their award.
The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America has completed the first contested election in many years. I believe the election was a very positive experience for the club. I knew it was a positive experience for me. Although there were a few snippets of controversy on the discussion list and likely more then a few heated phone calls and emails, in general I hope this election shows a contested election can be conducted without becoming a divisive affair.

When I began my petition campaign for a director’s seat, I clearly stated I was not running against any specific candidate. A criticism of the previous Board was a lack of communication and outreach to the members. I believe the club needs a more proactive membership, and I felt a responsibility to lead by example. Many people want to help SCWTCA but are denied the opportunity. Why? There was a lot of speculation about power and control, but regardless of why, it was time to do something.

After I made my decision to run, I developed a letter outlining my goals and mailed it to every member of the club, either via Discuss or snail mail. I was fortunate to start with a “small band of malcontents” supporting my candidacy… that grew in number and commitment. Together, we contacted close to three-quarters of the membership seeking their support. I personally called almost 100 members to ask for their support.

It was gratifying to be elected but even had I lost I would have found the personal phone calls to be very enlightening. The depth of support for this breed is astonishing. The amount of untapped resources is staggering! There are many “old timers” who have been associated with the breed for a long time that feel alienated and ignored. We need to reach out to these long time members and take advantage of their experience and interest.

Although the campaign was time intensive, it was extremely beneficial for me. I think there is an awful lot of benefit for those hoping to be a board member to actually go through the process of talking to the members. It was a truly inspiring process and I would encourage every potential board member, opposed or not, to go through a similar process.

The total number of ballots cast has not been reported, but our informal polling indicated there could have been over 280 ballots cast. Compared with recent votes of about 160 ballots for CHIC, judges and the COE revisions, it demonstrated a lot of interest in a democratic election process. In candor, I felt the votes cast for me were more a vote for a real choice than for me personally.

So now, having earned the trust of a number of members, I’ve been elected to the Board. I expect all of the members will hold us accountable for our accomplishments, or lack of them, next year, me included. I hope that next year…and the year after and the years after that…we’ll have more petition candidates. Hopefully, we will all stop seeing a petition candidate as the enemy but simply a member of the club willing to donate time, energy and money for the betterment of the breed.

In closing, I want to thank the members that signed my petition, the “small band of malcontents” and particularly everyone that voted.

---

Puppy’s Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
The king-size bed is soft and deep.  
I sleep right in the center groove  
My human being can hardly move!  
I’ve trapped her legs,  
She’s tucked in tight  
And here is where I pass the night  
No one disturbs me or dares intrude  
Till morning comes and “I want food!”  
I sneak up slowly to begin  
My nibbles on my human’s chin.  
She wakes up quickly,  
I have sharp teeth-  
I’m a puppy, don’t you see?  
For the morning’s here  
And it’s time to play  
I always seem to get my way.  
So thank you Lord for giving me  
This human person that I see.  
The one who hugs and holds me tight  
And shares her bed with me at night!  
---Author Unknown

IN DAYS OF OLD...

Back in the Seventies, a phrase was coined. We don’t hear it anymore, probably because it wasn’t quite as descriptive as we would have liked. But, we knew what it meant. The phrase was “Proper Flowing Coat”. Marjorie Shoemaker shortened the phrase to “PFC”. Coats were all over the place back then, from frizzy and kinky to straight as a stick, thick and wooly to what we now call “Irish”. The “PFC” was the coat we lusted after. Recently a few postings on the Breeder’s List called to mind our old, oft used phrase, “PFC”. Perhaps we need to call it back into play. Truth is we are seeing more of them these days…not so many cottony stand away coats anymore. More coats flow rather than bounce. Fewer coats are being tipped all over and are allowed a pleasing degree of length. Now, if we can just do away with bad coats all together…at least in the show ring… and work on reaching common ground with regard to our presentation…more coat on our open-coated dogs and less coat on our full coats. Gosh it would be a proud day to see a ring full of dogs looking like the same breed!
One DVD is expert, Dr. Ronald Schultz, University of Wisconsin - Madison, instrumental in identifying the new canine vaccination protocols, explaining his latest research.

The 2nd DVD is Liz Hanson, Canine Phenome Project, University of Missouri-Columbia, explaining the basics of genetics, use of DNA research with application to the health of Wheatens and the canine Phenome Project.

To make these available to everyone, SCWTCA is offering them at $20 per DVD, or both DVD’s for $30, including shipping and handling.

Order at www.scwtca.org <http://www.scwtca.org> or
send your check to:
Kenna Kachel
29200 Southfield Rd., Suite 100
Southfield, MI 48076
We believe that Gabby set a record for "come back when you grow up, girl" major reserves. We don't expect her to ever grow up...that's why you're seeing her puppy picture...but she did finish owner-handled at the DelVal Supported entry at the Somerset Hills Kennel Club.

Thanks to her breeder, Mary Peltier, and to her occasional handlers, Ernesto Lara and Andrew Green.

Special thanks to Gabriel Rangel for...well...the obvious!

We look forward to Gabby entering the whelping box in 2007 ... God help us all!

John & Pam Mandeville
Banner Wheatens, Reg
conbrio@patmedia.net
732.846.5866
Rocco, from our "Sopranos" litter, was Best in Sweeps at the 2006 Del Val specialty and quickly finished a few months later. Many thanks to his great co-owners, the Pisani family.

The books recently opened to his brother, new CH. Banner Waggintail Wiseguy, co-owned by Pam and Bob Tinnelly and expertly handled by Dana Bryson.

“Stan the Man” (Banner Sympathy for the Devil) co-owned with co-breeders, Marc & Meryl Strassler will soon follow both his brothers into the family business.

Rocco will "make his bones" in the specials ring in 2007.

Rocco is always breeder-owner handled.
During the month of August in Colorado, warm temperatures and clear blue skies are the norm. We were taken by surprise and scrambled to find warmer clothing as the morning of the Denver Specialty dawned unseasonably damp and chilly. Our hospitality chairs, Ed and Barbara Dash, were well prepared and provided a warm welcome, hot coffee and breakfast goodies to our guests and exhibitors as they entered the grooming and hospitality area.

After judging on Friday, exhibitors and guests gathered for a luncheon held in a banquet room conveniently located just steps away from the show rings. While waiting for lunch, everyone had a chance to visit and to view a variety of art pieces and other fun and useful items donated by Wheaten lovers across the country for inclusion in our silent auction and raffle. The auction and raffle were a big success. Thanks to all of you who so generously

On the day of the Specialty, Joan Anselm judged an entry of 14 puppies and junior dogs in Sweepstakes. Best in Sweepstakes was awarded to Doublon's Ultimate Player, a puppy bitch owned by Elena Landa. Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to Andover Easy Does It, a puppy dog owned by Ann Mygatt and Jackie Gottlieb.

The regular classes were judged by David Merriam. Best of Breed was awarded to Ch Desertrose Bonney Mans Dream, owned by Bonney Snyder, Barb Fain and Richard Fain. Winners Bitch/Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to Harmony Sweet Blessing, by Ch Bryr Rose Degas out of Ch Harmony Sweet Temptation. Owners: Lise Moore & her breeders Jim & Sue Little.

Winners Dog and Best of Winners, Doublon's Play Maker, is litter mate of the Best In Sweeps winner, also bred and owned by Elena Landa.

Winners Bitch and Best Of Opposite Sex was Harmony Sweet Blessing, by Ch Bryr Rose Degas out of Ch Harmony Sweet Temptation. Owners: Lise Moore & her breeders Jim & Sue Little.
contributed so many great items.

On Saturday, our hospitality team again arrived bright and early to the show site to provide breakfast for everyone prior to the Greeley Kennel Club show. On this day Carolyn Herbel judged Wheats. Best of Breed was awarded to CH Desertrose Bonney Mans Dream, owned by Bonney Snyder, Barb Fain and Richard Fain. Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to CH Stratford Spice Girl, owned by Molly O’Connell. Winners Dog/Best of Winners was awarded to Bonney King of Hearts, owned by Bonney Snyder. Winners Bitch was awarded to Gleenngay I Feel Pretty, owned by Karen Ball and Gay Dunlap. Reserve Winners Dog was awarded to Acacia’s Rosheen Hot Patootie, owned by Lisa Lopez, Gail Lopez and Barbara Smith. Reserve Winners Bitch was awarded to Dubloons Ultimate Player, owned by Elena Landa.

After Saturday’s show everyone gathered in the grooming/hospitality area where our hospitality crew provided a variety of tasty sub sandwiches, salads and goodies for lunch.

Sunday at the Greeley Kennel Club show Wheats were judged by Don Rogers. Best of Breed was awarded to CH Desertrose Bonney Mans Dream, owned by Bonney Snyder, Barb Fain and Richard Fain. Later in the day, our BOB Wheaten also took a Group 4 placement. Best of Opposite Sex was awarded to Harmony Sweet Blessing, owned by Lise Moore, Jim Little and Sue Little. Winners Dog/Best of Winners was awarded to Deryni Head Over Heels, owned by Greg and Kathie Palinckx and Donna Rogers. Winners Bitch was awarded to Stratford Room Service Please, owned by Judy Kay and Molly O’Connell. Reserve Winners Dog was awarded to Andover Easy Does It, owned by Ann Mygatt and Jackie Gottlieb. Reserve Winners Bitch was awarded to Eringlo Boomerang, owned by Jean Mennes and Dennis and Cindy Shea.

The Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club would like to thank all of you who joined us in Greeley for our Specialty weekend. It was a weekend of fun, friends and beautiful dogs. We hope to see you all again next year! 

---

Greta is a pure Irish girl, a real athlete at the age of nine years, and belongs to Martha Sheek. She swims in her owner’s lily pond regularly. One day she fought off a possum who tried to drown her. Greta won! She exudes energy and enthusiasm and is the light of her owner’s eye.

---

Cera learns to drive!
SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA AWARD WINNERS FOR 2005

The following awards were given out at the 2005 Montgomery County Specialty:

Andover Challenge Trophy (Best of Breed)
   Ch. Caraway Celebrate Life, owned by Beth Verner & Betty Chapman

Bryan E. McNamara Memorial Trophy (owner of 1st place, Bred by Exhibitor Bitch Class)
   Edgewood Bugaboo Bamboo, owned by Carl McGill

The following awards were given out at the Annual Meeting in October 2006:

Best in Specialty Show Breeder Award
   MCKC-- Beth Verner & Betty Chapman for Ch. Caraway Celebrate Life

Everett Keller Memorial Trophy (Breeder of Winners Bitch at Montgomery County KC)
   Carl McGill for Edgewood Bugaboo Bamboo

Mary Ann Dallas Award (Breeder of Best of Winners at Montgomery County KC)
   Carl McGill for Edgewood Bugaboo Bamboo

Maureen Holmes Memorial Trophy (Breeder of Best Puppy in Sweepstakes)
   Barb and Richard Fain for Desertrose Bonney Mans Dream

Ch. Abby’s Postage Dhu O’Waterford “Casey” Award (Wheaten who defeats the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed)
   Ch. Caraway Celebrate Life, owned by Beth Verner & Betty Chapman

Ch. Amaden Trophy (Wheaten bitch who defeats the most Wheatens by going Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex)
   Ch. Marquee’s Music of the Night, owned by Robert Vassar, Nancy Manceau, Sonya & Richard Urquhart

Best in Show Award
   Ch. Caraway Celebrate Life, owned by Beth Verner & Betty Chapman
      August 7, 2005, Mahoning-Shenango KC; September 25, 2005, Bloomington, IN KC

High in Trial Award
   Doubloons Last L’L Wise Guy, UD, AX, AXJ, OAP, OJP, owned by Linda Ruedy
      High Combined Score in OB & UA/UB at Clackamas KC, June 26, 2005.
      Highest Scoring Dog in Regular Classes, All Terrier Club of Western Washington, August 12, 2005.

Junior Showmanship
   Mary Payton Noah

Obedience Dog of the Year Award
   Ch. Marquee’s Spellcaster CD, owned by Sonya & C. Richard Urquhart & Marcia Weisman

Versatility Dog Excellent Award
   Ballybue Banshee’s Limerick CDX, MX, AXJ, owned by Helen & William Gore
   Ch. Gleanngay Keep the Faith CDX, TD, OA, OAJ owned by Gay Dunlap & JoAnne & Chester Vogt
   Grian Werth’s Padraig CDX, OA, NAJ, owned by Joan & Larry Werth

Versatility Dog Award
   Ch. Acacia’s Some Like It Hot OA, OAJ, owned by Betsy Geertson & Guillermo Rueda
   Ballybue Banshee’s Limerick CDX, MX, AXJ, owned by Helen & William Gore
   Ch. Heirloom Truly Irresistible AX, AXJ, owned by John Unruh, Patrice Chevalier & Robert Bergman
   Ch. Marquee’s Spellcaster CD, owned by Sonya & C. Richard Urquhart & Marcia Weisman
   Ch. Melville Destiny Ex Libris CD, owned by Marilyn Matthes
   Ch. Seacany’s March Madness Max NAJ, owned by Kelly Bering & Louise Bishoff
   Ch. Winterwheat Irish Wild Wood VCD1, TD, MX, MXJ, owned by Sara Schlough

Register of Merit (ROM) (Sires with at least 15 champion get & dams with at least 8 champion get)
   Ch. Legacy Caraway Worth The Gold, owned by Beth Verner & Betty Chapman

SCWTCA Rescue Family of the Year (Given to the person or family who exhibits extraordinary, care, dedication and personal sacrifice performing rescue efforts on behalf of SCWTCA rescue.) Justin and Sandra McFadden-Adopted Gracie and Guinness.

The Happy Jack Memorial Award (Given to the dog who earns an AKC CD, CDX, UD, or UDX) Cynthia Hollis made a $90 donation to Wheaten Health and Research in honor of the 6 Wheatens who earned CD’s; 2 who earned CDX’s and 2 who earned UD’s.

There were no qualifying winners for the following awards:
   Harry Blair Memorial Award (Tracking) and Ch. Gleanngay Holliday “Doc” Award (Stud Dog)
NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
November 6, 2006

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

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

Nancy Barnes
John & Kathy Burgos
Cherri Gillmore
Charlotte P Green
Wanda Horrell
Lydia Kearney

Kelly McDermott & Kevin Kelly
Patricia Kelly
Ann J Nelson
Art & Danielle Rogers
Cindy & Andrew Wylde

SCWT DNA Bank at Canine Phenome Project Approved

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier participation in the Canine Phenome Project has been approved by the Boards of SCWTCA, Inc., the SCWTCA Health Endowment, Inc. and the SCWT Genetic Research Fund. The Canine Phenome Project will collect, process and store DNA from Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers for future research projects. This is an exciting opportunity to further Wheaten health research.

Helen Moreland, SCWTCA Vice-President and Health Co-coordinator, Carol Carlson, SCWTCA Health Endowment Chair, and Jackie Gottlieb, SCWT Genetic Research Fund Chair, announced this collaborative effort.

The Canine Phenome Project is a genetic research project which maintains a DNA bank with relevant documentation. It will receive blood samples from Wheatens, extract the DNA and store it for use in approved research. It will also collect information about the individual dog contributing the DNA. This documentation will include the pedigree, general health history, breed specific health information, a description of physical traits and a description of behavioral characteristics. On-line survey forms will be used by the owner to record this information. Data on each individual dog is kept confidential unless the owner authorizes public access.

The Canine Phenome Project is located at the University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory in Columbia, MO. The project is led by Gary Johnson, PhD. DVM. Dr. Johnson's research interests focus on identification of DNA markers for diseases and traits in domestic animals, particularly dogs and beef cattle.

The SCWTCA committee working on this project includes the following members: Wendy Beers, Carol Carlson, Jackie Gottlieb, Kenna Kachel, Susan McGee, Jinx Moore, Helen Moreland, Cecily Skinner, Beth Verner, Cindy Vogels, Barbara Zapf and Elaine Azerolo, chair.
AN ORNAMENT?

REALLY AN HEIRLOOM

WORTHY OF DISPLAY ALL YEAR LONG

PROFITS TO SCWTCA HEALTH PROJECTS

SPECIAL PRICE AVAILABLE FOR MAIL ORDERS ONLY
BUY ONE FOR $30 PLUS $5 SHIPPING
BUY THREE FOR $82 PLUS $5 SHIPPING
BUY FIVE FOR $130 PLUS $5 SHIPPING

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SCWTCA AND MAIL TO:
KENNA KACHEL
29200 SOUTHFIELD RD, SUITE 100
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48076

OR BUY IT ONLINE AT http://www.scwtca.org/shop/
$35 EACH PLUS $5 SHIPPING TO US AND CANADA

benchmarks . volume 34 . number 4 . page 24
Wise guys.

Dr. Robert Berndt
Glenda Dawkins
Desmond Murphy
Richard W. Powell

Albert Reading
W. Terry Stacy
Marjorie Underwood
Sue Weiss

New CH Banner Waggintail Wiseguy

CH Paisley Forever Man
CH Banner Speak of the Devil

Thanks to these judges for awarding Paddington major wins and Bests of Breed en route to his championship.

Paddington is handled by Dana Bryson

Bred & co-owned by
John & Pam Mandeville
Banner Wheats, Reg
corbie@potmedia.net
732.846.5866

Owned & Loved by
Pam & Bob Timmely
Waggintail Wheats, Reg
tcc@optonline.net
516.248.4843
Happy Birthday Seniors!

Compiled by Toni Vincent
(Wheatens 14 years of age and older)

CH LONTREE LACEK GLOVE
"LOVEY"
SEPTEMBER 16, 1992
CH BRENMOOR'S KATZENJAMMER KID x CH LONTREE THE GENERAL’S LACY

Lovey has to do things her own way and in her own time. She acquired her Ch title at 6 years of age after two litters and the same year as two of her daughters. Incredibly, she went back into the ring this year at MCKC and received an Award of Merit along with her great granddaughter.

She enjoys taking Mateo to school and now makes the trip to the office where she spends her day napping in Willie’s studio. And while her hearing and sight are not what they used to be, dinner never comes fast enough for Lovey.

Willie and Wendy Rueda

SCWTSCC Fun Day...continued from page 27

rehab settings. Another favorite is the Rescue Parade. New owners introduced their new Wheaten to much applause from the crowd. Obtaining their new CGC (and Therapy dog title) titles were Linda and Al Gallagher with Ch Gallagher’s River Of Dreams (age 7), Ch Gallagher’s Jumpin’ Jack Flash (age 7), and Ch Gallagher’s Uptown Girl (age 10).

For lunch we had barbequed chicken and tri-tip (I know you may never have heard of it, but it’s a beef shoulder cut that is barbequed to perfection) with garlic bread, salads, and beans. The line is long, but there is plenty for all. I can honestly say a few husbands only attend for the tri-tip (they shall remain nameless to protect the innocent.)

Our White Elephant auction netted almost $300 in support of our colony dog, Tryptophan. It is fun to see the results as well as the hard and fast bidding that goes on. This was a good way to clean out your closet and support our club too.
SCWTCSC FUN DAY
Sunday, October 22, 2006

The day promised lots of fun in the sun of Southern California, for once we weren’t disappointed, and the weather was spectacular. There were 75 Wheatens and their owners present and ready for FUN assembled and munching on bagels by 9:30 at Woodley Park in Van Nuys. Our membership encompasses families from as far south as San Diego and as far north as Santa Barbara. Many only attend this event and love to come year after year. We see Wheatens that have come through our rescue program and breeders with all their pet families and show homes too. We have a few mixed breed Wheatens and a few even sneak in with housemates that are honorary Wheatens for the day. This year our youngest attendee was actually a 15-week-old Papillion and the oldest were several 11-year-young Wheatens.

After assembling, meeting, and greeting, the games began. There is the annual largest-nose contest won by Maddie in the bitch class and by Harry in the dog class. This is a serious competition and the protractor comes out to be sure the measurements are accurate. This is followed by the longest-tail division, won this year by Jake. The winners all received toys donated by MJ Carr (who also chaired the day’s events.) The oldest dog was Malley and the youngest, Sadie. Huggy Boy won the "most tricks" class. The shortest coat category was won by Crouton.

The costume contest is cleverly thought out and you can tell much thought is given to how best to dress a Wheaten. This is no simple buy a hat and strut your stuff, but a serious, much fought-after honor to come home the winner of the Best Costumed Wheaten (and you thought BOB was much coveted). There were witches, bugs, several Frankenstein, fairies, angels, devils and even one race car driver. The contest was won by Jillian Steging and her girl, Pappy, who came attired as a lady-bug. If you think getting a B-Match or Sweepstakes judge assignment is an honor try being the Contest Judge of the day.

The performance event of the day is the relay dress-your-dog event. This requires you run down the field, put a t-shirt and panties on your Wheaten, and run back. Sound easy? It isn’t; the race doesn’t always go to the swiftest. You must be able to get four hairy paws in shirt and pants and get back down the field first. This was won by the swiftest afoot there, Longiete. We also have musical hoops, much like musical chairs that you played as a child, but you must land in a hoop when the music stops. Jake and Paul won this.

The most difficult event of the day is the group photo assemblage. “Can we all fit in one photo?” “Can you see me and the dog?” “Wait, I want my husband in the photo too,” are all cries heard as we group together. Then half the group is on the photographer’s side trying to get a picture of their dog too.

It is great to see friends we may only see here, but the most fun truly is in seeing all the dogs. There is tremendous breed recognition. They all seem to know they are cousins; we have never had a serious altercation. They romp and spin in unison, all glad to see one another. There may be dogs with no falls or beards, some had a haircut last year, if ever, some are shaved, some are old, some are young. They are all much loved and we love seeing them.

Several people successfully completed their Canine Good Citizen tests and Therapy testing was also done. It is great to see the effort put into training and wonderful that so many are not only passing CGC but going on to share their dogs with others in rest homes, preschools, or

continued on bottom of page 26
The Essence of Type

by Cindy Vogels

Essence - “the intrinsic nature of something; the quality which determines something’s character” (Oxford University Press)

The essence of breed type can be defined as how the various parts of a dog come together with the requisite temperament to make a breed unique.

Part 1 - Silhouette

I consider silhouette to be the most important element of breed type because, when you look at a dog, your eye is first drawn to a dog’s shape and balance. In general, shape + balance = correct silhouette; The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier standard is pretty clear on correct proportions, and breeders must consider silhouette a priority.

The first sentence of our standard says dogs are to be “square in outline,” - equal in length and height. This can only be achieved when the measurement from the furthest most projection of the shoulder (point of shoulder) to the furthest most projection of the rear (point of buttocks) equals the distance from the withers (union of the shoulder blade and the first and second thoracic vertebrae) to the ground (terra firma).

A level topline and high tailset finish off the picture. Ideally, the highest point of the withers will be higher than the level of the topline, and the well-angulated dog will have the point of shoulder in front of the neck and the point of buttocks out beyond the tail. Please note that high withers are created by long, sloping shoulder blades, and high tailsets are achieved by flat croups (the muscular area above and around the set-on).

When looking at the body of a Soft Coated Wheaten it is of the utmost importance that the length of body is achieved by a strong, short loin (the distance from the last rib to the pelvis) coupled with a long ribcage. Long ribcages provide the needed lung and heart capacity and short loins aid in efficient gait. This is a difficult relationship to maintain, but must be sought after by breeders. While many standards allow for more length in bitches, this is a point that bears no scientific merit. Longer loins are extremely detrimental and gender cannot be used as an excuse. Short joined bitches are perfectly capable of carrying healthy litters of puppies.

As far as overall balance goes, keep in mind that we are looking for a pleasing symmetrical appearance. The standard says that the head is “well balanced and in proportion to the body. Rectangular in appearance.” Neck is to be “medium in length.” “Back strong and level.” Shoulders are “well laid back” and hind-quarters are “well developed with well bent stifles.” An unwritten rule of thumb makes the length of head roughly equal to the length of the neck and the distance from withers to tail. Dogs who are moderately, but equally angulated front and rear will present a balanced picture.

Terrier the drags include, among other things, the short legs of the Glen of Imaal and Staffordshire Bull Terriers, which figure into the early development of the Soft Coated Wheaten.

As shorter legs and long loins become a trend, they threaten to change the outline of the breed in general. We become accustomed to seeing this low and/or long outline and it risks becoming acceptable. As breed enthusiasts, we must never let this happen to Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. The Kerry Blue standard is more explicit than ours as the first paragraph states, “a low-slung Kerry is not typical.” But, we can take a lesson from our cousin and also eschew short-legged Wheaten.

It can be argued that there is a difference between dogs who are “square,” and those that appear to be square. While the standard says the dogs are square, coat does affect their outlines. A square dog with an over abundance of coat, front and/or rear, can appear off square. Likewise, coat can obscure proper length of leg, too. Care must be taken to trim the lower legs to the elbow, shortening the coat at the elbow. However, no amount of clever grooming can fool the savvy judge, and breeders must assess their dogs’ proportions and breed for the ideal.

There is no other point that speaks to the whole dog as much as outline. Therefore, breeders must pay close attention to this aspect and never compromise. Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers are long-legged Terriers and always must appear so. Any other leg proportions speak to a different class of dogs and must be shunned.

This is the first in a series of articles describing the essence of Soft Coated Wheaten type. Definitions have been taken from Harold Spir’s Canine Terminology (Harper Row), which I highly recommend as a reference.
BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

Trebol

2006 SCWTCA Specialty

Best Veteran Bitch and Award of Merit Winner

CH LONTREE LACED KID GLOVE
(CH BRENMOOR'S KATZENJAMMER KID X CH LONTREE THE GENERAL'S LACY)
Date of Birth: September 16, 1992

Owned by: Willie & Wendy Rueda - Washington, DC
Mentored by: Gary Vlachos - Pittsburgh, PA; Bred by: Joy Laylon - Phoenix, AZ

Lovey goes to Montgomery to show the young ones how it’s done, receiving an AOM alongside her great granddaughter, Minnie (CH Kaylynn’s Pistol Packin’ Mama).

With much gratitude to Judge Jon Cole and the enthusiastic ringside support.
What a wonderful day for Montgomery County Kennel Club and all the Wheatens. I would like to thank everyone who had a part in my invitation to judge this year’s Specialty. The bitch classes were stronger than the dog classes. The specials were wonderful. I have prepared a few comments on various entries and classes.

**DOGS**

**6-9 Puppy**
2 (55) Canopy Road’s Island Cowboy-Werth/Wold.

**9-12 Puppy**
1 (39) Doubloon’s High Stakes Player-Landa. A young dog, but was well balanced. He had good layback of shoulder with plenty of reach and drive. He had a good headpiece and was nice in size. Very competitive young dog. I later gave him Reserve Winners Dog.
2 (51) Dreö’s Rainy Day Affair-Copland/Jalensky.
3 (63) Coventry’s Hey Look Me Over-Heckmann.

**12-18**
1 (113) Banner Waggintail Wiseguy-Tinnelly/Mandeville. Quality dog with good make and shape. Moved well in profile and held his top line well. He had good strength of muzzle. I liked his balance.
2 (57) Kuhullen O’Rileys Some Like It Hot-Rogers. Another quality entry that was close on the heels of the first place benchmarks.

Continued on page 31
traboh's Celtic Warrior-Hobart/Roper/Cote. Another quality dog. In fact, I was very pleased with all four of the top dogs in this class. Square built with good eye appeal. Moved well. Another strong headpiece. Could have used just a little better layback.

3 (93) Amaden's Playground Bully-Howard/Kromash/Holden. Smaller dog but carried good bone for his size. Moved out well. Good balance---head to neck and body.

4 (117) Earlecroft's Bagger Vance-O'Sullivan/Thompson/Draper. Another Irish coated dog. Just slightly longer than tall. Not as square. I did like his layback. I considered him competitive with the other winners in this class.

I was pleased with the winner's class. While there was some size variation, I thought most of the class winners were of the proper type, and deserved to be there.

**Bitches**

**6-9 Puppy**

1 (152) Greentree Trinity Follow Your Heart-Serafin/Mcdonald. I liked this young bitch. She was a typical puppy when moving, but did settle enough to go first. Very square and balanced. I liked her headpiece. Good bone for her size.

2 (58) Ivywild's Kidalee Ivy Too-Taylor/Kline. I had a difficult time between this bitch and the first place bitch. I liked them both. This bitch had a good headpiece, and was balanced like the other. She out moved the first place bitch, but there was something about number 152 that made me go with her.

3 (24) Edgewood's Steel Magnolia-Clarke/McGill. Another quality young bitch. She was competitive with the others.

4 (74) Acacia's Anything For Love-Snoddy/Smith. Like the other three; she was square and had quality.

**9-12 Puppy**

1 (34) Jendu Fleur De Fete-Frady. Eye catching young bitch that moved out very well. Square in appearance with all the parts fitting. I really liked her. Ended up giving her Reserve Winners Bitch. She pushed the Winners bitch hard at the end.

2 (82) Lonestar Forever in Blue Jeans-Neill. Pleasing headpiece. I felt that she was just a slight bit longer in body, but still very nice.

3 (136) Coventry's Looks Like Trouble-Heckman. Square built little bitch with a good headpiece and expression. I liked her ear set.

4 (158) Holweit's What Ever Lola Wants-Hamilton. This was a little larger bitch than I prefer, but she had the virtues of a SCWT. Balance and movement were there.

**12-18**

1 (50) Kinsale's Good Miss Grace-Ous-Kerby. This whole class had a lot of depth in it. I particularity liked this bitch. She was square, was nice sized and moved out well. Good movement in profile as well as down and back. I liked the balance and she had a good coat.

2 (40) Amberlock Signature Series-Olenksy. This bitch pushed number 50 very hard. I gave her equal marks, but felt that she was just slightly taller than number 50.

3 (140) Kennally Faolin Ruadh-Talbot/Skaith/Kachel. Like 50 and 40, this was a balanced bitch and pleasing to the eye. I thought that she needed a bit more maturity.

4 (12) Harbour Hill at Wisteria Ln-Sakauye. I liked this entry and wanted to give her a higher placement, but she did not show to her best advantage on this day.

**Bred By Exhibitor**

1 (94) Kriskenny Perfect Tonic Cadence-Taylor/Peterson/Morgan. This was a very competitive class with excellent depth. I took a good deal of time deciding on the four placements. In fact, I left out two or three entries that could have placed in another environment. This was by far the best class of the day to that point. All the placements represented the Wheaten Standard well. They were square, balanced. Good headed. Moved well. Each was very competitive with one and another. Any of the four could have won on the day, and it was only how they projected that determined the placement at the end of the class.

2 (106) Doubleo's Ultimate Player-Landa

3 (30) Cuileann One Hot Minute-Craig

4 (110) Greentree Skellig's Abraxas-Ives McDonald

**American Bred**

1 (124) Kriskenny Make Hers Mark S'Mor-Morgan/Peterson. Balanced bitch with a good deal of energy when moving. Needed to slow down and smooth out on the go.

**Open**

1 (104) Shar-D's Eire Regan O'Ruru-Fowler/Boyd. This was another class that had a lot of quality. I had to leave some deserving animals out of the ribbons because of this. The winner was a...
beautiful Irish coated bitch. Balance body, with an excellent layback. Level top line both standing and moving. Excellent reach and drive. A little wide in the front when coming at you, but not concerning. Strong headpiece. 120 and 160 pushed her for top honors. This was my Winners Bitch.


(111) Ch Lovesong’s Dance To The Beat- Mansfield
(128) Ch Lontree Laced Kid Gloves- Rueda
(118) Ch Kaylynn’s Pistol Packin Mama Baird/Meyer

What a tough Breed class. It was over- flowing with quality. The Award of Merit winners were outstanding and would win anywhere. It took a great deal of focus on my part to sort out this group of entries. After all was said and done, two remained deadlocked for the top spot—the ultimate winner 37 and the BOS 112. My final order did not occur until about 30 seconds before I placed them. Both were unstop- pable in presentation. Both represented the Breed Standard excellently. 37 is breathtaking in type and style. He is put down to perfection. I like his overall look just slightly better than 112. But take nothing away from her; she had her strong points and I gave her the edge in such areas as coat. She too had style and type galore. I was very pleased to end up with these two fine animals.

I felt that all of the Award of Merit animals were of high quality and deserving of the recognition. Each entry was placed in order of quality starting with 72 as my top award.

As I stated in the beginning, it was a wonderful day and an honor to officiate at such an event. Thank you to all the breeders and exhibitors for making this so outstanding.

VETERAN DOG
I (33) Ch Luvlade’s Top Gun-Lovelady. Still in good shape for a veteran. Moved well in profile. Coat in good condition.

VETERAN BITCH
I (128) Ch Lontree Laced Kid Glove- Rueda. This was a very nice bitch that had a good layback and moved well. She had all the parts. I found out later that she was over 14 years of age. She looked like four. It was my privilege later to give this bitch an Award of Merit. Well done for the old veteran.

2 (80) Ch Amadeus Steam N Hot- Brusch/ Giles. Very square little bitch. Had all the parts. Did not move as well as 128.

BOB
(37) Ch Caraway Celebrate Life-Verner/ Chapman.

BOS
(112) Ch Doubloon’s Playing the Field-Landa.

3(160) Holweit’s Sparkling Diamond- Hamilton. Pretty little bitch. Very square with good movement.

4 (21) Seamrog Signed Sealed Delivered- Unholt. I liked this bitch, and felt that she deserved a placement because of her quality. But she did not perform to the best of her ability.

Best of Breed winner, Ch Caraway Celebrate Life. Ch Bonney Midnight Spice Dream X Ch Caraway Golden Moonshadow. Bred by Beth Verner, Betty Chapman and Gary Crawley, owned by Beth and Betty. Presenters are Cindy Vogels and Jackie Gottlieb, donors of The Andover Challenge Trophy. The trophy was retired this year by virtue of Kovi’s three-time BOB National Specialty wins at MCKC.

I felt that all of the Award of Merit animals were of high quality and deserving of the recognition. Each entry was placed in order of quality starting with 72 as my top award.

As I stated in the beginning, it was a wonderful day and an honor to officiate at such an event. Thank you to all the breeders and exhibitors for making this so outstanding.
SCWTCA
Sweepstakes
and Obedience Trial
Montgomery, 2006
Sweepstakes Judge - Pamela Donahue
Obedience Judge - Evelyn VanUden
A Pictorial Essay

See Page 36 for the Sweepstakes Judge’s Critique

Best In Sweeps, Holweit's What Ever Lola Wants, Ch Lakkas Ulmus X Holweit's Caramilk. Bred and owned by Sylvia and Bill Hamilton. Judge, Pam Donahue; presenter, SCWTCA president, Helen Moreland.

Best Opposite Sex to BIS, Greentree Trinity Heart Break Kid. Wheaten Rebel Carlos Sanatana X Greentree Key to My Heart. Bred by M & R Serafin & B & K McDonald. Owned by B & K McDonald, M Serafin & C Clark.


Canine Good Citizen Test
SCWTCA Specialty Weekend, October of 2006

Despite the outdoor venue, five of five Wheatens passed their Canine Good Citizen Test with flying colors! Despite the excitement and a brief interruption, all the dogs and owners enjoyed taking the CGC test at our national specialty. One of the participants was late so I met her in the parking lot and we got a group together to help us with the test. Of all the titles, accolades and accomplishments my Wheaten Jeter has received, the Canine Good Citizen is still the most important to me. There were a lot of smiling people and their smiling Wheatens who also appreciated greatly this accomplishment!

A fun time was had by all. Please join us next year for this wonderful event.

Suzanne Stone
CGC Evaluator and more importantly, Wheaten enthusiast!
Candid shots from hither and yon
Montgomery, 2006
MCKC Sweepstakes - Judge's Critique

Pam Donahue

(pictures are on page 33)

For the first time the SCWTCA held its Sweepstakes outdoors at the MCKC show site on a Saturday. The venue and cool overcast weather were perfect for the puppies. Ringside grooming that could be retained for the Sunday MCKC show was also terrific for the exhibitors. It was truly an honor to be chosen to judge this event, and I am most grateful for the opportunity. Everyone knows how much I love puppies. For the most part I found dogs were in good weight. A few were much too thin to be competitive. I was also somewhat disturbed to see so many puppies with plaque and tartar on their upper canines. Teeth must always been sparkling clean for the life of a dog or there will be health issues down the road. It is inexusable to appear in a show ring with teeth that have tartar on them. Eye color was generally good with few light eyes in evidence. Musculature in rears has improved from previous years. Movement was generally good with a few upright shoulders spoiling an otherwise nice package. Coats were a pleasure to see and touch although several puppies were overly trimmed. Many of these coats would have flowed had there been more length to them. In general the bitch classes were stronger than the dog classes. The CD of photos of the day’s judging that Gerard Thompson gave me is truly appreciated. A brief overview of the class results follows.

In the 6–9 Dog Class, I found my first place dog in Greenstreet Trinity Heartbreak Kid who is a moderately sized well conditioned dog with marvelous movement, nice moderate size, lovely length of head and terrific shoulders. He has deep pigment and a wonderful big nose that is not seen too often in Wheatens anymore. He showed with great style. In second place, was Ivywild’s Standing Ovation a nice moderate dog with a lovely coat and pretty head. Edgewood Steel My Thunder was my third place dog who had a beautiful head, good musculature and good shoulders. In fourth place, Canopy Road’s Island Cowboy had a lovely coat, neck, and shoulders. I hope this dog doesn’t grow much larger.

In the 9–12 Dog Class, Coventry’s Hey look Me Over took the honors by having a gorgeous coat, good pigment, bite, great condition and nice movement. In the second spot, I placed Dreos Rainy Day Affair who is a dog with a beautiful coat and was in good condition. He needs a little more confidence in the ring and that should come with more experience. Jendu Fleur De Lis took the third spot. He is a dog in excellent condition, has lovely pigment, and has a lovely coat. I faulted his front movement somewhat. Movement won out in this class.

In the 12–15 Dog Class, Kaler Kiddermeister of Pennywhistle was placed first. He has good movement, nice pigment, good condition, great ears, and a pretty coat. He’s a nice balanced moderate dog. The second place dog was Amadeus Island Deal Me In who has a lovely coat, great body and good pigment. With more ring experience he should do well.

In the 15–18 Dog Class, Wheatenbrook’s Man of Mystery was my first choice. He has a nice coat and color, is moderate in size, is in good condition, and has good reach and drive on the go round. Meirlac’s Steal a Kiss was second in this class. This dog has a nice head, lovely shoulders, and a good top line. Movement was again the deciding factor in this class.

In the 6–9 Puppy Bitch class, there were ten entries of lovely little ladies. In first, I placed Seanyac T’Daze Top Story who is a darling little bitch just 6 months old who has terrific movement, is in wonderful condition, and is just a perfect little package. My second place bitch was Ivywild’s Kidley Ivtoor a moderate feminine bitch with pretty ears, a short back, good movement and condition. My third place bitch was Pinehome’s Paris Eire who was similar to the first place bitch, was feminine with a short back and nice movement. In fourth place was Edgewood Steel Magnolia who was similar to the first three bitches, had a good attitude, but needed more coat length. This was a wonderful class of bitches with lots of depth in quality. In the 9–12 Puppy Bitch class, first place was awarded to Holweit’s Whatever Lola Wants. She is gorgeous moderate bitch with lovely coat, color, good pigment, and a wonderful big nose. An excellent mover, she was in marvelous condition. Doubloom’s Ultimate Player was placed second. She has very nice movement, coat, and color. She is larger than the first place bitch. Coventry’s Here’s Looking at Me was placed third. Her attributes are her moderate size, good head, and pigment. In fourth place was Lone Star Forever In Bluejeans who has a nice coat and color and is a nice size. This class was also loaded with quality bitches making it fun to explore.

In the 12–15 month class, Cuileann One Hot Minute was placed first. This bitch is of correct size, has great movement, pretty ears, good pigment, and is nicely square in outline. Islander’s Girl’s Night Out was placed second. She is similar to the first place bitch but has a longer body. Her movement and color are quite nice. Star’s Dykstra in the Zone was third in this class. While she has a very pretty outline, her size is not her fortune.

In the 15–18 month class Amberrock Signature Series was placed first. She has fabulous movement, a good coat and color for her age, good pigment, good condition, and was in great condition. Meirlac’s Kiss My Lass Too was second. She is similar to the first place dog. She has excellent movement. The number three bitch was Raelyn Lasting Impression who is a pretty bitch with good movement although I found her a bit tall. Harbour Hill at Wisteria Lane was fourth in this class. She is a powerful muscular bitch and is a lovely color. Her coat appears to be in transition. Movement again was the deciding factor in this class.

Best in Sweepstakes Winner was Holweit’s Whatever Lola Wants. This lovely moderate bitch from the 9–12 Puppy Bitch class is a complete package having great attitude, movement, perfect size, great coat, color, and pigment. Lola did get what she wanted in Sweepstakes. Best of Opposite in Sweepstakes was Greenstreet Trinity Heartbreak Kid from the 6–9 Puppy Dog Class. This young dog’s great showmanship, movement, level top line, great pigment, and lovely head are outstanding. It will be interesting to see how he grows up since he has so many attributes at his young age.
An Interview With A New SCWTCA Board Member
Dana Frady, Jendu Wheatens

1 How & when did you first become interested in Wheatens?

It was 1980 and I went to work at a pet/grooming shop. The owner of the store was showing a couple. She let me groom and show them and I fell in love.

2 When did you get your first Wheaten?

1984, after working for a professional handler, I came home and called Gay Dunlap for a puppy.

3 When did you join SCWTCA?

Can't remember.

4 What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?

I was the Wheaten Rescue chair for a year.

5 What all breed, obedience, agility or breed clubs do you belong to? How are you involved (offices, committees, etc.)? Do you have any other special club or work experience, e.g. PTA, that especially qualifies you for the SCWTCA Board?

Dayton Kennel Club. Worked hospitality, judged matches and served as a steward. Bearded Collie Club of Cincinnati, Vice Pres, Trophy chair for Roving National Specialty.

6 Do you own any other breeds and if so what?

I have experience with Bearded Collies, Poodles, Border Terriers, Lowchen, Cairns and Welsh Terriers.

7 How many litters have you bred and what breeds?


8 Who was your first finished champion, performance title holder, etc?

Bearded Collie, Crisch Ebony and Ivory, co-owned with my mother...I showed. Wheaten Terrier, Gleanngay Windy Day, Jenny. I owned and showed her.

9 What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?

Anne Marie Moore stopped the judging in the ring and announced to the whole ring that she was giving me the major that day despite my handling. She liked the dog. Another was blowing bubbles with my bubble gum in the ring at Westminster and the judge glared at me until I spit it out. It was more embarrassing than funny.

10 If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?

I would like to see an Independent Specialty come to life within a few years. It would be a great opportunity for the members to have more time to get to know each other in a more relaxing atmosphere. Also gives more time to education. You wouldn't have to decide between shows and education. You could do all the activities and enjoy the breed we love.
was recently going through a stack of magazines trying to catch up on long overdue reading and came across an interesting article in the Canine Chronicle. The article, published in two parts, was titled Doing Battle with Mother Nature by Gay Dunlap. The article was particularly timely since a breeder friend and I were searching for “that perfect stud dog” for a bitch we co-own along with a novice owner. The article does not specifically address our breed but all purebred dogs, breed standards and the show ring in general. The article makes for an interesting read . . . agree or disagree . . . I think you’ll find it thought provoking. The following is a reprint of the first article.

Cecily Skinner

DOING BATTLE WITH MOTHER NATURE
BY GAY DUNLAP

Reprinted from Canine Chronicle
June 2006

It is by no whim that Mother Nature seeks, whenever possible, to right what she deems to be a wrong. As breeders we often find ourselves doing battle with her in an effort to retain those qualities inherent in our breed that may go against her insatiable appetite for assuring the survival of a species. Perhaps she believes that such actions are in service to our vanity. We, on the other hand, often refer to the results of her tweaking as the drag of a breed.

We maintain that form follows function. In some breeds this declaration bears itself out. When a sight hound is made correctly it functions in accordance with both our expectations and those of Mother Nature. In most cases, however, form following function is conceptually the result of human intervention, whimsy if you will, and contrary to the dictates of Mother Nature. In my breed we look for a square dog, up on leg and short in loin. Although we have tried to put the rules of form-follows-function into play they are in reality just so many words, filled with rhetoric and signifying nothing, a fairy tale so to speak. Mother Nature seems intent on a lower stationed dog, long in loin. And if the truth were told, their job as an “all-purpose farm dog” is in no way jeopardized by shorter legs and a longer loin. Mother Nature does not seem to care about what we have determined to be their function. She simply wants to take them back to the basic principals of what works best for the continuance of the canine species as a whole. And thus, we have an ongoing battle with her in an effort to keep the “look” we proclaim, through our standard, to be correct.

My breed is not the only one with which breeders struggle to maintain a higher-stationed, shorter-backed dog. Poodle folk fight the same battle. Walk down a city street or stroll through a favorite dog-walkers park. Low legged, long-backed Toy and Miniature Poodles with sausage-shaped bodies flourish here. One must attend a dog show or visit a serious, dedicated breeder to find the Poodle with “correct” breed type. Labrador Retrievers are constantly fighting loss of leg length as Mother Nature strives to create the dog she feels will travel more economically; i.e., a dog that is longer and lower to the ground. Breeders of Siberian Huskies speak of dogs that have not only lost
length of leg but have become too thick of bone and overly deep of chest. Their standard uses the word moderate seventeen times but Mother Nature seems to want them overdone, more reminiscent, perhaps of their close relative the Alaskan Malamute. Mother Nature snubs her nose at Papillion breeders as they strive for a fine boned dainty dog with a bit more length of back. She seems to want them stumpy and shorter backed.

Bullmastiff breeder, Helene Nietsch, is quick to remind us that the Bullmastiff’s body should be compact, nearly square. Breeders in general are complaining of far too many long-backed, short-legged Bullmastiffs in the show ring. Nietsch states clearly, “Long is wrong...short legs are wrong!”

A Saint Bernard breeder questions if there is, currently, an epidemic of short-legged dogs. The opening line of the Saint Bernard standard calls for a “powerful, proportionately tall figure.” Using the form follows function theory, these dogs must be capable of working in deep snow. As breeder Joan Zielinski says, “One step in a snow bank with testicles dragging and any self respecting Saint would say, ‘I’m outa here!” Joan’s husband, breeder judge Stan Zielinski, recently wrote an article for the breed’s national publication entitled THE HALF-LEGGED DOG DISEASE. The title alone bespeaks Zielinski’s concerns about his breed.

What we must understand is that the process of evolution takes far longer than the less-than-fifteen-thousand years we have been breeding dogs for specific tasks or traits. As Ray Copping points out in his book, Dogs, A Startling New Understanding of Canine Origin, Behavior & Evolution, this is a barest instant of evolutionary time. Mother Nature has not yet grasped that, in order for the Saint Bernard to do our bidding, he must have long legs. She only knows that, critical to his species thriving, she must see that survival is ensured. Longer loin and lower balance makes for more efficient movement. And, as a result, this make and shape conserves energy, allowing greater endurance for hunting which in turn creates an increased likelihood that the species will flourish.

Mother Nature does not seem to go along with us on the make and shape of our long backed short-legged breeds either. Breeders of such as Dachshunds and Corgis are constantly at war with her as she strives to shorten up what she obviously feels to be excessive length of back, morphing them into what she perceives to be the best shape for survival.

We understand the domestic dog is believed to have descended from the wolf with millions of years of wolf phenotype behind it. We are the artificial stimulus responsible for changing this phenotype. Our reasoning has nothing to do with survival, but is merely a whim. We are actually breeding for what nature would consider a weaker animal. Our efforts have been incredibly short lived compared to the magnitude of Canis lupus/Canis familiaris evolution.

What Mother Nature wants is infinitely easier to achieve. She wants us to do it her way. Instead, we continue to assault her process, her commitment to natural selection. The bottom line is that this is a battle we are destined to fight forever, or at least for so long as we insist that our dogs look as our standards command. Either that, or until Mother Nature decides our design is not so bad after all and that the species Canis familiaris, considering their evolution and current life style, will indeed survive quite well. But that time will be long in coming.

Meanwhile, why does it seem that our battle with Mother Nature has materialized in the show ring of late? Could it be that, in our enthusiasm for our respective breeds, we have encouraged new comers to join us and that these new comers are not being properly mentored? Or is it that there are simply too many of them and we have lost control? Could it be that these Johnny-come-lately breeders then fall into the “breed what you have, keep what you get and show what you keep” trap? In days gone by, dogs not measuring up to the dictates of our standards were sold as pets or otherwise culled. Does it seem that far too many of our newbie breeders have entire litters of show dogs? Recently, a long time breeder friend of mine was watching her breed being judged. She was standing alongside a neophyte breeder. The neophyte, commenting on one of the entries, proclaimed, “That dog is too high on leg”. It was not posed as a question. In her newly found wisdom, it came across as a declaration. My breeder friend was aghast. Her candid response was, “A dog can’t be too high on leg in this breed.” Perhaps the response was a bit over the top but it reflected her dismay at the audacity of someone new to the breed making such a pronouncement. And, what is worse, believing it.

Where do we go from here? How do we function as mentors when there are so few interested in being mentored, so many who feel they don’t need it? If we could but take a giant step backward and follow the lead of those breeds in which the old guard kept a tight reign. If only. Many of us are in the process of selling our breeds down the river without even realizing it. We turn our backs while our neophyte breeders bow to Mother Nature and enter the ring with the results. They are unaware of the fact that, because of them, we are loosing breed type. For many of us there is a sinking feeling and an ominous sense that it may be too late. Others, in the “it’s all about me” mode, are so self-absorbed that they are oblivious to the seriousness of the situation. ✧
subscription rates
scwtca members USA $25/year, canada and overseas $35/year
non-scwtca members USA $35/year, non-scwtca members canada and overseas $45/year
US funds only

Benchmarks is sent to AKC Licensed and Provisional Terrier Judges requesting subscription.

articles and letters for publication are due February 1

advertising rates
full page, 1 picture $75.00, additional pictures $5.00/ea
half page, 1 picture $50.00, additional pictures $5.00/ea
ads may be sent as email attachment, photos must be 300 dpi, tiff format
original photos will be returned
only photos with un-retouched dogs will be accepted. Limit health references to hip and eyes and/or “health testing current and shared upon request”. ads accepted from club members only and limited to two pages per issue. ONLY CLUB MEMBERS’ CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED for ads of co-owned and/or bred dogs.

ad closing date for March issue: February 15, 2006
send advertising to gay dunlap, 1134 south oak ct, Gilbert az 85233-8109 (if sent by overnight service, sign “signature waiver” so driver will leave package). if you have copy submitted by February 5, a draft layout will be sent to you for edits. include email address for quick turnaround

publications
Owner’s Manual (’95) $11.00 Annual OFA Report $6.00
Grooming Chart 3.00 Benchmarks (Back Issues) 6.00
Pet Grooming Pamphlet 3.50 Illustrated Standard 18.00
multiple copies available to club members only. see directory for prices
SINGLE COPIES ONLY to non-members. price includes postage if mailed within the US
YEARBOOKS (1988-1997) specify the year $37.00 us $40.00 foreign
(1998-2003) specify the year $40.00 us $45.00 foreign

for all publications except benchmarks subscriptions:
cindy shea, 63348-1707

for benchmarks subscriptions:
cindy jansen, 1203 pierpont meadows rd, columbia, mo 65201-9309
make all checks payable to scwtca, inc.

ONLY US FUNDS WILL BE ACCEPTED. all others will be returned.

MEMBERSHIP PACKET
RESCUE
HEALTH ISSUES

Fecal API Kits
2007 COORDINATOR
Cindy Jansen, 1203 Pierpont Meadows Rd, Columbia, Mo 65201
ALL OTHER ADDRESS CHANGES
Website, http://www.scwtca.org
OFA database is on the web at:
SCWTCA, Inc Board of Directors
OFA database is on the web at:
CERF database is on the web at:
Bonnie Kanter, bkanter170462@comcast.net
Nancy Butler, nbuttrigo@cybermesa.com
Cecily Skinner, tarascwt@aol.com
Helen Moreland, hjmoreland@msn.com
Toni Vincent, FecalAPIKit@aol.com
Kathy McIndoe, paisleyspring@qwest.net
Ronnie Copland, wheaten@wideopenwest.com
Bonnie O’Connor, webmaster@duildream.comcast.net
board@scwtca.org
http://www.ofa.org/ofasrch.html
http://www.vet.purdue.edu/~yshen/cerf/html

donations
all donations are sent to:
kenna kachel
29200 southfield rd, suite 100
southfield, mi 48076

checks are made payable to SCWTCA, inc drawn on US accounts or with international money orders in US funds

donations to the SCWTCA Health Endowment Fund may be sent directly to:
rosemary berg
37953 center ridge road
north ridgeville, oh 44039

checks should be made payable to SCWT Health Endowment (fully deductible for IRS purposes)

celebrating long life
&
happy birthday seniors
submit to Toni Vincent by closing date: tonivincent@aol.com

benchmarks editor
gay dunlap
gaydunlap@cox.net
480 926-1622

benchmarks is the official quarterly publication of the scwtca, inc. the opinions expressed in articles contained herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor or the Officers and Directors of the Club. The Editor reserves the right to reasonably edit all material submitted for publication. Comments, suggestions and expressions of opinion from the readers are always welcomed. Original articles may be reprinted with permission of the editor.