Like a lot of only children, Cera had lots of toys. In fact, some of the other pets in the neighborhood thought she was spoiled. They were probably right. One thing that’s certain, given enough time she would destroy pretty much any toy given to her.

Picture and text from Shh, I see a bear! Cera - the early years by Steve Bell

Benchmarks is available in color on our SCWTCA website, http://www.scwtca.org. Click on Benchmarks and check it out!
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From the President...

Kudos and More

Kudos to the Northern California club for an outstanding job putting on our National Roving specialty in April! Thanks also go to the other regional clubs for the wonderful opportunities they create. All these specialties enable Wheaten owners to exhibit their dogs in the company of Wheaten enthusiasts from throughout the country, providing the glue that ties the breed community together. Those of you who help put on these dog shows will especially appreciate the incredible work being done by Bev McDonald and her committee who are busy finalizing details for the National Specialty, our 35th Anniversary, aptly called: “IT’S A CELEBRATION!” I hope to see a record turnout on October 5.

SCWTCA Endowment has circulated letters this spring inviting members to become part of a “Heritage Society”. I am so pleased to see this development, as it is a sign of a significant maturation in fundraising for an organization; i.e., the entry into Planned Giving. It is time to dust off those wills and trust agreements and see what might be possible for SCWTCA. Hats off to Carol Carlson and the entire Endowment Board for this forward thinking program!

DNA Blood Draw clinics continue to attract sizable numbers. My heartfelt thanks to all who have organized, transported, held dogs, or in any way participated. When last checked, the total number taking the survey associated with the sample submission was 376, well over a third of the way to this year’s goal of 1000 dogs. This number comes not only from clinics, but also from individuals who could not get to a clinic and instead used their regular vet. As we are such good customers, our vet did not charge us to include this extra draw done in conjunction with our dogs’ annual check up. There is a website that provides forms and good instructions; so coupling this blood draw with the annual physical was a very simple process. AND because SCWTCA Endowment is paying half the cost of the $40 registration fee for these first 1000 dogs, now is the time to act! Instructions for registering your dog are found on the website for the project: www.caninephenome.org. Also found on that website are interesting statistics on the Wheaten’s enrolled in this data bank. However, readers should be cautious when drawing conclusions from this survey data, because it does not represent a random sampling of Wheatens. The people registering their dogs are especially conscientious owners as demonstrated by the very act of contributing to this data-gathering program. Nevertheless, it is interesting that skin problems and behavioral issues received the greatest numbers of affirmative responses within the survey questions. Perhaps it is time to provide more educational support to the membership in these areas.

Just a reminder that the Board is going to take up the Health Reorganization proposal at its June meeting held in Long Beach, CA June 23 after the Great Western/SCWTCS Specialty. The Health proposal has been posted on Updates since early April, and to date of this writing there has been no member comment. Hopefully this is a reflection of the quality of the background work by the Health Committee. Another agenda item of special member interest is the anticipated report from the Independent Specialty Feasibility Committee.

On a final note, Rescue is still in need of people to help out regionally. Please contact Nancy Butler if you can help with transport, fostering, or maybe even coordinating a regional area for SCWTCA Rescue.

Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you at Montgomery in October!

From the Editor...

My January report to the Board of Directors included an announcement that I would be unable to continue as editor of Benchmarks beyond the December 2008 issue. My reasoning was that it is becoming increasingly difficult for me, as the arthritis in my hands and wrists grows more severe. I suggested they begin to search for a replacement editor for 2009.

In an effort to dissuade me from resigning (very flattering), the Board has suggested several alternatives, among them, the appointing of several associate editors, each responsible for specific areas; e.g., health, specialties, performance, advertising and statistics. I would remain as Editor-In-Chief. We already have, in effect, two associate editors. Toni Vincent serves in this capacity for Happy Birthday Seniors and Celebrating Long Life, and is doing a fabulous job. Carol Carlson has been, for some time now, serving as a sort of editor-at-large, supplying me with various informative articles. She has been indispensable!

Board member, Susan McGee, presented this plan to me in writing and I am certainly open to it. I would welcome volunteers. Hopefully, together we could, make this publication the very best!

In addition to being responsible for a section of Benchmarks, the associate editor would be expected to work with other associate editors and provide support to the Editor-in-Chief. Associate editors would follow-up with reporters to see that stories are being written and would be responsible for the timely production of Benchmarks. They would be expected to brainstorm, go after story assignments, edit, and help with headlines, captions and cutlines, as well as proofreading and contributing stories for each issue. Associate editors should know the basics of newspaper design and how to use Adobe InDesign. They must also know how to scan and download pictures and work with PDF and HTML files. Associate editors must honor deadlines, not wait until the last minute and be able to work well with others.

In the meantime, it would be tremendously appreciated if those sending in articles, photos and ads would, when and if at all possible, get them to me early instead of waiting until the actual cutoff date. I know, I know...articles, letters and reports, etc are due the first day of the month prior to publishing, with ads due the 15th of the month prior. And this is fine. But it would take a lot of pressure off my hands and wrists if I could spread the work load out a bit more. I would also love some creative thinking on the part of members regarding suitable articles! Thanks for listening...

Gay Dunlap

From the President...continued
To the Editor...

Letter to the Editor:

In Emily Holden’s article in March Benchmarks, she talked about a need to “work together.” I'd like to add to her comments that SCWT Club of America, the Genetic Research Fund and the SCWTCA Endowment have been and are working together.

In June 2006 members of the Boards of the three groups and Cindy Vogels, representing AKC Canine Health Foundation, visited the University of Missouri to explore the possibility of Dr. Gary Johnson including Wheatens in his research. Dr. Johnson has had 19 studies funded by AKC/CHF http://www.akcchf.org/research/grants/search/index.cfm?search=researcher&display=results&researcher=Johnson,%20DVM,%20PhD%20Gary%20S. As a result of that visit and a report made to the Board of SCWTCA, Wheatens are one of six breeds participating in the Canine Phenome Project. Elaine Azerolo was chosen to be our project leader and liaison with Dr. Johnson's lab.

There have been 10 clinics sponsored by local clubs, groups of individuals or individuals in Greeley, CO; Palm Springs, CA; Detroit, MI; King of Prussia, PA; Tampa Bay, FL; Wilsonville, OR; Scottsdale, AZ; Ontario, Canada; Chicago, IL; and St. Louis, MO.

Almost 400 samples of blood have already been sent to Missouri. The Endowment is paying half of the $40 fee that the lab charges to convert the blood to DNA. The three groups share the cost of vet techs, supplies and shipping of the samples. As of this writing six more clinics have been scheduled. They will be in Northern California, Texas, Wisconsin, Canada, Seattle and Minnesota.

Carol Carlson

“GRANDMA’S ATTIC” ... Size and Function

Jackie Gottlieb

“Size” is clearly defined in our Breed Standard. Males 18-19 inches at the withers, 18 1/2 ideal; bitches 17-18, 17 1/2 ideal. A look around the Wheaten breed ring could provoke quite a few giggles. But there is even more to the concept of size. Size is three dimensional. Height at the withers is only one aspect, length of back adds another, and so does sheer bulk. A 19 inch dog is at the top of the standard, but if he weighs 50 or more pounds, he is “out of type”. “Out of type”, applied to a working terrier will affect function.

So we go back to the breed’s original function as an all around farm dog in a relatively poor country. He is medium sized, minimizing maintenance. He must have four good legs under him and balanced angulation to give him the endurance needed to guard farm boundaries. He must be athletic and agile to do his herding. Vital here are the low hocks that permit quick turns. Muscles are critical, but it is long smooth muscles, not heavy bunchy muscles that provide the needed agility. Over-boned and over-muscled would only slow him down and impair function covering ground with grace and ease. And that describes the movement that would permit the Wheaten to most efficiently perform his function.

Some Afterthoughts On Trimming

This has been an exceptionally windy year out west, and I am finally really trying to trim enough excess coat so that the dog is not obscured by blowing hair. After all my years of eschewing all but minimal trimming, I’ve needed a lot of help. The Standard says that the coat may be trimmed to show outline. That is sufficient permission. After all, what really should matter is coat quality, not quantity. A friend (a judge) points out that if we trimmed our fuller coated specimens more severely, we could equalize matters with our thinner coated specimens, giving the breed ring a more uniform (and impressive) presentation. Structure would regain its priority. Who says old dogs can't learn new tricks?
Ida Sawtelle Mallory was a woman of many talents and contributed much genetically to the Wheaten World. She also impacted many lives across this nation including my own. Hence this paper has a personal touch.

She was born in Brooklyn, NY to a family whose interest in animals, especially dogs, extended over at least three generations. The Sawtelle family were volunteers with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Her grandfather, Luther Smith, created Smith’s Original Horse Remedy. The Sawtelle ancestral home was Swan Pond at Lyman, Maine, to which Ida and her husband, Louis A. Mallory, returned to live and work in 1965.

This review of the life, work and contributions of Ida Sawtelle Mallory is the result originally of the fact that she was a life-long dear friend of my wife, Dr Margaret A. Stirewalt. On the occasion of my wife’s 80th Birthday, Ida wrote: Thank you, Peg, for deep friendship. I’ll steal a line, “See how sharp the splinters keep where my life broke off from thine fitting together for all time”. She concluded the letter with: I salute you, Peg, as a life-long friend and as a mover and shaker of many lives - mine included. All my love, Ida.

Ida made the trip from New York to New Market, Virginia, where my wife and I were married in the Stirewalt ancestral home in December of 1953. Forgive me for this personal account of the life of one dear to me and my wife and who impacted our subsequent lives significantly as our first Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier came from Ida, Grant’s Hill Frogmoor’s Winnie. Wheaten Terriers have been our passion and companions ever since. In addition, Ida and Winnie were the catalysts that started me off in a professional career of Genetic Conservation of Wheats, Tunis and Jacob sheep and Pygmy goats, which ultimately resulted in my receipt of the 2002 Genetic Conservation Award from the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy.

Ida had many interests. For many years she operated the Pine Tree Humane Society in Swan Pond, which was a shelter for dogs and cats, and she was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Division of Animal Welfare in Augusta, Maine. She was also instrumental in the writing and passage of an animal bill in the Maine legislature.

Additionally, Ida was active in the exploration of caves. As a member of the Philadelphia Grotto of the National Speleological Society, she was an instructor in cave photography, geology, paleontology, mineralogy, ecology, hydrology, first aid and mapping.

Her greatest and most far reaching accomplishment concerned the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. In March of 1957 Margaret and Eileen O’Connor imported Holmenocks Gramachree from Ireland and in 1961 Margaret O’Connor, accompanied by Ida Sawtelle, entered Holmenocks Gramachree ["Irish"] in a show on Staten Island. The excitement was in high titre, especially when “Irish” won.

On St. Patrick’s Day in 1962, Ida and Louis Mallory hosted a meeting at their home in Brooklyn NY of a small group of Wheaten lovers including Charles and Eileen Arnold and the O’Connors, at which time the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America was born. Margaret O’Connor was elected President, Ida Sawtelle Mallory was named Vice-President along with Charles Arnold and Cecelia O’Connor was named Secretary. In December of that year there were 25 members of the Club. Then, in 1968 a constitution for the Club was written and approved by the club’s membership as well as the American Kennel Club. In the next election,, Cecelia O’Connor was elected President, Ida continued on page 6
Sawtelle Mallory became Vice President, with Eileen Jackson as Secretary and Mae Sullivan as Treasurer. There were five Directors elected: Charles Arnold, Juanita Wurzburger, Pat Adams, Beatrice Bossert and Victor Munz. The new organization was well on its way and by end of the decade there were close to 100 members.

Ida's kennel name was Grant's Hill. Ida was not a prolific breeder of Wheats by today's standards, but her influence spread throughout the whole of the United States, having placed pups in many states. Her first Wheaten was Gramachree's Independence and she imported another bitch, Holmenock's Hailsworth. In so far as I am aware, Ida and Louis were the first to show Wheats in Vacationland in Maine.

Three of Grant's Hill dogs: 1) Grant's Hill Downeaster, 2) Grant's Hill Lumberjack, and 3) Grant's Hill Yankee Trader are to be found in the pedigrees of almost all American Wheats. That is a remarkable accomplishment for one breeder to have influenced so many.

Her legacy lives on and on into the future of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier.

References
6) Newspaper account in the Beddeford-Saco Courier of 19 April 1990.

Other Useful References

A DOG’S PURPOSE (FROM A 6-YEAR-OLD)

As a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life ... like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Live simply.
Love generously.
Care deeply.
Speak kindly.
Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:
When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
Take naps.
Stretch before rising.
Run, romp, and play daily.
Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
On warm days, stop to lie on your back in the grass.
On hot days, drink lots of water and lies under a shady tree.
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
Be loyal.
Never pretend to be something you're not.
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.

ENJOY EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY.
BLACK TIE AND TAILS by Pat Rutherford

On April 10 and 11, 2008 two SCWT specialties took place in Sacramento, CA as part of the Northern California Terrier Association group shows. To celebrate the occasion the theme was “Black Tie and Tails.” The use of candelabras, silver vases and tuxedos carried out the theme in the ring along with a red carpet. The red carpet seemed to agitate some of the pups however, and was eventually taken up. Trophies for the Roving Specialty were based on a formal dinnerware theme with the National club’s Celtic-style design painted on each plate. Cathy Helf once again created the trophies for the regional specialty, all done in a more whimsical fashion.

Gwynne McNamara and Pam Mandeville did the honors of judging our dogs in the regular classes and the sweepstakes, respectively, for the Roving Specialty. Following the judging a Parade of Veterans was held, during which eight Wheaten got to “strut their stuff” for old time’s sake. That evening found us all at the hotel for hospitality with a fabulous assortment of homemade hors d’oeuvres contributed by club members. While everyone was enjoying the time visiting with one another the winning raffle ticket was drawn for a handsome rug with the Celtic Wheaten design. The winner was Gay Dunlap. It seemed only fitting that she should win. Gay explained how honored she was to win because this logo was originally designed by Jody Sylvester for the Illustrated Standard which, of course, was produced by Gay. A portion of this special fundraiser was donated to national health funds.

Friday we were back in the ring with our judges Sue Goldberg and Cecily Skinner. That evening was our dinner, where celebrating our dogs continued as did relaxing with friends old and new. Following dinner our usual raffle and silent auction was held and following this charming ice buckets hand painted with whimsical Wheaten by Cathy Helf, which had served as table centerpieces, were auctioned off. This lively auction was, as always, conducted by our auctioneer-par-excellence, Richard Urquhart.

A big round of applause should go to: Lance Canter who chaired both Specialties; Sonya and Richard Urquhart for donating the rug for the Roving Specialty fundraiser; Pat Mullin and Marcia Weisman for trophies; Tami Herzog for hospitality at ring-side and chair of the dinner; Susan Soloby for coordinating evening hospitality on Thursday; Mike Weiss and Brian Ness for all of the fabulous floral arrangement; Robyn Alexander for the mailer and website management for the Specialties; Sonya Urquhart for ring decorations; Rose Rose for chairing the raffle; Robyn and Pat Mullin for donating a cedar chest hand painted by Cathy Helf for the silent auction; President Jim Herzog for helping in so many ways whenever help was needed; and finally, to all of the other SCWTCNC members who assisted in making this a very special weekend. We were very honored this year to have four breeder-judges join us for two memorable specialties. We thank them all very much and we applaud all of those people who attended with or without dogs. You made this weekend very special.

JUDGE’S CRITIQUES

SCWTCA Roving Sweeps Judge, Pam Mandeville:

Judging a National Specialty sweepstakes has been something I’ve long wanted to do.

Obviously, I do not get to see West Coast dogs often enough. Combine this with my feeling that West Coast quality and presentation are generally better, made judging this show particularly satisfying. The weekend was made even more enjoyable by the hospitality of the specialty committees…and really, from the entire Northern California club…who should certainly host the Roving in the future.

I’ve long thought judging Sweepstakes or a large Specialty Match should be required for all serious breeders and exhibitors. Nothing more focuses your mind on breed essence than standing in the middle of a ring and saying “this one is better than that one.” That was immediately brought home to me when the same dogs I’d just judged left me with different impressions as I watched the regular classes from ringside.

Because such judging opportunities are few and far between, I would encourage our local specialty clubs to come up with some “Judge For A Day” programs. Far richer than the average puppy evaluation or handling class, it would give youngsters some practice and breeders a learning experience.

Sweep entrants sported lovely coats which, save for two, were in good condition, generally well trimmed and beautifully presented. Dogs and bitches were in good weight with substance, something our youngsters have not always had. Most heads were lovely. Only a few exhibits did not have good mouths. Puppies are always a challenge but most had confidence, some more so than their handlers.

continued on page 8
The competitors were generally sound. If we believe the myth of the poor Irish farmer’s all-purpose dog…even if we don’t, we say we do… the Wheaten should be a dog that can work without tiring. Consequently, I am most interested in seeing them go around efficiently… this means foot timing, reach and drive, all of which go to covering more ground in fewer strides. I was prepared to cut the puppies some slack due to their age but the schooling exhibitors had done with their dogs shone through. Movement could be fairly judged; few let me down.

On the whole, dogs were better than bitches. I hope they mature into their promise and remain available to the breed rather than disappearing into pet homes.

However…

More than a few of us need to purchase a yardstick and a level and learn how to measure. Few entrants appeared to be of correct size. As an aside, a height disqualification is usually pooh-poohed by Wheaten breeders…but Wheaten-knowledgeable fanciers from outside our breed have told me it’s needed.

Still, I expect the crux of the issue is more the distance from stem to stern. I was aware of the height problem nearly immediately but it took a bit longer to recognize that big or not, too many were too long in loin.

I suspect rather than breeding more compact dogs, we have “bred up” to a square silhouette. It’s easier to do the latter than the former resulting in tall dogs with long loins and not correcting the problem for any sized dog…been there, done that! Consequently, too many exhibits – regardless of their height – were much too long in the loin.

This critique focuses on the class winners except where there was a battle for first.

6-9 Dogs: Of course, the first class would have to be a larger one with two dogs neck and neck! First to Stratford Top Brass, a puppy of correct size nicely coated and nicely headed who, left on his own, made the most of himself. His trim and long tail initially threw my eye off. He needed some warming up but by the end, had settled into himself. Stratford Top Brass, a sound dog in beautiful condition, closely pressed the winner.

9-12 Dogs: Bonney Aranbriar Incantation, An easy winner in this class with a good outline, pretty coat in lovely condition and well balanced.

12-18 Dogs: Most judges will say when they see a nice one enter the ring, their first thought is “please, don’t let him have a bad bite.” Doubloon’s Winning Play was truly a “WYSIWYG” dog; hands confirmed the beautiful outline, balance, short back, and nice head were real under the pretty coat and presentation. He is solid with good spring of rib. I’d like there to be less of him but he was the easiest choice of the day.

6-9 Bitches: Stratford Top-O the Mornin’ was an easy winner and closely pressed for Best of Opposite. She was probably the most correctly sized winner of the day. She could use a little less loin and more head but is sound, solid and confident, moving well around the ring. She was fun to watch the rest of the weekend.

9-12 Bitches: This was the most difficult class due to the variety of type. My winner was Gemstone Eighth Inning Emerald, taller than I would like, but well proportioned, well coated.

12-18 Bitches: This class came down to two very different girls, with Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals coming out on top. She had good proportions, short in loin, lovely neck and head…hidden under too much hair… Aisling Claddagh U2 Can Be Like Me, with a stunning coat and air of superiority, really pressed the winner.

In retrospect, the BIS/BOS choices represented two sides of the judging coin. And, yes, it was a BIG coin…I would like less of both winners.

BIS went to Doubloon’s Winning Play. From the second he walked into the ring earlier, I knew he would be either BIS or BOS. He had everything right. I was pleased to see his success throughout the weekend, including achieving his championship.

Conversely, when I first saw Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals, my BOS, I did not expect her to be in contention at the end; indeed she struggled to get out of her class. She was a diamond in the rough, needing more expert conditioning and presentation. However, she impressed when you got your hands on her, had lovely proportions, was sound, moved well and got better through the judging.

Again, thanks to all for giving me this opportunity, for the wonderful hospitality and best of all, for some very nice dogs!
A formal thank you to the SCWTCA for the privilege of being selected to judge the 2008 National Roving Specialty. What an honor to be able to evaluate our unique and beautiful terrier breed. I have chosen to limit my comments to the winners in order to address areas where the breed is lacking, as well as those where improvements are notable.

As a breeder, I must comment on the strong “bred by” classes of both dogs and bitches. The breeders are to be applauded on quality and presentation.

Winners Dog and Best of Winners (Doubloons Winning Play) was a gorgeous boy with a beautiful outline, head to neck and length of back, all in balance with exceptional movement. He was shown with a lovely flowing coat, groomed to perfection, which enhanced all of his attributes. He was more than deserving of Best Bred By Exhibitor Winner.

Reserve Winners Dog (Harbour Hill Nuts & Chews) was a handsome, beautifully coated, square male of moderation who carried himself well and moved effortlessly.

Winners Bitch (Gleanngay Lady of the Lake) was just my style... in excellent condition, moderate in size and proportion, an outstanding “walker” and presented with a lovely wavy coat; trimmed “just right”. She will be a very competitive Special and was much deserving of an Award of Merit.

Reserve Winners Bitch (Stratford's Top-O The Mornin') was the precocious 6-9 puppy girl, very much the crowd favorite; she presented w/pretty reddish silky coat and a balanced little outline. She had that terrier puppy impish look with a dark eye and a smooth appropriate length of head; another great mover, covering ground, in a small package.  This little cutie could not be beat as Best Puppy Winner.

The Specials classes, both dogs and bitches, were some of the best of the day; Unfortunately, there were not enough ribbons to acknowledge many of them. The Best of Breed (Ch Doubloon's Ultimate Player) was an outstanding example. I was extremely pleased that this very special girl made her presence known, not just as an exceptional representative of our breed, but also as a competitive terrier by placing Terrier Group 2 later in the day under the well respected judge, Jon Cole.

Best of Opposite Sex (Ch Desertrose Bonney Mans Dream) was a SCWTCA National Specialty Best Of Breed, Ch Doubloon's Ultimate Player, was personality plus on the podium! She went on to cop a Terrier Group 2 later in the day. Breeder/owner handled by Elena Landa, her sire is Ch Lonestar's Order Of The Phoenix out of Ch Doubloon's Playing The Field. Judge Gwynne McNamara and Elena are enjoying the personality girl, as did her audience!
solid dog and extremely sound coming and going: he, too, was in excellent condition and presented himself as a stand up terrier; he sported an exquisite coat of good color and had a striking outline.

The Veteran dog (Ch Marquee’s Trick Question) proved he was in the running for Best; while he was nicely presented, his “jacket” was somewhat short for my taste, but his quality and showmanship could not be denied an Award of Merit. Ch Eureka Elevator Man, who was nicely put together and moved out showing himself as a true competitor, was my third AOM choice.

There are as always numerous accolades to the exhibitors/breeders as well as a few areas which require diligence. I was especially concerned that a few dogs were not shown to advantage because they were untidy and generally unclean. I am a firm believer in exhibiting our breed to its best advantage, not just at specialties, but also in the all breed arena. I will also add that heads need work, finding far too many of triangular shape vs. the appropriate rectangle. Ear size is another area in need of attention - too many large hound-like ears lying flat against the head. The most grievous of problems is that of size…a few class dog exhibits were way above the standard.

Another realm where we have lost ground is in length of body and neck proportion; there were far too many long backs coupled w/ short necks…not a pretty picture and especially noticeable when moving. Finally, I must point out that in the classes, front movement proved to be a disappointment with more than a handful of exhibits displaying “egg beater” movement. I had to wonder if it wasn’t the ring surface. In addition, a number of dogs were viewed from the side as mincing, tippy-toeing or gaiting with up and down action, all lacking ground coverage…this is not proper movement for any terrier.

Now for the good news: tail sets were admirable; there were more than a few with excellent “back yards”; i.e., back end shelf, which provides the dog with great rear leg extension. Rear movement was generally pleasing, but remember that is not the whole story. Bites and large teeth are to be applauded with the exception of two exhibits that I, otherwise, liked; unfortunately, this is a breed fault. Coats, while not uniform, were generally soft and silky to the touch. Condition and body weight was very good…I must say that a few of the bitches wanted to be considered for “gourmet of the day”.

Collectively, temperaments/attitudes were exceptional. I commend you all!

JUDGES CRITIQUE, continued

I was very pleased and honored to be asked to judge my first Sweepstakes at the SCWTCNC Specialty. I have attended their Specialty every year since the first one was held in the Cal Expo parking lot. I always have a great time whether I show dogs or not. The hospitality of the club members is wonderful.

Overall, I was very happy with the quality of the entry. The dogs were presented beautifully and the majority were in excellent condition. There were only a couple of dogs that I felt were too thin or needed coat conditioning. Eye color in the entire entry was excellent as was nearly every bite. I was also pleased to see that most of the dogs showed happily and did not exhibit any timidity, which is something I have a hard time forgiving in a terrier. Side gait was very good on most but overall I felt front and rear movement still needs improving.

When my final lineup came into the ring, I was extremely pleased with all of the class winners. They had wonderful breed type and were presented at their best.

Puppy Dogs, 6-9 (5 entries)
1st: Amberlock Fireball Whiski Burn – a lovely, compact, moderate dog with wonderful shoulders, dark eye, excellent teeth and bite and good expression. Coat was over-trimmed but of a nice texture. Used himself well on the day.
2nd: Stratford Top Brass – a very handsome dog with good substance. Beautiful coat and head, solid topline. Side gait was excep-

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tionally nice and he held his outline on the move.
3rd: Burdigan's Color My World – lovely coat, very nice on the go around, would have liked a bit more length of head.
4th: Burdigan's In Living Color (brother to #3) – also lovely coat and size. Will benefit from more ring experience.

Puppy Dogs, 9-12 (3 entries)
1st: Bonney Aranbriar Incantation – lovely breed type, beautiful outline with a pretty coat, clean head and nice topline. Used herself well and demanded to be looked at. Very lovely mover.
3rd: PitterPat's Buster Bluth – very pretty coat, nice size and type. He will benefit from more ring experience as he was not using himself well on the day.

Junior Dogs, 12-18 (4 entries, 2 absent)
1st: Doubloon's Winning Play – Caught my eye immediately and did not disappoint on examination. Beautiful head, ears and expression. Lovely coat in excellent condition. Covered ground effortlessly and held his outline on the move.
2nd: Harbour Hill R U Nuts – nice mover, good eye color and shoulders, coat a bit crispy.

6-9 Puppy Bitches (3 entries)
1st: Stratford Top-O The Mornin’ – very typey with wonderful expression, small, high set ears and beautiful coat. Used herself well and demanded to be looked at. Lovely on the go around.
2nd: Burdigan's She Dreams In Color (sister to 6-9 dogs) – beautiful coat, very well presented but I would like a little less coat to show off her outline. Very nice mover.
3rd: Marquee's Party Girl – Pretty coat, nicely presented, a bit larger than I would like to see at this age.

9-12 Puppy Bitches (9 entries, 2 absent, 1 excused)
1st: Gleanngay Lady Of The Lake – lovely outline with a solid topline, pretty coat and good tailset. Moderate in size, very nice on the go around and used herself well.
2nd: Gemstone Eighth Inning Emerald – Beautiful head, coat and expression. Covered ground well and nicely presented. A larger bitch but very elegant.
3rd: Gemstone Carolina Queen (sister to #2) – Very feminine with good breed type, lovely coat, nicely balanced. Was not using herself well on the day or might have challenged for first in her class.
4th: PitterPat's Mabe Funke (sister to 9-12 dog) - beautiful coat and size, nice topline. Would like to see more length of head to improve overall balance.

12-18 Puppy Bitches (3 entries)
1st: Harbour Hill 30 Minute Meals – nice square outline with a pretty coat, good shoulders and topline, lovely head. A feminine bitch that used herself well.
2nd: Marymore Say Cheese – lovely coat, nice amount of neck, pretty head. Will benefit from more ring experience as exuberance got the better of her this day.
3rd: Harbour Hill Barefoot Contessa (sister to #1) – nice reach and drive, dark eye, coat a bit crispy.

SCWTC Northern California Specialty Judge,
Sue Goldberg:

I t is always an honor to be asked to judge a specialty of your own breed. My thanks to the SCWTCNC, their members and the entire show committee for the invitation and their hospitality. In addition to having some lovely Wheatens to judge, the dinner and auction were definitely Best in Show caliber as well!

It was gratifying to note that the depth of quality of the California Wheatens that was present when I judged the Roving nearly 4 years ago has not diminished. Having so many nice dogs to choose from is every judge's dream. Right now the strength is in our bitches but we still need improvement overall in certain areas that are not gender specific. We are definitely making progress but we’re not there yet, folks.

Size is an issue that must be addressed. Bigger is definitely not better nor is it true to type. While there is improvement in heads – topskulls not quite as blocky as in the past and muzzles slightly stronger than they were - but many still not the brick shape they continued on page12
continued from page 11

should be. The variation in head length was disappointing. Some heads were gorgeous in length and in proportion; others were so short as to destroy balance completely and in many cases were accompanied by short necks. Overall, eye color was right on. Even the lightest eyes were still dark hazel, well within the Standard. Pigment overall was good. Ears are still too big on many exhibits. Even pasting them way up still doesn’t make them right. Let’s breed for the proper ear size and set, instead of trying to create it artificially. All bites but two were scissors. Outlines were a mixed bag and an important component of breed type. The first sentence of our Standard reads, “...square in outline.” Under Size and Proportion, again, “Square in outline.” Long in back and low on leg destroy the silhouette that should identify the breed. It was nice to see so many level toplines, but we still need to improve on low tailsets hanging off the end of the dog with little or no shelf behind.

Coat quality was mostly good. In some cases outstanding, flowing beautifully as the dog moved – a sight to behold! Several exhibits were over-trimmed and a few were in disappointingly poor condition. Showing a dog that is in less than sparkling, tip-top condition, particularly at a specialty, does a disservice to the dog and the exhibitor. Color, with one or two exceptions was clearly wheaten, in all its lovely varying shades. Grey on the topskull on one exhibit and on the withers of another cost these dogs higher placements.

Fronts are definitely a problem. Some exhibits elbowing out; far too many were crossing and weaving. Similarly, upright shoulders restricted side gait to mincing little steps, and in some cases, rear angulation was out of balance with the front causing overreaching and sidewinding. Happily, rears going away were much improved.

Overall, my final line-up was a delight to behold. It was a thrill to find and reward such beautiful, typey Wheatens and have so many quality dogs from which to choose. I congratulate one and all for finding and rewarding such beautiful, typey Wheatens and have so many top dogs. This was the depth of quality you presented.

Now to the placements:

**PUPPY DOGS, 6-9 MONTHS:**

1st place to a very stylish youngster, beautifully balanced, nice head, strong muzzle, level topline, lovely neck into shoulders. Could use a smaller ear and a bit more reach on the go-round, but a lovely picture overall.

2nd place, nice moving young dog, very nice sidegait, good balance, dark eye. Could use a touch more neck and was a little high in the rear which may yet improve as they often grow in pieces at this age. However, the presentation was not correct; overtrimming cost him a possible first place ribbon. A promising youngster overall.

3rd place in this quality class to another promising puppy with a level topline and proper balance. Could use a silkier coat and a better sidegait.

**PUPPY DOGS 9-12:**

1st to a nice puppy with pretty coat and color, dark eye, good pigment, and nice rear angulation. Upright shoulders create a bit of a ewe-neck. Needs better front and topline. Happy, outgoing personality.

**12-18 MONTH DOGS:**

1st Pretty coat and color, beautifully presented. Head a bit cheeky, needs stronger muzzle to balance backskull. Nice blend of neck. Down and back movement need improvement.

**BRED BY EXHIBITOR DOGS:** (The strongest of all the dog classes and a pleasure to judge.)

1st to a lovely, square, moderate, confident dog in topnotch condition, beautifully presented, lovely coat texture and color. Gorgeous head of correct length and proportion, nice small ears and uses them well, giving him beautiful expression. Strong muzzle, which we need in this breed, level topline, an easy go-er. Beautiful breed type.

2nd place to a handsome dog that pressed hard for first place. Short-backed, square in outline. Dark eye, good pigment, nice topline. Nice attitude. Ears a bit large. Coat texture not quite as silky as the first place dog.

3rd place dog was square but a bit larger, nice coat color and texture. Sidegait was quite nice. Needs more length of head and smaller ears. Down and back movement could be better.

4th place to a larger dog, beautiful color, good pigment. Nice rear angulation. Lacks strength of muzzle and needs better layback of shoulder to improve blend of neck.

**AMERICAN BRED DOGS:**

1st place to a square, big-boned dog, level topline, nice rear angulation with hocks low to the ground. Coarse head lacking proper length to balance the overall dog, larger ears. Better grooming and conditioning sorely needed.

**OPEN DOGS:** (Total variation in type in this class.)

1st place to a square dog with the best combination of attributes.
Coat flowed when in motion, color is good, eye color is correct, nice pigment. Coarse head, ear size and front movement could be improved. The best overall package in this class.

2nd place to a big-boned dog, bigger head, larger ears, coarser. Not a bad picture but could benefit from different trimming: taking more coat off his neck, for example would add more elegance and better balance.

3rd place to a very different type. Gorgeous coat and color. A racier dog, needs bone, substance and better spring of rib. Better layback and angles front and rear would improve movement.

4th place is lighter color, which is not unusual at this age. Nice, well-proportioned length of head. Narrow overall which is reflected in his movement down and back. He needs a better spring of rib and higher tailset.

WINNERS DOG:

My Bred By Dog, Doubloon’s Winning Play, finished with this win. A square, typey, moderate, masculine male, in gorgeous condition. Beautifully headed, lovely balance, bang-up tailset, covered in a silky, golden coat that flowed as he moved. A compact dog that did his breeder proud; it was a pleasure to reward him this day.

RESERVE WINNERS DOG:

The 6-9 month puppy, Stratford Top Brass. Correct coat and color, lovely head, nice bone, great attitude. Not quite as smooth on the go-round which could be just puppyish-ness. Similar in type and style to my Winners Dog and a very promising young puppy. Was pressed hard for Reserve by the 2nd place in Bred By.

PUPPY BITCHES 6-9 MONTHS:

1st place to a feminine, balanced, moderate, showy bitch that knows exactly how good she is! Lovely headpiece, dark eye, correct pigment, proper size, flowing coat, gorgeous color. Easy on the go-round. Needs a slightly better front and could be a tad shorter in back, but she uses everything she’s got and her breed type is just dead on!

2nd place to a slightly larger bitch with a fabulously silky coat and color that just flowed beautifully as she moved. Nice pigment. Could use a stronger muzzle. Not nearly the extension on the go-round as the 1st place bitch.

PUPPY BITCH 9-12 MONTHS:

1st place to a typey, stylish, feminine bitch. Nicely balanced. Lovely headpiece, gorgeous coat and color and a bang-up tailset with plenty of dog behind – something that we need to regain in our breed.

2nd place has lovely length of head and proper proportions of topskull and muzzle. Nice coat and color and well-balanced overall. Larger, houndier ears and lack of angles front and rear cost her a higher placement.

3rd place to a feminine bitch, slightly smaller and lighter-boned. Head is not in proportion, lacks in length and strength of muzzle. Needs more angulation front and rear for better reach and drive, and a higher tailset.

4th place to a very different type, bigger overall yet square. Lacks refinement of head and needs more butt behind the tail. Coat not as silky and could benefit from some judicious thinning. A different trim could make her into a different bitch.

12 – 18 MONTH BITCHES:

1st place to a square, feminine bitch. Wouldn’t want to see her any bigger. Nice flowing coat. Needs better tailset. Dark eye, nice pigment. Needs stronger muzzle to balance backskull.

2nd place is similar in type to 1st place but not quite the elegance or femininity as #1. More butt behind the tail. Lacking in condition and coat quality.

3rd place bitch is a bigger, doggier bitch that would look much better with proper conditioning and trimming. Very solid bitch with a nice topline and tailset, beautiful length of head, nice sidegait. A very finishable bitch whose presentation did not do her justice.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR BITCHES: (A quality class.)

1st place to a lovely bitch with nice sidegait and lovely coat and color. A bit longer cast, her grooming makes her look a bit low on leg, which she is not. Nice headpiece with proper planes and a well-proportioned muzzle, beautiful blend of neck into the shoulder, level topline and nice tailset with butt behind. A pretty, moderate, feminine package with nice bone and substance who uses herself to advantage.

2nd place to a slightly taller bitch, square in outline; elegant, correct breed type, gorgeous coat and color. Not quite as balanced a headpiece nor the reach and drive of #1, but a very pretty package who pressed hard for first place.

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3rd place to a taller, leggier bitch. Head is correct length but weak in muzzle. Beautiful pigment. Nice blend of neck, level topline, butt behind the tail and correct well-let down hocks, a very stylish bitch.

4th to a moderate, feminine bitch with proper coat texture and length. Strong, level topline and correct tailset, plenty of butt behind the tail. She could use a smaller ear, but what cost her a higher placement was the sooty, gray color on her topskull that is contrary to the clear, warm wheaten color demanded by our Standard.

**AMERICAN BRED BITCHES:**

1st place to a very cute, showy bitch whose attitude belies her age. Nice outline with good bone for her size. Angulation in front not as good as in the rear. Head is lacking in length and strength.

**OPEN BITCHES:** (Varied in type.)

1st place to a moderate bitch, lighter in color but correct, clear wheaten color is coming in. Level topline, butt behind the tail. Elegant and feminine, she suits the Standard but needs length of head in topskull and muzzle for better balance.

2nd place to a bigger bitch, a bit longer-cast. Level topline and tailset with butt behind her tail. Nicely presented with beautiful flowing coat of proper length. Decent length of head.

3rd place to a larger, square bitch, up on leg. Clear color, proper coat texture, nice small ears that she used well, correctly placed on a head of proper length. Lovely, elegant neck. Interested in her surroundings, a feminine bitch despite her size. Neck blends smoothly into shoulders; tailset not as high as #2.

4th place to a solid, honest bitch, the type that would make a good brood bitch. Not terribly big but big-boned, square, a doggier bitch with a rounder rib cage, darker in color. Level topline and tailset with butt behind the tail, needs longer head and stronger muzzle. She could use more exercise to bring her weight down. Badly needs grooming and proper conditioning.

**WINNERS BITCH AND BEST OF WINNERS:**

My 6-9 Puppy Bitch, Stratford Top-O The Mornin’, littermate to Reserve Winners Dog. She is just what a Wheaten bitch should be: moderate, feminine, correct size, proper amount of bone for her size, beautiful outline. Headpiece that is correctly balanced topskull to muzzle, lovely expression, smooth blend of neck into shoulder, angles front and rear, gorgeous flowing coat and proper warm wheaten color. Lovely sidegait, great attitude and just oozes correct breed type. I’d take her home in a heartbeat!

**RESERVE WINNERS BITCH:**

My Bred By bitch, Burdigan’s She Dreams in Color. Very feminine, lovely coat and color, not quite as compact as my Winners Bitch. Nice bone with level topline and nice tailset. Smooth, efficient sidegait. She has beautiful breed type and should finish very quickly.

**VETERAN DOG:**

1st place to a handsome dog of correct breed type. A moderate, square, upstanding dog. Good bone in proportion to his size, beautifully presented in wonderful condition that belies his age. Lovely length of head with correct earset and expression. Beard should be shortened to balance his size. Nice topline and tailset with angles behind. Clear coat color and silky texture. Not quite the reach in front he needs. Despite the fact that he was a singleton entry, it was a pleasure to award him first place.
VETERAN BITCH:

1st place to a bitch nearly 14 years old, square in outline who looks younger than her age. Correct color but needs better conditioning and presentation. Unsure of herself due to vision problems, according to her owner.

BEST OF BREED:

Ch Doubloon’s Ultimate Player, a half-sister to my Winners Dog. Beautiful breed type, perfectly presented, gorgeous coat and color, and the right amount of coat, flows when she moves. Well-proportioned, feminine headpiece with lovely expression. An easy go-er who is balanced front and rear, she has a level topline and her tailset is bang-up with plenty of butt behind. She could use slightly better front movement and a shorter loin, but nobody’s perfect and this bitch comes pretty close. A wonderful representative of our Standard.

BEST OF OPPOSITE:

My Veteran Dog, Ch Marquee’s Trick Question. Lovely square outline, nice blend of neck. Moderate, typey, elegant dog who is a credit to his breeders. Nice attitude and shows himself well. Very pleasing to the eye.

AOM:

Ch Stratford Paddington Station, half-brother to the Winners Bitch and the Reserve Winners Dog. Nice outline, moderate, square. Dark eyes, good pigment, lovely coat and color. Could use smaller ears, better tailset, stronger pasterns and tighter foot, but overall very sound dog with correct breed type.

Ch Marquee’s Which Witch is Which, a feminine bitch with dead level topline, nice high tailset, small ear, lovely expression, very showy, compact, smooth blend of neck into shoulder. Square in outline with nice angles front and rear, correct size, lovely sidegait, the right make overall.

Ch Orion’s Ya Talkin To Me, square dog with a level topline. Correct length of head. Good bone and substance without being overly large or coarse. Neck blends smoothly into shoulder. Could use a little better tailset.

1st place to an upstanding 10-year-old bitch, the dam of the AOM bitch. Very elegant bitch, nice high tailset, very square. Could use a bit more angulation in the rear. Consistency of type in her produce won the day in this high quality class.

2nd place to another very nice bitch, not as tall as #1, bigger boned yet moderate, slightly lower tailset. Some high quality offspring, very typey and stylish; others less so.

My thanks to all the exhibitors and to the SCWTC of Northern California. What a great idea to invite four breeder judges for these two shows. It was a pleasure and an honor to be part of this event and I wish you all continued success!

BROOD BITCH: (Both quality entries in this class with some very nice offspring overall.)

NCTA PERFORMANCE:

Obedience & Rally

Litter mates, Lacey (Lissadell High Button Shoes) and Lyndee (Lissadell Line Dancer) scored at NCTA! Lacey and her owner, Clyde Schauer, won first place in Novice Obedience B with a score of 186, the only one to qualify. She also qualified in Advanced Rally with a score of 89. Lyndee, with co-owner Ellie Wong, qualified in her first Novice Rally trial with a perfect score of 100 and qualified the next day as well with a score of 92. Lacey also qualified at Sacramento in Novice Obedience with a score of 190. Caroline Goldberg & Elaine Nerrie, who co-own Lyndee with Ellie, bred these two 16 month-old girls. They are sired by Ch Gleanngay Boot Scoot’n Cowboy out of Lissadell Splash. Another photo of Lacey with Clyde reveals the same adoration that Lyndee demonstrates for Ellie!
SOFT-COATED WHEATEN TERRIER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

2008 CANADIAN NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW
Sunday, August 24, 2008
(Hosted by the Eastern Ontario Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club)

Held in conjunction with the Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry (SD&G) Association Dog Show, Long Sault, Ontario

Judges: Virginia Lyne: National Specialty, Rita Walker: Puppy and Veteran Sweepstakes
Show Secretary: Comars Show Services
http://www.colmars.com

What we have to offer:

• 4 all breed shows (Fri 22\textsuperscript{th}, Sat 23\textsuperscript{th}, Sun 24\textsuperscript{th}, and Mon 26\textsuperscript{th})
• Rideau Terrier Specialty (Sat 23\textsuperscript{th}) with judge Peter J. Greene
• 6 sets of points available for Wheatens
• International panel of judges at the all breed show
• renowned Canadian hospitality

The Specialty show site is known for its unsurpassed beauty. A series of islands in the St. Lawrence seaway that are connected by a quiet roadway all enclosed in a Provincial Park. This picture is the view from our specialty ring!

For a complete information package for the 2008 SCWTAC National Specialty Please visit http://www.scwtac.ca/ or www.mywheatens.ca
The Show site location offers:

- Camping on show grounds, as well as on the other islands in the park, with more grass, fields and open area than you could cover in a weekend!
- The City of Cornwall is within an easy 15 minute drive.
- Many hotels and motels most of which have lots of green space to offer.
- Many restaurants and shopping

**Motel Information**

The Eastern Ontario Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier club has reserved a block of rooms at three Cornwall Motels. Please reserve your room by July 25, 2008.

**Best Western Parkway Inn and Conference Centre**
1515 Vincent Massey Drive
Cornwall, Ontario, Canada
K6H 5R6
(613) 932-0451
**Booking Reference # CGSWT**
http://www.bestwesterncornwall.com

**Comfort Inn Hotel – Cornwall**
1625 Vincent Massey Drive
Cornwall, Ontario (613) 937-0111/1-877-888-5293
**Booking Reference # "Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers”**
http://www.comfortinncornwall.com

**Days Inn Motel**
1541 Vincent Massey Drive
Cornwall, Ontario (613)937-3535
Booking Reference # "Soft-Coated Wheaten Terriers”
http://www.daysinncornwall.com/index.htm

**After the Show:**
Take 3 days off to relax and rejuvenate and start all over again for 4 more days at the **Cornwall District Kennel Club**
Show Secretary is Diane Edwards Show Services (450) 825-2824 [www.dess.ca](http://www.dess.ca)
August 29,30,31 and September 1, 2008-Labor Day long weekend

**For more information please contact:**
Priscilla A. Tims
(613) 226-7186
51 Roundhay Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2G1B6 CANADA
priscillatims@rogers.com
Our Humble Appreciation to
Breed Judge Mr M P Phillips
Group Judge Mr B Braune-Cole
Trophy Presenter Countess of Buchan
Tremendous Appreciation to **ALL** Who Played a Role & Those Who Share Our Joy
CH Stratford Top Brass

(Ch Stratford Top Priority x Ch Stratford Spice Girl)

We Like IKE!!!

☆ Lydia Coleman Hutchinson – Best of Breed, Boardwalk Kennel Club...1st show!
☆ Richard Powell – Best of Breed, Boardwalk Kennel Club
☆ Ken McDermott – Best of Winners, Lancaster Kennel Club
☆ Carole Beattie – Best of Winners, York Kennel Club
☆ Margaret Mickelson – Best of Breed, Delaware County Kennel Club
☆ Christine Erickson – Best of Winners, Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland
☆ Gerard Mager – Puppy Group 1, Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland

...and in Ike’s first weekend as a special...

Wayne Hallard – Award of Merit, Delaware Valley SCWTC

Special thanks to Willie Rueda for his support and assistance.

Owners: Meg Ryan & Molly O’Connell
ndlaw951@aol.com

Bred by Molly O’Connell & Monica LaMontagne
moconn1030@comcast.net
CH SHANDALEE NEVER WAIVER  “EDDIE”
8/17/1993-10/15/2007

Ch Shandalee Star Studded X Ch Shandalee Amber Wave

We got Eddie when he was just a tiny little guy, with the promise to his breeder, Sue Goldberg of Wheats of Shandalee, that he would compete in the show ring. Eddie was our first experience raising a show-dog. He was very handsome and athletic. His first love was for squeakie toys, which Sue used to keep his attention in the ring. After championing at the tender age of 9 months, Eddie retired to family life and his new favorite past time - playing frizbee. As with everything he loved in life, he gave it his all. He would launch himself high into the air to make spectacular catches, never wanting the game to end. He also loved to chase all intruders from his yard, from chipmunks to deer and the occasional hot-air balloon. Eddie was a very sweet, eager-to-please boy, and very special to his family. We miss him dearly.

Bob and Karen Mallen and Sue Goldberg

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CH HULLABALOO ASHFORD TO A “T”, VCD2,MX,AXP, MXJ
“VINNIE THE WEASEL”
May 6, 1993

Ch Legacy In Shining Armor X Ch Hullabaloo Gilded Lily

Making the world safe from appliance repairmen and keeping the terrier in Soft Coated Wheaten, Vinnie The Weasel rules from his spot on the veranda at Wheaten Regional Park. At fifteen, he is as full of himself and sharp as ever. Next year, we buy him a bolo tie and send him to Las Vegas.

Elaine and Robert Nerrie
Hullabaloo Wheats at Wheaten Regional Park

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Every day with Allie (Oops) is an adventure. She's coming on 15 this year but she still explores every nook and cranny as if it's the first time she's been there. She's been a fixture at our graphic design company since the day we brought her home and has earned her place on the employee picture wall. We call her a 'profit generator' because ever since we've had her at the office, clients come to us rather than the other way around - saving us time and gas money. She's a favourite on the routes of couriers and postees, and the inspiration for a number of marketing campaigns. After all, what other Wheaten has become a character in our own animated moving game (http://www.switchinteractive.com/move). That's Allie! She's slowing down a bit these days - after all, keeping track of 25 designers on three levels with 42 stairs separating us all, is a full-time job. But truth be told: she has a better attitude to work each day than I do - wagging her tail the moment she walks in the door and not letting up til she collapses in front of the fire at home each night. Thanks to John and Penny Rogers for the best asset my company and I could have!

Catherine Winckler

Denzil has been blessed with a superb temperament & character and continues to be young at heart with his happy "life is for living" attitude. Over the years we have been privileged to share so much love and enjoyment with him at home, in the show ring and as one of the UK's top stud dogs.

The photo is of Denzil and his Great Granddaughter Roxy.

Jo & Graham Dowdy, Denzilly Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, UK

Kiley joined our family in late 1994 and was in great company! Her aunt and cousin, also Meirleac Wheatens, already lived with us and they welcomed her with open paws. Three Wheaten girls, what a group. Kiley and her cousin, Tara, who was almost an exact year older, were life long pals and playmates. Sadly, Tara had problems just following the pet food recall in 2006-07, and was put down following kidney failure. Although her best friend is gone, Kiley has a Shiba Inu and a Min Pin to keep her company. Still in relatively good health, Kiley (AKA Leaky) has had to deal with a life-long urinary problem, but luckily responds to medication. A few aches and pains, mostly shoulders, but sweet as can be. Not once has she lifted her gums to growl – even at my cat that hissed at her! Kiley probably thought it was her fault. Kiley, Mums, Dootle, KileyMumsZdootles, call her whichever, she is my best friend.

Karl Gottlieb, Kiley's BFF

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CH AMADEN BENDACHT VALIENT
“SEAN”
May 11, 1994

Ch Amaden’s Leading Man X Bendacht Amaden’s Lady In Red

When I moved to the farm seven years ago, Carol and Bill expected me to take after my half brother, John. He loved to go for walks out the lane and mark corn along the way, smell the odors down by the barn and sneak into the pasture to eat cow poop. Not me; I go out only to do my “business,” sleep on the cool hearth much of the time and love mealtime. In the summer, my favorite spot is in line with the air conditioner and, in the winter, in the sunlight coming through the window. I answer to John as well as Sean which they tell me is Gaelic for John. I am most famous for modeling Carol’s sweaters. I own Carol Carlson and Bill Kinzer!

Carol Carlson and Bill Kinzer

KAIRI’S WILLOW “WIL”
March 25, 1994

Ch Kairi’s Kahlua X Ch Tain’s Stand By Me

Willow is our first Wheaten and we couldn’t have picked a better friend in the world. She became our “other little girl” and our daughter’s little sister, when we brought her into our family 14 years ago. She hasn’t lost the Wheaten exuberance or love for all people. She has slowed down a bit, but still chases the rabbits and squirrels in our yard.

When Wil was 10, I took her back to obedience training because I thought she needed something new to do. She was the senior member of a class of young dogs and the instructor was amazed, commenting, “You can teach an old dog new tricks,” and even won a prize! One of her favorite things to do is to rub against either our couch or bed inside or a wall of ivy outside — no matter how wet or snowy, along with following me wherever I go in the house, she’s my buddy. She eagerly awaits her snacks whenever she comes in from outside, although she is picky about what she likes. Everyday I look into her face and love her even more. Happy 14th Birthday!

Owned and loved by Kathy, George & Erin Oakes, Philadelphia, PA

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CH WATERFORD JUST A SECOND, CDX OA OAJ CGC
“SHOOTER”

June 30, 1993

Ch Waterford Second Time Around X Ch Westridge Just Waterford

Shooter is still going strong. Around the house she has slowed down some and sleeps a bit more but outside, as the photo shows, she still frolics and guards the yard! She is a joy to live with.

Owner: Elizabeth Sorensen

A TALE OF TWO RESCUES
Karl Gottlieb

“There might be a SCWT at your village pound, would you mind checking?” It was Ronnie Copland, my dog’s breeder and a family friend, on the phone. “Wow, would I mind?” I arrived ten minutes later to find a beige, longhaired dog – wet to his neck, on wet concrete, and mad!

Barely able to take a photo with his fellow inmates jumping and barking, I managed to get two shots. These were forwarded to both Nancy Butler and Ronnie Copland for their opinions.

“Looks like one, a little short in the legs … his body may be a little long too...but that face”! It was suggested that he might be either a mix, or a “puppy mill” Wheaten. Since our village’s policy is to keep animals for a maximum of seven days, and he had been there eleven days, the decision was made to rescue him and go from there. It was arranged that I was to pick up the dog the following morning, with a vet appointment to follow.

There were no employees expected at the village pound that day, and I was told that the police department fills in. When I contacted the police that morning to inform them I would be picking up a dog, I was told that they could not help me. The sergeant who normally handles the animals for the Animal Control Officer on his days off was himself on a day off! Worse yet, after driving by the pound, I couldn’t see any dog through the fence that looked like him, and one other dog was gone too!!

One thing about this small town … a lot of friends and old classmates still live here, and some of them work for the village. Within twenty minutes, my wife had contacted a high school friend of her daughters, who called a lieutenant at the police department, who in turn called me. After establishing my (our) intention to rescue the dog, he began to look into it. Shortly thereafter, the lieutenant had an officer meet me at the pound. He and I went through the papers on the desk and found that another shelter had picked the dog up that morning. It was located 65 miles away. Apparently, a part time officer, unaware of our arrangement, had come in unexpectedly that morning and had given the shelter three cats and two dogs.

So technically, that was one rescue. While I drove to the shelter, the lieutenant called and told them “It was the village’s intention to release this dog to the SCWTCA Rescue”. When I arrived at the shelter, I was greeted by understanding volunteers, and a beige, longhaired, “tail-wag’n”, dry, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier (confirmed later by Ronnie C.). And this became his second rescue.

We arrived at the vet’s office at 4:00 that afternoon for a complete checkup. He received all of his shots and a de-worming pill, followed by a neutering the next day. All test results concluded that he was very healthy.

I have raised two daughters and three Soft Coated Wheatens, and I knew my youngest daughter and her fiancé were looking for a puppy. What a wonderful opportunity for both the dog and my daughter. “Dodger” is now enjoying his new life with his loving family. He has since been to the groomer and is attending obedience training school. We visit with him now and then. It gives us great pleasure to watch his progress.

THANK YOU SCWTCA Rescue and your network of angels!!
I was sitting ringside in a surprisingly verdant Tempe Arizona park watching Norm Patton judge the Arizona Toy Dog Fanciers Club specialty when news came from Birmingham England, via my cell phone, that the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Ch Caraway Celebrate Life, “Kovu”, piloted by Shari Boyd Carusi, had won the Terrier Group at Crufts. I felt goose bumps rising all over my body and tears welled in my eyes! A bit over-the-top you might think? Perhaps. But there is a ton of history here… personal history for certain but also breed history and handler history too.

Personal History...

The dog was my choice for Best of Breed at Montgomery in 2004 over an entry of one hundred and seventy, as a young Open Dog, 15 months of age. Such decisions are not made frivolously by most of us, above all at a national specialty when the specials class is sizeable. In this instance it numbered forty-nine. But in the final analysis, Kovu stood out as a dog of not only superb breed type and correct make and shape but of incredible soundness as well. In retrospect, I could have done nothing else.

Breed History...

In the fall of 2005 I received an interesting phone call. It was from a fellow judge of no small degree of stature. She asked for my opinion of Kovu and, with great concern and sincerity, questioned why this dog was not winning groups. She went on to decry the fact that on several occasions, when judging Best In Show, she found the terrier representative to be of far less quality than this Wheaten Terrier. “I would love to have him in my BIS lineup and would love to give him the top honor,” she said. My answer to her question was straightforward and immediate. “He does not win Groups because he is a Wheaten Terrier”, I said.

I went on to explain. The stigma attached to our breed began at the time of recognition in 1973 when many terrier handlers scoffed at the idea of Wheaten Terriers being in the Terrier Group and had little if anything good to say about them. Never mind that this old Irish breed shares common ancestors with both the Irish Terrier and the Kerry Blue. To make matters worse, these handlers shared their point of view with terrier judges. Admittedly Wheaten fanciers back then were a group of neophytes. We were the blind leading the blind! But this was not the issue. Our dogs were being maligned.

For us, working to gain respect for the breed was much like trying to push a boulder uphill, an arduous chore that continued for years. If someone had told me in the mid-seventies that we would still be low man on the Terrier “totem pole” when the twenty-first century dawned, I would never have believed them. Even the Glen of Imaal, as a newcomer, came on as a stronger contender than the Wheaten did in terms of group wins. We worked hard in those early days. Temperaments were soft and I remember that we prayed for cloudy days at dog shows because our dog's tails would drop as soon as the sun hit their backs! But times changed and many of our Wheatens became stand-up Terriers, some beautifully balanced, well made and sound. Still, they rarely won the Group. If by some stoke of good fortune they did, a Best In Show win was an even greater rarity.

Since breed recognition in 1973, and prior to Kovu’s arrival on the scene, a Wheaten Terrier had won only twenty-nine Bests In Show…twenty-nine Bests in thirty-two years. Five of those were won by a single dog, Ch Andover Song and Dance Man, two in 1987, one in 1988 and two again in 1989. Ch Brenmoor Sparkplug and Ch Brenmoor Shampoo copped two BIS each, both owner handled. The former won his two in 1988 and the latter won his in 1999. Ch Kaylann's August Moon was a recipient of this honor three times in 1998 and 1999. Ch Marima's Easy Money was Best three times, twice in 1988 and once in 1989. Ch Shar-D’s Let The Games Begin was another “triple crown” winner between 1993 and 1994. Ch Marima's Classical Jazz was a two-time winner in 1984. The only bitch to win more than one Best In Show was Ch Doubloon's Playing The Field. They were back-to-back in September of 2004. Many thought she deserved more but it didn't happen. The remaining seven Bests In Show were those “once in a lifetime” wins, among them my own foundation bitch, Ch Innisfree’s Annie Sullivan who won hers on St Patrick’s Day of 1974 becoming our first BIS winner and remaining the only bitch to be so honored for twenty-seven years.

The dishonor that dogged our breed for so many years appears to have been wiped away thanks to this outstanding dog. “Kovu” has become the top winning Wheaten Terrier in the history of the breed, with sixteen Bests, forty-eight Group Firsts and fourteen Specialty BOBs, including three consecutive National Specialties, to retire the Andover Challenge Trophy. Montgomery 2006 was particularly noteworthy when he won back-to-back BIS at both Hatboro shows, a Group Two at Devon and a Group Three at Montgomery itself. Need I remind anyone of the stiff terrier competition faced during this mega-terrier weekend?

Amazing that sometimes all it takes is one to break the ice. Group placements are more frequent now, the breed no longer blatantly ignored. Kovu has indeed turned our breed around and in so many ways has become, as breeder Beth Verner declared recently, “our collective boy”. It's as though he belongs to all of Wheatendon. Speaking for “Team Kovu” she went on to say that they are humbled with each and every opportunity Kovu has had to represent the breed both stateside and across the pond, calling the Crufts win a “thrilling once-in-a-lifetime experience.”

continued on page 26
Aran continues on while Shari now breeds under her own kennel name, D banner for many years producing over 100 champions. Dee Shari and her mother successfully bred Wheatens under the youthful age. were all duly impressed with her talents, so evident even at this an extremely bright, up and coming young junior handler and we weekend, which by then had become a yearly tradition. Shari was of sorts. Janet, Cindy and Jackie were all my houseguests for the Vogels were there as well and we were enjoying a grooming “party” of sorts. Janet, Cindy and Jackie had bought a pup from Janet Turner (Dalton) and Janet was on hand to both evaluate and trim the pup. Jackie Gottleib and Cindy Carusi. Shari started showing in 1983, steadfastly supported and greatly encouraged by her father, Malcolm, since deceased. It was 1984 and Shari was 12 years old when she and her mother, Dee, showed up at my house the day before the Montgomery circuit began to get some grooming help. I was living in Bucks County PA at the time and had a great kennel set-up, which, by the way, I miss to this day! Shari and Dee were also traveling with a friend who had bought a pup from Janet Turner (Dalton) and Janet was on hand to both evaluate and trim the pup. Jackie Gottleib and Cindy Vogels were there as well and we were enjoying a grooming “party” of sorts. Janet, Cindy and Jackie were all my houseguests for the weekend, which by then had become a yearly tradition. Shari was an extremely bright, up and coming young junior handler and we were all duly impressed with her talents, so evident even at this youthful age.

Shari and her mother successfully bred Wheatens under the Shar-D banner for many years producing over 100 champions. Dee continues on while Shari now breeds under her own kennel name, Aran. Meanwhile, Shari has carved a significant niche for herself as a professional handler. Nominated for Best Handler in 2007, she shows her charges with undeniable style and poise. She is prepossessing, business-like and a gracious competitor. And if that is not enough, she is imbued with a willingness to share her expertise with those who ask it of her.

“Having never been to Crufts,” Shari told me, “I went with no expectations.” She allowed as how it was truly exciting to see so many dogs in so many breeds, and found the sheer numbers to be overwhelming. Shari continued, “To win the dog CC seemed to make it all worthwhile. Winning the group, however, was like something that I cannot put into words. Some of the dogs in the group came from winning over hundreds of entries. Dog shows there, are about dogs, or at least seem to be. The fellow breeders were all so supportive and able to speak directly and honestly to each other about their dogs. The judges were confident and professional. The lovely lady who presented me with the group trophy said she had always wanted to give the award to a Wheaten. I was happy to be the person to receive it. I left feeling as though I wanted to move there and re-start my career! The company in which I found myself was so special and the prevailing camaraderie left me with such a warm feeling. I will never forget it.”

Shari, in all probability, will not be the only one to never forget it! But what makes this entire story rather unusual in dog show annals is the appreciation and respect granted this dog by those within his breed who in other times and in other places might well be grinding away on an axe. Let’s face it; the big winners are more often than not raked over the coals produced from the fires of envy by fellow breeders and exhibitors. They point out every fault, never acknowledging the virtues. In most instances the big winners are crucified. What happens in your breed? 

IF YOU THINK DOGS CAN’T COUNT, TRY PUTTING THREE DOG BISCUITS IN YOUR POCKET AND THEN GIVE HIM ONLY TWO OF THEM. -PHIL PASTORET

A Very Bad Dog!
by Anna Marzolino

One could say she is her father’s daughter...

Martini has been bad lately. She escapes the backyard, goes running in the fields in the middle of the night. Mary panics. Howard puts chicken wire on top of the fences...so much for pretty fences. Middle of the night Mary hears whining at the bedroom back door. Howard sleeps. Martini gets smarter. Martini figures out how to get out of the dog door in the middle of the night. Mary smells a skunk. Howard sleeps. Martini stinks. Mary’s house now stinks. Mary can’t tell but she thinks she might stink too. Hopefully the puppies don’t stink.....but they probably do.

Mary needs a Martini.

ps...Martini’s dad is Vinnie The Weasel (see Happy Birthday Seniors)
“STRIKING GOLD”

Thank you to judge Mr Robert Stein.

Flash!!! “Nicole” goes Best of Breed at the Del Val Specialty under Judge Mr Wayne B. Hallard.

Owners: Barbara Zapf
         Cecily Skinner
         Kathleen Healy

Breeders: Kathleen Healy
          Cecil Skinner
          Co-bred with R Buccigros
          And J Berelowitz

Handlers: Shari Boyd Carusi
          R C Carusi

CH KINCORA TARA GOLD DIGGER

“NICOLE”
HERDING INSTINCT TEST

By Suzanne Stone

The Del Val Annual Herding Instinct Test took place on Saturday, April 5 at the Raspberry Ridge Sheep Farm in Bangor PA and this year it didn't rain! It was somewhat cool and breezy, but pleasant, with 22 Wheatens and their owners participating and 19 of the 22 passing the test. That's roughly 86%...not too shoddy for a breed that has not yet been accepted to herd in AKC events.

I brought my Wheaten, Gabby, 22-months-old to try out her instinct with sheep. The test was done a little differently than the one in which my now-10-year-old Wheaten, Jeter, participated back in 2003. This time Carolyn Wilkie, the owner of this working sheep farm who is a leading authority in positive dog training as well as positive herding training, gave the human participants a mini-herding lesson while testing the dogs for their herding instinct. I helped Carolyn with the testing and was able to watch the entire process. We started out with four sheep in a smaller square pen. If owners had some control of their dogs after the dog and handler circled the outside of the ring (and were able to stop them in some way from getting out of control around the sheep with a lie-down, recall, sit or stand-stay), they were allowed into the ring with the sheep to see how the dogs would respond. If that control was not present, the owner stood inside the ring, placing themselves with the sheep in front of them and their dog on the other side of the sheep (outside the fence) with the dog at 12 o'clock to the owner's 6 o'clock. One of the goals of herding training is to have the dog bring the sheep to the shepherd. I know myself what a challenge it is to try to move in a consistently opposing direction to your dog, around the sheep, while the direction of your dog is constantly changing, all the while encouraging the dog to simulate bringing the sheep to the owner, despite the fence. I was impressed that many of the owners did an excellent job of understanding this concept when normally, on most weekends, they'd be at the other end of their dog's show lead!

If the dog could be controlled by the owner around the sheep (you don't get any greater stimuli for these Wheatens than sheep) the dogs were then able to show their herding skills inside the ring, gathering the sheep together, bringing a group of sheep over to a single sheep who wasn't wanting to cooperate, driving the sheep forward, moving sheep as a group and holding them in place.

My Gabby was more impressive than Jeter had been, perhaps because I had trained an instant "lie down" as her default behavior. I managed a couple of recalls off the sheep as well as "lie downs" nearby the sheep, which kept them in place. Gabby also brought the group of sheep in a controlled fashion around Carolyn, (who was standing in the center of the ring), in a circular fashion. Some of the dogs had a forced bark (which is acceptable for herding) others, like Gabby, herded silently. Dogs passing the test had either a "loose" or "medium" eye. There are a variety of different styles of herding, and not all herding dogs have the "strong eye" of a Border Collie, but still can effectively herd sheep. It is always a kick to see the herding instinct kick in with dogs that have never seen sheep in their lives.

When it became difficult to determine whether the dogs understood their mission, they were taken down to a larger circular ring, called the "mud pit", with twenty sheep of varying ages, including lambs. All but two Wheatens showed adequate interest in the sheep in the larger ring despite the mud, which many of these dogs were not used to. Everyone received an evaluation sheet from Carolyn with comments describing the dogs' potential. Some of the categories evaluated were "control," "interest," "movement of stock," "temperament," "power," "balance/dis- tance to control stock," "responsiveness to direction/control," "approach," "eye," "wearing" and "bark." Comments for Gabby were: "Dog showed a lot of herding talent and was quiet around the sheep. She showed fetching and driving and could be called off and sent back to sheep. Handler has nice relationship with dog - good for herding work!"

Everyone was supportive, cheered on the Wheatens and their owners, gave them a little razzing when they headed towards the mud pit, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Several people with their Wheatens went on to beginning herding lessons with Carolyn the next day. I will be returning to Raspberry Ridge for my third week of herding camp the end of June, my first with "Ms. Gabby."

I would like to thank the Del Val club, especially the Ivlers, for sponsoring another very successful herding event at Raspberry Ridge Sheep Farm. I would also encourage those interested to pursue this dog "sport." To qualify for AKC initial herding opportunities, we, as Wheaten owners, need to show interest along with accumulating some non-AKC titles. There are other groups who will allow Wheatens to herd at their trials. Let's take this beyond the herding instinct test and prove to the AKC that our "all purpose farm dogs" still have what it takes! ☀️

SUNDAY'S HERDING CLINIC

On Sunday, April 6 the DelVal Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club hosted the first Herding Clinic Day. This differs from our annual Herding Instinct Testing in that the dogs had already passed this and were proceeding to the next level of training involved in herding sheep – the ultimate in our dogs understanding the required calm and control of the sheep.

It was very interesting that some of us could have sworn that our dogs had the "perfect come". However, the males especially, did not exhibit the perfection we thought they had when off lead and were aroused by the sheep and other outside stimuli in a wide open environment. None took to flight, but their "come" command was somewhat lacking. This is something we need to work on for safety sake if for no other reason.

Anyway, it was exhilarating watching our Wheatens learn as the

continued on page 29
The typical Irish farmer kept at most a few head of cattle or cows, some chickens, and a plough animal on his small, rented allotment of land. The primary herding jobs for the dog likely would have been to find, gather, and fetch/chase/drove livestock back home when they got loose, to chase livestock out of fields where they were not supposed to be, to help move and corner individual livestock for a bleeding or other invasive procedure and then send the animal back to the shed or usual grazing field, and to protect the livestock from attack from bandits or vermin (including other dogs) by barking and chasing. The dog's bark and bounce could have enabled them to get the livestock's attention in conditions of the typical farm dog's activities. I would imagine that the best of these useful tasks. Herding chores would have been among the typical of livestock.

There were eight dogs total in the class, perfect since it provided us with private attention as well as a cheering section. We hope to get many more dogs involved next year when we will plan many groups going in a round robin format with additional sheepherders on hand to help run the event.

The event attracted some of our pet people desiring to become more active with their dogs in Wheaten activities, thus stimulating more interest in our club.

We hope to see you next year, the weekend of April 4 - 5 2009.

CRITIQUE OF 2008 HERDING CLINIC
by CAROLYN WILKI

SCWT Herding Clinic, Raspberry Ridge Sheep Farm, 4/6/08

Background: Traditional Herding Role Of The Irish Farm Dog

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the dogs kept by the impoverished Irish peasantry earned their keep by performing a variety of useful tasks. Herding chores would have been among the typical farm dog's activities. I would imagine that the best of these dogs herded in the working style of what the French refer to as “foot dogs.” A foot dog is attracted to livestock but unclear about exactly when and where to do what with them unless the dog is trained. The foot dog works on the handler's command to do something around the livestock, returning to the foot of the handler to receive the next assignment.

The typical Irish farmer kept at most a few head of cattle or cows, some chickens, and a plough animal on his small, rented allotment of land. The primary herding jobs for the dog likely would have been to find, gather, and fetch/chase/drove livestock back home when they got loose, to chase livestock out of fields where they were not supposed to be, to help move and corner individual livestock for a bleeding or other invasive procedure and then send the animal back to the shed or usual grazing field, and to protect the livestock from attack from bandits or vermin (including other dogs) by barking and chasing. The dog's bark and bounce could have enabled them to get the livestock's attention in conditions of the livestock's flight zone and driving versus fetching balance, around the sheep, dogs and handlers practiced their recognition of the sheep's flight zone and driving versus fetching balance, experienced the influence of pressure points, and also worked on shrinking the size of their dogs' arousal zones. Dogs were reinforced for voluntarily leaving the sheep and returning to their owners by then being given yet another opportunity to interact with sheep, sooner rather than later. We also practiced a livestock containment exercise that could be used at home to gain control over a dog that might otherwise irresistibly chase wildlife.

By the end of the day, many of these beginner dogs and their owners were actually performing functional livestock work both on and off leash, driving sheep into or out of pens and chutes with the dogs stopping themselves at a gate threshold (yes, it helped to have the gate closed immediately after the sheep!) and then voluntarily returning to their handlers, blocking sheep and preventing them from running into pens or around the outside of pens where the sheep should not be, and holding sheep in one place. Dogs and handlers might make mistakes, but they went back to work and tried again.

In all, I think it was a full, fun day that left everyone, dogs, owners, and trainer, in a great state of mind. I thank you for the privilege of working with you and your wonderful dogs.
As I Was Saying…..

When last we spoke…yeah, it’s been a while, hasn’t it?

Some time ago, Gay asked me to resume *The Devil’s Advocate*. I demurred, claiming a heavy workload.

Truthfully, my heart wasn’t in it…and I wasn’t sure my heart was still in the breed.

A year before, a nice bitch we bred was diagnosed with PLN; Addie just died in March. Her owners are truly dear to us. The diagnosis came weeks before we were to breed her daughter, a multiple group placer who represented our 5th generation.

This doesn’t make us special…many breeders have experienced worse. We had two bitches from a different line to breed. What distressed me was I could not see how to start over again should something happen to those two girls. So much so that I was the driving force behind our getting our Norfolk, Georgia…just in case.

Time passed. In December we had a litter. I had the pleasure of judging the Roving Sweepstakes in Northern California. There’s nothing like puppies to restore hope. So I’m back.

And now that I am, let’s get right to it with a phrase from Gen Y: WTF, dude? That’s a reaction to “Preserve and Protect: A Delicate Balance” in the last issue of Benchmarks.

I started this article numerous times because there were so many things about “A Delicate Balance” that bothered me. In the end I realized what so annoyed me was that the article came down to one thing… something we all know I just love.

Whining.

Yes, breeding Wheatens is hard. Boo-hoo. A friend…an ex-pat Jersey girl…found a souvenir T-shirt reading “New Jersey: Only the Strong Survive.” She says our motto should be “Wheaten Breeder: Only the Strong Survive.”

But isn’t that what separates “us”…the good guys, the reputable breeders…from “them”…the backyard breeders and puppy mills? We are willing to do the hard work and suffer the losses.

Yes, the Open Registry has spawned stupid decisions by some breeders. Yes, it has suffered because some breeders lack integrity and don’t participate. However, I am proud we have so many who chose to do the right thing.

So should we go with the lowest common denominator rather than trying to be the best?

As an aside about the OR: why must we rewrite history? Where do we…amateur geneticists…get off saying it’s no longer useful? When Dr Littman, Dr Giger, or Dr Henthorn tells me it’s useless; when Penn says they will no longer support it; when a researcher tells me the CPP will be so valuable that the OR is no longer needed…then I’ll listen.

Back to the article: yes, the dogs in the ring today lack breed type. I couldn’t agree more with Emily’s opinions and Gay’s previous Editor’s Note.

I accept what’s in the ring is a regression in quality. I can’t accept that instead of acknowledging it, people pretend/believe average or worse dogs are “great” dogs.

I’m not much of a black and white person, less so when it comes to the dogs. But I believe in being honest. The first time I got in mucho hot water over this column was over “For the Good of the Breed”. Rehashing isn’t called for…just the part about our obligations as breeders “Be honest with yourself, with other breeders and most of all, with your owners.”

We have to be honest with ourselves and everyone else about the quality of the dogs. Pretending that paste is diamonds is the road to disaster.

A dog over, well over, 19 inches isn’t correct, and it’s sure not moderate. A dog with an “eggshell” coat…the color seen by those who claim they’ve never seen a truly white Wheaten…isn’t wheaten colored. A dog that measures longer from sternum to rump than from withers to ground is not square. A dog with a long loin who measures square because he’s too tall isn’t correct either. A dog with a long loin who measures square because he’s too tall isn’t correct either. A dog with lovely foot timing but no reach…that’s reach, not flinging the foreleg up…isn’t moving correctly. A dog with a tailset coming off the end of its body doesn’t have a “well set on” tail…no matter how cleverly the butt is trimmed. A dog whose ears don’t extend past its eye only because of clever gluing doesn’t have small ears.

If you’re kidding yourself about these or any other traits and are foolish enough to say it, you’d better believe someone is listening and thinking “good god, what a moron.”

I called the “Balance” article “whining.” Whining, in part, is complaining about something without offering solutions. I saw none there, save “don’t show your dogs.” Sorry, opting out of the show ring for generations neither preserves nor protects the breed.

I accept people put in the ring dogs that are building blocks in their
breeding programs...as long as they know and acknowledge that's what they're doing. You'll see some of the things I just cited in our dogs. I admit it and don't pretend otherwise. I'm always startled when people are surprised I say such things...have they gotten used to being treated like blind idiots?

So my first solution...to prove this isn't only a rant...stop being stupid and stop treating the rest of us as if we are. If you can articulate your dog's virtues, great, make that your reason for showing him. If you can't...back to the drawing board. Either way, don't pretend mediocrity is virtue.

For the long-timers...I have some suggestions that go beyond hand wringing.

Once upon a time, you started people out. You gave them...I hope...a good dog. You mentored them. Pick up the phone and do it again.

That doesn't mean starting the conversation with "Good grief, I gave you a gorgeous bitch and now you're producing dreck. Are you insane?" It means figuring out what they're thinking. Talk to them about their current dogs...why did they do the breeding that produced Ms Ugly. What qualities did Mama Hideous have and what did they think Daddy Unsightly brought to the table?

You may discover they aren't as dumb as you think.

Maybe they failed entirely and don't know why. Maybe it's because they didn't know what was a generation behind. Maybe it's because they don't understand virtues and faults as well as they think. You may find they don't know what square is. That they don't understand linebreeding. That tailsets are a mystery.

Regardless...help them out. Walk them through what went wrong. Make sure they understand while they were fixing one thing, they lost something else and how to move ahead. Ask lots of "why" questions.

I always remember Carmen Battaglia's seminar admonition to go "three questions" deep. "Why did you breed to that dog?" "I liked what he produced." "What did you like about what he produced?" "Well, they moved well." "In what way did they move well?" "Because...uh...Janie told me so?"

Sure, they may be know-it-alls...I sure am...but trying is better than opting out and...well...whining about it.

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2007 DONATIONS TO THE COLONY DOG FUND

Thank you to the people who donated money to the Colony Fund in 2007. Donations paid for the dogs’ room and board and for all the tests that are done semi-annually. Your generosity makes it possible for ongoing Wheaten research.

Anschutz Film Group, LLC  Kelly McDermott & Kevin Kelly
Teresa Beagle  Mary Lou Lafler
Ellen Beears  Michael Lamotte
Colette Beighley  Joyce Anne Lovett
Lizbeth Bepsalko  Lisa Pendergast & Thomas Monaghan
Shari Boyd  Laura Monti
Marc Boyer  Motor City SCWT Club
Carol Carlson  Karen Mueller
Steven Chapkin  Lynn Rapp
Betty Chapman  Sandra Ross
Mary Colby Fox  Ellen Schwartz
Karen Costin  SCWT Association of Canada
Holly Craig  SCWTC of Greater Tampa Bay
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Joan Goebel  Beth Verner
Jackie Gottlieb  Washington Mutual Foundation
Joseph Guibord  Roger Weyersberg
Debra Ann Harrington  Kathy Williamson
Susan Hurley  Linda Wolter
Kenna Kachel  Elena Zweifach

The Colony Dogs and Tonya Harris would like to thank everyone for the generous gifts they sent the Colony Dogs for the holidays!
If you asked me to...........

“Bond”

CH Cuillinn License to Kill CGC
April 28, 2006
CH Choroschie Drusja’s Nijinsky x CH Acacia’s Ferrari Testarossa

Bond is always willing to please. This dog has the loveliest temperament. Thank you to Barbara Smith, Dr Neil O’Sullivan and Gerard Thompson for this exceptional boy.

Co-Bred by:

CUILINN
Holly Million
3506 Garden Place
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405 . 947. 4033
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ACACIA
Barbara Smith
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Owned and Trained by:

JaNell Verebelyi
Oklahoma City, OK
CH GREENTREE KEEPSAKE TOBASCO CAT

Style, Elegance, Sound Movement all in a Square and Elegant Package

American Championship in 1 weekend
4 majors Syracuse NY

AOM Del Val Specialty
Best Puppy In Show – Canada
Multiple Best Puppy in Group – Canada
Multiple Group Placements- Canada

Breeder / Co- Owner
Beverly & Kevin McDonald
Greentree Wheatens

Owner / Handler
Shari Robinson
Keepsake Wheatens

Photo by Framewright photo
www.framewrightphoto.com
A few weeks ago a friend called and told me the projected prognosis for another of her friends who was undergoing cancer surgery. He was having his tongue and part of his jaw removed and was given a list of things he would never be able to do again. He’d never talk, never eat, never, never, never. After she finished this tale of sadness, I told her the following story.

Several years ago Anne Holahan and I imported sister puppies from Ireland. Anne made the trip to pick them up and I worked that summer so my mother went with her. While Anne was in Ireland she named the pups Josie and Maude. Josie was named for Joe O’Brian’s niece and Maude’s was a lunch room that Anne enjoyed in Waterford. I chose Maude and from the start she was a very special bitch for me. She is the mother of Canadian Ch Amaden’s Back to the Future, a lovely bitch that I co-own with Priscilla Tims.

At any rate Maude was a real natural girl and was (still is at 14) filled with vim and vigor. She loved to run, play and get into terrier trouble with the best of them. I can’t remember the circumstance, but I asked Anne to take two of my girls for a bit so that something could be sorted out at my end. Anne took Alice, a feisty little Irish bitch of mine, and Maude. It was winter and the girls were in their glory in the Canadian snow and cold.

We’ll never know the true story but Anne’s husband looked out at the runs and saw nothing but red. Either the girls had been fence fighting or Maude had put her tongue on the fence and then chewed off her own tongue to remove it from the ice. Either way, she was near death from loss of blood and shock when Brian got her to the vet. The doctors didn’t know for a full day whether she could be saved. They finally told Anne that while they were able to save her, she would never eat or drink normally again. She could not be bred because she would be unable to care for the pups and it would take months for her to heal.

Fortunately no one told Maude the prognosis!

Within two weeks Anne had called me to tell me that Maudie had gone to the raised water bowl in the kitchen and was drinking on her own. It was messy but it was progress beyond our expectations! It wasn’t long before she was eating and about eight months before she successfully whelped and raised her first litter. Her tongue stub had adapted and was meeting all of her needs. She didn’t have the knowledge to feel sorry for herself so she made her disability work for her. Maude has had a remarkably happy life and has produced beautiful litters in spite of what the doctors projected.

The story was repeated to the cancer ridden and very depressed friend. It took him a little time to process the whole concept, but he brightened and told my friend that his new plan would be to take each day as it came and not to have any expectations based on the doctor’s talk. After all, if a dog could recover so dramatically with no expectations, he would work hard to do his best and not let the negative doctors create a course for him.

His surgery was successful and the doctors were very pleased with the reconstruction of his jaw, but the tongue had to be removed. The brave man, who owns two Wheatens himself, was learning to use the typing machine to talk and it was programmed with his voice from tapes made before the surgery. Day ten after the surgery, the surgeon came to examine him, and was greeted with a “hello” from the room. The patient surprised even himself with the word that came out. Finding that he still has a voice in this world and, while none of the healing and rehab will come easily, he is doing much better by ignoring what he is told he can’t do and, instead, concentrating on what he can. He prescribes what he calls the “Maude Effect”.

THE MAUDE EFFECT...  
by Emily Holden
When I Am Old, I Shall Wear Purple!

a pictorial essay honoring 11-year-old Red Hat Celtie....

courtesy, Celtie's owner, Karen Wood

Here is Celtie, in her "travel bandana". Celtie and Doogan (who sadly left us last June) each had one and for each new state they visited, they got a new applique sewn on. Celtie now has 46 states appliqued! While traveling, some routes were changed simply to collect a new state. She's not counting on getting one from Alaska or Hawaii, but perhaps California and Nevada are in her future.

She hides her age well, having as much charm, spunk, and energy as a young puppy. Celtie is healthy and happy and hopes to be jumping jumps for many more years.

Celtie is Raelyn Hugs 'N Wishes, CGC. Her dad and mom are Ch Andover Make A Wish and Ch Mansura Gentle Rain. She was the model for Judith Martin's SCWT Genetic Research Fund poster. She believes in good careful breeding and living by the Red Hat Society's philosophy as expressed in Jenny Joseph's Poem, Warning!

The Genetic Research Fund can help her and others to do that as they support Wheatens in achieving longer, healthier lives.

At the Florida SCWT club picnic in February, she enjoyed going through the paces of the agility course which they set up for the Wheaten's entertainment. While that was fun, Celtie's favorite part was getting to eat Frosty Paws.
The Specialty Show Weekend kicked off with the Garden State All Terrier Club show on Friday, May 2 in West Windsor Township, NJ. The Breed Judge was Mrs Janie Bousek with an entry of 6 – 26 (7 – 5). The winners were:

Winners Dog and Best of Winners: Greentree Real Quiet
Reserve Winners Dog: Whindancer Walk It Down To Edgewood
Winners Bitch and New Ch: Raelyn Lasting Impression
Reserve Winners Bitch: Geragold Seanacy Gilded Trebol
Best of Breed: Ch Dhowden American Dream
Best of Opposite: Ch Kincora Tara Gold Digger

Following breed judging, Cherie Turner Fogarty and Carole Clark provided a Wine & Cheese Party for exhibitors and guests. This was a wonderful way to set the mood and help all relax before an early morning on Saturday because the weekend is similar to MCKC – moving from show site to show site. Fortunately the only early ring time was Saturday and Sweeps did not begin until 8:30.

Saturday, Mary 3, the Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club held its Specialty, as always, with the Bucks County Kennel Club Show in Erwinna, PA. Perfect Wheaten weather – cool temperatures and a light mist prevailed. No sun to be seen until early evening! Thankfully Bonnie and Barry Ivler had plenty of hot coffee and yummy breakfast items on hand to ward off the chill.

Sweepstakes Judge was Dr M Elizabeth Verner, Caraway Wheatsens, with an entry of 4 dogs and 9 bitches. The youngsters that took home our wonderful handmade Wheaten Ware Pottery items were:

Best in Sweepstakes: Whindancer The Heart Of Life
Best of Opposite in Sweepstakes: Greentree Real Quiet

Breed Judge Wayne Hallard had an entry of 8 – 30 (9 – 6) 2. The honors went to:

Winners Dog: Whindancer Waiting On The World To Change
Winners Bitch and BOW: Whindancer The Heart Of Life
Best of Breed: Ch Kincora Tara Gold Digger
Best of Opposite: Ch Lovesong’s Dream Along With Me

Awards of Merit went (in no particular order) to:
- Ch Brenmoor’s Toest to Edgewood (from the 11 yrs & Over Veteran Bitch Class)
- Ch Greentree Keepsake Tobasco Cat
- Ch Stratford Top Brass
- Ch Whindancer’s Lucky Bounce

continued on page 37
Reserve Winners Dog was Aran The Betr to Hear You With and Reserve Winners Bitch, Cuileann One Hot Minute.

The day was far from over as DVSCWTC’s Hospitality started soon after judging. Each year the club hosts a delightful luncheon along with Chinese Auction and Raffle for a very special Wheaten item. Bonnie and Barry Ivler organized and hosted the luncheon, Wendy and Tom Neill were in charge of the Chinese Auction and Mike and JoAnn McCoy did a bang up job with the Raffle. Nona Mansfield, Lovesong Wheatens, walked away from the weekend with both BOS and the beautiful metal hand-torch-cut Wheaten Head.

Sunday’s Judging was back in West Windsor Township, NJ, for the Trenton Kennel Club show. Unlike Saturday, the sun decided to come out right before Wheatens entered the ring at 12:45. The Breed Judge was John Constantine with an entry of 6 – 21 (7 – 3). The results were:

WD and BOW: Aran The Betr To Hear You With
RWD: Whindancer Walk It Down To Edgewood
WB: Greentree Jendu Tabu Red Heels
RWB: Aran Nobody Does It Better
BOB: Ch Dhowden American Dream
BOS: Ch Kincora Tara Gold Digger

Following Best of Breed, Beverly and Kevin McDonald provided lunch for the Wheaten Fanciers, a lovely way to end a very full weekend!

Save the date for our 2009 DVSCWTC Specialty Show, May 2. Our Breed Judge will be Kathy Ferris.
reddish brown or brown, resulting in a haunting/shallow look.

I was thrilled to be invited to judge Dal Val Sweeps, as I very much enjoy evaluating the young ones and watching them mature to see if early opinions hold true. Even the naughty ones are a delight but they must have gone elsewhere. We had none in our ring.

Hats off to all exhibitors. You deserve hearty congratulations for presenting well-conditioned exhibits much better mannered, across the board, than expected for sweeps-age kids. You’ve obviously been working with your youngsters. Thank you for the opportunity to meet them “up close and personal.”

Judges Critique, Regular Classes
Wayne Hallard
A Few Thoughts

I can’t begin to tell you how honored I was to receive your September 2006 letter inviting me to judge your 2008 Specialty at the Bucks County KC Show. Having judged your Sweepstakes in 2002, I was stunned that you would consider me for such a prestigious show so early in my career.

As the show date approached, I spent several hours reviewing your standard and viewing the AKC Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier video. I didn’t want you to feel that your faith in me was misplaced. With the size of your entry and the number of specials I knew that this would not be easy – and to your credit – it wasn’t. I was extremely pleased by the quality of my entries. Coats were generally well presented and I could tell the pride each exhibitor had in their Wheaten.

For many of the puppies this was one of their first times in the show ring. I feel with youngsters it is important to be gentle and for them to feel comfortable and enjoy themselves. I hope that this came through to both the exhibitors and the spectators.

My Winners Dog came from the 12-18 month class. He was more to my liking in terms of size (some in the breed are getting too large) and coat. The Reserve Winners Dog came from the Bred-by Exhibitor class. My real work was only beginning as both the quantity and quality of the bitch classes made them very competitive. Once again my Winner Bitch and Reserve Winners bitch came from the 12-18 month and Bred-by Exhibitor classes, respectively. Once again size and coat were the deciding factors. You should all be commended by the number of entries exhibited by their breeder/owners, since so many of the other terrier breeds are dominated by professional handlers.

I was also pleased to see that I had an entry in both Veteran Dogs and Bitches. They weren’t there just because they were veterans, but because they were fine examples of the breed.

The Best of Breed competition was increased by three entries that had been moved up. To my surprise there was not a single absentee. From the moment of the first go around, I suspected which entry would rise to Best of Breed. She floated around the
ring with both reach and drive. Throughout the competition she did not disappoint. A short loin gave her the square outline that is becoming hard to find and her coat had the proper wavy texture. My Best of Opposite Sex was the more difficult choice between two excellent dogs. While I knew that one of my Awards of Merit went to the Veteran Bitch, I was surprised to find out that two of the other three went to dogs that had been moved up. After the completion of judging I was pleased learn that both my Winners were littermates.

Overall the quality of my entry was outstanding. While I would have liked a little bit more reach and drive in some, I felt that the wet ring conditions played a part in the movement. I did find a number of squirrelly tails and some of the coats felt more like cotton candy or were more tightly curled than the soft, silky, and wavy coat called for in the standard. I also objected to the few specimens that were overly trimmed.

I would have liked to be able to give you a more detailed critique on each of the classes and was prepared with my tape recorder at the show. However, when no one from the club mentioned anything, I left it in my judge's bag. What a mistake. It would have been so much easier than trying to reconstruct the event a week after the show. Please let your future judges know at the show, or even before, if you want a critique.

In closing, it is clear to me that if all Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier breeders have such fine specimens; your breed is in very good hands. I was proud to have had the opportunity to judge at your specialty. As many of you know, it was my last judging assignment prior to taking a position as a superintendent with Jim Rau Dog Shows. What a wonderful way to go out.

All the Del Val pictures were taken by Framewright Photo and were provided to Benchmarks by Del Val president, Kevin McDonald. More photos are available on Framewright's website:
http://www.framewrightphoto.com

AKC/EUكانوبا NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP LAUNCHES COMMEMORATIVE POSTER CONTEST

.. AKC Encourages Artist Submissions that Depict “The Wonderful World of Purebred Dogs” ..-

The American Kennel Club and Eukanuba have launched the annual commemorative poster competition in which artists are encouraged to submit an original two-dimensional painting or drawing celebrating the theme: “The Wonderful World of Purebred Dogs.” The poster will commemorate the eighth annual AKC/Eukanuba National Championship where 2,500 top dogs from 50 states and 52 countries compete for $225,000 and one of the biggest honors in the dog world.

The theme of the artwork may incorporate a variety of images depicting the best in purebred dogs including, but not limited to: illustrations of human/canine bond, AKC events, colorful expressions of the intensity of the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, images of people and purebreds in action, past winners and the event’s setting. In conjunction with the theme, submissions should include multiple breeds.

For inspiration and more information about the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship or AKC events, please visit http://www.akc.org. The deadline for submissions is October 10, 2008 for online entries and October 13, 2008 for postmarked mail-in entries. An expert panel will select ten initial finalists.

The grand prize winner will receive $1,000 and a four-day/three-night trip for two to the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Long Beach, California December 13-14 (including airfare and hotel). The winning artwork will be used in a commemorative poster that will be sold at the event as well as on the AKC web site. Proceeds will be donated to Take the Lead. To obtain a copy of the official rules, visit http://www.akc.org/posterrules.
DONATIONS

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Donations to public information go for education of prospective buyers and encourage people to purchase from a responsible breeder.

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

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Contributions should be sent to Kenna Kachel, 30150 Telegraph Rd, Suite 373, Bingham Farms, MI 48025. Make check payable to SCWTCA, Inc. (U.S. Funds only)

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Rescue donations provide the finances to maintain the SCWTCA, Inc. Rescue Project.

- Veterinary examinations, inoculations, special diets, spaying and neutering
- Office expenses that include long distance phone calls, a computer phone line, and office and printing supplies
- Preparation and printing of a rescue flyer for shelters

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Contributions should be sent to Kenna Kachel, 30150 Telegraph Rd, Suite 373, Bingham Farms, MI 48025. Make check payable to SCWTCA, Inc. (U.S. Funds only)
**SCWTCA, Inc. NATIONAL SPECIALTY, MONTGOMERY 2008**

**Sunday, October 5, 2008**

### DONATIONS TO SPONSOR INDIVIDUAL PRIZES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Donation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best of Breed</td>
<td>$150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best of Opposite Sex</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best of Winners</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winners Dog</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winners Bitch</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOM</td>
<td>$50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve Winners Dog</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Winners Bitch</td>
<td>$45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Placements are $35 for 1st place and $30 for 2 thru 4. Classes available for sponsoring:

- **Puppy Dogs**
  - 6-9 mos.
  - 9-12 mos.
  - 12-18 mos.
- **Bred By Exhibitor Dogs**
- **American Bred Dogs**
- **Open Dogs**
- **Veteran Dogs**
- **Puppy Bitches**
  - 6-9 mos.
  - 9-12 mos.
  - 12-18 mos.
- **Bred By Exhibitor Bitches**
- **American Bred Bitches**
- **Open Bitches**
- **Veteran Bitches**
- **Stud Dog**
- **Brace**
- **Brood Bitch**

### DONATIONS TO SPONSOR PRIZES FOR SATURDAY

**SCWTCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY OBEDIENCE TRIAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Placements</th>
<th>Donation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High in Trial in Regular Classes</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Combined in Open B &amp; Utility</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SCWTCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY RALLY TRIAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Placements</th>
<th>Donation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Placements are $30 each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SWEEPSTAKES

- **Best in Sweepstakes** $100
- **Best of Opposite Sex** $100

### DONATIONS FOR AGILITY, ALL TERRIER OBEDIENCE & RALLY

SCWTCA supported entries on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday; Prizes for each Wheaten that qualifies!

---

**AWARD**

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TWENTY BASIC BREEDING PRINCIPLES

By Raymond H. Oppenheimer

(Originally printed in Ernest Eberhard's 1957 book, The Complete Bull Terrier, Raymond Oppenheimer is arguably the most respected and influential Bull Terrier man of all time! He once wrote, "Lack of virtue is the greatest fault of all.")

There are a vast number of different breeding methods, some good, some bad. I should never presume to try to tell fanciers which is the right method because there is no such thing. Outstanding success can be achieved and has been achieved in a variety of different ways, so all I am going to do is to make some suggestions which I think helpful and to warn against certain pitfalls which trap too many of the unwary.

1. Don't make use of indiscriminate outcrosses. A judicious outcross can be of great value; an injudicious one can produce an aggregation of every imaginable fault in the breed.

2. Don't linebreed just for the sake of linebreeding. Linebreeding with complementary types can bring great rewards; with unsuitable ones it will lead to immediate disaster.

3. Don't take advice from people who have always been unsuccessful breeders. If their opinions were worth having they would have proved it by their successes.

4. Don't believe the popular cliché about the brother or sister of the great champion being just as good to breed from. For every one that is, hundreds are not. It depends on the animal concerned.

5. Don't credit your own dogs with virtues they don't possess. Self-deceit is a stepping-stone to failure.

6. Don't breed from mediocrities. The absence of a fault does not in any way signify the presence of its corresponding virtue.

7. Don't try to linebreed to two dogs at the same time; you will end by linebreeding to neither.

8. Don't assess the worth of a stud dog by his inferior progeny. All stud dogs sire rubbish at times. What matters is how good their best efforts are.

9. Don't allow personal feelings to influence your choice of a stud dog. The right dog for your bitch is the right dog, whoever owns it.

10. Don't allow admiration of a stud dog to blind you to his faults. If you do you will soon be the victim of auto-intoxication.

11. Don't mate together animals which share the same fault. You are asking for trouble if you do.

12. Don't forget that it is the whole dog that counts. If you forget one virtue while searching for another you will pay for it.

13. Don't search for the perfect dog as a mate for your bitch. The perfect dog (or bitch) doesn't exist, never has and never will!

14. Don't be frightened of breeding from animals that have obvious faults so long as they have compensating virtues. A lack of virtues is far the greatest fault of all.

15. Don't mate together non-complementary types. An ability to recognize type at a glance is a breeder's greatest gift. Ask the successful breeders to explain this subject – there is no other way of learning. (I would define non-complementary types as ones which have the same faults and lack the same virtues.)

16. Don't forget the necessity to preserve head quality. It will vanish like a dream if you do.

17. Don't forget that substance plus quality should be one of your aims. Any fool can breed one without the other!

18. Don't forget that a great head plus soundness should be another of your aims. Many people can never breed either!

19. Don't ever try to decry a great Bull Terrier. A thing of beauty is not only a joy forever but a great Bull Terrier should be source of aesthetic pride and pleasure to all true lovers of the breed.

20. Don't be satisfied with anything but the best. The second best is never good enough.
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articles and letters for publication are due august 1

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only photos with un-retouched dogs will be accepted. limit health references to hip and eyes and/or “health testing current and shared upon request”. ads accepted from club members only and limited to two pages per issue. ONLY CLUB MEMBERS’ CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED for ads of co-owned and/or bred dogs.

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Celebrating long life &
Happy birthday seniors
Submit to Toni Vincent by closing date, aug 1: tonivincent@aol.com

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