BENCHMARKS

a publication of the SCWTCA, Inc
volume 35, number 3
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featuring

What We Owe Our Brood Bitches
A Synopsis of the Seminar on Vaccines
The pANCA Research in Great Britain
Specialty Reports from St Louis, Greater Milwaukee and Great Western
Health Issues in Wheatens Downunder
The Essense of Type, Focusing on Temperament
Celebrating Long Life and Happy Birthday Seniors
The Love Affair Between a Wheaten and a Baby Filly
Geriatric and Informative Family Questions Answered
Grandma’s Attic Is Back!

wild hog dog!
photo by john garley

Boomer’s name is on his collar and “Bad to the Bone” is on the zipper pocket. He is “riding” a 2002 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail.

Benchmarks is available in living color
on our SCWTCA website,
http://www.scwtca.org
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A prudent question is one-half of wisdom. (Francis Bacon)

There are two topics I want to cover in this column. The first is reflective of my insights as president:

Questions: “Where are we (SCWTCA) going?” “What do we want?” “What should we be doing?” “What is most important?” “What can wait?” “When one Board leaves and another starts, what is the club to expect?” “Will the goals and objectives be the same?”

If those questions were asked randomly of 30 SCWTCA members, many of the the answers would be the same as and yet as varied as the people being asked. However, what I find interesting is that each of us thinks we know the answers. The obvious answers would be: protect the breed and the dogs; educate the members, dog owners and public; provide educational, service and competition/performance opportunities; be responsive to the membership; anticipate needs; plan for the future; work with the AKC and local clubs; develop and support research; collect money for research, rescue and other opportunities; weigh carefully all donations offered to the club; and so forth... In actuality a comprehensive list would be almost as unending as the methods of interpretation and evaluation.

Over the past year I have come to believe the key questions are: “How can SCWTCA accomplish change that is in the best interest of the breed and the club?” and “How can SCWTCA get a unified approach within the club, where people work together without personal agendas and need for control but with common goals, trust and support?”

There is much to do - enough for everyone.

Patience is the companion of wisdom. (St. Augustine)

The second topic has to do with what I discern as many members' perception of research:

Relevant and proven research requires progressing in an orderly manner with the hypotheses, literature review, data collection, data analysis, evaluation, summary and so forth, clearly defined and scientifically collected. For example, it doesn't pay to do the data analysis until the preceding steps are completed. It's been demonstrated repeatedly: move one step in the research plan out of line before it's time and the entire project may falter or fail.

We have before us the Canine Phenome Project, an exciting and promising opportunity in many ways. It is the first time GRF, SCWTCA Endowment Board and SCWTCA have worked together for research. It is progressing more slowly than we would like for a variety of reasons - none of which we can control. If we get the cart before the horse (to use an old expression), we may make more problems for the researchers trying to help us. When everything is in place, we will step up to the plate. You know that; I know that. That's what we (SCWTCA) do.

Gay Dunlap

From the Editor...

Times they are a changing...

For the first time in the history of SCWTCA we face a board made up of members either totally new to the job or with tenure of two years or less. The only exception to this is our treasurer, whose term of office is unlimited.

Many members with prior experience and a strong background in the world of dogs were asked to serve. Concurrently, it would appear that some of our more spirited out-spoken members were effectively disregarded while those whose personality traits were as yet undetermined seemed a safe choice. I am told the nominating committee considered their search for willing candidates to be a daunting task. Twenty-nine members who were contacted declined. One other member never responded at all. As a result, we are facing a geographically disproportionate board. This we will survive.

While doubtless some of those who declined did so for valid reasons, the overall lack of interest in serving our club is troubling. But rather than pass judgment perhaps we should ask ourselves why and how this came to be.

In the not too distant past, we were honored by an invitation to serve on the Board. What has happened that this is no longer the case? Why are so many unwilling to step up to the plate? I wonder if the answers don't lie somewhere between the double-edged sword of how the membership treats the Board and how the Board treats the membership. One former committee head expressed pleasure at no longer having to face the Board's micro-management and lack of consideration. “I had to remind one of them that I was a volunteer,” she told me. Membership complains that the Board often appears to function as a secret society. The Board is offended that membership seems to take great pleasure in raking them over the coals, both en masse and as individuals. It would seem both sides of this sword could steal Rodney Dangerfield's line, “I don’t get no respect!”

With this new board comes an awesome opportunity to start afresh. I have faith this new board can function cohesively without becoming a closed, self-ingratiating “club”. I have faith this new board can communicate with membership in an honest and accommodating fashion such that there is no reason to accuse it of taking on a “Star Chamber” appearance. I have faith that micro managing will not be become the norm.

With this new board comes the opportunity for membership to be accommodating as well. We must give this new board the chance to succeed and prove that we can work together. We must prove that we have the courage to take on a job, even though we are afraid we might fail; prove that we are willing to make a difference; that we are willing to put personal vendettas aside for the good of our club; prove that we can be team players with everyone bringing something of value to the table.

Helen J Moreland
To the Editor

I wonder if everyone took notice of the adorable cover of Benchmarks last quarter? While looking for an elementary school art project I was browsing through portraits of animals on artsonia.com. There was a class who did adorable work of wild animals, like wolves, polar bears and tigers.

Along with the "wild" animal portraits I see this puppy that looks like a Wheaten puppy. Now I would have to agree that there are times we do think our puppies are like wild animals, but this guy looked adorable with an almost halo around his head. I sent it on to some friends and we all agreed it was a Wheaten puppy.

One of those friends, Gay Dunlap, our editor, thought it was so adorable that she contacted the art teacher and got the parent's phone number. They were thrilled to be asked to have their young son's art work and their dog's picture as the "cover boy" for our breed magazine. It was also nice to know that this puppy came from one of our own breeders, Bette Eckstrom.

Anna Marzolino

To the Editor

Shari Boyd-Carusi's article, "Stud Management: A Call to All", in the June Benchmarks was great. It's always good to read a fresh voice, especially one with Shari's experience and talent, and I hope we hear more from her.

Shari made specific points about breeding decisions, and there is very little to disagree with in her piece. But just as the integrity she calls for means that breeders and stud dog owners need to make informed choices, it also calls for ongoing information gathering and sharing.

Integrity doesn't stop at conception. Breeders and stud dog owners have a responsibility to each other, to owners and to the breed long after the papers are filed with AKC. The dogs must be tested, followed and necropsied. Otherwise, saying "It's not a problem in this line" is nothing more than an excuse…any serious breeder should be ashamed of using the same pretext a puppy mill or backyard breeder uses.

Breeders and stud dog owners must take the next step and share all physical health and all temperament status information on a routine basis. Being responsible continues until the last dog you've bred or the last dog yours has sired dies.

Informing the person who entrusted their bitch to your dog…or who found your bitch worthy of his services…of how things are going lets them, in turn, make the right choices for their Wheaten and its offspring. Not doing so means you are making choices about someone else's breeding programs…and you just don't have that right.

Being concerned with "blame" if something goes wrong down the road is no excuse for not doing these things…and placing blame on one's partner to a breeding gone bad is simply irresponsible.

Thanks to Shari and to Benchmarks for opening up the conversation.

Pam Mandeville, Banner Wheatens, Reg.

To the Editor

Stud Dog Management is a very important subject and needs to be addressed in length. I'd love to do a series on it but at this time I just want to address the material Shari covered in her article. I am in total agreement with her take on imports and the way some have been handled. It amazes me how little homework has been done by many of the importers. Some of us imported from Ireland and took what was available knowing that little history and no health history was available. We took the risk and started with those dogs knowing that they would not be used by others unless they were willing to take the same risk and we chose not to advertise the fact that the dogs were available.

Most of the dogs imported from other parts of Europe have a lot more information available. Still many of the importers have been so eager to have "something different" that they haven't gone to the effort to look for the available information. For instance, one breeder...
of approximately twenty years, called me to ask what I thought of her “Irish” dog. I studied the pedigree and called her back to tell her that her “Irish” was American with the exception of less than 25% of the pedigree. She was shocked because she had been told that the bitch was Irish and she assumed that the bitch was because she didn’t recognize the names in the pedigree.

Still others rush to Europe to breeders they have found on the Internet. If we were so eager to run to breeders on the net in America we would have a puppy mill breed. Discrimination is the key word. As Shari stated, research is the key. Granted trust is also an important key and trust should be given when earned. Meeting the breeder seeing as much of the background as possible and sharing goals for the breed must be part of the process of importing any dog.

Word on the street (the information highway) is that the dog in question is Ch Windisle Medoc. Since I am very much informed about this particular dog, I know that Shari was given misinformation, if Bjorn is the dog in question. I have no way of knowing for sure, since I didn’t ask Shari. I believe the meat of what she wrote to be true and I don’t really care who inspired her article. Those throwing his name around have probably not asked her either.

One of Bjorn’s owners traveled to Sweden with me about seven years ago. She went to watch and to learn. I judged over 100 Wheatens at a match and she watched, critiqued me, and made friends with many owners. One of the dogs she liked was Windisle Classico Virtawheat. He was a baby then and a very impressive pup. Personally, I was in love with his dam and sire. The dam was one of the most beautiful Wheaten Rebel dogs I have ever seen. The sire was a mixture of European and American lines with linage that went back to my own Ch Amaden’s Meant to Be. The woman traveling with me developed friendships with the breeder and with the owner of Classico. She has visited them in Europe and they with her in the US. All health information is shared, both past and current.

When Bjorn became available his breeder trusted three North Americans with his care. He has never expressed anything but pleasure with the way the dog is treated and shown. Bjorn has been bred 8 times in the past two years and two of those times were by his owners. The other six times were with bitches that were either owned or being mentored by long time breeders. Any health information requested was exchanged by both breeders and stud owners. Just as many bitches have been refused because the owners are trying not to use him too often and don’t want the “new stud on the block”.

As already stated, I am not answering or responding to Shari’s article. I totally agree with her and again, I have no idea of whom she was discussing. Sadly the article has spurred the type of gossip that is damaging to the breed. Too many dogs are excluded from breeding because of unfounded rumors regarding supposed health issues. While it is absolutely true that we must be responsible and ethical, we must also check facts before damning other breeders or specific dogs. Shari could have been creating a hypothetical situation. I prefer to think that she was.

Sincerely

Emily J Holden

PICTURE FROM OUR PAST!

Left to right
Janet Turner Dalton with Ch Wildflower Stardust
Marjorie Shoemaker with Ch Waterford Bad Hobbit
Penny Belviso with Ch Bantry Bay Gleanngay Kashmir
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PAGE 6

WHAT WE OWE OUR BROOD BITCHES
by Shari Boyd-Carusi

R

ecently, I lost my dear “Little Me” to PLE. For five years she had lived a much better than “clinically normal” life and was what I thought to be clear. Yet, from onset of clinical illness to date of death was only five short and very agonizing weeks.

This is not the story of Little Me or her demise. It is about the fact that prior to her taking ill, she had a litter from which I kept a pup named Pinky. As soon as Little Me was diagnosed, Pinky was spayed. You see, Pinky is too valuable as my companion to even think about taking any unnecessary risks. This leads to the point of this article.

We have all these tests and the registry available to us, however we are still breeding blindly. Until we know which CLEAR dogs we are breeding to which CLEAR bitches, repeatedly breeding and breeding potentially unknown carriers (hoping that they are not bred to carriers or affecteds) doesn’t make a whole lot of sense.

What does this mean?

Why should one bitch be made to have four and five litters? And what bitch is good enough to do so? I cannot name one. If a bitch has that many litters, that is an awful lot of polluted genes out there if she takes ill at seven or nine years of age. And that is an awful lot of clean up left for those who do it.

Now I suppose one can argue why breed at all if we are going to worry? The message is to SLOW DOWN and study. If you can meet your choice of stud dog in his home, then you should make a point of doing so. Do you know the temperament of your stud dog by reading pedigrees and looking at photos? Do you know the temperament by talking to the breeder’s neighbor? You learn by being a hands-on student.

My breeding program, since Shar-D’s Rhootin Tootin, has followed this path (and mind you there are still no magic numbers). My bitch is CAREFULLY bred once. If warranted, she is bred a second time, possibly in an opposite direction, after which time, she is spayed. This is what works for me. This does not give me a free ticket from disaster, but does it not make sense to take the time to grow up a minimal number of offspring and learn from them? We learn even more about our dogs through their offspring. And it is upon these offspring that we build our breeding programs.

Breeding and breeding a bitch yields a higher percentage of pups that can fall through the cracks, a higher percentage of pups that may be rendered useless as breeding stock. That is, until we have our carrier test.

We should all be striving to produce dogs that a) live and b) win during specialty weekends where the competition is the deepest.

That is why I do it.

Keep in mind when presenting your offspring to the judges that dog shows ARE the evaluation of breeding stock. They ARE NOT a numbers game or about following a favorite judge. They are not about showing lesser littermates for the better one to win.

We have to make our breeding decisions count, produce stronger offspring to move forward with, and get these bitches back up on the pedestal that they have so rightly earned.

NEW OPEN REGISTRY MEMBERS
August 1, 2007

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 Terries 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.

Meggan Abboud
Sharon Folsom-St. John
David Holy
Cheryl Johnstone
Jeri Voyles
Synopsis of the Seminar on Vaccines  
presented Montgomery, 2006  
by  
R.D. Schultz, Dept of Pathobiological Sciences,  
School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin  

Synopsis by Judith P Downing, Ph.D

TYPES OF VACCINES USED TODAY

1. MLV=Modified Live or Attenuated (Weakened) Vaccines, most are viruses.

Vector Vaccines=a combination of two organisms, one is the source of the disease protective antigen (Canine Distemper, rCDV) & the other is a harmless carrier virus, in this case Canary Pox virus (CPV).

Killed/Inactivated vaccine=Bacterin (killed bacterial product) such as that for Lyme Disease or Leptospirosis or inactivated (killed) virus rabies.

THE MOST COMMON VACCINE COMBINATION is known as a Five-Way & contains DPAdP or Distemper virus (CDV), Parainfluenza virus (CPI), Canine Adenovirus #1(Infectious Canine Hepatitis) & Canine Adenovirus #2 (Kennel Cough) + Parvovirus (Canine Parvovirus-2). There actually are only four virus preparations present in the vaccine because only Adenovirus #2 is used as it cross-reacts (covers) for Adenovirus #1.

PURPOSE OF VACCINE IMMUNITY

Induce immunologic memory as either or both B & T cells. Long lived plasma cells are the actual antibody producing cells & also known as Memory Effector B Cells. They can have the same life-span as the animal. There also are Long-lived Memory Effector T cells. The term Effector cell simply means a cell with a job. So in this case the job of Memory Effector B cells & T cells is to remember the viruses in the vaccines and recognize them on future contact. This memory response can exist without the presence of detectable antibody. The acquired immunity induced by vaccines is better against viruses than bacteria because the bacterial vaccines in use are killed organisms. It is better against systemic (generalized) than mucosal (local) infections, the antibody in the blood is protective or neutralizing. The immunity induced by MLV vaccines is better than that induced by killed or inactivated organisms because the MLV vaccine viruses can replicate. This increases the dose above and beyond what was injected.

CANINE VACCINES

RECOMMENDED VACCINES/CORE VACCINES

Every dog/puppy should receive Core Vaccines: CDV, CPV-2, CAV-2 & rabies.

OPTIONAL/NON-CORE VACCINES

Only for dogs at special risk of infection, determined locally. Examples include Leptospirosis, Bordetella (Kennel cough), & Lyme induce good immunity so must be repeated frequently, like every six months or more often.

NOT GENERALLY RECOMMENDED

Canine Corona virus & Giardia vaccines, rattlesnake venom vaccine.

WHAT IS NEW?

1. Interval for revaccination with Core vaccines is extended to three or more years, Dr Schultz recommends longer intervals ie five or seven years.

continued on page 8
It's what we learn after we think we know it all that counts the most

Zig Zigler

2. Optional vaccines should absolutely only be used in animals at definite risk.

3. Best route for injection is subcutaneous in the neck or shoulder areas.

WHEN TO IMMUNIZE PUPPIES?

Not before 8 weeks because of interference by maternal immunity. Then at either 3 or 4 week intervals. Dr Shultz likes the three week intervals. Most important protection needed by puppies is against Distemper, Parovirus, & Adenoviruses. Puppies should be revaccinated one year after last puppy vaccines and then adults revaccinated no more than every three years. He thinks every three years is too often (Schultz, 2006).

Rabies virus is different for two reasons. First, in most places it is subject to laws; secondly the desired effect is to protect against infection not just disease. His recommendation is to give the first Rabies vaccine at three months then one year later and adult revaccination at three year intervals or what is mandated by the laws in your community.

THE USE OF TITERS

A titer is a relative measurement of the antibodies present in an animals blood. A blood sample is drawn, the blood is allowed to clot and the liquid or serum is then tested for antibody.

According to Dr. Schultz, the ONLY time it is worthwhile to do this is two weeks after the last puppy vaccines are given. Titors should be determined against Distemper & Parovirus. Any positive response is acceptable and there is no need to repeat it unless the dog undergoes chemotherapy ( & probably radiation therapy) for cancer. If the titer is negative, then the puppy should be revaccinated and retested to make sure it has responded. Animals with no detectable titer against distemper can still be protected, this is not true for Parovirus. The presence of antibody as detected by the positive titer indicates a response has occurred. Even if the titer declines, immunologic memory is present and should be protective. Titors are subject to variation so a result of 160 could be equal to 80 or 320 on another occasion.

VACCINE PRODUCERS

There are five companies in the USA that produce reliable vaccines. They are: Fort Dodge, InterVet, Schering-Plough, Pfizer, & Merial. While all products are somewhat different, they all are effective. Most induce a minimum of seven years of immunity. Veterinary vaccines are licensed by the Federal Government (USDA) so any changes in formula take a long time.

VACCINE PROCEDURE

Do not split doses. The entire quantity present is necessary to induce an immune response. What you can do for very young puppies is to reconstitute the vaccine in a smaller quantity of liquid (diluent). Use 0.5 ml instead of 1.0 ml so the amount is less in a small body and will hurt less.

For Leptospirosis, if you feel the risk is sufficient for use, use the four way product and do not give before 14 weeks. The efficacy & duration are not good so it must be given at 14 weeks, 17 weeks, 6 months, 1 year and every 6-9 months thereafter in high risk areas.

For Kennel Cough, the intranasal vaccine is the best. It contains live, avirulent Bordetella bronchiseptica and a modified live form of Parainfluenza virus.

Do not use Rabies vaccine in the same preparation as the others, such as the 5-Way. But Dr, Schultz feels a different preparation on the same day is okay. Many Wheaten people would disagree and use a minimum of a two week interval between the two vaccines.

References

R.D. Schultz. In Recent Advances in Canine Infectious Diseases, Carmichael, L. E. Ed. Considerations In Designing Effective And Safe Vaccination Programs For Dogs, Published by IVIS, 2000.


2006 AAHA Canine Vaccine Guidelines for the General Veterinary Practice.

Judith Downing
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Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
The pANCA Research Project in Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers

The Royal Veterinary College is to carry out an exciting new research project in the Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier this summer. The project will be led by Dr Karin Allenspach, med.Vet FVH DECVIM-CA. Prior to taking up her post as Lecturer in Internal Medicine at the RVC, Dr Allenspach had worked in America with a team led by Dr Shelly Vaden DVM DACVIM at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, researching protein-losing diseases in the Wheaten.

Dr Allenspach’s research will hopefully demonstrate whether the pANCA test (at present used in human medicine to diagnose conditions such as Crohn’s disease) may be a useful tool in the early detection of protein-losing disease in the breed. If this proves to be the case, the test could be useful in identifying cases before the dogs become ill, enabling them to receive early treatment and their participation in breeding programmes to be re-assessed. The prevalence of Protein-losing diseases in this country is thought to be quite low at present and this is therefore an ideal time to tackle the issue.

Dr Allenspach explains the test and the aims of the project: “The detection of pANCA (perinuclear anti-neutrophilic cytoplasmic antibodies) is a serum test based on evaluation of antibodies to neutrophils which can be easily assessed from about 1ml of whole blood. The test has been evaluated in a group of 22 SCWT in the United States. The dogs were first tested for pANCA at 6 months of age and then every 6 months thereafter. All of the dogs in this study were positive for pANCA early on in their life and subsequently went on to develop protein-losing disease later in life. The interesting fact is that the positive pANCA result was seen on average 2-3 years before the dogs showed any signs of illness. This means that the pANCA serum test could be useful in identifying the disease before dogs become ill. These dogs could then receive early treatment and their participation in a breeding programme could be reviewed early in their life.

In order to estimate how many dogs in the UK population are pANCA positive, blood samples need to be obtained from at least 200 dogs, preferably 100 dogs in the age group of 2-4 years and 100 dogs in the age group 4 years and older.

The pANCA test result is unaffected by any other health issues in the dog at the time of testing; for example, the result would not be altered, even if the dog had already been diagnosed with any other disease. In order to maximise the potential benefits from this project, we hope to combine efforts and send any leftover samples to Dr Cathryn Mellersh at the AHT for their genetic studies.

Testing sessions will be held through the months of July and August at various locations. Blood samples will be taken and then tested at the RVC. Results can be expected to be released 6-8 weeks after sampling. There will be no charge for this. The pANCA test result of each individual dog will be known only to myself and the respective owner. (Although it is strongly recommended that the owner shares this information with the breeder of the dog and the SCWT Club of GB.)

Dr Allenspach is very enthusiastic about this project. The independent, breed health group, Wheaten Health Initiative, have offered their full support to Dr Allenspach in the organisation of testing sessions, publicity etc. We are hoping that owners and breeders of Wheatens will allow their dogs to participate in this ground-breaking research. Finding the necessary number of Wheatens, particularly in the 2 – 4 year age-range will not be an easy task.

The first testing session is taking place on June 3rd and is now fully booked but the next opportunity to take part is offered by the SCWT Club of GB at their Fun Day on July 1st at Watlington Village Hall in Oxfordshire. A further testing session is planned by WHI at Weedon Bec Village Hall on August 5th. More information on this and other items relating to Wheaten health can be found by visiting the WHI website at: www.wheaten-health-initiative.co.uk

For further details of testing sessions or to book a place, please contact WHI, Email: wheatenhealth@hotmail.com or telephone Carole Barnes-Davies on 01245 231434 or Lynn Carter on 01793 765253. Alternatively contact Judy Creswick, Secretary of the SCWT Club of GB, Email: scwt.sec@jacreswick.demon.co.uk.
Celebrating Long Life
wheatens that shared their lives with us for 14 years or more
compiled by toni vincent

CH Sunshine's Lad Of Chermar, CD X Ch Kinsale's Ellsbeth Fainche
Odie's Last Ride...

Odie, aka; Odie Schmodie, Schmo, Odimus Maximus, Foofy head, Beany Boy, Odie butts, Odie mon, Pally, Butter lips and Rodeo Odie-O was born in Long Island, raised on the upper westside of NYC, moved to West Linn, Oregon and retired in Bridle Trails, Bellevue, Washington. He never chased the squirrels, chipmunks or pigeons we fed in Riverside Park. He never barked at any of the mounted police horses. And he was particularly fond of smaller dogs that we encountered on our walks. He loved living in Oregon where he had five acres to romp around in and on occasion, typically led by Menacing Minnie, would visit the cow pasture next door. Minnie's favorite pastime was stalking the calves and Odie's fascination was finding the right pile to roll in. It was hard leaving Oregon, as Minnie did not make that journey with us since PLN/PLE had other plans for her but Odie finally adjusted and was very happy living in a horse park in Washington. He never chased the horses or the feral bunnies that we fed. Even the barn cats were safe. He was so unlike a terrier that often I thought there was a hidden zipper in his fur hiding another dog. He loved the sites, sounds and smells of the park trails and greeted everyone with a wagging butt.

What Odie lacked in cuddling, he made up with kisses and always had an abundant supply. He was also our favorite clown. He loved stealing socks, underwear and especially sneakers, just for the thrill of the chase. Odie was a master at surreptitiously stealing cloth napkins, slowly inching them, off the laps of our guests while seated at the dinner table. Repeat guests learned to wedge their napkins between their knees, unless they were up for the game.

Odie was such a great companion. He never moshed anyone. He never ran away. He never destroyed anything. He never counter surfed. He was forever loyal with an enormous heart filled with unconditional love and had a great spirit about life. We will miss you desperately as you will always be our one and Odie because no dog on earth could ever fill your paws. Now, go find Minnie. She's waiting for you.

Owners: Richard Fisher and Toni Vincent

CH I AM MORGAINE DE MORRIGAN, J.W.92 “MORGAINE”
November 1, 1991 - July 20, 2007

Lucy's last litter was born.
A choice of two bitches.
We hoped the one we loved most would be the best.
We named her Morgaine.

She proved to be a worthy daughter and successor of Lucy.
A Wheaten with inherit style, beautiful coat and superb temperament.
Strongminded and softhearted, a joy to live with all these years.

Among her offspring are Outshine Owein, Outstanding Igraine, Abigail's Magic Song and Dance of Isis Magic (all 'de Morrigan' Champions and parents of more should be named.)

We miss Morgaine dearly but she will be remembered forever.

Breeder/Owner: Marion Gelok-Mirck, Sexbierum, The Netherlands
to our wheaten, 14 years and older! - compiled by toni vincent

GLENLYRIC WHIMS N’ WISHES
“CAITLIN”

July 5 1993

Am Can Ch Holweit’s Speedy Gonzales
X
Glenlyric Emerald Empress

Caitie has always from day one been a very quiet, sweet Wheaten who likes everyone, adults, children and other dogs. She has been a very easy dog to care for and, for the most part, she has always been very healthy. She is still going strong, though moves a little slower these days, but still loves her dinner and doggie cookies. She has a Kerry brother that is in love with her and keeps a close eye on her at all times. I am thrilled she has lived to be a healthy senior of this breed.

Owner: Marie DeMarco

DOUBLOON’S WISP OF A DREAM CD CGC
“RYLEE”

June 7, 1993

Ch Doubloon’s Expresso X Ch Doubloon’s Day Dreamer

Rylee is number one cheerleader for “the boys” at obedience and agility trials. She loves going to shows to meet old friends, visit the vendors, and get treats. Our daily walks are a little shorter and a little slower but still a very important part of the day. She is enrolled in both the geriatric and cancer studies. Her birthday treat was a Burgerville cheeseburger and ice cream. She is a grand old gal - and still keeps Keegan and Nelson in line.

Owner: Linda Ruedy

continued on page 12
Our Wheaten, Lightening, has been a wonderful part of our family for 16 years. We got him when my son, Eric, was 9, shortly after we moved into the house we built to replace the one we lost in the Painted Cave Fire in Santa Barbara. My son, Eric, named him Lightening because of how fast Lightening ran if he thought he could get out of his enclosed area and go on a “field trip.” My son is now in law school and I am caring for “Lights” along with my new Wheaten puppy.

Lightening has been an integral part of our lives as he was the one who could make everything all right when things got tough. As a younger dog, Lightening was best known for supplementing the door bell which rang, ding-ding-ding-dong and without missing a beat, bark-bark-bark-bark. Lightening used to sit on my lap on the sofa when I read at night until his arthritis got so bad that he couldn’t get up on the sofa. Now, he can barely see or hear, but still expects his turn when walking time comes. The rest of the time, he moves from pillow to pillow, much as elderly folk move from chair to chair. Lightening is not likely to reach 17, though I said the same at 14 and 15. So now, no one believes me, and he seems to be happy with his fairly limited life so who am I to judge? Happy Birthday Lightening!

Cindy Bowers, Caretaker. Owners: Eric Bowers and Sally Tatum

Reilly is our first Wheaten! He came into our lives 5 years ago when we acquired him from a breeder in New Jersey. Although he is almost completely deaf now, and has lost some of his sight, he is still in good health. Reilly is still full of kisses, licks, and still loves to chase rabbits and squirrels. He also still enjoys walks, and is very willing to share his food with his furry feline siblings Blitz & Miah. We love you very much Reilly!

Terry & Sharon Gainer & Family

Rolly was one of 6 boys in a litter. He is a wonderful companion to all of our family. He spends most of his days sleeping on his favorite couch dreaming about dinner to be sure. When the girls come home from college to visit, he is in heaven. When they get up from the couch, he steals their seat and won’t move. His real motive is to receive tons of petting and he smiles at them the entire time. He has slowed down a bit, but on some days surprises us with his “youthful” behavior. Rolly is a great boy.

Owned by Pat and Bob Robeski
NAPSU
FIN Ch Teinikeldon Touhukas
X
Nordwart Quecksilber
June 28, 1993

Napsu is an active Wheaten boy despite his honourable 14 years. He still enjoys his three walks daily. He was quite a character when young but since then he has calmed down and he is a very lovable terrier today. It is a pleasure to see him wag his long, beautiful tail. The Spanish Water Dog girl, Pörri, has kept him company for the past eleven years.

Owned and loved by Outi Kannila, Tampere, Finland
Bred by Sanna Parkkali, Nokia, Finland

One Wheaten Owner’s Story of Her Solution For Successful Nail Trimming

We struggled with our Wheaten’s nails for almost two years. Just as he was getting used to having his nails trimmed (willing to roll over on his own,) I accidentally cut his quick. Then it became necessary to “pin” him in order to trim his nails.

We tried switching to the Dremel. He still needed to be pinned, but at least he wasn’t in pain. However, it was definitely a two person job, and when my husband was out of town for an extended period of time, it was impossible for me to do alone. To prevent his nails from getting out of control I would take him to a groomer once every 2 weeks. He would inevitably be quicked and started to whine as soon as we got into the area. I couldn’t keep putting him through that experience.

I finally decided to try a “regular” nail file. Somewhere around 80/120 grit. It took a matter of days to get him used to this. We now work on his nails everyday before lunch. He rolls over without any protest and sometimes falls asleep!

After searching and searching on the Internet when I was having problems with him, I’m amazed that I never found this solution. If it is possible, I would love to let others know.

Many thanks!

Frodo’s Mom
A special treat of “liver” sno-cones was provided for the dogs, compliments of club members Pat & Jack Williams who own a sno-cone stand in the St. Louis area. A few more appetizing human sno-cone flavors were also available for those humans who needed a refreshing snack.

The specialty dinner was incredible again this year and we had a really exciting raffle and silent auction in conjunction with the dinner. Almost $500 was taken in from the raffle and was donated in its entirety to the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America Endowment Fund for Wheaten Health.

Our weekend was full of fun, friends and competition. We thank everyone who came to participate and to all the wonderful club members and friends who contributed their time and talents to make the show weekend truly special!
Colony Dogs Update
from Tonya Harris

Wheagles (b.d. 10/18/96):

Albumin- no changes to report. We have noted him as being proteinuric on occasions, but have not been able to confirm this due to some crystaluria noted on his ultrasounds. Elevated amounts of crystals/stones in his bladder may increase his urine protein to creatinine ratio. We will continue to monitor him for true signs of proteinuria. Albumin had a foster sister named Bailey that he lost last year from cancer. His foster mom has told me that he still misses her dearly. He has had some behavioral issues when left alone at home, but is slowly getting better.

Sam, Edestin and Renin- no changes to report, other than they seem to be showing signs that they are getting older. We have to deal with some lameness from time to time, but nothing major. I tell them they are too old to be jumping around like monkeys, but they don’t listen. They got some new larger nylabones for Christmas and love them. They are heavy chewers so these hold up much better.

Gliadin- PLN, at this time she does not seem to have Cushing’s as earlier stated. Her values have returned to normal and her weight has stabilized. She still seems to be quite the “chow hound”!

Colony 2 (b.d. 7/3/97):

Cysteine and Valine- PLE. Cysteine may also have PLN, but not sure at this time. She is still doing well and loves her bed! She is the only one that is allowed to have a stuffed toy (the others destroy them) and she seems to know this, showing off like she is a princess!

Valine was euthanized in May with progressed PLE. He was not maintaining a good weight and was becoming more and more appetite depressed.

Colony 3 (b.d. 8/1/00):

Tryptophan- PLN, stomach mass was identified during gastroscopy and ultrasound. Several attempts have been made to collect aspirates and biopsies of the mass, but histopath was inconclusive. We have decided to monitor any changes via ultrasound, unless he begins to show problems. Right now he doesn’t seem to be bothered by it and is eating fine. We re-ultrasounded again in April and the mass has increased in size some. Another aspirate was taken but was non-diagnostic. We will continue to monitor for any changes.

Taurine - no changes to report since last time, doing well.

Threonine- he has developed an impacted anal gland that has ruptured and has an active draining fistula. On exam it was noted by the surgeon that there was a mass attached to the anal gland. We biopsied and the report showed it was inflammatory tissue and was not malignant. He is scheduled for surgery next week to have the anal gland removed. Otherwise doing fine.

As we can see, the dogs are doing well and aging gracefully. We thank Tonya and her associates for their wonderful care of all of them.

Cindy Shea, Co-Chairman

Continued from page 14
It was unfortunate that the first wheaten imported into Australia from the UK was a carrier of RD, as was her litter brother in Finland. This posed our first health obstacle. Incidents of RD appeared in the very first litters in New South Wales and Queensland. It also cropped up in the litter, which produced our first Best in Show Winner in Queensland. David Hartley who owned this dog acted responsibly by having it neutered and retired. RD was also exported to the foundation kennels in New Zealand. By 1994 it had reached epidemic proportions. When we arrived in Auckland in 1994 we were greeted by members of the dog fraternity saying ‘You are in that breed where all the puppies die’. Even more upsetting was meeting with the owners who had been given no explanation for the illnesses, which killed their puppies. Upon examination of the relevant pedigrees it became evident that the carrier bitch had not only been bred down from but doubled up within two to three generations.

These days RD seems to have been controlled by strict culling and the out-crossing, which was done to other lines. However, it is interesting to read recently on the UK list, that what was diagnosed as RD in the 1980s may have been a form of what we now refer to as PLE/N.

Our first Irish bitch suffered from a fear/agression syndrome which became more severe and unmanageable as she aged. She also threw this in her bitches and some of her sons were too aggressive for our liking. We therefore only had two matings to the dog we imported from the same kennel, the second at the request of US breeders who were becoming aware that there was a need for genetic diversity in their lines. Two bitches from the second (K) litter had to be put down, one in Australia and one in the USA. Since that time we have witnessed such aggression in other Wheatens of various backgrounds. They can all be traced to the same ancestry. We can only hypothesize that excessive in breeding in the establishment of the breed in Ireland, doubled up on the genes, which produce this syndrome.

We have also witnessed extreme nervousness in some Wheatens from these and other imported lines. However, this has rarely been accompanied by the type of aggression which results in injured animals and humans. We are strong advocates that overly aggressive or timid wheatens should not be bred. Alternatively they should be out-crossed. When our Irish bitch was out-crossed to US lines the fear/aggression disappeared. The same bitch was also diagnosed with PRA by Dr Rowan Blogg at 18 months of age. We were alerted to this by Glenys Sloper who had purchased a female from her first litter. Again, when she was out-crossed, this disappeared. Yet again we have to assume that overly close inbreeding to the one line is fraught with danger.

Ch Lindywheat’s Macciato (Imp Swe) & Grand Ch Dancestar Zero 0 Seven are good tempered males with no signs of excessive aggression or nervousness.

To our knowledge there have only been two cases of HD diagnosed in Australia. However, we have seen dogs in the ring that we would love to get a hip score on. This may explain why this is a more topical issue in the UK, Europe and Ireland than it is down here. Oversized Wheatens appear to be more prone to HD than more moderate ones. That may be a reason why the standard is so insistent on moderation.

On a related note, we would argue that rear movement has continued on page 17
always been problematical in Wheatens from the very origins of the breed. Cow hocks were, and still are, problematical in some lines. This retards the ability of Wheatens to compete with other terriers such as the Kerry Blue or the Airedale. When we went to Sweden in 1989 we were impressed with the rear ends we saw there. Unfortunately, the diversification of the gene pool in the US in the past decade has also been accompanied by a decline in rear movement.

There have also been six cases on Ectopic Ureter that we know of to date. Vets who were consulted initially insisted this was a hormonal problem, which would pass with the first season in a bitch. They have also maintained that it is developmental in utera, especially in bitches who are too hot in the first trimester. An experiment, which used temperature reducing Chinese herbs on one bitch, produced it, resulted in the elimination of the problem in a subsequent litter. This gives some credence to this theory. However, we still suspect a genetic and possibly familial link to this problem. Admittedly it is a minor one: affected stock can undergo minor surgery and live manageable lives.

The most serious health issue we face in the breed today is PLE/N. We are informed that it is now in 15% of the US stock. The first case was identified here in Australia in 2003. Again excessive inbreeding, both in the past and today, appears to be responsible. While the experts cannot be definitive as to whether this killer is the result of a double recessive, a dominant gene with incomplete penetrance, or a polygenic mechanism, nor develop adequate markers for it, we are left in a quandary. Five of the seven cases in Australia feature one Larnook dog in the pedigrees. However, all seven dogs have common US ancestors, one of which is a repeated name on the Open Register. We also have test results in our possession for a New Zealand bred dog which died a few years back which has strong resemblances to test results of dogs diagnosed with PLN.

We have moved rapidly to contain this disease. By 2005 we had organized a Health Forum sponsored by the Wheaten Enthusiasts Group of Victoria and the SCWTSNSW. This resulted in a set of draft protocols for breeders, which insist on annual screening tests of blood and urine (not dipstick tests) and exclusion of stock under two years of age from breeding at all. Responsible breeders throughout ANZ also refuse to grant stud access to other breeders who do not abide by these protocols. We are also co-operating with the US and UK breeders and registers. We have almost completed an Open Register of all diseases/problems identified in Wheatens in the first two decades in Australasia. As with the US Open Register, the Australian register may become notable for who is not on it.

Who knows where it came from? It is possible that it has been in the breed from the earliest days. We suggest that we all take the health testing and out-crossing seriously. Genetic diversity appears to be the solution to all of the problems we have identified in Wheatens so far. Breed too tightly to any one source and you are asking for trouble. Of course, when we outcross, we run the risk of sacrificing the type we strive to produce for the show ring, but not all litters have to produce show dogs. There is a place for those who are kept on the sidelines to ensure genetic health. There is also a technology known as frozen semen, which also extends our options enormously beyond the current day!

Finally to the big killers: the motorcar and cancer! More Wheatens in Australasia have succumbed to these than anything. About the first we can do little beyond inspecting backyards and educating puppy owners. However, we cannot insulate Wheatens from the child who leaves a gate open to the road or, in more recent time, the backyard pool. Unfortunately wheaten breeders, like those in all other breeds, are not immune from such tragedies. We breed beautiful puppies, the majority of whom will go to loving homes, but we cannot ensure a danger free world.

Our first Irish male died of cancer. The earliest warnings were dark cysts on his body. At 11, eye cancer was detected. At 12 it was completely through him. We mourn him like so many of his descendants who have gone the same way: Calamity Jane, Fancy Free, Inlyke Flynn and so on. As we write our beautiful Moody (Ch Larnook In The Mood) has black cysts down her back as she approaches old age. We can rationalize and say it is part of the aging process. Very true but we are learning to combat cancer in human health! Cancer is as an important health issue we need to focus upon in the future.

Written in complete honesty and integrity, which is what we ask of all other SCWT enthusiasts throughout the world! We love this breed and we seek to ensure its survival.
RAFFLE TO SUPPORT COLONY DOG, CYSTEINE!

Happy 10th Birthday;
- born July 3, 1997 -
Cysteine !!!

Help us raise $2,000 to celebrate and support Cysteine, our 10-yr-old female Wheaten colony dog!

Buy raffle tickets for a cherrywood jewelry box with a beautiful painting by Darcie Olson of Wheaten heads on its top. The jewelry box is 8” x 12” x 4.5” high and has several compartments and an extra pouch and tray lined with deep green felt. This jewelry box will be on display at the Montgomery 2007 boutiques.

Jewelry box is donated by Linda Wolter.

Tickets are $5 each, or 6 for $25, and are available from Shirley Gee.
You can pay with a check or PayPal.*

*If you pay with a check, make it payable to NC Veterinary Medical Foundation, Inc. and send it to Shirley Gee, 24 Newtonville Ave., #2L, Newton MA 02458.
Give your name, mailing address, phone number, and email address; remember to indicate how many tickets you are buying.

*If you pay with PayPal, go to http://www.paypal.com and click on “send money.”
Recipient’s email: scwt_bellamia@yahoo.com. Indicate dollar amount and payable in US dollars.
Category of purchase: Goods (other).
Email subject: Colony Dogs Raffle. Give your name, address, phone number, and email address; indicate how many tickets you are purchasing.”
Sadie and Bella’s story began in September of 2006. We had moved to Nipomo on the central coast of California where we rented a house while our new home was being completed. On one of our daily trips to monitor the progress we took a different route. It took us past fenced fields, cattle on one side and, on the other, a barn with a stable, a corral and a painted outline of a cowgirl above which was a sign reading “Snickers.” Behind the green wrought iron fence stood a very good-looking Chestnut horse. As we made more and more trips past this field, our Wheaten, Sadie, began to stand up and hang her head out the window. Her eyes would follow the horse until it was out of sight. Next thing you knew we were stopping to oblige Sadie so that she could watch the horse walk around the corral. Eventually, each time we stopped the horse would walk up to the fence. Sadie and Snickers began a mutual admiration society. On one of our stops, Snickers’ owner was in the corral and joined us at the fence. We told her we thought Sadie was in love with Snickers. She said she had noticed that on those occasions when we did not stop, Snickers would run a few laps of the corral as if she were upset that we had driven by without a visit. It was no time at all before it became a necessity that we bring carrots with us in the Jeep for Snickers. I would carry Sadie to the fence and, between carrots, Snickers and Sadie would nuzzle each other’s faces. Then, we were informed that Snickers was pregnant and due to foal in May or June. But before the event occurred we found an addition of another sort. Snickers’ owners had a new Siberian Husky puppy named Foxy. Soon Foxy and Sadie were having play dates either in the corral itself or in another fenced area, one with a lovely eucalyptus grove, below the barn. They ran and played and Sadie taught Foxy how to dig all the water out of the large water pans that were scattered about the property. While this was going on, Snickers would wander around and follow us, knowing that in addition to cookies for the dogs I would always have a few carrots stuck in my back pocket. The dogs would occasionally come and find us, try to steal a carrot from Snickers and then take off again. Sadly, Foxy was not to be around for long. A truck entered the fenced area without checking on the puppy’s location. She was killed instantly. Disheartened, we did not go back for a little while except to the fence, where we would slip Snicker’s a carrot or two. Then, suddenly two new Husky puppies appeared on the scene. We began to help socialize these new little monsters, Chili and Rambo, and at the same time resumed our interaction with Snickers. We had numerous play dates with the dogs and Snickers during the next few months and Snickers turned into an eating machine as her delivery time approached. The little filly, Bella, was born on a Sunday morning at 4 a.m. I had to work that morning so my first glimpse of the newborn filly was on my way to work at 9:30 a.m. I called my wife immediately and told her to take Sadie up to see the new baby. I stopped by on the way home. Vickie, Snickers’ owner, said when Sadie came up to the fence and stuck her nose through, baby Bella wobbled over too. She said Sadie and Bella were nose to nose. I went back the following morning and took a whole series continued on page 20
of photos. When little Bella was but two days old, Sadie got to visit with her. Sadie was the first of the dogs to meet her, since she was more mature and controllable than the Husky puppies were at that point. So Sadie was in the corral meeting Bella face to face. Snickers did not seem to mind Sadie's presence. Bella was great with Sadie; although she was a bit hesitant until they had their first nose to nose and Sadie did her little play bow and dance. Then they were off to the races! I was able to get some good shots of them as they ran and circled the coral. At the end of the day Sadie was a dirty, dusty, damp, stinky dog. She was also a very happy dog and did not want to leave. We have returned on several occasions. The last time we were joined by a few others: three moms, each with a young child, the three dogs, Sadie, Chili and Rambo, and Vickie and Donald (the owners). It was just like a big petting zoo. Once again I was able to get some nice pictures and Sadie was a very happy little girl once more, dirty to the max. She was in the presence of all the things she enjoys most: kids, people to appreciate her, two dogs to play with, her favorite two horses, and her dad there to make sure things were ok. If you were to ask Sadie, she would tell you that life on the central coast of California is the best.
"FLIRT"
CH. Marland Moonstruck Minx

“FLIRT” WINS GROUP 2

(CH. Dundalk The Painter’s Son X CH. Marland Please Pick a Poppy)

Thank you Jon Cole for recognizing her outstanding qualities!

Please do your part to support the CHF/GRF

Helen Fraguela
7221 W Cypresshead Dr
Parkland, FL 33067 (954) 752-2923
Because the request of an old friend who has given so much to the breed cannot be denied, the “Attic” is back, hopefully, not containing too many cobwebs.

My over-riding concern at present is the health of the breed as it relates to breeding decisions. If we are to maintain the temperament, type and soundness we cherish in our Wheatens, we must find a genetic clue to the protein losing disease that plagues us.

A co-operative effort by SCWTCA, the SCWT Endowment Fund and the Genetic Research Fund (GRF) has enrolled the breed in the CPP (the Canine Phenome Project). Located at the University of Missouri, the project will collect and study Wheaten DNA. The goal is to locate the problem gene or genes, create a test that will enable breeders to eliminate dogs carrying them from the gene pool. The CPP carries this a step further, creating a physical and behavioral profile that will make it possible to deal with issue that arise in the future.

The first step is to collect the blood from which DNA is processed. Pat Bajoras (Arizona) and Willie Rueda (DC) have volunteered to coordinate the collection. They will need help from all of us to conduct blood draw clinics. We will need the broadest possible coverage of all dogs, regardless of pedigrees and status. Since canine life is so brief, an expeditious start is crucial.

What follows is our preliminary timetable and volunteers in specific areas. Find a niche and add your name!

In the West: Pat Bajoras
Arizona Pat Bajoras
Northwest Petnic Toni Vincent and Jana Caraway 9/08
Northern Cal Southern Cal Fun Day Cecily Skinner 10/07
Greater Denver Molly O’Connell 8/07
Greater Milwaukee

In the East: Willie Rueda
Maryland Willie Rueda
Delaware Valley Holly Craig
Greater Tampa Bay Gayle Frank
Motor City Kenna Kachel will give us a contact, perhaps her vet.

Chicago Area
St Louis
Derby City
Ontario, Canada Priscilla Tims

Greater Denver will kick-start with a collection at the August 17 Specialty. This will provide a real life experience and Molly O’Connell will surely have valuable advice for persons running subsequent clinics. In order to attract pet owners, the Pacific Northwest “Petnic” and the Southern California “Fun Day” are ideal venues. Other attractions could be grooming demonstrations, agility performances and the like…you come up with more! We welcome all volunteers and all ideas. The sponsoring organizations will cover the costs of the technicians (hopefully some will be volunteers themselves).

For more information or to offer help, contact Cecily Skinner (tarascwt@aol.com), Carol Carlson (kccarlson@comcast.net) or me (jgott@sedona.net). We will watch the Breeders List and the Wheaten-L, too.

“GRANDMA’S ATTIC”

Jackie Gottlieb
Wish all our friends a most enjoyable, happy and successful experience at the Montgomery County Kennel Club Show.

SCWTS New South Wales: President: Ms. M. Gray
SCWTS Queensland: President: Dr S. Johnson
SCWTC Victoria: President: Dr M. O’Kelly

We are proud to announce that SCWTSNSW will conduct the first SCWT Championship Show in ANZ in April 2008.
Something happened recently that painfully brought into perspective several things many of us in dogs might fail to realize. This personal revelation came as the result of the ultimate dog owner’s nightmare – the death of a beloved dog due to human error.

The phrase that continually runs through my mind since I learned of this tragedy is “Judge not, that ye be not judged.”

How many of us, upon hearing that someone who is seeking a puppy lost his or her last due to personal mistake – forgetting to check a gate lock, forgetting a quiet, sleeping dog was in the back of a car. The list may well be endless. How many of us automatically remove that person as a potential home for one of our puppies because of a single human error? I know I’ve been guilty of that. I suspect many of you share that guilt.

Do we stop to consider how many times (admit it folks) we have inadvertently placed one or more of our own dogs in danger? How many of us have never had our dogs get out of the yard or kennel? How many of us have never forgotten a dog in a car or garage? How many of us have never dropped a lead or lost a dog from a lead? Not many, I’ll wager.

Do we ever stop to consider what personal stress the owner may be carrying that caused the mistake? Do we know the circumstances that resulted in a momentary lapse of logic or judgment? I didn’t, but I will from this day forward.

Our dogs trust us with their lives. 99.9999% of the time that trust is well placed. However, in a minuscule percentage of the time the very fact that we are human and, therefore, flawed, can and does cause us to do harm to the very dogs we love so much. We can’t help being human, and they can’t help being trusting of us. There is flat out nothing we can do about that save try our best to be worthy of their trust and acknowledge that we are, every one of us, capable of unconscious error that can cause harm.

The second part of this revelation is closely related to the first. How many times have we heard of the loss or injury of a dog while in the care of a breeder or handler? How many of us cut that person any slack in our judgment of them? How many of us acknowledge that, “there, but for the grace of God, go I.”

I know my perspective, seriously flawed by self-righteousness for lo these many years, has taken a firm turn for the better.

Jim and I once left a sleeping Airedale in the back seat of our van for three hours. He was a quiet dog and we didn’t notice his absence from the crowd until dinnertime. We found him still asleep in the van. The weather was cool, he was in no danger and we laughed at our foolishness. What if it had been a hot summer day? We would have killed our dog and we loved that dog very much. How many of you have a similar experience to relate?

If we judge people, be they fellow breeders or pet owners, we are guilty of far more than human error. We may cost our breed a wonderful owner or a valuable breeder or handler through self-righteous judgment.
Dancing the year away

Ch Lovesong's Dance To The Beat

Kelli
Ch Lovelsong’s Little Drummer Boy X Ch Lovesong’s Dance Track

Best in Show
Multiple Specialty Wins
Numerous Group Placements

Kelli continues to dance with his special partners, Laura & Erin

Owned By
Nona Mansfield
Lovesong

Handled By
Laura King
daybreakkennel.com
We are thankful that the rain stayed away, but the clouds gave way to the sun, which made for a hot, steamy day at the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee annual summer specialty and sweepstakes held on Friday, July 27. Following the Best of Breed competition, the Club hosted a luncheon, silent auction, and raffle. Fellowship abounded and it was great catching up with old friends and meeting new Wheaten enthusiasts.

Jan Van Ness of Tarlu Wheatens judged our Sweepstakes entry of fourteen. Eringlo Alwaz Fired Up, owned and bred by Dennis and Cindy Shea, was awarded Best in Sweepstakes. Meirleac’s Never Ending Dream, owned by Deborah Mantia and Ronnie Copland and bred by Ronnie Copland, was awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best in Sweepstakes.

Judy Webb judged the Specialty entry of thirty-eight. Ch Lovesong’s Dance To The Beat, owned by Nona Mansfield and bred by owner and Lauren Dienstbier, was awarded Best of Breed. Lovesong’s Dream Along With Me, owned and bred by Nona and William Mansfield was awarded Winners Dog and Best of Winners. Ch Kaylynn’s Pistol Packin Mama, owned and bred by Kay Baird and Gwen Meyer, was Best of Opposite Sex. Glenamon Bjorn Free, owned by Dana Frady and bred by Scott and Sherry Amon and Dana Frady, was Winners Bitch. Reserve Winners Dog was Dreo’s Rainy Day Affair owned by Pat and Judi De Moon, Ronnie Copland, and Andrea Jalensky, bred by Andrea Jalensky. Reserve Winners Bitch was Jendu Navy owned by Catherine Perron and bred by Dana Frady and Kevin & Beverly McDonald.

The Club provided a complimentary luncheon for all exhibitors and friends. Silent auction items included a quilted Wheaten table runner, a cutting board, and Bluetooth. Raffle items were won by nearly everyone. The SCWTCGM summer specialty in 2008 will be our twentieth annual event. Companion shows include the Waukesha Kennel Club All-Breed Shows and the Burlington Kennel Club Shows. It will be five days of Wheaten fun.

Won’t you please plan to join us!
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 4 - Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Temperament

My previous articles have addressed requisites of proper Wheaten type including: silhouette, head and coat. My next topic is proper Wheaten temperament.

Correct temperament is integral to breed type. I have heard many discussions offering various definitions of “temperament,” “personality,” and “character,” using different words to represent genetic and environmental factors. Behavior is certainly the result of genetic and environmental influences, but I believe that environment has only a minimum effect on temperament. In other words, external factors can hurt, but not “ruin” ideal temperament, and can help, but not “fix” poor temperament. Breeders are deluding themselves when thinking otherwise.

Our standard states, “The Wheaten is a happy, steady dog and shows himself gaily with an air of self-confidence. He is alert and exhibits interest in his surroundings; exhibits less aggressiveness than is sometimes encouraged in other terriers. Major Fault - Timid or overly aggressive dogs.

The most important characteristics of temperament are steadiness and bid ability. Historically, our breed was an all-purpose working, Irish farm dog and family companion. Multi-taskers, Wheatens had to be willing workers, whether guarding boundaries or performing a myriad of other farm jobs. In addition, they had to be faithful family pets. Wheatens are more sensitive than some other breeds, but they should always be sensible. Never stubborn, Wheatens should be amiable and willing to cooperate. Originally our dogs were more serious and humorless, but, through the widespread use of a few outgoing dogs, American Wheatens have evolved into a fun-loving breed. This happy, steady temperament ensures dogs that are anxious to please whether the requests are in the conformation, and performance rings, or under the kitchen table at home.

The standard points out that Wheatens are less aggressive than some other terriers. Historically, Wheatens were extremely game and were reportedly bred into other terrier breeds to enhance their tenacity. But, badger trials are a thing of the past, and like other breeds, the primary occupation of every Soft Coated Wheaten today is that of family companion.

Because of the statement in the standard concerning aggressiveness, there is a commonly held misconception that Wheatens should not to be sparred in the conformation ring. On the contrary, when sparring terriers, Wheatens should be allowed their turn. The question isn’t whether or not to spar Wheatens, but rather how they should react when asked to spar. Each terrier breed will respond uniquely to sparring, and Wheatens should be expected to stand their ground without “flying.” While bitches are less likely to spar, two males should look at each other on tippy toes, tails up, ears up. Wheatens are slow to anger, and might choose to turn away, but should never back down to a challenge. Dogs who behave uncharacteristically do not have the requisite temperament and they should not be shown. Needless to say, dogs with incorrect temperament should never be bred. Wheatens with correct temperament make wonderful companions, and breeders must be uncompromising when assessing the temperament of their breeding stock.

Photo is of Anthony Marzolino and his good friend, Ashley, courtesy of Anna.
Amberlock
Presents
Sisters
“Two Different Faces
Seen In Different Places…”

Signe

AMERICAN AND CANADIAN CHAMPION
AMBERLOCK SIGNATURE SERIES

CH. Bonney Walkin Happy x CH Amberlock Canyon Bel

- Finished with 4 Majors
  June 2007
- BOS Over Specials
- Class Winner
  Montgomery 2006
- Grp Winner in Canada
- 3rd generation Amberlock
  littermates will both
  be bred Fall 2007

*Health testing current and shared upon request*

Breeder Owners:
Eileen Olensky
& Ivy Olensky
Winnipeg Canada
Email: eolensky@mts.net
Ph: 204.661.6083
Amberlock
Presents
Sisters
“Two Different Faces
Seen In Different Places…”

Maggie
AMERICAN AND CANADIAN CHAMPION
AMBERLOCK TRIOMPHE CABERNET

CH. Bonney Walkin Happy x CH Amberlock Canyon Bel

- Finished with 4 Majors
  June 2007
- Finished in 7 days
- BB Over Specials
- Puppy in Show in Canada
- **FLASH!!** Maggie’s litter
due **September 15/07**

*Health testing current and shared upon request*

Owners:
Leona Sawatzky,
Tim Campbell
& Eileen Olensky
Winnipeg Canada
Puppies Available from “TABLE for 10”...Harbour Hill Galloping Gourmet (Graham), Harbour Hill Flame Broiled, HH Haute Cuisine, HH Brown Derby, HH Fortune Cookie, HH Ratatouille, HH 30 Minute Meals, HH Waldorf Salad, etc.

HARBOUR HILL
805.967.953
Susan Sakauye
ssakauye@aol.com
(Ch. Bonney Nip & Tuckit x Ch Harbour Hill Peppermint Patty (“Snickers”))

**CH. HARBOUR HILL MIKE DELFINO**

“**MIKEY**” shown sparingly, has gone….

**Best of Breed** - **NCTA show** under Mr. Frank Alhino
Specialty BOB - **SCWTCNC** under Mr. Kenneth Mc Dermott
**BOW** — **Hatboro K.C. show** under Mr. Joe Walton
**BOW** – **Devon K.C. under Mrs. Mareth Kipp**
**GROUP 4** – **Los Encino K.C. under Mr. Bill Bergum**
**AOM** - **GWTA** under Mr. Richard Urquhart

Our appreciation to judges Mr. Norm Patton, Mrs. Kathleen Grosso, Hon. David Merriam, Mrs. Gwynne McNamara, Mr. Richard Powell, Ms. Denny Mounce, and Mr. Roger Hartinger for Mikey’s recent Best of Breed wins!

**Mikey will be specialed in 2008 by Susie and Jorge Olivera.**

**Owners:**
Mathew & Laurel Thomas

**Breeder/Co-Owner:**
Susan Sakauye, HARBOUR HILL
For your consideration...

BENDACHT
AND THE AWARD GOES TO

EMMY!
Best of Breed
from 9-12 puppy bitch class over specials
THANK YOU David Kirkland!

Bred by:
Michael DeCarlo
Bonney Snyder

Owned by:
M.J. Carr
Michael DeCarlo
Bonney Snyder
his summer’s Specialty found us back at California State University at Long Beach. The field was beautiful, the weather perfect and the turn out of exhibitors terrific. This year saw a change of tides with Friday being the Long Beach Kennel Club show; Saturday was Kennel Club of Beverly Hills and Sunday, Great Western.

Our theme, Special Places Special Friends, had us celebrating everyone’s unique way to relax and escape the everyday. People have different ways of escaping: meditation, yoga, music, working in their garden, spending time with a special friend. The ways are countless: the important thing is to find that place, that thing that is special to you. Take time for yourself. Do something that is healing. Center yourself. Find that special place in the universe or in your mind and go there. Hang up your own personal “Gone Fishin’” sign...you deserve it.

Based on that thought, the ring was whimsically decorated by Joan Johnson and Caroline Filing with Wheaten’s fishing, over a hundred hand stuffed colorful fish, boating decorations complete with a dock and pond!

The raffle chairs, Jeanine and Myrna Flavell outdid themselves with so many fabulous Wheaten items. These women are incredible. Our hospitality chairs, Merrilee Ford, Michael LaMotte and Marc Boyer cooked up three days of beautiful and delicious treats...service with a smile.

Cecily Skinner chaired our annual “Dinner on the Green”. Beverly Streicher, Susan Sakauye and Merrilee Ford did the centerpieces. They were unbelievable and our auction by Stephen Stegging was very successful.

We like to thank all our Wheaten friends and supporters who attended the show, donated to our raffle and to our trophy fund, who placed an ad, who worked tirelessly to make the weekend a success. Thank you!

There may be some tall tales of the “one that got away” but the winners were, each and every one of us, lucky enough to be there and see our wonderful Wheaten’s in the ring.

Karla Baer Cohen

Special Places Special Friends
Great Western and the SCWTSC Specialty, June 2007

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Karla Baer Cohen

Sweepstakes - Judge's Critique

Great Western has been a favorite dog show weekend for me since the first time I exhibited there in 1972. Several years ago I was asked to judge the Beverly Hills Kennel Club Wheaten sweepstakes and enjoyed myself thoroughly so I was really thrilled to be asked to judge the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California sweeps this year. The club has such a great plan for the weekend and its members are all about hospitality and fun. Their promotional flyer was a class act and could be an example for all clubs. Each aspect of the weekend is so well organized that it is a joy to attend and an honor to judge.

My stewards were very professional, so I had to warn them in advance that I would be approaching this assignment a little differently based on some of my judging experiences in Europe. I wanted each exhibitor to know what I would say about his dog. It is so difficult to be a novice handler or breeder and to stand at the placement placard while a judge is talking into a small tape player. Isn’t it more beneficial for that person to get immediate feedback and for the judge’s written comments to be more general in nature? Each exhibitor was given time to show his dog to best advantage and a verbal reason for the placement given. I did go ten minutes over the judging time but did not interfere with the regular classes so no damage was done. Judging professionally is not a goal of mine, but I have found that I learn much about breeding programs in other parts of the country by judging occasionally, so I have always accepted assignments. Anyone who has bred dogs for as long as I have needs to constantly be assessing his own dogs.

Judging sweeps is an excellent opportunity to get out there to feel and to see what other breeders consider to be their best and it is particularly beneficial when it is not in one’s own backyard.

When I attended the SCWTCA Roving Specialty in Southern California a few years ago, I was shocked by the number of long dogs with poor movement. Most of them must have come from other parts of the country because, while I am still worried about the length of back on many of the dogs, the movement was vastly improved. In general, I would have to say that the four points used to describe the essence of the Soft Coated Wheaten need to be addressed by many breeders. Head type should be a strength of the breed and many dogs exhibited had boxy skulls and longer muzzles. Many had ears that did not show proper lift due to poor setting of weak cartilage. My major concern is the length of the dogs. Square is not a relative term and while I believe that we have made concessions in type to gain health in the breed, it is time to get balance back into the breed ring. For the most part,
the puppy coats were attractive. A few pups carried thicker coats than I would like, and some were a bit chewed, which I find very disturbing.

The pups were generally attractive and were presented well. I was disappointed that some of the pretty ones wouldn’t cooperate, but we have all experienced those days with puppies. The hardest class to judge was the puppy bitch 9 to 12 class. The first and second place bitches were both really lovely. Unfortunately the winner of that class did not turn on her sparkle during the Best in Sweeps competition, but the winner certainly did. Saddlebrook’s Good Karma is a little charmer. She was able to move her way around the ring with grace and style. Her outline is pleasing and she is a very promising pup. Stratford Be Nimble was an excellent match for Best of Opposite Sex. Lovely pups! I enjoyed them all. Thanks for the great experience.

Emily Holden

SCWTSCC Specialty Judge’s Critique

I am sure that all are aware that my entry for the SCWTSCC Specialty on June 24, 2007 was the largest I have had in my short judging career, with the total dogs entered substantially greater than the total entered in my previous 4 assignments combined. To say that I was initially terrified would be an understatement, but it disappeared almost immediately. To say I was also faced with an unfortunate time crunch as a result of the rescheduled ring time might seem to be the beginning of an excuse and it is, because it, together with the usual nerves (which disappeared somewhat more slowly), resulted in a major problem: my failure to properly use my PDA recording functions, leaving me with only a few quick notes on only a few classes. The notes I did have were not in an order from which I could readily determine to which dogs or bitches I referred. I also have some pictures that Sonya took, but without the notes I have been unable to recall completely and/or with specificity what my specific rationale was for each placement. Because of that problem and except as to the Winners, Reserve Winners and the BOB class, I don’t believe it would be fair to be specific about some and not others.

So, if I may, let me first tell you how I approach judging with the hope that the exhibitors will understand the individual class placements.

I firmly believe that in judging dogs, of any breed, a judge must evaluate the whole and not the parts. A judge must examine and weigh each exhibit’s positives rather than eliminate exhibits by examining and weighing negatives. As it has been simply stated: one should never fault judge. That does not mean faults (for lack of better term) should be ignored. It means that on a given day the positives of a one dog with an obvious fault will outweigh the positives of another dog with none. To use an old cliché: you judge the dogs on that day. More importantly for the exhibitors, it means that I judge a dog against the standard and not against another dog. How the complete dog measures up to the standard determines its placement on that day, not how its individual parts compare to the individual parts of another dog.

Framing that approach is my understanding of the breed standard, because it is what defines the whole dog—its essence: its picture. Although some might say that no part of the standard is greater than another and that one shouldn’t look beyond the standard in making decisions, I would disagree. I could give some silly examples such as: our the breed standard does not require 3 legs or two testicles, nor does it specifically require sound movement. Suffice it to say there are some parts of our standard, both stated and unstated, that I believe to have greater weight than others, and they go to the essence of our breed. Those include outline, attitude and movement. In addition a judge is entitled and required to go beyond the breed standard by applying the rules of canine structure and knowing how the history of the breed may impact the interpretation of that standard.

Outline is immediately evident on the initial lineup and for me should be maintained throughout the course of the judging, especially while moving. An exhibit must present visually the correct proportions in length of leg, back, neck and head. “Graceful” is a specific and descriptive term as is “strong,” “moderate” “well balanced.” I interpret these terms together with others, to refer to an unstated description of an outline that I would describe as elegant, handsome, regal and powerful. Just my interpretation.

Attitude begins to be seen at this same point as well. How does the dog approach its time in the ring: hesitancy, fear, indifference, inquisitiveness, stubbornness, gaiety, exuberance? The exhibit

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must be “alert” and “a happy, steady dog” that “shows himself with air of self confidence.” He is alert and exhibits interests in his surroundings.” Interestingly, one specific attitude trait in our standard is defined by a negative: a SCWT “exhibits less aggressiveness than is sometimes encouraged in other terriers.” To me that means they can be quite assertive in how they approach their “jobs” and should be quite capable of defending themselves when the need arises. It means that they may stand aloof and reserved while casually observing the less reserved but equally acceptable antics of their ring mates. Sparring is an excellent way of observing terrier attitude—in fact that is what it is meant to display. I would have been inclined to spar the dogs in the Special’s class, but the crunch of time dictated otherwise.

Finally: movement. I will probably be stating the obvious but for me, movement is critical not only in my breeding program, but also in how I judge SCWTs. Movement captures the totality of the breed, its attitude, its outline, its essence. Movement is directly mentioned in our standard twice. In one context it also refers to outline and attitude: a SCWT “should present the overall appearance of an alert and happy animal, graceful, strong and well coordinated.” More specifically our breed’s gait is described as “free, graceful (there is that word again; look it up in a Thesaurus sometime) and lively with good reach in front and strong drive behind.” In addition to those two specific references, a Wheaten’s movement is defined indirectly in other areas of our standard and dictated by his proportions: “Square in outline. Hardy, well balanced” and of course by descriptions of coupling, back, top line and rear and front assemblies. Finally our breed’s movement viewed and judged with knowledge of the history of the breed and descriptions of its original “job” or “jobs.” For example, recently reprinted in Benchmarks was this 1949 observation:

“Wheaten Terriers have been kept for generations on the farms of this country where they have been used for cattle work, for pursuing and destroying vermin and, like their next-of-kin the Kerry Blue and Irish terrier, have enjoyed shooting in the company of their master.”

That description describes an all-purpose working/herding and sporting dog. To me it means that a Wheaten must be able to move with efficiency and power over extended periods of time and not break down from long and tiring days (be sound). Although I agree that our dogs should not naturally move, or be shown and moved, with what has been described as the dreaded TRAD (tremendous reach and drive), I am of the opinion that they can be structurally capable of TRAD. Whether they do or do not display TRAD is not an issue, nor does an exhibition of TRAD automatically mean that a Wheaten is structurally superior or deficient in some way. I read our standard and the history of our dogs to imply that a Wheaten can display TRAD in short efficient bursts of energy. “Good reach in front” does not foreclose great or tremendous reach and drive. As a breeder and as judge I look for dogs who move cleanly going and coming, with a smooth transition from neck to shoulders to back with sufficient rear angulation (which will match the front) to allow for that “strong drive behind.” They can be short backed and moderately coupled, be square in outline, hold that outline while moving and still exhibit TRAD. When I see a dog that covers ground efficiently, effortlessly and with power, whether with or without TRAD, and with a solid top line while maintaining a powerful but elegantly square Wheaten outline, it will be in the ribbons.

Finally, just so there is no doubt that the more nuanced details of our standard and the hands on examination of the dogs are not important, please let me say that I am as aware as any ringside observer that dogs have the ability to look and move beautifully whether as result of the dogs own athleticism, innate temperament and/or the handling and grooming skills at the other end of the leash. Only a hands on examination can confirm what the eyes see. Besides, dogs are required to have both testicles and there is only one way to check.

About coat: it is very much a part of that final picture. However, with the exception of one dog and one bitch, I assumed that most of my class dogs and bitches were less than two years of age. And with the exception of a couple in the BOB, I assumed most were in the 2-5 year age range. My experience tells me that coats can change tremendously in the first 3 years of development. Therefore, I was not overly concerned with coats, other than length and feel. That doesn’t mean coat did not play a part in my decision-making, only that it was not so weighted in my mind that, all other things being equal, it was at the level to be awarded special recognition—either good or bad—at least in the classes. I do recall a few that were too

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short or overly trimmed and one that was carrying far to much grey, but they were the exceptions fortunately.

As to my entries in general I would observe that although the puppy classes seemed to have somewhat more consistency, I was faced with a myriad of “styles.” My final lineup in the classes as well as the BOB reflected that “inconsistency.” There were a few who might have risen to the top or even been in the ribbons because they appealed to my breeder's eye as something special but did not because of (1) questionable attitudes, as shown by reactions to either internal or external stimuli or seeming lack of interest in being in the ring or (2) movement that was not crisp or clean because of handler problems or because the exhibit was either too indifferent or too exuberant. I was surprised by the number of headpieces that seemed out of proportion with the rest of the dog, i.e. needing more length of skull and muzzle with one or two lacking strong jaws and leaning towards a snipey look. In a few of those, there were also undershot bites. Our breed still appears to need to improve rears. With some of the entries, even those in the ribbons, there were issues with the front and rear when viewed coming and going. Experience as a breeder tells me that often times, young dogs move differently depending on the environment—not to mention their mood and age—and as mentioned before, handling. However, as a judge I only see that movement for a limited period of time and in one setting. In a couple of cases, I have had the opportunity to observe entries in totally different environments and I have noted an immense difference in movement coming and going. On any given day.

**Dogs:** My Winners Dog was Saddlebrook Do It With Panache and he was a delight. He is short backed and moderately short coupled. He moved without effort and with a rock solid topline with good reach and drive. He never let down, showing happily and with confidence right up to the moment he went around the ring the last time in BOB—despite the heat and his young age—all of which a ringside observer was so kind as to remind me. He could use a little more length of head, but had a nice dark eye with well-set ears. His moderate size and steady attitude gave him the BOW. My Reserve Winners, Harbour Hill Nuts and Chews, could have easily been WD, with a gorgeous reach and arch of neck, and very powerful movement. His initial inability to maintain himself under some rather low-level stressors kept him from obtaining that spot. He was a dog who appealed to my breeder's eye, and seeing the catalogue after the judging tells me why. It will be interesting to see how develops.

**Bitches:** My Winner's Bitch, Glenamon A Star is Bjorn, came from the BBE class. It is a class near and dear to my heart. It is not a class in which I, as a breeder, would have shown this bitch. She is big and as a breeder some might say that her size is unacceptable - that she is without breed type because of it. I would neither agree nor disagree. However, unlike with other breeds, size in our breed is not a disqualification and our standard addresses the issue more broadly by requiring a dog or bitch to be “penalized according to [its] severity.” This directive itself is in contrast to other parts of the our standard i.e. where such traits as hound ears and issues of over trimming are directed to “be severely penalized. “ In the bitch classes, she overcame her size issues by maintaining her confident and alert attitude and by being put together extremely well. She is well balanced with good spring of rib and depth of chest with a very smooth neck to shoulder to back transition. She is well proportioned, carries good bone and substance and has her legs sufficiently under herself. As a result, on this day she was one of, it not the most sound bitches (or dogs) in the classes. Her movement was fluid, exhibiting power, style and confidence, efficiently covering ground without effort. She was clean coming and going with one of the better rears going away. As a brood bitch, she has much to contribute to her breeder's program, but size is not one of them. My Reserve Winners, Marymore Legacy Renaissance, was to me an obviously older bitch. She was very feminine and elegant with a nice headpiece. She also moved extremely well, coming and going very cleanly at all times.

**BOB:** This was an exciting class as I stood back and looked at the entries. My BOB, Ch. Legacy the Grail was from the Veterans Class. From the moment he entered that class, until I moved him to the front of the line in the specials ring, my eye kept coming back to him. He clearly owned the ring, but in the mature, self-confident manner that only a veteran can display. His profile both standing and in movement was that of a regal, handsome and elegant dog that fits the standard well. A nice headpiece with well set ears (which he sometimes forgot to use, but then he is entitled) and acceptable eyes. Although he clearly was older he still moved with grace and power. His coat could have been in better condition, but on this day he overcome it with his overall class and style. I have judged before my BOS, Ch. Derryhuma's Fashion Faux Paw and she has always shown well and she didn't disappoint me on this day. She is a balanced, strong (hardy) and well-muscled bitch with a very feminine headpiece, and appears to have the ability to take on anything the world might throw at her. She has lovely well-set ears, gorgeous nose and dark eyes. Her movement is sound with acceptable reach and drive, with a solid topline. What moved her
to the BOS on this day was all I have mentioned coupled with her gorgeous coat, one of the few that stood out in the specials ring and one that deserved to be recognized and rewarded. If all of our SCWTs could carry this lovely jacket, our breed would be well served - again, just my opinion.

Finally my AOM’s. All of the specials had merit, otherwise they wouldn’t or shouldn’t have received their championship and been competing in the Breed ring. I am a believer that AOM’s should go to those who are being considered for BOB. Had not the Veterans dog continually made his presence known, anyone of these three dogs could have been BOB and it would have been a difficult decision. Each of these dogs has much to offer. Ch. Desertrose Bonney Man’s Dream, has more bone and substance than most in the ring with a very masculine headpiece and nice coat. His side movement is fantastic. He seemed to be disinclined to present his front in a little better fashion and could use a tad more length of leg but that is a breeder nitpicking. Ch. Harbour Hill Mike Delfino is a moderate and well balanced dog, with a short back, outstanding reach and drive, very clean coming and going and also carrying a nice masculine headpiece. He can look forward to a promising future. Ch. Stratford Top Priority is a well-balanced dog, with a lovely coat with soft waves of good length (one of the few). He covers ground well, with a solid topline. Somewhat more refined than my other two AOM’s but still very masculine. All three had very nice neck to back transition, with nicely knit shoulders. As a breeder all three are now on our short list for future breedings.

Thank you for asking me to judge your Specialty at GWTA. It was an honor to accept the assignment. I took your invitation to be an express statement of confidence in my ability and integrity to fairly exam and award ribbons in conformity with our standard. I hope I met those expectations. SCWTCSC’s specialty will always be Sonya’s and my favorite show, not only because it was the first specialty we ever entered and attended as exhibitors but also because the members and exhibitors have always been gracious hosts and friendly fellow competitors—not to mention that we don’t have to fly to the East Coast.

Richard Urquhart

AKC INTRODUCES CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION

The American Kennel Club® Conditional Registration program is now available for any AKC®-registered dog whose parent, through DNA testing, is found to be unidentifiable. Rather than canceling the registrations of the individual dog, all of its littermates and all of their offspring, AKC will change affected dogs’ registration to the conditional status.

The conditional status will be clearly noted on the registration or pedigree of the unknown dog, as well as all progeny for three generations, with the letter Q starting the AKC registration number. Conditional status will only be granted in cases where the dog is believed to be purebred, but a registered parent is found to be incorrect.

“The Conditional Registration program will foster better relationships with dog owners who discover that there is an unidentified ancestor in their purebred dog’s pedigree,” said Thomas Sharp, Assistant Vice President of Compliance. “Now these owners will not be penalized with a revoked AKC registration and the loss of a majority of its benefits. For example, a dog with Conditional registration may still participate in any event in which ILP dogs may participate, including Obedience, Agility, and Rally.”

Conditional registration also offers informed breeders the ability to keep these dogs and their offspring in a breed’s gene pool. To register a litter out of a sire and dame with conditional registration, both parents must be DNA-profiled. After three generations of DNA-profiled parents, the registrations will revert to regular for the litter in the fourth generation. This protocol is in line with the acceptance of imported dogs with three generation pedigrees from the country of origin.
Ch. Kincora Tara Gold O'West Isles
“Josh”

Ch. Starlight Treasure Chest x Ch. Kincora Tara Twice Told Tail

BOB and GROUP FOURTH
at the competitive CA Mission Circuit

Owned by
JOAN JOHNSON
KAYCE HEALY
CECILY SKINNER

Judge Mrs. Judith Daniels

Breeders
K. Healy/KINCORA, C. Skinner/TARA

Presented by
CECILY SKINNER
KAYCE HEALY
Ch. KINKORA TARA GOLD DIGGER

“NICOLE”

CH. Starlight Treasure Chest x CH. Kincora Tara Twice Told Tail

FLASH . . . Nicole Strikes Gold Again . . . After finishing by going WB/BOW/BOS over Specials and BBE Group 3 under Judge Mr. Kenneth McDermott at the SCWTNC Specialty, Nicole debuts as a Special, winning in Top Ranked competition.

Pasadena Kennel Club
GWTA/SCWTSCC Supported Entry(LBKC)
GWTA/SCWTSCC Supported Entry(KCBH)

Judge Mr. Norm Patton
Judge Mr. Richard Powell
Judge Mr. Joe Walton

Best of Breed
Best of Opposite Sex
Best of Breed

Bred By:
Kayce Healy/KINCORA
Cecily Skinner/TARA

Presented By:
Cecily Skinner

Owned & Loved By:
Barbara Zapf/REDHILL & breeders K. Healy, C. Skinner
This is a follow up to the Geriatric Dog and Informative Family Report published March through June 2007 in Wavelengths, the Health Newsletter and Benchmarks, as well as posted on the scwtbreeder list. The latter three invited readers to submit questions for Dr. Littman to help us better understand her observations based on analysis of Penn DNA Bank samples from affected dogs (largest number of the samples), geriatric dogs, as well as dogs from the Informative Family and Wheagle Colony.

Only two individuals responded to the invitation. Their inquiries were combined with questions generated by SCWTCA’s liaisons to the Geriatric Dog, Informative Family and Open Registry projects. The questions and Dr. Littman’s responses appear below, but first a review of the key observations Dr. Littman offered in the Geriatric Dog and Informative Family Report:

• Apparently healthy geriatric dogs do not necessarily have normal phenotypes. Some of the dogs who appeared at 14 years or older to be asymptomatic based on the absence of PLE or PLN clinical signs were determined upon necropsy to exhibit early signs of one or both diseases.

• Because upon necropsy some of the apparently healthy geriatric dogs showed evidence of PLE and/or PLN, there does not appear to be an age cut-off for genetic expression of the diseases. Dr. Littman also suspected this since on the Open Registry there are dogs of advanced age affected with these diseases.

• These observations illustrate the difficulty in determining the genetic make up of a “normal” dog, one that will not exhibit changes on histopathology that are consistent with those seen in dogs affected with PLE or PLN upon necropsy.

• It is anticipated that the Informative Family and Wheagle Colony dogs will produce a larger number of affected dogs than the normal population. As such they are to be tested at least annually for clinical symptoms with tissue samples submitted upon death for necropsy. When a genetic marker becomes available, this database will be invaluable.

Questions arising from the above observations and Dr. Littman’s responses follow:

Who analyzes tissue samples and makes the diagnosis, you or a pathologist?

Usually a full time pathologist at The University of Pennsylvania or Dr. Brian Wilcock, Histovet Surgical Pathology, Guelph, ON Canada has analyzed the necropsy tissue samples to help make the diagnosis in the past. Sometimes other veterinary pathologists have analyzed the tissue samples and the reports were sent to Dr. Littman. The histopathology is only a piece of the puzzle to help make the diagnosis or characterize the cause of the dog’s illness. Other pieces of the puzzle include history, physical examination, blood and urine test results, etc. The diagnosis is a team effort made by interpreting all possible clues coming in from the owner, local veterinarian, clinical laboratory, and veterinary pathologist.

There is a misconception that the pathologist sees only SCWT samples. Does the pathologist analyze samples from all breeds of dogs or SCWTs only?

The pathologist analyzes samples from many purebred and mixed breed dogs.

Kidneys, in my opinion, are the most likely organs to fail as any dog gets old. Kidney failure is very, very common, more common than heart failure or liver failure. However, the kidney failure seen in geriatrics is not usually caused by PLN. Common age-related kidney changes (which occur in any breed dog) are those that cause nephrons to drop out over time, so that the dog has decreased renal reserve, decreased ability to excrete toxic waste products of metabolism, decreased ability to concentrate urine. Generally age-related kidney changes are not as protein-losing, nor do they cause hypoalbuminemia. The age-related changes typically show chronic interstitial nephritis changes on histopathology.

How is it determined based on tissue sample analysis following necropsy that an apparently healthy dog, one free of clinical symptoms while living, has PLN?

Necropsy allows the pathologist to see the organ’s structure, and determine if there are changes. In the case of the kidney, the glomeruli are examined to determine the presence of changes consistent with PLN. Even if the glomeruli have not changed sufficiently to illicit symptoms or result in clinical signs, sometimes early structural changes can be detected. The changes seen by the pathologist are morphologic changes seen by examining the sample using
ordinary light microscopy. But there could be functional changes that could lead to protein loss by the kidneys, which may not be seen by light microscopy. Currently we are not routinely doing extraordinary examinations of these kidney biopsies, for instance, electron microscopy or immunofluorescence, which could possibly show abnormalities of the glomeruli that would cause protein loss, but may not show up by ordinary light microscopy. Functional changes are best recognized by doing urine testing for protein, such as testing for microalbuminuria or doing a urine protein/creatinine ratio test.

Similarly, functional changes of PLE allowing for loss of protein from the intestine may not always be seen by light microscopy of the intestine. You can't always tell how severe the protein loss is from looking at the morphologic changes under the microscope. That is why even mild inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) shouldn't be ignored as a change, although pathologists may disagree about how mild, moderate, or severe IBD appears to them. Some pathologists may even interpret mild IBD as normal, but when we are dealing with a breed at risk, we have an added duty not to be too blasé about these findings, especially when trying to find the best "normals" for use in DNA studies. The functional changes of PLE are recognized by the blood test results (low albumin and globulin), and just as for PLN, the blood and urine test results are important pieces of the puzzle. In some geriatric cases, the blood and urine test results were not done recently, and when all we have to look at is the histopathology changes, it makes it more difficult to know how severely the dog was affected. The experience of examining geriatric samples has taught us that it is best to try to get as many pieces of the puzzle as possible, including blood, urine, and histopathology, in order to make the best assessment of what exactly was going on in that individual at the time of death.

What is the difference between a PLN affected kidney and one that has old age deterioration?

The age-related changes of kidneys generally are not those of PLN, although an aged dog could conceivably show damage to the glomeruli that might mimic the changes seen in dogs with PLN, just as any breed of dog could show changes of inflammatory bowel disease, the changes seen in dogs with PLE. Diagnosis is made based on blood, urine and histopathology criteria stated at the end of the OR. The criteria have not "evolved" - they are the same criteria we started with originally. In trying to tag a genetic DNA sample with a phenotype for purposes of the DNA bank, we define "normal" for geriatric dogs that do not have any changes in the kidneys or intestine that would be consistent with the changes that are seen in SCWT dogs with IBD, PLE, or PLN. Currently we are not listing geriatric dogs on the Open Registry based on mild histopathology changes alone, but neither are we tagging them as clear of these diseases and "normal" for the DNA bank.

Kidneys, in my opinion, are the most likely organs to fail as any dog gets old. Kidney failure is very, very common, more common than heart failure or liver failure. However, the kidney failure seen in geriatrics is not usually caused by PLN. Common age-related kidney changes (which occur in any breed dog) are those that cause nephrons to drop out over time, so that the dog has decreased renal reserve, decreased ability to excrete toxic waste products of metabolism, decreased ability to concentrate urine. Generally age-related kidney changes are not as protein-losing, nor do they cause hypoalbuminemia. The age-related changes typically show chronic interstitial nephritis changes on histopathology. The typical old dog's kidney histopathology change shows more tubular changes and whole nephron dropout rather than predominantly glomerular changes. When glomerular disease causes renal failure, eventually the tubules and whole nephrons are also affected. In a few cases of extreme "end-stage," the kidney may be so scarred and fibrotic, that it can be difficult to know what the original cause of nephron damage and dropout was. Below and on the following page are illustrations of abnormal glomeruli, one showing changes typical of PLN and the other depicting chronic renal failure from an unknown cause.

What are the clinical or symptomatic (observable) differences between geriatric dogs with "old age" kidney changes versus geriatric dogs with PLN?

Dogs with "old-age" kidney changes generally become thirsty and urinate a lot of dilute urine (polyuria/polydipsia with loss of ability to concentrate urine) as an early sign, even before they become azotemic with elevated BUN, creatinine, and phosphorus. They usually don't have such high levels of protein in the urine that their serum albumin falls. In contrast, dogs with PLN may be able to concentrate their urine for longer than you'd expect, even after they become azotemic, and they may have proteinuria and hypoalbuminemia with possible thromboembolic events and/or hypertension even before they become azotemic or are in renal failure.

Eventually, as glomerular disease progresses, it does cause nephron dropout, polyuria/polydipsia, and eventually the changes on the biopsy might be so fibrotic and scarred and end-stage that it can be difficult to know what the initial cause was. When kidney function deteriorates a lot, the amount of protein in the urine
might actually fall, because there are less nephrons able to filter the blood and less glomeruli to lose protein (and this is not necessarily a good sign).

Among the geriatric dogs assumed to be apparently healthy or “normal” because they were asymptomatic while living, was it mild PLN, mild IBD or mild PLE that was detected upon necropsy?

All three diseases were at times detected, and in a variety of combinations. Some samples revealed the presence of just one disease, others showed evidence of two diseases, and in some cases all three diseases were apparent.

When I count the number of samples discussed and subtract from (228) it seems to yield a large number of samples without any category. [97+26−123 = 96] who are affected plus 24 others who are affected only upon histopathology plus 33 normal without proper backup = 180. Are all 48 remaining samples from “too young” or “pending” candidates? Can we get the full accounting of samples–for example, ‘some’ geriatric samples were tagged as having fetal glomeruli–is this 2 or 3 or 10?

Yes, the remaining 48 samples include cases pending for histopathology results, samples sent in from dogs that died too young to make a full assessment of how to tag their DNAs phenotype, and/or samples from dogs that are still alive but not old enough to make an assessment of how to tag their DNAs phenotype yet (their health status is still being monitored).

The number of geriatric samples with fetal glomeruli was four. My pathologist tells me that there is disagreement among pathologists about how to interpret these, for instance some would say they are “normal”; other pathologists would say they have mild changes of renal dysplasia, that is, consistent with the changes seen in younger dogs with RD. In my opinion, if we want to be strict and as exact as possible for the genetic studies, these dogs shouldn’t be tagged as completely clear of doubt or considered “normal”.

How often should dogs who were used for breeding be tested and until what age?

We formerly recommended that dogs be tested until 7 years of age. It seems, now, that they should be tested throughout their lives. Following links from the SCWTCA Home Page to Wheaten Health Information leads one to:

- Annual Testing Protocols - Veterinarian Information
- Annual Testing Protocols - Owner Information

These resources suggest annual testing, and we have not deviated from that over the past few years. “Research suggests that any dog with UPC ratio in excess of 0.4 and no evidence of urinary tract infection should be closely monitored for the development of glomerular disease. This finding should be of particular concern in any breed of dog that is known to have familial glomerular diseases, such as the Wheatens.” Undoubtedly testing more frequently than annual will be necessary to monitor the development of glomerular disease. Work with your vet to determine the appropriate interval based on previous test results and ask your vet to consult Dr. Meryl Littman or Dr. Shelly Vaden for current recommendations and treatment. The contact information is available in Annual Testing Protocols - Veterinarian Information.

How often should pets be tested?

To best protect the dog’s health, regardless of whether they were included in a breeding program, we recommend annual testing.

Illustrations for this article were provided by Dr. Shelly Vaden, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University.

OFA Website Spotlight

The Orthopedic Foundation of America now offers owners the ability to display a digital photograph on each dog’s OFA web page. The fee for this service is $10, of which 100% of the revenues collected are donated to the American Kennel Club’s Canine Health Foundation’s Endowment Fund.
“ZOE” ... Best Of Breed from the Bred By Exhibitor Class at Sacramento, Northern California Terrier Association’s specialty weekend with stiff competition for a 4 point major under judge Robert Smith, she garnered another 4 pointer the next day under judge Annemarie Moore and finished, going BOB again from the BBE class over specials, on August 11 at South Bay KC.

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