Montgomery 2008
Dog Days of Science
Three Dog Nights...for those of us that sleep with dogs!
Greater Denver and Greater Milwaukee Specialties
The Devil’s Advocate
Grandma’s Attic
The Golden Years...living with geriatric Wheatens
Recognizing Injury and Lameness In Dogs
An In-Depth Look At The Longitudinal Study Of Wheaten Health
Growing Smart Puppies

Benchmarks is available in color
on our SCWTCA website,
Click on Benchmarks and check it out!
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From the Editor...

Happy Holidays.

consider SCWTCA's beautiful Wheaten calendar bulk rates as New org boutique for great gift ideas. For those running really late, ute gifts for your Wheaten owner friends, check out the scwtca.org.

Speaking of the holidays, if you are scrambling for those last minute gifts for your Wheaten owner friends, check out the scwtdiscuss.org boutique for great gift ideas. For those running really late, consider SCWTCA's beautiful Wheaten calendar bulk rates as New Year's presents!

Happy Holidays.

Betty Chapman

From the President...

With the holidays upon us, it is almost time to begin thinking about our New Year's resolutions. Actually, SCWTCA's new year begins in October and we have agreed to get serious about the matter of succession planning this year. Because every organization needs its back-up plans, the Board has begun to look at areas where we are particularly vulnerable should we suddenly lose a key volunteer. Helping that project get started, Carol Carlson has requested that the Board help identify a volunteer who would be her understudy as Show Secretary for Sweeps and Obedience. Nancy Butler has announced that she would like to retire from Rescue Chair in the year 2010 and would like to have her replacement identified as soon as possible so she can help them transition into her role. I am confident that as the membership is aware of various volunteer opportunities, there will be individuals who would step forward and assume the responsibility.

These are not the only positions where opportunities for volunteers exist. Benchmarks is always looking for individuals who would be willing to write articles. Soon we will be calling for individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee and of course that committee will be looking for members who are interested in becoming Board members. The list goes on and on...suffice it to say, an organization like SCWTCA is only as strong as its volunteers. We are so fortunate to have those who have committed years to service but now we need to be sure that the next generation is ready to step in where needed.

In some areas a back up is built in by using the team approach. For example, next year's National Specialty Coordinator is a team of two: Kathy Drobnak and Kayce Healy. Rescue has worked to develop regional coordinators. The stronger these regions are in their own rescue efforts, the less dependence on the national office. However, there are many regions of the country currently unserved by regional rescue coordinators; so here is another opportunity for volunteering!

If Show Secretary or Rescue is an activity you would like to consider, give Carol Carlson or Nancy Butler a call and tell them of your interest. They would love to hear from you!

Also, when you get your membership renewal notice, let us know where you would like to serve your organization. With the New Year just around the corner, this might be just the time for you to get more involved in a SCWTCA activity about which you have a passion!

Speaking of the holidays, if you are scrambling for those last minute gifts for your Wheaten owner friends, check out the scwtdiscuss.org boutique for great gift ideas. For those running really late, consider SCWTCA's beautiful Wheaten calendar bulk rates as New Year's presents!

Happy Holidays.

Betty Chapman

Gay Dunlap
When 13-year-old Juliana McKamey found out that she was going to be honored at the SCWTCA Annual Dinner as the Junior Handler of the Year, she began campaigning for her family to make the trip to King of Prussia. She wrote an essay for the All Breed Kennel Club in Gainesville, Florida, for which she was awarded a $500 honorarium to help cover expenses of the trip.

In her essay, Juliana stated, “My Wheaten Ava only needs 2 majors to finish, so winning a major at the national specialty would be a dream come true!” Winners Bitch at Devon was that dream come true. When the judge pointed at Ava and Juliana, there were tears and cheers. One of the competitors, Shari Boyd Carusi, for a moment, must have seen herself as a young junior handler. Bonney Snyder raved to Dennis about the perfect handling job that Juliana performed.

For the past two years, Dennis and I have delighted in observing Juliana and Ava develop from novices to the talented team they have become. We have also delighted in observing the love and support of Juliana’s parents, John and Jan, and her brother, Jack. They have all been there for every training, grooming and showing event. Interestingly, following in his sister’s footsteps, 16-year-old Jack has become a talented junior handler in his own right, with his Sealyham Terrier.

In her essay that follows, Juliana states that she wants to become a professional handler. With her talent, commitment and passion, we have no doubt that she will be successful in that or any other career she chooses.

My name is Juliana McKamey. I am 13 years old and have been showing dogs in Conformation for about 2 years.

My parents bought me my first show dog June 26th, 2006. She is a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier. Her registered name is Canopy Road’s Sundance Festival. Her call name is Ava.

I fell in love with the breed after we rescued 2 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. After seeing dog shows on TV, I became interested in showing dogs in Conformation and Junior Handling. We researched Wheaten breeders on the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America website. There were several breeders located in the Southeast, but we found one that was in Tallahassee, which was close to Panama City, where we lived at the time. We completed an application and waited for a litter from CH Canopy Road’s Erin Barkovich to be whelped. My puppy, Ava, was born on April 25, 2006 and we went to pick her up when she was 8 weeks old.

My training began the day we picked her up. Our Wheaten breeders, Dennis and Bonnie Wirth, and Sue Wuerz, were very happy to have a Junior Handler to train and care for one of their show puppies and they showed me how to teach my dog to stack and go “down and back”.

Soon after getting my Wheaten, we became active in our local dog club, the Greater Panama City Dog Fanciers Association. The president of the club, Melissa Frye, helped teach me some things about Conformation and Junior Handling. The club was open every Sunday for training and socialization. My first show was Jacksonville, FL on Halloween Weekend 2006. I placed 2nd in my Junior Handling Class and received a Reserve with Ava.

After I had been showing Ava for about a year, I received an award from the club for outstanding junior! I also had a write-up in the Panama City clubs newsletter for being an outstanding junior.

We moved to Gainesville last summer and that is when I started winning more often, as I began taking classes with Arvind DeBraganca. He taught me almost everything I know. His wife, Joyce DeBraganca has supported me along the way and I thank them both for everything.

This year, I am ranked the number one Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier junior handler in the country, and am in the top 20 Terrier Junior Handlers. I am going to our breed’s National Specialty show in October in Pennsylvania and am going to receive an award for the number one junior handler at the annual banquet. I am very exited about receiving the award and getting a chance to compete for a major.

While at the National Specialty show, I hope to learn as much as I can about my breed. I would also like to meet...
Speaking for Spot – will speak to you

By Kathie Meier

There's a new paw on the shelf in the dog book world – Dr Nancy Kay's Speaking for Spot, published earlier this year. Dr Kay's mission in writing the book is to teach dog owners how to be effective advocates for their four-legged friends as they traverse the world of both routine and emergency veterinary care with their pet.

The author brings a wealth of knowledge to her subject. A graduate of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr Kay completed her residency in small animal internal medicine at the University of California, Davis. She is a board certified specialist in internal medicine, and the staff internist/owner of a 24-hour emergency/specialty care center. As a practicing veterinarian she saw the need to support emotionally owners of critically ill pets and responded by establishing Animal Care Center Pet Support Group. Her experience in this context is evident throughout the chapters of this book.

Speaking for Spot covers the entire spectrum of caring for our pets with topics that include finding the right veterinarian, the vaccination debate, questions to ask the vet and questions the vet will ask us, understanding surgery and other options, explanation of the myriad of diagnostic tests and new technology currently available to our pets, knowing when to see a specialist, financial concerns, whether or not to purchase pet health insurance and how to go about selecting a carrier, dealing with a cancer diagnosis and ending with a very compassionate and thought provoking discussion on the end of life process and euthanasia.

Dr Kay cared for my Gretl for four years, most recently during her final illness with malignant histiocytosis. I was privileged to read a pre-release copy of the book, and regretted as I read that I had not had this book to consult during my previous 29 years with Berners. The author addresses so many of the questions and issues that I, and I'm sure many dog owners, struggle with in seeking veterinary care.

There are many books available on dog health care. Some are in the category of veterinary textbooks of medicine, good as a reference when we need to look up something specific. Others focus on a single disease or a few related areas of dog health care (e.g., reproduction and neonatal care). While all these books have their places, I don't think that you will find a more thorough, understandable and go-to-it-often reference than Speaking for Spot.

If you are curious, you can read excerpts from several chapters on the book's website, www.speakingforspot.com, as well as a number of interesting reviews, including this one by Amy Tan, author of The Joy Luck Club and The Kitchen God's Wife. Tan writes, “This is the book I wish I had when dogs first entered my life. . . . It's the other best friend you need when making routine veterinary decisions for your dog or potentially heart-breaking ones.”

While you are browsing the website, take a look at the section entitled “Advocacy Aids.” There is a terrific selection of downloadable health forms and templates that will help you organize your dog's health care and medications. This is typical of the level of information and support that you will find in the book.

It isn't often that I read a book, and want to tell the world about it – but this is definitely one in that category. It is that good! And for me – the timing is perfect. After all, it is time to think about holiday shopping!

This book review was published in The Berner Beat, the newsletter of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Northern California. Permission to reproduce is granted by the author.
Congratulations to the winner of the Maureen Holmes Trophy awarded to the Canadian-bred Wheaten that placed highest at the 2008 Canadian National Specialty.

Ch Mariner’s Sundance Kid

Owned and Bred by
Angie DeBruyn
Acton, Ontario
Canada

Donated by
Carol Carlson
Emily Holden
Amaden Wheatens
T

he 20th annual summer specialty and sweepstakes of the Soft Coated Wheaten Club of Greater Milwaukee (SCWTCGM) was held on Friday, July 25th at the Waukesha County Expo Center in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The weather, normally warm and humid, was gorgeous. Slightly overcast, but no rain in sight, it was perfect weather for a dog show.

Cindy Shea of Eringlo Wheatens judged a sweepstakes entry of 17. Presented from the Junior Bitch, 12 months and under 15 months class, Stratford Hot Topic, bred and owned by Monica Lamontange and Molly O’Connell, took top honors winning Best in Sweepstakes. (Sire: Ch Stratford Top Priority, Dam: Ch Stratford Spice Girl).

Best of Opposite Sex, from the Junior Dog, 12 months and under 15 month class, was Whindancer Walk It Down to Edgewood, bred by Susan Ratliffe and Jo Dee Kogut and owned by Carl McGill. (Sire: Ch Edgewood Dream Catcher, Dam: Whindancer Diamonds on the Soles Of Her Shoes).

After a short break, the judging continued with Merle Taylor evaluating 36 Wheatens (13-18-5-0). Best in Specialty was Ch Dhowden American Dream, bred and owned by Carol Bendelewski. (Sire: Ch Frolic’s Squeeze Play, Dam: Ch Dhowden C’Dar Dreams of Cardiff). Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex was Jendu Forbidden, owned by Dana Frady and bred by the owner and Kevin and Beverly McDonald. (Sire: Ch Mil Mear Geragold How Far?, Dam: Ch Greentree Skellig’s Jendu Taboo). Winners Dog was Michaleen’s Star by Degas, bred by Patricia Wier and owned by P & J Weir and William Howland. (Sire: Ch Bryr Rose Degas, Dam: Ch Michaleen’s Star O’Kerry Morn). Reserve WD was Whindancer Walk It Down to Edgewood, with Edgewood Ruffian, bred and owned by Carl McGill winning RWB (Sire: Ch Mil Mear Geragold How Far?, Dam: Ch Edgewood Bugaboo Bamboo.)

The Club hosted a luncheon, raffle, and silent action. It was great to spend time with new friends and catch up with old. Bidding was competitive on the quilted items and the wooden toy box.
And speaking of weather, boy did it rain! It REALLY rained! The most valuable commodities of the weekend were rain slickers, towels and strong arms to carry dogs from the grooming area to the show building. With a Sweepstakes start time of 8:30 on Friday morning, the pace of activity in the grooming area was in high gear at an early hour. New Denver Club members John and Andy Karns took over the reigns of hospitality like seasoned pros. They had coffee perking and an assortment of breakfast goodies ready for our soggy exhibitors and guests as they arrived in the grooming area.

We were pleased to have Guillermo (“Willie”) Rueda on hand to judge the Sweepstakes entry. After examining the lineup of puppies presented to him, Mr Rueda gave the nod to Stratford Top-O-the Mornin’ as his BIS winner. The winner was presented with a custom designed 4-hook Wheaten silhouette wall hanging. No dogs were entered in Sweepstakes this year so the award for BOS to Best in Sweeps was not presented. As a thank-you gift for Mr Rueda, Denver Club member Linda McCallum hand-crafted beautiful beaded Wheaten key chains. As each luncheon guest checked-in, they selected one of them. Each one was unique. Many colors and designs were available to choose from and it wasn’t easy! Before lunch was served, there was time to make new acquaintances and renew old ones. Everyone also had a chance to view and bid on a variety of art pieces and other fun items available in the silent auction and raffle. Thank you to the many Denver Club members and friends who donated these items. The Greater Denver Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club would like to thank all who joined us in Greeley for our Specialty!
A year ago, five new people became members of SCWTCA's Board. Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed all of them.

Notice a lot of changes? Me neither.

In the last couple of months, I've talked to some of them, "It'll be different next year. We were new. Now we know what we're doing." Fair enough. Let's see what happened at this October's Board meeting. Only one newbie.

So I have high expectations. I can't wait to see what our slightly-older-but-wiser Board folks do.

Since Wavelengths hasn't come out yet, I'm fantasizing about what our year-under-the-belt team has learned.

I hope they've learned they are supposed to make decisions. That's what Boards do. I was pleased to see a few "no" votes scattered over the last year. I think, not surprisingly, dissent is a good thing. Good Boards don't always agree nor do they discuss something ad nauseam to reach a decision bland to the point of meaningless to get everyone's agreement.

I also hope they're coming to understand what the role of the Board should be. Too often what I read in Wavelengths is overconcentration on the wrong stuff.

I don't mean emphasizing, say, health over rescue. I mean worrying too much about the trivial and ignoring basic club management.

Boards shouldn't micromanage. Self-evident…and by the way, has anyone in the history of the world ever admitted to being a micromanager? It's rationalized as "staying informed" or "checking in" or "wanting to help".

Micromanagers waste their own time. By holding those they micromanage on tight leads, they turn off people from wanting to work for the club. We can't afford to lose anyone who might be a future SCWTCA leader.

Well, Board, I suspect you've appointed good committee chairs, so tell them what you want done, when you want to hear from them…and then get the ^&%$ out of their way.

By the way, have you looked at the SCWTCA Policy and Procedures manual lately? What, you're not a masochist?

All those Boards that allowed the basic documents by which SCWTCA functions to become such a mess didn't do their job. This Board should, revising it with two guidelines: 1.) Do it before the next Board meeting; 2.) Cut it in half. Nothing like aggressive goals to result in a laser-like focus on the important.

SCWTCA's Boards have confused the difference between policy and procedures…something all too apparent in that manual. The Board's concern is policy…the Bylaws need review, we support the NIH proposal, etc. How those things happen are procedures…and in most cases, the Board needs to assign them to the responsible committee…and, once again, get the ^&%$ out of their way.

Board, here's how to do that: if you're not actually running the process, establish guidelines and tell your committees to write the procedures. Because, guess what…they know better than you what needs to get done. They're doing it. Let them…just make sure they write it down so the next committee has a starting point.

The Board's focus should be on what helps the dogs and makes this club run better. Here are five of the latter I hope to see in Wavelengths:

1. Goals and Objectives: Last year the SCWTCA Committee I'm on was asked to set goals and objectives. We did it with enthusiasm. During the year we tracked how we did. We've done it again this year.

Setting G&Os is a great idea. They let the Board see what to expect, comment if they think it's needed and see how we do. When done top to bottom, G&Os provide a clear picture of where SCWTCA is going and how we're getting there.

G&Os go hand in hand with accountability…this is what I'm going to do…and if you don't, it's obvious.

Last year most of the committees set G&Os but there was one glaring omission:

No Board G&Os.

2. Staggered terms and term limits: Two years ago, a proposal for staggered Board terms was defeated. For good reason: it was incomprehensible and there was no provision for implementation.

That doesn't mean the concept of staggered terms was rejected. Having now seen a majority of the board turn over, and by their admission, needing a year to get their feet wet, the membership should be in favor of it. This isn't rocket science…you can get umpteen examples from other clubs' websites.

Staggered terms require addressing term lengths and limits. Finding the balance takes some thought. Unlimited, the powers-that-be can become the powers-that-are-eternal. Too restrictive, there's no chance to develop leaders within the board. But again, there are plenty of examples.

It's long past time to dump unlimited terms for the treasurer.
There’s no good reason for it. Eventually the treasurer retires and the bills get paid, dues get collected and the sun still rises.

There are plenty of good reasons to end it. SCWTCA has been fortunate to have honest treasurers but what if we didn’t have trustworthy Kenna but someone wondering how to avoid a home foreclosure?

Other clubs haven’t been so lucky…only to discover tens, and even hundreds, of thousands of dollars gone missing. Bonding is a cushion against total disaster but the club still needs to operate while it awaits the insurance carrier’s check. Not replacing the treasurer regularly makes it way too hard for a club to discover financial ruin looms.

3. Membership process: Every Board member should be ashamed this has not been addressed.

Currently, denied applicants never know there was an objection to their application. Good grief…even criminals get a Miranda warning.

The most active among us…those who keep SCWTCA vital…would likely generate complaints. The most telling comment I’ve heard was the simple question “how many of us would find ourselves opposed if we had to reapply?”

Arguing we don’t “owe” non-members anything misses the point. It’s not fair to SCWTCA.

It’s too easy for malevolence to mislead the Board into denying someone. Look how easily gossip spreads…because it’s anonymous. C’mon, you gossip…just a little, right? How many stories would you pass on if you had to look the person in the eye?

For me, last year’s l’affaire de former Board member Janet Petros had zero to do with Janet herself. It had everything to do with not wanting to see SCWTCA turn into a “sorority gone berserk” as a friend put it.

So Board, this is embarrassingly easy. Require all opposition to be in writing and send a copy of the complaint to the applicant for response. That’ll keep the “Mary is in bed with judges” complaints down when they come from the person Mary beats all the time.

4. Budgets: Do you know what’s on page 35 of the current Policy Manual? Of course not, I just said it’s impenetrable. Apparently no Board during my club tenure has read it either:

“Budget. Prior to the October meeting, the current Treasurer shall prepare and submit a budget for the following year. The Board will review and, if appropriate, approve the budget at the October Board meeting.”

I know budgeting is no fun…not like…debating length of tails. Too bad; you have a fiduciary duty required by law. Get after it.

Until you create a budget, don’t ask anyone for donations… because without a budget, you won’t have explained what you are going to do with it.

If you think it’s no big deal, ask yourself: would you vote for a Governor of your state who says, “yeah, well, let me know what you need and I’ll write a check”?

5. Get it online. We’ve made a lot of progress web-wise as a club. Kudos to Robyn Alexander and her predecessor, Bonnie O’Connor, as well as to the Boards who have supported their efforts.

There’s plenty more to go online or be emailed. The main benefit of the Internet is that it cuts time and distance and reduces costs. Board, you should be looking at everything done on paper and see whether it would be cheaper and/or faster done online.

Let’s start with the Yearbook. Please, this isn’t a criticism of the committees…it’s a lot of work, there’s been unexpected leadership problems, and people don’t send photos. I get it.

Still, when I see dogs go on the Stud Register at 18 months and 15 minutes old, I have to think all that Yearbook effort could go into an online database of titlists complete with pedigrees, identifying and contact information and photos that would be a lot more current than 4 years after the fact.

I find it hard to believe the yearbook brings in much of a profit. It would be nice to see a P&L of the yearbooks from 1998 – 2003 proving me wrong.

There’s plenty more. More use of PayPal. Stop mailing Wavelengths…I feel guilty throwing out the envelope unopened because I’ve already read it online. Specialty judges’ ballots. Even the financial records of the club. We have a secure section of the website. Use it.

Please, don’t tell me about club members not wanting to see stuff online. If I go to shows and see iPhones all over the place, I think we can manage online documents.

So, ladies…and I can’t believe I’m saying this but is there no one in the club with a Y chromosome to serve on the Board?...can you stop playing Trivial Pursuit and avoid the sophomore jinx? ✹
You came to us through SCWTCA rescue as a 16 year old Wheaten who had been abandoned at a shelter in North Carolina. You were a big male and in your time you must have been a handsome, vigorous dog. I suppose that the individuals who left you there thought that the shelter would quickly dispose of you, but instead Carol Burdge and the SCWTCA found you and you came north to join us for the last year of your life. You told us in your own way that it was a happy year for you. You must have enjoyed the snow because you rolled in it at every opportunity. You enjoyed Christmas and liked so much to fall asleep at the base of the tree that we bought you a Santa hat. Lyle turned out to be a fun Wheaten friend and playmate, even if it was sometimes hard to keep up with a two year old. We forgave you a grumpy disposition when we first met, but you came to totally trust us and show us affection and we grieved when your big heart finally failed you. We buried you where there are plenty of rabbits and squirrels to chase. Rest in peace, Cody.

Harriet and Robert P. Johnston II and daughter, Juliette.

*AMADEN RINGS IN THE NEW, AM CAN CD    “BELLE”*

Ch Amaden’s Leading Man X Maroc Liquor

November 1, 1994

As I sit down to write this, we’ve just returned from our usual evening walk but this evening was special, the first snow fall of the season! Whether it’s the excitement of something different or the crispness of the cool air, there’s an extra effort in her step, a little hop off the curb and a quick wag of the tail to say, “Oh, this feels great”.

I love these moments.

Belle came to our family on New Year’s Day, our new start, a fresh start after having lost our first two Wheatens to PLE/PLN. She walked into our home and assumed her position, THE BOSS. Of course we came to an understanding that things wouldn’t always go her way which was evident by excelling in obedience, winning two High in Trials at the Montgomery Show (1997 & 2001).

Today, Belle is living a quiet life with Thomas, “Timtara’s Crown Affair”, who helps her see now that her sight is failing and helps her hear when the noises are too faint. I am thankful everyday that Belle is in my life.

Owned by Priscilla and James Tims, Emily Holden, Anne Holahan
Cared for and Loved by Margaret Tims

compilation credit: Toni Vincent
CH LISSADELL CAJUN STAR “STELLA”  
Oct 5, 1993

Ch Ragin Cajun x Ch Lissadell On Her Toes

Ch Lissadell Cajun Star, “Stella”, turned 15 Montgomery day. It was a little hard to watch the young dogs and not feel nostalgic about Stella in her youth. I remember watching her in the ring, when shown by Sue Vroom. She moved beautifully when motivated to do so!

Nowadays, Stella is motivated to get her evening walk; it's a necessity in her mind. She and I have lovely evening walks (slow strolls) when I get home from work. She’s pretty peppy in the beginning and slower by the end, but still loves all the smells and can still somewhat see cats, if they’re moving. Our walks are our time together and they have been special for me.

She’s just as determined as the younger dogs to get her greeting when we get home. Her tail still wags wildly when she’s excited – it may well now be the fastest moving part on her body!

She doesn’t do winters well, but she’s prepared with lightweight sweaters to wear indoors through the winter, well-padded and heated bed, and coats for our evening walks in the colder weather.

To my very Terrier Girly – you are just as beautiful now as you ever were. We’ll Keep On Strollin’ together!

Owned by Jana Carraway & Jason Gretton

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Taking An Example from Portuguese Water Dogs

Jana Carraway

The Wheaten breed has been given the opportunity to participate in a longitudinal study, the NIH project. When I first learned of the NIH project, I thought of Portuguese Water Dogs and “The Georgie Project”, http://www.georgieproject.com/. The Georgie Project is an excellent example of a longitudinal study in a dog breed and an indicator of the discovery potential of such a project. A longitudinal study (lifetime study) is a study done over time, such as the NIH goal of 10 years. The Georgie Project is not a blueprint for the NIH project, it is a similar project with many like components. The following articles: Dog Days of Science by Alison Davis and Research? Go For It! by Karen Miller (Portuguese Water Dog breeder and initiating, ongoing force behind the Georgie Project) illustrate the structure of a project of this kind and some of the findings through their longitudinal study.

In Dog Days of Science, which follows on page 13, Alison Davis points out that dogs participate in research projects from home. Our Wheatens have benefited from the enormous work done by Dr. Vaden and her group through the colony dogs. We have learned to test, diagnose, treat and maintain Wheatens through this relatively small number of dogs. The NIH project has the potential to make all Wheatens under the age of 4 the study pool with the dogs traveling no farther to participate than the vets’ office.

Karen Miller emphasizes the confidentiality of research and that it’s about the BREED, not the breeder, not an individual dog. Research is about gaining more tools to breed healthy dogs.

I hope owners and breeders will find a reason or reasons to participate in the NIH study either through reading about the Georgie Project, reading Dr. Parker's proposal, researching publications by Dr. Parker and others at NIH, or simply through envisioning the enormous potential of this “lifetime study” of Wheatens.
Dog Days of Science

By Alison Davis

In 1996, Gordon Lark said good-bye to a beloved friend.

His dog Georgie died of an autoimmune disorder that had turned the animal’s body against itself. Lark knew he would dearly miss his pet, but what he didn’t know was that Georgie’s passing would spawn a unique partnership between dogs and people: one that may one day find a treatment for the disease that took her life.

Lark had acquired Georgie as a stray 10 years before. Despite not knowing much about the dog, he quickly fell in love with her and with her breed, the Portuguese Water Dog. For centuries, these sturdily built dogs were a favorite of coastal Portuguese fisherman. Hard-working and obedient, they have boundless energy and exceptional swimming and diving skills.

Water dogs are also fiercely loyal, endearing them to many people today. With Georgie gone, Lark yearned for another Water Dog. He contacted Karen Miller, a breeder who at the time was living on a New York horse farm an hour north of Manhattan. She had a cute puppy, Mopsa, in mind for Lark.

Miller didn’t ask for money in exchange for Mopsa. But she did ask for something else: Miller told Lark that he could keep Mopsa on one condition: that he begin genetic research studies with Portuguese Water Dogs.

What is the Georgie Project?

- Research collaboration between owners, breeders, and scientists
- Named after Georgie, a Portuguese Water Dog who died of an autoimmune disease
- Scientific goal: To study the genetics of the Portuguese Water Dog

Rewards for owners:
- Healthier dogs, more informed breeding

Rewards for scientists:
- New system to study genetics using well-cared-for animals
- Advances for human disease research genetics

To Miller, studies of how heredity contributes to appearance, behavior, and overall health would provide useful knowledge for breeding healthy dogs. And Lark, a biologist at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, had the skills for the job.

But the proposal wasn’t exactly what Lark was expecting. His immediate plans were retirement, as his wife Cynthia, also a biologist, had done a few years before. She died of Alzheimer’s disease in 2006.

Lark faced a new chapter in his life, and he wasn’t convinced that research with dogs would be part of it.
Plant Scientist Learns New Tricks

Until Georgie died, Lark’s scientific specialty was soybeans. For many years, his genetic research had centered on looking for the inherited factors that affect soybean nutrient quality and growth characteristics.

But although he had never studied Water Dogs, it didn’t take long for Lark to become sold on the potential value of studying their genes. He learned that all Portuguese Water Dogs alive today descended from relatively few original dogs, called founders. This simplifies DNA studies because the gene “pool” within this breed is relatively small. Tracing genes to traits is easier.

Within a couple of months after sending Mopsa to Lark, breeder Miller shipped 5,000 Portuguese Water Dog pedigrees. Detailed records of health and breeding characteristics, pedigrees are a treasure trove for genetic researchers. In addition to accurate breeding records, pedigrees are a rich source of information about physical characteristics like size, build, color, disease, and behavioral attributes.

Lark, Miller, and others soon launched the “Georgie Project,” to begin studying the genetics of Portuguese Water Dogs. The research effort was privately funded for 5 years until the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one of the National Institutes of Health, stepped in to help support the work (the project is still partially privately funded).

In a decade’s time, the endeavor has contributed valuable knowledge about the genetic basis of health and disease. It has also introduced hundreds of pet owners to research that helps inform the health of all Portuguese Water Dogs and humans, too.

“The Georgie Project has given me more pleasure than almost any other scientific project,” Lark says. “Dog work is full of surprises and we find things I never would have suspected.”

One of the greatest gains of the Georgie Project and, in fact, an intended goal was learning how scientists and the general public can work together toward the common good.

“We teach each other,” says Lark, adding that owners, breeders, and researchers each have something to offer intellectually.

Life After Death

The benefits of autopsy to medical research are enormous. Modern medicine got its start, for the most part, from making connections between a patient’s symptoms and diseased organs found after death.

Autopsy has several purposes and benefits. Examining a body after death can confirm or disprove a clinical diagnosis. For people, this is important when the cause of death was an inherited disease. Other family members can learn about their own risk.

The Georgie Project has performed autopsies on 100 Water Dogs and 150 owners have consented to the procedure when their pet dies (akin to a living will).

Georgie Project chief scientist Gordon Lark says autopsies tell much more than just the cause of death. Detailed information about all the dogs’ organs and tissues, in addition to their DNA, provides a wealth of research data. This can help researchers make links between genes and disease.

Georgie Project staff work with owners and veterinarians to obtain the body of a deceased pet. Despite the emotional and logistical difficulty, owners have been ready to comply. The Project pays for transport of the dog’s body and, through arrangements with a pet cremation company, returns the pet’s remains to its owner after the autopsy is complete.

“They sent a beautiful box and note, and the whole thing was so respectful,” says owner Melinda Harvey of Canton, Connecticut. “Their respect for me and my dog made me willing to do something that is inherently uncomfortable and difficult.”

Lark knows nearly all the dogs that die and personally shares in an owner’s sorrow. Water Dog breeder Karen Miller, who works closely with the Georgie Project, says more than one owner has been touched by Lark’s extraordinary devotion.

“Gordon called and cried with me,” one owner told Miller.

For more information about the Autopsy Project, see: http://www.georgieproject.com/new/autopsy/summary.html
Research @ Home

To date, the Georgie Project has involved approximately 1,500 Water Dogs and their owners, and dozens of scientists. Some, like Lark, are also owners.

Georgie Project dogs have been analyzed for many different things ranging from blood chemistry and DNA variation to behavior, body shape, and bone structure.

Since dogs and people live together, we have similar “conditioning triggers.” We breathe the same air—and all its unseen pollutants—and bathe in the same water. We walk and run barefoot through the same grass.

That’s important because many diseases, including autoimmune disorders like that which claimed Georgie—are thought to have environmental influences.

Perhaps the most important result the Georgie Project has turned up is that purebred dogs can be studied easily at home. The dogs do not even know they are part of a research study. Portuguese Water Dog owners such as Jean Hassebroek of Sargents Bluff, Iowa, have found it relatively simple to get involved.

“I just contacted them and they sent me a kit,” she says. Georgie Project staff provide instructions for the owners’ veterinarians to take X rays that cover the entire body of the dog, she explains. The vets are also asked to collect blood and hair samples for DNA testing.

Hassebroek has enrolled half a dozen Water Dogs in the project in past years. One of the best things about it, she says, is that her dogs are at home with her, not in a lab somewhere.

Veterinarians are reimbursed costs for all of this, and owners pay little to nothing out of pocket. If an owner agrees to an autopsy when their pet dies, the project mails the ashes back with a note commemorating the dog’s service to science (see “Life After Death”).

Portuguese Water Dog breeder Karen Miller works with the Georgie Project.

Why Dogs?

People have had dogs as pets for just a fraction of the time that humans have lived on this earth. Yet the variety among dogs is astounding: Compare a Chihuahua to a Great Dane, or a Labrador Retriever to a Poodle. Through selective breeding, there are more than 400 very different types of dogs throughout the world today.

Dogs suffer from more than 350 inherited diseases, and up to 300 of these are similar to conditions in people. Some of the most common are cancer, epilepsy, heart disease, allergies, retinal disease, and cataracts.

Geneticist Elaine Ostrander of NIH’s National Human Genome Research Institute is an expert on dog genetics. She also works with Lark on the Georgie Project.

Ostrander’s research has found substantial overlap between diseases that strike dogs and people. “The genetics of bladder cancer is difficult to study in humans,” Ostrander says, noting that this cancer is quite common in Scottish Terriers and West Highland White Terriers.

So having DNA samples from these breeds makes it much easier to track down genes that may be linked to bladder cancer, she says (see “Got Dogs?”).

In another example, one-third of all Doberman Pinschers have an inherited bleeding disorder called von Willebrand’s disease, Ostrander explains. Genetic research with dog DNA has found the defective gene (as it turns out, humans with this disease have a problem with the same gene).

In the case of von Willebrand’s, veterinarians can use a gene test to identify susceptible dogs and prepare adequately. This can avoid deadly complications from a routine surgical procedure.
Lessons from Georgie

One of the things the Georgie Project has taught researchers is that some cases of Addison’s disease, a condition relatively common among Portuguese Water Dogs, may appear along with a complex syndrome involving several organs in which the immune system rejects its own components as foreign and launches an attack on the body.

Two types of alternate DNA spellings, called genetic variants, have been identified in the DNA of Water Dogs with Addison’s. One of them is the same as in the DNA of people with this disease.

Assassinated U.S. President John F. Kennedy had Addison’s, as did English novelist Jane Austen and comet-discoverer Eugene Shoemaker. Research is ongoing to unravel Addison’s and potentially related autoimmune conditions that appear to be much more complicated than once believed. The Georgie Project continues to provide clues.

The Georgie Project also unearthed the surprise finding that a single spot of DNA—that controls the activity of a growth gene—accounts for whether a given breed will be large or small. By studying hundreds of Water Dog DNA samples, Georgie Project researchers learned that this genetic variation explains why Pekingese are tiny and Irish Wolfhounds are huge.

The research has also shown that variation in shape—the difference between long, lean Greyhounds and short, stocky American Pit Bull Terriers, for instance—is a genetic “trade-off.”

Water Dogs are somewhere in between: faster but less forceful than American Pit Bull Terriers, but slower and more forceful than Greyhounds.

“It’s just like what I learned years ago with soybeans,” Lark explains. “You simply can’t breed a soybean that has very high amounts of both protein and oil. When you increase one, you decrease the other, and this kind of trade-off is very common in nature.”

In a broader sense, The Georgie Project has brought together a vibrant community of animals and people teaming for better health.

“IT’s a cool way to be doing something good for humanity,” owner Hassebroek says.

Got Dogs?

Want to do cutting-edge medical research in the comfort of your own home?

If you have a purebred dog as a pet, you could help scientists learn more about the health of dogs—and people, too.

The Canine Genome Project, funded in part by the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, is a huge team project that involves scientists all over the world. It also involves a bunch of different dogs and owners who never spend a day in a research lab.

The goal is to thoroughly understand the canine genome, or dog DNA. The researchers want to know how heredity contributes to traits like a soft, silky coat or the ability to deftly herd a flock of sheep.

The scientists also really want to know how DNA changes affect health and sometimes cause disease.

By examining DNA differences between breeds, within breeds, or in particular disease states, researchers are closing in on some of these connections. The results are expected to help breeders make decisions about which pairs of dogs to match up, and also to provide new hints about the 300 or so diseases that both dogs and people get.

If you want to help, by submitting a DNA sample (from a cheek swab) from your purebred, AKC-registered dog, look online to see if your breed is currently being studied: http://research.nih.gov/dog_genome/info_for_dog_owners/list.shtml

Learn more about the Canine Genome Project at: http://research.nih.gov/dog_genome/health
**RESEARCH? GO FOR IT**

Karen Miller

Dog breeders are competitive in every venue except one, and that's health. Nobody wants to send home a puppy with health problems. Nobody wants to send home a dog that will die prematurely of a genetic disease. Yet breeding for what's correct to the standard means taking risks and is not for the faint-hearted. So how do you produce correct, healthy dogs?

Chuchu Miller, my first Portuguese Water Dog, was wonderfully correct to the standard. In fact, he was the first American bred brown AKC Champion, the 8th champion in the breed. He was also severely hip dysplastic, an obligate carrier of irreversible, degenerative blindness (PRCD), and diagnosed with Addison's disease when he was three years old.

At the time, it was an extraordinary diagnosis as most Addisonians died in crisis without a diagnosis and now, 25 years later, some probably still do.

But I loved that dog and I wanted justice! That meant founding a committee with the national breed club, getting breeders and owners to talk about their bloodlines' health records and then finding researchers who knew what they were doing and were willing to help. It meant raising funds and pushing the limits on my career and personal life. Healthy, beautiful dogs became my passion and have remained so all these years.

Passion is what makes a “dog lady.” To begin with I read everything I could get my hands on, spent hours on the phone, visited every kennel that would have me, took seminars in conformation and movement and after considerable study, I co-bred a few litters with only moderate success. I wasn't “there” yet.

One further critical base was to learn enough genetics so, along with the standard and a clear perception of “type,” I could breed a decent litter. I became completely fascinated with the lineage of Portuguese Water Dogs. I knew each and every pedigree like the back of my hand and could discuss its pros and cons ad nauseam.

I visited Portugal and I visited England, where finally I found a breeder/mentor worthy of all the energy I had invested.

I followed Addison's disease in the breed assiduously. When a disease exists in your breed for which you have no mode of inheritance great caution must be exercised in selecting “breedable” individuals. Creating and sticking to cautious breeding guidelines is imperative. Here are some of the guidelines I have followed:

Breed only the best possible dogs. Just because one owns it and loves it does not make it breedable!

Utilize every health test or screening procedure available. OFA, CERF, PRCD, whatever; use the tests to help determine the viability of a given individual. NO rationalizations! If it's not clear of the conditions it's not a breeding animal.

More tests and deliberation. Don’t breed bitches with “odd” sea-sons. Thyroid test a bitch before breeding. Don’t breed a bitch with a low thyroid.

Temperament is a critical variable. Dogs with sharp-shy or “soft” temperaments are unacceptable breeding animals.

Don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater. Test for everything you can to make a knowledgeable decision. However, if a dog is the best possible match for your bitch, but a known carrier of a recessive disorder for which you can test, ignore the disorder, (obviously your bitch can't carry it) and use the dog. In other words, a dog with a known recessive disorder may have other wonderful traits and shouldn't be discredited just because you want to advertise a “clear” line.

Don’t follow other breeders to the Super Sire. Be original wherever possible. There's no great credit taken in breeding to the few dogs everyone else is breeding to because he won Westminster or a national specialty.

Follow every litter you produce. When you breed for good reasons you need to follow up on the puppies and learn from your successes and your mistakes.

Be known for tough contract requirements. For example, don't allow others to breed your stock unless you approve of the specific match. Always insure that your puppies will be available for providing blood and or even x-rays when needed. Owners really appreciate being informed of research that's going on in the breed and generally want to be part of the process.

Maintain good records. You are not likely to remember events correctly over the long haul, so write down everything and anything that may be useful later on.

When your breed is fortunate enough to attract scientists who want to study it, or who are willing to collect and process DNA from your dogs, GO FOR IT! The rewards may be extraordinary down the road.

We started with scrupulously correct pedigrees for our breed; Portuguese records as well as stud book records that had been meticulously maintained by American breeders from 1968 until the AKC closed the stud book in 1984 when Portuguese Water Dogs became recognized as part of the AKC Working Group. We had about 700 dogs alive at the time of AKC recognition and we were on our way.

Every breed needs longitudinal study. Our pedigree base and health information were the beginning of The Georgie Project in 1996 when I met researchers at the University of Utah who were interested in phenotyping and genotyping the Portuguese Water Dog. The project has basically evolved into two parts:

The Genetic Health and Longevity Program. Owners have pro-

continued on page 18
vided blood and serum samples for more than 1500 dogs. DNA is isolated from the samples and studied to determine heritable characteristics. The program looks at the heritability of specific phenotypes, some of which are diseases, such as Addison’s. (Georgie Project has determined that Addison’s is genetic in our breed and involves multiple genes. It is not a simple recessive.)

The scientists report their findings to owner participants as well as through general information articles in our national breed magazine, The Courier. Confidentiality is a critical issue. All scientists maintain strict, procedural confidences with breeders and owners as regards individual dogs. (So if you’re one of those breeders who is wary of information leaks about your breeding program, get over it! There is no problem. All information shared publicly has individual data removed. Research concerns the total population and public reports are about the breed, not individual dogs.)

The Autopsy Program. A comprehensive assessment of each dog’s state of health at the end of life provides remarkable information both about the individual dog (shared with owner and breeder) and general information (shared with other Georgie participants.)

As of August 2008, 162 autopsies have been conducted. Here are some general findings from those autopsies and related specific research:

- **Cancer.** There exists a relatively high frequency of hemangiosarcoma and lymphosarcoma in the breed.
- **Thyroid.** There are varying degrees of thyroid atrophy with a strong heritable component.
- **Auto-immune.** Addison’s disease is heritable in the breed. Pancreatitis also appears to be heritable, these and other factors suggest an underlying auto-immune syndrome (such as APS.)
- **Inflammatory Bowl Disease.** The autopsies found many low level cases that may not have been symptomatic during the life of the dog.
- **Follicular dysplasia.** This heritable hair loss condition was very frequently observed at the microscopic level in autopsied dogs.

In every health related endeavor, in every breed, the more we learn the more hope we have of fighting disease in our canine companions and in many instances support human medical research as well. Research? Go for it!

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**Basics For Owners**

**SCWT LIFETIME HEALTH STUDY**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

The SCWT Lifetime Health Study will follow 1000 Wheatens for 10 years to determine the diseases prevalent in the breed and find genes related to those diseases. The study will be conducted through the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Heidi Parker, PHD, Ostrander Canine Genomics Laboratory, National Human Genome Research Institute of NIH is the researcher.

**WHEATENS NEEDED FOR THE STUDY:**
Wheatens under the age of 4 years at the time of enrollment
Wheatens must be purebred with a pedigree (parentage is known)

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:**
Blood sample for DNA extraction
Dog’s name, sex, registration information and pedigree
Commitment to complete annual health surveys for 10 years
Copies of veterinary and laboratory reports for diagnosed health issues
Signed consent form with owner contact information

**COST TO OWNERS:**
Fee to have blood drawn and about $2.00 to mail the sample
(No fee for samples collected at SCWT group clinics)
Postage to return annual survey
(No cost if survey is completed online)

**STUDY DESCRIPTION:**
Dr. Parker’s proposal states, “Our aim is to use a combination of blood samples, physical measurements and health information to examine a variety of health issues important to the breed.” This information will be used “to find genes important in disease susceptibility and progress, as well as to understand the genetic basis of canine body shape and size.” “We will use the health information provided from these dogs to determine the incidence of disease within the breed and calculate the inheritance of each.” All genetic, identification and health information will remain confidential.
Dr Heidi Parker described the new SCWT Lifetime Study in a brief presentation at the SCWTCA Annual Meeting. The meeting was held Friday, October 3, 2008, at King of Prussia, PA, during the national specialty weekend. Dr Parker is the lead researcher for the study at the Ostrander Canine Genomics Laboratory, Cancer Genetics Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Dr Parker began her presentation by saying that SCWTCA is the first breed club that the NIH has worked with on a Lifetime Study. The purpose of the study is “to understand genetic causes of disease segregating through a dog population.” The study will look at heritable disease in Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.

She described the study which will begin with young dogs and follow them for ten years. DNA will be needed from 1000 Wheatens who are under the age of four years when enrolled in the study. The dogs must be purebred and have a known pedigree. Owners will be asked to complete a health and wellness survey each year. The survey may be completed online or by mail. In addition, the study will ask for size and shape information and look at behavior changes over time. The enrollment period will be two years in length.

Dr Parker received her PhD from the University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. She moved to the National Institutes of Health in 2004 and continued her work in canine genetics, mapping and identifying genes involved in complex traits and diseases. Examples of her published research include such topics as genetic structure of the purebred domestic dog, how breed relationships facilitate fine mapping studies and finding cardiovascular disease genes in the dog.

Dr Parker spoke at SCWTCA’s 2007 Education Day on the topic of “Canine Genetics: How to Find the Genes that Cause Disease”. Helen Moreland, former SCWTCA President, was instrumental in bringing this study to the Club and will serve as the liaison to Dr Parker. More information on how to participate in the study will be available in SCWTCA publications and on the website in the near future.
One year ago the Canine Phenome Project was opened for participation by all Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. Remarkable progress has been made since this was announced during the SCWTCA National Specialty weekend in October 2007. Almost 800 DNA samples have been added to the SCWT DNA bank in the past year. Nineteen blood collection clinics have been held in 2008 and another is scheduled in November. Over 900 DNA samples are stored at the University of Missouri through the Canine Phenome Project (CPP).

The SCWT DNA Bank at the CPP has received exceptional support from Wheaten owners and from the SCWTCA, the SCWTCA Endowment and the SCWT Genetic Research Fund.

Two programs have been major factors in collecting almost 800 DNA samples this year. One is the incentive offered by the SCWTCA Endowment. The Endowment made a significant contribution by offering to pay one-half of the $40 DNA extraction fee for the first 1000 participants. The other major factor in success is the financial support for group collection clinics, which are funded equally by SCWTCA, SCWTCA Endowment and SCWT Genetic Research Fund. Clinic expenses including veterinary services, veterinary supplies and shipping fees are funded up to $600. About 90% of the samples were collected at group clinics.

Many individuals contributed to the success of this project including those who organized and helped at collection clinics; those who developed materials to educate owners and publicize the project; those who donated services, supplies and incentive items; those who donated blood samples; and those who are members of the boards of the sponsoring groups mentioned above. Local and national Wheaten clubs hosted clinics, supported the efforts of individual organizers and offered incentives to participate.

Special recognition goes to the clinic organizers whose efforts were so instrumental in collecting these samples. They are Nancy Andersen, Pat Bajoras, Jana Carraway, Rose Clime, Ronnie Copland, Holly Craig, Gayle Frank, Caroline Goldberg, Kenna Kachel, Helen Larson, Ann Leigh, Lee Martin, Molly O’Connell, Bonnie O’Connor, Sandra Ross, Pat Rutherford, Debie Scurr, Cindy Shea, Cecily Skinner, Bonney Snyder, Cindy Stokvis, Beverly Streicher, Priscilla Timm, Toni Vincent, and Peggy Warren. Special thanks to the SCWT clubs which hosted clinics: SCWT Association of Canada, SCWT of America, SCWT Southern California, SCWT Greater Denver, SCWT Greater Milwaukee, SCWT Greater St Louis, and the SCWT Greater Tampa Bay.

Two years ago, Wheaten owners were introduced to the Canine Phenome Project when Liz Hansen, CPP breed club liaison, spoke on Education Day at Montgomery 2006. Shortly after, the CPP began accepting DNA from “at-risk” Wheatens, those who were ill or elderly. Dogs participating in a pilot DNA collection clinic held in Greeley CO in August, 2007 were included also. Online enrollment and the general health survey were available online after October 2007 when all Wheatens were eligible to participate.

The SCWTCA Endowment Board voted to expand its support for the Canine Phenome Project at its October 2, 2008 meeting. The Endowment will fund half of the DNA extraction fee for an additional 500 dogs. As a result, the SCWTCA Endowment will pay $20 of the $40 fee for each of the first 1500 Wheatens sending samples to the project.

The SCWTCA Endowment Board

Basics for Owners . SCWT Canine Phenome Project

DNA Bank & Wheaten Sibling Pairs Study

The Canine Phenome Project is a DNA bank storing DNA samples and information about the dog supplying the DNA for future use by researchers to identify the genes responsible for canine diseases and other breed characteristics. It is a project of the Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, headed by Dr Gary Johnson. Liz Hansen is the breed club liaison. All information about individual dogs will remain confidential.

Wheatens That May Participate:
All purebred Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
There are no special requirements for age, health, registration or pedigree.

Requirements for Participation:
Blood sample for DNA extraction
Dog’s name, sex, registration information (if any) and pedigree (if known)
Signed consent form with owner contact information
Completion of online general health survey and pedigree information (if known)
In the future, completion of online breed specific health survey and breed characteristics survey

Cost to Owners:
Fee to have blood drawn and shipped
(No fee for collecting or shipping samples from SCWT group clinics)

DNA extraction fee of $20.00
(“SCWTCA Endowment is paying half of the $40.00 fee for the first 1500 dogs.)

Current Research:
The Wheaten Sibling Pairs Study is the first research resulting from participation in the Canine Phenome Project. The goal of the study is to locate the genes involved in PLE and PLN. A DNA sequence analysis will be used to compare the genetic variation between unaffected and affected siblings. One sibling in each pair must be accurately diagnosed with PLE and/or PLN and the other sibling must be unaffected at age 11.5 years. An AKC Canine Health Foundation Grant Proposal for the Sibling Pairs Study has been prepared by Dr Johnson. There are DNA samples from 14 suitable pairs available. Twenty pairs are needed. Owners of potential pairs are encouraged to send samples. For more information go to the SCWTCA website, www.scwtca.org click Health, Wheaten Health, Research Projects.
2008 MCKC DNA DRAW RECAP
Holly Craig, MCKC Blood Draw Coordinator

As jam-packed as the weekend was, 29 samples were collected for the work being done at the NIH and an outstanding 59 samples for the CPP. The draw was held on Thursday, October 2 at the Park Ridge Hotel from 4 to 8.

A wonderful bunch of helpers deserve recognition and a huge thanks for their hard work – Cindy Shea prepared labels for each tube and baggie, Kathy Drobnak brought each dog into the room for the draw and back out safely to their owner, Jana Carraway along with Shirley Gee checked dogs in, made sure the paperwork was in order along with payment and photographer extraordinaire Toni Vincent Fisher recorded the event digitally and provided these photos.

George Jeitles and his crew from the King of Prussia Veterinary Hospital expertly handled the dogs ranging in age from 4 months to 14 years. Carol Carlson donated the beautiful "I Gave DNA" pin, designed by Jerry Stack, to the owner of each participating Wheaten. Carol Carlson and Beth Verner generously offered a drink ticket to be used during the Boutique/Annual Dinner to the owner of each Wheaten that participated. Last but not least, Toni Vincent Fisher had adorable magnets made up for the Draw. Thank you to Carol, Beth and Toni for their generosity and support of these projects.

The financial support for the MCKC DNA Draw was made possible by the ongoing collaboration of SCWTCA, The Endowment and The GRF. Thank you to all three. In addition, SCWTCA also paid ½ of the reduced submission fee for the CPP. This brought the fee down to $10 per dog for the CPP.

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A PERSONALITY FROM OUR PAST...PATRICK BLAKE

This information was published in the first half of the 1900’s and is reprinted with the permission of Daniel Brennan, who was generous enough to donate to the USKBTC Charitable Funds pictures, trophies and articles associated with Mr Blake. We acknowledge the USKBTC and Mr Brennan for allowing Benchmarks to reprint it.

In Ireland, Mr. Blake promoted Wheatens and Kerries in the 1920’s through 1950. Mr. Blake died at age eighty-three. Please note that the article below is reprinted with the spelling used in the original article. No author was mentioned, and unfortunately no publication date was included. The first paragraph below and the very last paragraph are especially true for any time period.

Many of us are inclined to forget the older men among us and the work they have done for dogs and canine affairs. Their early efforts in both breeding and administration laid the foundations for our excellent present-day organizations and the fine standards of our modern pedigree dogs.

One of the grand old men of Irish dogdom is Mr. Patrick Blake, who was born at Moyne, Templemore, County Tipperary, 82 years ago, and is still going strong after a life-time of association with terriers.

Like many another boy reared in the country, hunting rabbits with terriers was his principal hobby over 70 years ago, and when he came to Dublin, his affection for dogs remained with him and he availed of every opportunity to indulge his favourite pastime. Irish Red Terriers and Wheaten Terriers were his favourite dogs and he showed and worked many a good one. When he attended his first show, and when he won his first prize, are events so far back that his memory refuses to disclose their details.

Early in the 1920’s he began to specialize in Irish Blue Terriers, and his bitch, Ch. Iveagh Lass, was one of his first champions on the bench and at field trials, and was reputed to be one of the biggest winners in Blues. He also owner Int. Ch. Blue Sensation, whom he purchased from the late Mr. Mick Sammon, and he bred its grandson, Ch. Ch. Ballyblue Boy. The last-named, he believes, is the last Irish Blue Champion to receive the award under I.K.C. Rules; Moinard Boy was another Blue he made a field trials champion.

A member of the Council of the I.K.C., in the 1930’s, he was responsible for having the rule passed which allowed a dog to be called a field trials champion after 2 wins. In 1934, with the late Dr. G. J. Pierce, he began organizing to have Soft-coated Wheaten Terriers recognized by the Kennel Club and registered as a distinctive Irish breed, and it was one of his proudest moments when recognition was granted and the Wheats could compete as a distinctive breed. His Ch. Kingdon Leader was the first Soft-coated Wheaten to become a champion and the dog won his bench and field trial certificates within 12 months.

Mr. Blake attended the first meeting of the Working Terrier Association in June, 1929, and became its first Hon. Sec., which office he held for 22 years. During all this time he was actively engaged in organizing and running field trials and in training dogs to qualify for minor and major certificates; every one of his own dogs held field trial certificates.

The All-Ireland Kerry Blue Terrie Club, which claims to be the oldest Blue club, was reorganized in the mid-thirties, and its headquarters transferred from Tralee to Dublin, and, again as first hon. Secretary, he held office until 1951; his latest fight is to have the name Irish Blue Terrier altered to its original Kerry Blue.

Owning 44 dogs, he also kept a few Sealyhams and Bull Terriers. He officiated as judge from 1928 to 1940 at field trials and at shows for Soft-coated Wheaten Terriers. He always refused to judge Kerry Blues because he was so actively associated with them that he felt he must remain neutral at all times. His last appearance as an exhibitor was on St. Stephan’s Day, 1950.

His son, Matt Blake, who has taken over the hon. Secretaryship of the two clubs, which his father relinquished in 1951, is carrying on the family tradition. As founder-member of the International Soft-coated Wheaten Terrier Club, he is its chairman since the foundation, and he has represented the Kerry Blue Terrier Club on Ard Comhairle since 1941. Specialising in Blues and Wheats, he has owned Sealyhams and Fox Terriers; his Sealyham bitch Vennie Og, which was working at field trials up to three years...
of age, was Reserve Green at her first showing at the St. Patrick’s Day Show, and he has had many Green Star winners. His bitch, Holmenocks Highflyer, was best Wheaten bitch in Blackpool three years in succession, and on account of foot-and-mouth disease could not travel last year. He has had the distinction of owning the first Wheaten bitch to win a first prize under English Kennel Club rules.

Matt Blake has been judging since 1941, and has made the awards at field trials and on the bench with Kerry Blues, Soft-coated Wheaten Terriers, Sealyhams, Bull Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers, Fox Terriers, Smooth and Wire Lakelands, West Highland Whites, Pomeranian and Litters.

Always keen on developing the working ability of terriers, the Blakes, both father and son, have proved that bench champions can also be field trials champions; all they require is a little training.

I am writing to thank your organization for saving Barby.

Barby’s owners dropped her off at a local breeder some time ago. The breeders themselves are old and have developed some health problems and have rehomed many of their dogs, some through us. Barbie was brought to us at age 10 with two hernias, some fatty tumors, and teeth that were in such bad shape that the vet was concerned about the damage her heart might incur if not dealt with.

Barby was very quiet, a little shy but, if she knew you, would wag her tail a little. Barby was also a little picky about her canine companions. With no adopter stepping forward who would take an older dog that needed surgery and a dental; and with a full shelter, we were contacted by a rescue group. We wanted to jump at the chance, but don’t deal with a group without some references. They never responded to that request so I contacted another Wheaten group that tactfully said they had a “few problems”. We thought that Barby’s last chance was gone. There was no way we could justify the expense for one shelter dog.

Nancy Butler from SCWTCA offered to look for a foster home and we were relieved. When we expressed a concern about her health deteriorating, Nancy offered to have SCWTCA pay for the surgery. We were very excited. Barby had the surgery and was spayed. Within a week she was eating better, had more energy and looked happy. She still didn’t have a home, but she didn’t mind being at the shelter. A few foster homes were considered, but her possible dog aggression was a problem.

About a month later a local family started visiting the shelter. They are a well respected family in the community and very responsible. They were thoughtfully looking for a dog that would fit their family. They walked several dogs the first day, including Barby. The next weekend they visited again. The middle daughter (10) insisted on spending extra time with Barby. Their next visit Barby was wagging her tail at the sight of them. The girl was smitten and Barby found her family! They adopted her mid-August and she is doing well in the home. The 10-year-old daughter had a birthday party a week or so later and for presents asked that gifts be for the dogs at the shelter.

Thank you for donating the money for Barby’s surgery and for allowing her this chance to live her golden years as a well loved family member.

Karen Folkers, VP

MARTIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
Fairmont MN 56031
In March of this year, I attended a seminar given by John Sherman, DVM who founded Vethab which is a canine physical therapy treatment center in Raleigh NC. A portion of the seminar focused on being proactive in recognizing injuries and lameness in our dogs. The following is some of the information that was presented during the seminar.

It is important to monitor your dog on an ongoing basis because if injury or lameness is recognized early on, there are more treatment options, pain can be managed earlier, and there is a possibility for faster and more complete recovery.

Injuries can be grouped into the following categories:

- **Developmental / Genetic**
  - These are problems that develop as a result of structural flaws, are inherited, or can be associated with aging such as arthritis or back problems. These will most likely manifest over some period of time.
- **Acute Injuries / Accidents**
  - These are sudden onset due to some trauma.
- **Overuse / Training Error**
  - These injuries develop as a result of humans not realizing how their actions are affecting their dogs.

You begin by observing your dog on a daily basis. You specifically look for changes in behavior or movement. Types of things you look at are appetite, attitude, gait during exercise, gait after exercise, gait after exercise following rest, and their actions when they first get out of their crate. How the dog moves when they first get up from resting is most significant because normally this is where a problem will first be seen. After a dog has moved around, they are normally able to adjust to minor problems. It is also recommended to go over your dog each day to inspect for muscle masses that are either hard or hot. John Sherman recommended keeping a written record of any changes you observe or concerns. If a pattern appears that may indicate a problem, you will have the specifics to discuss with your vet concerning when the problem started and the symptoms.

Also, there are several behaviors that indicate potential pain in a dog. If you see any of these, your dog may be experiencing some kind of pain:

- Behavioral change or unusual aggression
- Licking or chewing
- Reluctance to do normal activities
- Loss of appetite
- Increased temperature
- Increased respiratory rate
- Increased heart rate

By capturing gait on video, you are allowed to play it over and view it multiple times to see all detail. You can also slow it down to more closely examine your dog’s movement. The final reason for producing a video of your dog’s gait is you can keep a video from year to year for comparison purposes. If your dog’s gait changes slowly over the years, it will not be obvious just looking at the gait. The change in movement will appear when reviewing the previous years’ videos.

When recording the video of your dog, you want to capture your dog walking on a loose leash at a slow walk, moderate pace walk, and trot. You want the dog on a loose leash so you are not influencing the position her body is held during the gaiting. If your dog is not skilled at walking on a loose leash, you may have to practice this prior to the video session. Record at least a side and rear view of the dog at all three paces. Also capture a change of pace between the walk and trot, then back from the trot to the walk.

When reviewing the video, look for symmetry in the dog’s movement. At a walk, there should be sway in the back. At a trot, the back should be locked. Look at the head position, tail position, leg position under the body and leg extension. Look at how smoothly the dog adjusts gait during the change in pace. If a portion of your dog’s gait does not appear balanced or if there has been a change from previous years, you may want to determine why your dog is gaiting like she is or discuss it with your vet.

Community

Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats.

Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.

Arms to hold us when we falter.

A circle of healing. A circle of friends.

Someplace where we can be free

Starhawk, Dreaming the Dark
Pacific Northwest Petnic’s 10th Year!

September 2008

Jana Carraway

This was the tenth year Wheaten owners have met for the Pacific Northwest Petnic. Several of us who started Petnic are still regular attendees, including Ken Gengler and Art and Linda Lowell, owners of the farm where Petnic is held. Many Wheaten families have been attending Petnic for nearly as many years and we're joined each year by new Wheaten. It is still a joy to see so many Wheatens of ranging sizes, types and haircuts playing, running and hanging together - it's always a sight to behold.

We held a costume contest this year. Entries included a Pirate, a Princess, two Beach Bums, a Sugar Plum Fairie, a Wheaten Wannabe Shih Tzu Princess and a Hippy Chick. Our Tavi was the Hippy Chick - tie dyed t-shirt, love beads with peace signs, flower head band and flower stickers on her ears and coat - so cute! There was a tie for winner between the Sugar Plum Fairie and the Hippy Chick!

After 10 years, I realize the hard part of organizing an ongoing function is that we are beginning to lose dogs that were young and healthy when we started. This year we lost 3 Wheaten friends. For me, personally, it was a bittersweet day - the first Petnic without our Kieffer. There was no Wheaten in the wading pool barking his fool head off and pawing at the water. There were Wheatens lounging in the pool however. Stella, at 15, was the oldest Wheaten at Petnic (we had to keep Stella in her tent most of the day as she wanted to go after the livestock guard dogs - silly girl).

Petnic is the lifetime sponsor of Sam the Wheagle, http://www.colonydogs.org/_. We have raised $2,000 per year, since 2002, towards his care in the Wheagle Colony at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, managed by Dr Shelly Vaden. The Petnic 2008 raffle raised $630 for Sam, taking him through 2010! Hugs to our Wheagle Sam!

Thanks to Toni Vincent-Fisher’s photographic talents, she raised $750 in photo sessions for the SCWTCA Endowment (funds only Wheaten health projects). Toni donated her time and materials. This is a labor of love for Toni, having lost her Wheaten, Minnie, at 3.5 years of age to PLN. The “Gallery of Endowment Supporters” follows on page 26.
I would like to extend my most sincere thank you to all the Wheaten owners who came out and participated in Petnic over the years. They have made Petnic fun and successful every year and have made our Wheaten Health fund raising endeavors successful. Each year we see how much our families love their Wheatens, enjoy the mischief of the breed and care to participate in supporting the breed.

In this 10th year, I would like to acknowledge and send a special thank you to a few Wheaten owners who go the extra measure in support of Petnic activities: Art and Linda Lowell for opening their farm to us each year, Ken Gengler for hosting the Petnic website, Ali White for her generous and always upbeat support in all activities, Toni Vincent-Fisher for keeping us going through her passion, drive and commitment and my husband Jason for always supporting my ideas and Wheaten flights of fancy.

I’m looking forward to 10 more years of Petnic and the Wheatens that come into our lives.

Art and Linda Lowell’s Farm

Candid photos by Ken Gengler
I've lived through a few recessions, which is why I'm so “careful” (penny pinching). I learned enough economics in college to be very wary of the present state of affairs. I think the media has helped create the atmosphere of fear, but the lack of liquidity in today's financial scene is real, and repercussions are widespread. This year I've had two small litters, and the subsequent problems placing them have made me aware of possible ramifications to our breed and sport. Fortunately I have the facilities to care for babies who are not gone by 8-10 weeks when they need their own crates and lots of individual attention in order to develop to full potential. It is true that Arizona has been particularly hard hit early on in the crisis. And my fellow breeders have been generous in supplying names of people who want Wheats. Nevertheless, I just spayed and placed my Welsh bitch, even though the scarcity of Welsh is a sad reality. And I hope that when it is time to breed my only intact Wheaten, things will have stabilized.

Dealing with these issues is specific to each breeder. There are areas of the country where demand continues to be high. There are special animals that should be bred, since to do otherwise would diminish our gene pool. A two-year-old could be skipped, but after that age enters into the picture. The three-year-old beautiful in body and mind has a contribution to make to the gene pool and should be bred, providing you can find Mr Perfect to make the match. Where space is adequate, and the breeder has the time and energy to deal with individual puppies, wise decisions can be made. Puppies that are left together in a litter suffer developmentally. These are concerns of space, equipment and an individual's physical and emotional well-being, not to overlook the cost of keeping those puppies fed and properly cared for by your vet, who no doubt has not lowered his fees. Overcoming that situation is a challenge. It all comes down to how important it is that this breeding takes place now, rather than a year from now, when, hopefully, conditions will have settled down. Hopefully we can preserve our breeding programs, insuring that our gene pool continues with as much diversity as possible, while dealing with a public that tells you, “I'll talk this over with my husband,” which may mean, “I'll go to the internet and get one for $500.”

Another side of the money crunch deals with the cost of exhibiting. Entry fees, motel and restaurant costs are all up. We can pick and choose among shows, showing only to judges whose opinions we value. We can double up with friends on transportation and housing. It may seem like “chump change” but bringing food from home does save dollars and is guaranteed better for your health...take it from a very old brown bagger. Group potluck dinners are fun and often delicious. Then there is the matter of dealing with the attractive wares displayed by the vendors. While it may be patriotic to support these lovely folks, a bit of restraint might be valuable. Just how many new toys do the little guys need? How about finishing up all the half-used bottles, jar and tubes before trying yet another “miracle cure”? Careful planning, and dispensing with frills, can solve many problems.

This takes us to the really pricey item in our lives...Specialty Shows. They are vital to keeping up with the breed and the dogs, yet horrific airfares and the huge effort involved in taking a dog by air make them a difficult proposition for many. Now is the time to look at regional and local specialties. Often there is a show within driving range and you have the opportunity at these smaller gatherings, to really get to know your fellow exhibitors and share experiences. You will be delighted with the careful planning that goes into these events, and the amazing camaraderie that results. I love Great Western, Northern Cal and Montgomery, but I would not want to miss Colorado (indoors in a terrific venue), or our own Sun Country in Arizona, which will be indoors this year. St Louis is another “user friendly” show, ditto Wisconsin, and don't forget the various all-Terrier shows popping up around the country.

Of course I have to say something about Montgomery this year. Superb planning and fabulous weather combined to afford a spectacular weekend. I'm sure editor Gay has it all covered, but it was a special occasion for me. I attended the Endowment Foundation meeting and realized how united we all are and how selflessly our board and officers are working for us. SCWTCA. Inc. is back on page, once again a great breed club. The boutique was smaller, but lovely. Dinner was a happy occasion, beautifully set up, the Awards presentation a perfect example of how technology enhances our lives. The new Sportsmanship Award, presented to Elena Landa was an appropriate reminder that we focus on dogs, but it is people who are our core. I loved the goody bags presented to the “old timers”; including the wonderful history CD done by Emily. It was also a nostalgic occasion...the first time without beloved Emily W Holden, whose wit and generosity had been a constant in our history.

I wish I could thank each of you personally for making my birthday so extraordinary. What fun to look around and see all those yellow badges! The glorious weather was a perfect setting for Group competition. An additional treat was watching a Wheaten breeder-judge, daughter Cindy, put those marvelous animals through their paces. Videos of the Wheaten classes are available from Willie Rueda, and of the group, from Carol Carlson. The next best thing to being there. Being in Wheats certainly makes growing older a most rewarding experience.
Quoting our forever-young birthday girl, Jackie Gottlieb, the weekend was glorious...Mother Nature smiled upon us all. The boutique offered pleasurable objets d'art and the Awards Dinner provided a lovely surprise for all the “old-timers”! In keeping with the theme, “It's A Celebration”, all members who had “been there” in 1973 were presented with charmingly decorated name tags and tote bags that read “There In 1973 … Here in 2008, Celebrating Over 35 Years!” The bags were each personalized with both our names and our kennel names. Emily Holden had begun work on her “Don't Know Much About History” and a copy of the first volume, in the form of a CD, was placed on each table. A sticker placed on the bottom of one chair at each table indicated the winner of the CD. Our first Sportsmanship Award went to Elena Landa and the presentation met with great applause. This was most appropriate since Elena piloted her bitch, Jolie, to Best Of Breed three out of the four days. The effect provided by flashing all of the award winners on a huge screen lent an air of sophistication and excitement to the affair. The absence of Mrs Holden (Emily W) left a void in the hearts of all who knew her. She was faithful to our breed for forty years and the weekend was dedicated to her memory. Kudos to Beverly and Kevin McDonald and their committee for pulling it all together.

What follows are critiques from all three of our judges, Kathy Clarke for Puppy Sweeps, Janet Dalton for Veteran Sweeps and Margret Moller-Seiber adjudicating at the Specialty itself. Photos abound of all facets of the weekend, including agility and obedience, thanks to Gerard Thompson (Sweepstakes and Obedience) Toni Vincent (Candids and Agility) and, of course, our official photographer on Sunday, John Ashbey.

**PUPPY SWEEPS - JUDGES CRITIQUE**

**KATHY CLARKE**

My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone for giving me the opportunity to judge Sweepstakes at MCKC 2008. I also want to thank all of the exhibitors who presented a beautiful lineup of puppies to me. I had a great time and the assignment was a thrill and an honor.

This was a lovely group of young dogs. I saw a lot of good, sound movement. I believe that we, as breeders, are paying more attention to structure in planning our breedings and, as a result, are seeing improvements overall in movement. There were fewer flying elbows and fewer dogs treading on toes. Well-built dogs move well.

Overall, the exhibits had nice coats and good bites with strong bottom jaws. The eye color was good. Toplines and tailsets were also good. We are improving in these areas. I put my hands on some thin dogs but overall most were in good weight.

There are a number of areas that we need to improve on. We really need to take a hard look at improving ears – both size and set. There were many big, houndy, thick ears that were not set on well. We also need to continue to work on improving heads. I felt some very blocky heads with round, domed back skulls. A number of exhibits also had very round eyes instead of the pretty, almond-shaped eye called for by our standard. These are problem areas that need our attention as breeders.
6–9 puppy dog class. My choice was Cuillinn Paris When it Sizzles. This puppy had a beautiful jacket of a lovely color. He moved well and held his outline on the go-round. He was nice coming and going. He lacked eyeliner pigment but had a very nice dark eye.

9–12 puppy dog class. My choice was Ceili’s Time to Shine, a very well put-together young dog. He had a nice coat with good color. A very solid-moving dog that didn’t put a foot wrong. He was a strong contender for Best in Sweepstakes.

12–15 puppy dog class. My choice was Orion Trebol Hot on the Leader Board. This was a beautiful, on-size Irish coated dog with lovely shoulders, a nice, clean head, good eye color and proper ears. He was a beautiful mover. This was my Sweepstakes winner.

15–18 puppy dog class. My choice was Eire’s Buckeye Boy Griffin 2X Heisman. This was a sound dog with a pretty coat. He was structurally very nice to go over, though somewhat on the large size for me.

6–9 puppy bitch class. My choice was Jendu’s Debut. This little lady was as cute as could be. She was just a baby but was in contention for my Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes. She had a good head, a nice bite, a level topline and a nice rear.

9–12 puppy bitch class. My choice was Edgewood Ruffian, a lovely, in-size bitch and a beautiful mover. She moved well on the down and back. She had proper ears. Her head was a little blocky and her coat needs conditioning.

12–15 puppy bitch class. My choice was Caraway Strike a Pose. What a nice bitch this was to put your hands on. Her shoulders and topline felt wonderful. Her head was not her strong suit and it could have used more length. The great feel to her body and her sound, solid movement won me over. I gave her the nod as my Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes winner.

In the 15–18 puppy bitch class, my choice was Greentree Wind Dancer. This was a lovely Irish coated bitch with an exquisite headpiece. She had a good bite, wonderful almond-shaped eyes and nice dark eye color. She was somewhat on the “wild side” but when she got it together, she really covered ground.

Overall what I was looking for was a square, good moving dog that held its topline and tailed on the move. I wanted good, clean, sound movement coming and going on the out and back. I pulled out four dogs for my final go-round, including the 12–15 dog, the 9–12 dog, the 12–15 bitch and the 6 to 9 bitch. When it came time for the final nod, it was important to me that my winner “asked for” the win! The 12–15 dog gave me what I wanted. He was well-handled and moved effortlessly. He is a beautiful young Irish coated dog with lovely type and balance. The 9–12 dog was a close second, but he let down at the end. My Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes was the 12–15 bitch. She moved effortlessly. The 6–9 bitch is a pretty baby and did a good job keeping up with the older dogs.

VETERAN SWEEPS - JUDGES CRITIQUE JANET DALTON

I would like to thank the Board of Directors of The Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America for the pleasure of judging the Veteran Sweepstakes during the Celebration of 35 Years of Wheaten recognition. I must say that I was very impressed with the condition of the entry. The dogs were in wonderful body weight with beautifully cared for coats. I would especially like to commend the owners of Ch Lonestar Crazy For You; at 12 1/2, she was in superb condition.

The Best of Opposite dog, Ch Kaler Kick It Up A Notch, won his place on his moderate size and correct outline but he had to give way to the bitch, Ch Gleannlag Keep The Faith, for Best in Sweepstakes. What a beauty. She has so many Wheaten virtues, an elegant 9-year-old with lovely expression enhanced by correct ear set, moderate size, lovely neck-set and outline and a beautiful coat of Wheaten color. She moved around the ring with style and I would have been very happy to have owned her.

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Final Lineup...Veteran Sweepstakes. Left to right: Kevin McDonald with Ch Bayberry Greentree Sea Hero (Dog); Denise Daniel with Ch Kaler Kick it Up A Notch (Dog); Nancy Draper with Ch Geragold Orla Finska Fiona (Bitch); Dana Frady with Ch Gleannlag Keep The Faith VCD2 RN (Bitch); Beverly McDonald with Ch Greentree Fairy Tale Princess (Bitch).
Best in Veteran Sweeps was Ch Gleanngay Keep The Faith, VCD2 RN, bred by Gay Dunlap & Dana Frady and owned by JoAnne Vogt & Gay Dunlap. From the 9 to 11 Years Bitch class, Maizy’s sire is Ch Gleanngay Daring Display and her dam was Ch Gleanngay Arf ‘N Annie. She was presented by Dana.

BOS in Veteran Sweeps was Ch Kaler Kick It Up A Notch, bred by Karen Mueller and Joseph & Madelaine Evans and owned by the Evans’. From the 9 to 11 Years Dog class, his sire is Ch Kennally-Ballymena Excalibur and his dam is Ch Kaler Tie Me Down. He was presented by Denise Daniel.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY KENNEL CLUB SHOW 2008
JUDGES CRITIQUE - MARGRET MÖLLER-SIEBER, GERMANY

It was both a great pleasure and honour for me to be invited to judge the 35th Anniversary Jubilee Show in recognition of our breed by the American Kennel Club.

Through all those years, going to Montgomery always meant something extra special to me. It was in 1992 when I first visited the States and it was then that I first experienced Montgomery, and what a wonderful weekend it is. Since then I have seen all kinds of weather situations, but for this year, St Peter showed that he is a friend of the Terrier Show World. What a joy to judge over 145 WHEATENS in the Sunshine!

First of all I want to thank all those who were involved in this Big Event for all your help, support and great hospitality. Thanks to the wonderful ring stewards who helped in the ring to keep all things arranged and to keep to our time schedule. Thanks to ALL who were responsible for the beautiful prizes that I had to hand out. I guess for some exhibitors it was really an early Christmas.

The BOB Competition was a really a wonderful event. It was very hard work to go through all those great Champions and pick the eventual winner.

Thanks to all exhibitors for their fairness in the ring. You ALL were great and I had a wonderful time!

Before going in detail, I want to give you a short summary of my personal impressions. The overall quality was excellent, most of the dogs showed at first sight being male or female. Most of the dogs showed the desired Breed Type with the correct Terrier Expression. Ear size and carriage is still a point to be watched, along with the fact that some heads did not show the defined stop, which is so important for the correct head and proportion in our Breed. I had NO light eyes, some level and VERY few slightly undershot mouths. Bone substance and the depth of the brisket have improved a lot. Rear angulation was good, although some dogs could have a better knee angulation and more behind. Tailsets were excellent. Coats were excellent, wavy, silky and shiny. Coat colour was too pale in several dogs and should be watched. Movement still could be improved, but this is a point you can see in Wheatens all over the World. Grooming, Presentation and Handling was, as always in the States - OUTSTANDING.

Temperaments were GREAT. Typical, outgoing, and friendly.

I know that a big discussion has started again about undocked tails. Just for your information, in most of the European Countries the docking of the tails and the cropping of the ears is FORBIDDEN by the Government. Because of this regulation, it is also forbidden by most of the Kennel Clubs to show dogs with docked tails or cropped ears no matter where they are born. WE, unfortunately as Breeders have NO choice!

PUPPY 6 TO 9 MONTH DOGS

1.(17) Cuillin How To Steal A Million, 8 months old - Very promising, nice looking puppy, nice coat and colour, moves and shows very well for his age.

2.(57) Lismore The World Is Not Enough, 7 months old - Nice type, bite should be watched, shows & moves well.

benchmarks, volume 36, number 4, page 30
continued on page 31
3. (59) Lismore What a Wonderful World - litter brother to No.2 Nice Type, undershot mouth, moves well.

**PUPPY 9 TO 12 MONTH DOGS**

1. (21) Celli’s Time To Shine, 11 months old - Promising youngster, nice head and expression, ears a little bit big, well developed body, good coat & colour, moves well.

2. (107) KayLynn’s Wylie Coyote On The Move, 11 months old - Very stylish youngster, who needs ring discipline & training, good head, ears a bit big, well developed body, moves not too well today.

3. (29) Sanwilly’s Gentleman Zach, 10 months old - Irish-coated youngster, nice head and expression, ears a little bit too high, Top line raising while standing and moving, nice coat, moves well.

4. (143) Mil Mear Geragold Cowboy Up, 12 months old - Stylish, Irish-coated youngster, The baby in this class, needs time to develop, good head and expression, excellent coat texture, colour a bit pale, moves and shows well.

**OPEN DOG**

1. (71) Greentree Real Quiet, 16 months old - Very stylish male of excellent size, masculine head and Terrier Expression, Excellent Pigmentation, well angulated and developed body, excellent topline and tailset, excellent coat and colour, moves very well.

2. (89) Modny Style Great Expectations, 1 year old - Stylish dog that moves and shows extremely well, little bit curly in coat, nice colour.

3. (23) Lindystar’s Life Of Riley, 20 months old - Stylish dog, nice head and expression, super coat and colour, moves and shows well.

4. (81) Bon Aquarel Icon O’Kaler, 2 years old - Good size, masculine head and Terrier Expression, well angulated, nice silky coat, but very pale in colour, moves and shows well.

**PUPPY 6 TO 9 MONTHS BITCHES**

1. (64) Jendu’s Debut, 6 months old - Promising puppy, good size for this age, feminine head and expression, well put together body, needs a bit more self-confidence, moves well.

2. (76) Pocketfull Of Posies, Litter sister to No.1 - nice head and expression, a bit upright in shoulders, nice coat and colour, shows very well.
3. (106) Star Hunter’s Dream Girl, 7 months old - Nice size, good head and expression, good coat for this age, moves and shows well for her age.

4. (16) Cuillin Funny Face, 9 months old - Hope she will not grow anymore, nice head and expression, well developed body, she does not like to show today, maybe too tired after the long Show weekend.

PUPPY 9 TO 12 MONTHS, BITCHES

1. (140) Frolic Freya Of Fenris, 9 months old - Very happy girl, excellent head and Terrier expression, well angulated and developed body, very good topline and tailset, nice coat and colour, moves and shows extremely well.

2. (26) Sam Hills I Told You I was Trouble, 10 months old - Very nice bitch, not as showy as No.1, nice head and expression, very good type, well put together, moves well.

3. (30) Banner Shout, 9 months old - stylish little bitch ears a bit big, good size, nice head and expression, well put together, moves and shows well.

4. (150) Whindancer’s When The Stars Go Blue, 9 months old - Nice type, nice head and expression, a little bit long in back, good colour & coat, moves well.

12 TO 18 MONTHS BITCHES

1. (100) Gleanngay Lady Of The Lake, 15 months old - Very stylish young bitch, very nice size, feminine head and terrier expression, well angulated front and behind, level topline, high tailset, nice colour and coat, moves and shows well.

2. (146) Mil Mear Geragold Cowgirl Up, 12 months old - Good size, typical head and expression, well put together, excellent coat & colour, should carry her tail a bit better, moves well.

3. (22) Bonney Woodland Sprite, 16 months old - Very stylish bitch, nice head and expression, bite should be watched, well angulated front and behind, nice coat and colour, moves well.

4. (158) Greentree Trinity Here’s My Heart, 2 ½ year old - Very nice looking bitch, nice head and expression, does not like to show her ears today, well angulated and developed body, excellent coat and colour, moves well.

AMERICAN-BRED BITCHES

1. (120) Kennally Hobel’s Work Of Art, Nearly 3 years old - Fully matured bitch, good size, feminine head and expression, excellent topline and tailset, well developed body, excellent silky coat, good colour.

2. (108) Kaler Dreamsicle, 6 months old - The baby in this class, very immature, but promising, nice head and body, moves well.

OPEN BITCHES

1. (14) Cameron Cosmopolitan, 5 year old - Stylish bitch a little bit bigger in size, excellent head and expression, well angulated front and behind, excellent silky coat, excellent colour, moves and shows extremely well.

2. (118) Kennally Tiger Lily, 2 years old - Very good size, feminine head and expression, nice coat, but not as silky as it should be for this age, well put together body, moves and shows well.

3. (34) Waverleyglen’s Access Denied, 2 ½ years old - Nice bitch, good size, nice head and expression, a little bit long in back, good body, moves well.

4. (62) Jendu Navy, Nearly 2 years old - Solid bitch, excellent head and expression, ears a little bit big, well angulated front and behind, nice coat & colour, moves well.

VETERAN, 7 YEARS & OVER DOGS

1. (109) CH Lakkas Ustilago, 7 years old - Presented in great condition. He cannot deny his dad. What a typical, well-proportioned head and Terrier expression. Well-developed and angulated body, excellent topline & tailset, excellent silky, shiny coat, still a little bit pale in colour, moves very well.
VETERAN, 7 YEARS & OVER BITCHES

1. (102) CH Aran’s Hanky Panky, Nearly 11 years old - What a girl! Shown by her breeder in great condition, excellent head and expression, well-angulated body, great substance, moves very well. What a joy to judge such an oldie so full of temperament.

BEST VETERAN.

BOB CH DOUBLOON’S ULTIMATE PLAYER, 3 year old - Fully matured, eye-catching bitch. She caught my eye entering the ring. Shown in great condition by her Breeder, Excellent feminine head and expression, excellent angulated front and behind, super topline and tailset, silky, wavy coat, true, clear wheaten colour, moves freely and parallel in front and behind.

BOS CH LOVESONG’S DANCE TO THE BEAT, 3 ½ year old - Stylish male of good size. Masculine head and expression, excellent angulated body, full of substance, excellent outline, excellent coat & colour, moves and shows very well.

AOM WINNERS

I would just like to mention my award of merit winners. On any given day, these dogs or bitches could very easily have won. They were all in super condition and excellent specimens of our breed. A special thank you for showing these dogs to me.

Ch Lovesong’s Dance To The Beat was Best Opposite Sex. Bred by Nona Mansfield and Lauren Dienstbier, his sire is Ch Lovesong Little Drummer Boy. His dam is Ch Lovesong’s Dance Track and he is owned by Nona Mansfield.

Ch Lakkas Ustilago, Veteran Dog, won an Award Of Merit. Bred by Hilde Nybom, he is owned by Roxanna & Leo Springer. Sire: Wheaten Rebel’s Walk On Top; dam: Lakkas Salvia.

Ch Vintage Green Beret Ballad, breeder owned by Brian Ness and Michael Weiss. Sire: Soldiersong Fianna Boy; dam: Ch Marquee’s Secret Vintage.

Ch Dhowden American Dream, breeder owned by Denise Bendelewski. His sire is Ch Frolic’s Squeeze Play; dam is Ch Dhowden C’Dar Dreams Of Cardiff.

Ch Kincora Tara Gold Digger (Photo unavailable)

CH KENNALLY FAOLIN RUADH

The After Show Dinner, a Pasta-Buffet was a SUPER idea and gave all exhibitors a chance to relax, talk, and EAT & DRINK… I really enjoyed that evening to visit with people that I have known for years and had no chance to meet before the show. It was also very wonderful to meet so many new people and to be able to put faces to so many names that I have learned. All My Best Wishes to the Club and “See You” somewhere on the show circuit around the world.

**Ballybae Katie's Uptown Girl, CD MX MXJ OF** was the **Highest Scoring Dog in Obedience Regular Classes** with a score of 186 1/2. Bred by Stephanie & Martin O'Keefe and owned by Helen & William Gore. Sire: Ch Bryr Rose Degas; dam: Ch Ballybae Rosie's Katie Too. Presenter is Amy Havely.

**Kaler Getcha Some, NA NAJ**, qualified in **Rally Novice B**. Bred by Karen Mueller & Shari Fougnie; sire is Ch Villa Rosas Felyan out of Ch Kaler In your Dreams. Owned by Debra Harrington & Karen Mueller.

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**Agility Candid Photos, courtesy of Toni Vincent**
Canine Good Citizenship at the SCWTCA National Specialty

October 4, 2008

Suzanne Stone, CGC Evaluator

We had a nice turnout and a lovely venue indoors for the CGC test this year at the SCWTCA National Specialty at the Montgomery County Community College on Saturday October 4. I gave the test after Obedience and Rally were finished and several people stayed on to watch and help. Thanks to all of those who did help and thanks to all who took the test. All six of the Wheats tested passed, pretty much with flying colors. I began giving the CGC test at our specialty back in 2004. Each year the entries have been more prepared and I am impressed with the training being done by Wheaten owners. Many people have realized that some of that pent-up energy has to do with very intelligent dogs who want to use that intelligence to its best advantage in such venues as agility, obedience, rally, tracking, freestyle, herding, etc. Having your dog become a Canine Good Citizen says that you care enough to teach your dog basic manners and good behavior in public and is good preparation for getting involved in performance activities. Even if you never compete, it’s fun to train a dog, work as a team and develop a deeper and stronger relationship. It’s amazing what our Wheats can do!

I will be giving the CGC at our National Specialty again next year and invite one and all (and their Wheats) to take the CGC test with me. I try to make it a fun and sometimes-instructional experience for all involved, and hopefully next year I’ll remember to bring my camera! 🐶

On October 26, 2008, a CGC title was awarded to Ch Gallagher’s Big Shot, “Elle Lee”, three years old. Her sire is Ch Lissadell Big and her dam is Ch Gallagher’s River Of Dreams. She is breeder owned by Linda and Al Gallagher.

The Naked Truth
Exposing HSUS & PETA

The Naked Truth Calendar – the perfect “eye-opening” holiday gift. You’ve been waiting too long for those revealing secrets hidden between the sheets! The gloves are off (& anything else necessary). Top AKC judges & handlers provocatively exposed to defend our rights & halt the spread of the “antis” – anti-pet/breed specific legislation, anti-breeding, anti-animal ownership.

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Fighting Anti-Pet Legislation is No Tea Party!
Welcome to the first installment of “Wheaten Golden Years,” a column dedicated to the care of our senior and geriatric Wheatens. I make a distinction between senior and geriatric. I consider geriatric the last 2 or 3 years of life; the time when they are significantly slower, sometimes begin losing appetite, lose weight, or need our assistance in some efforts. Caring for a geriatric dog takes time, effort and patience; it’s an act of love given to a lifelong or longtime companion.

Many Wheatens love the cooler weather, even into old age, but not all. Some have lost weight and no longer have as much body mass for insulation, the coat has thinned in old age, and they need a little help staying warm. This describes our Stella, 15, who wore a light-weight sweater in the house from fall to spring last year and again this year.

Stella’s average weight was 30 pounds. At 13, after a surgery, she slowly began losing weight and is now 24 pounds. As the weather cools and she begins to get chilled, she curls in a tight ball. Expending energy for warmth burns precious calories a geriatric dog can ill afford to lose (this is also true for dogs that are ill, a PLN dog for example).

Watch your senior or geriatric dog this winter. If he or she curls in a tight ball, try putting a lightweight blanket over the dog and you may see the dog relax with the added warmth. If you are away from home during the day and the heat in the house is turned down, consider putting a lightweight sweater on your geriatric Wheaten.

The following are a few recommendations to Winterize Your Wheaten:

• As mentioned, buy lightweight sweaters that can be worn day and night in the house.
• Change sweater weekly or as often as might be necessary.
• Provide doggy blankets or beds around the house to snuggle into.
• Use a heated dog bed.
• Cover dog’s crate in the colder months to provide a warm den.
• Trim the coat shorter in areas that will mat from wearing a sweater.
• Brush weekly – I bath weekly as well (will depend on the dog).
• Use a good coat conditioner that reduces tangling or helps with dematting.
• If you keep your dog in longer coat, consider trimming shorter to reduce grooming time for the geriatric Wheaten.
• Keep feet trimmed for easy winter cleaning.
• Keep fresh water available.
• Provide a warmer sweater or coat for outdoors.
• And keep your geriatric Wheaten exercising even in the winter.

Wishing all the senior and geriatric Wheatens naps by the fire, walks in the crisp, cool weather, and warm blankets for snuggling.

Future columns will discuss diet, nutrition, senior health care and grooming.

If you would like to submit an article or senior/geriatric care tips or stories to Wheaten Golden Years, please contact Jana Carraway, templarscwt@comcast.net.
THREE DOG NIGHTS

By Abigail Thomas

I used to feel about king-size beds the way I do about Hummers and private jets and granite countertops, but over the past seven years I gained three dogs and 30 pounds, and my old bed, a humble queen, just didn't cut it anymore. It was either lose the weight, lose the dogs, or buy something bigger. King size is what I needed, and king size is what I got.

Two of my dogs, Rosie and Carolina, jump up with ease, but my old beagle, Harry, can't make it. He was able to manage the other bed, but he had to back up to the wall to get a running start. Now there is no space left for a running start. This bed takes up the whole room, so I heave him up every night. I hope never to need to heave up myself. So far I am troubled only by arthritis, and if it gets worse, I can always ask my son to make me some stairs.

I love it up here.

There are some mornings when I can't think of a good enough reason to get out of bed, but this is where the dogs come in handy. Even if I put my head under all four pillows, Rosie seeks me out. She is relentless. Whichever way I turn, her cold nose is poking in my face. So this is what it's like to be hunted down.

The four of us sleep in a huddle. Harry dives under the covers toward my feet on the left, Rosie on the right, and Carolina on my (our) pillow. During the night, Harry gets out from under and arranges himself on top of the blanket, Rosie inches up to lay her head on my shoulder, and Carolina, who tends to start compact and neat, softens and unwinds during the night, extended by morning to her full length. When I open my eyes, there is Rosie, her eyes already open, watching my face.

Dogs make good company. Dogs don't question the fact that you are going to take a nap 20 minutes after getting up from the last one. They are happy to accommodate you. Sometimes Rosie hops off the bed the minute I hop on, but she has her own dog reasons, and it is never because of something I said at breakfast, or because she had an unhappy adolescence.

I have slept with dogs for seven years. Every now and then I remember sleeping with a man, but if I hold still, the memory fades. Strange, when I consider how much of my life was spent in pursuit of being pursued for the purpose of going to bed. I'm just not interested anymore.

But wait.

There is Marky Mark. I tell my friend Claudette. She absorbs this, and I can feel she does not understand completely. Perhaps Marky Mark is not on her A-list.

"Who would you rather sleep with," she asks, "Marky Mark or Johnny Depp?"

"Marky Mark," I say. "Johnny Depp is too beautiful."

"Johnny Depp is too thin," says Claudette.

Anyway, no matter how irresistible a man might find this 65-year-old grandmother of 12, or I him, there are the dogs, and the bed is big, but not that big. Rosie's breath smells like fish, Carolina sheds, Harry growls if you touch him when he's sleeping – or even when he's not if he thinks you want to push him around. He has his quirks. He'll bite if you move him aside with your hands, but he takes no umbrage at being shoved by a hip. He will not go near a bowl if you forget to take the spoon out. No matter what's in it, no matter how badly he wants to lick it, he stays at a safe distance and barks until the spoon is removed.

Sometimes I wonder if I might be missing something with only dogs for companionship, but then I think about mornings. First there would be the discovery that there is no milk for someone who takes it in his coffee. Then the likelihood of conversation. I need to be quiet with my (black) coffee. I want to listen to the mourning doves. I like to sit on the sofa with the dogs, stroking Carolina's silky chest and Rosie's satiny flank. Harry sits on my feet, standing guard. Suppose another person were here? What if he had opinions? What if he used the word postmodern with a straight face? What if he wanted to explain how many feet from a dwelling a cesspool needed to be? What if he wanted to talk about the pros and cons of raising the prime rate? What if he wanted to talk about his childhood? Or worse, mine. I can put up with Carolina's barking because she'll stop for a treat (and because I love her so much), but people are different. You can't shut them up with the offer of a dog biscuit or a little piece of broccoli.

Lots of people in my somewhat leaky boat are on the lookout for a human companion. Not me. I have learned to love the inside of my own head. There isn't much I'd rather say than think. Of course there is the rare bird with whom I am in sync, the odd person who can make me laugh my head off and with whom conversation is not an imposition or a chore, but these people are few and far between. I can talk to them on the phone. I can invite them for coffee.

So where am I going with this? Probably back upstairs with the dogs. It is starting to rain. I have made my bed and I want to lie in it.

(Reprinted with the author's permission from O magazine.)
very parent wants her baby to be the smartest. Fortunes have been made from enrichment toys and programs claiming to help them achieve that goal. That’s fine for parents of human babies, but what about those of canine babies who worry their little yapper may be an underachiever? How do you produce the next canine Einstein?

Stimulating Ideas

Educational toys may help, but so far, nobody’s demonstrated that a toy that teaches your puppy to tie his shoe is any better than an empty plastic bottle. Besides, most puppies are quite adept at untying your shoe while it’s on your foot and you’re attempting to walk, even without fancy educational toys. But it’s the fact that puppies have access to bottles and shoes and anything they can mouth and chase that makes the difference.

Like babies, puppies thrive in stimulating, complex environments. In a study in which puppies were placed in complex environments for the first time at 12 or 16 weeks of age, these dogs were inhibited and explored less than puppies that had been placed in increasingly complex environments at earlier ages. In another study, dogs raised without contact with the outside world until 10 months of age became hyperactive, with six times the activity of normally raised dogs, when placed in a normal environment. They learned slowly and forgot easily compared to the normally raised dogs.

It’s not just overall activity, nor is it just grossly deficient environments that can affect behavior. Specific behaviors can also be influenced by early exposure. When Scott and Fuller were performing their puppy tests back in the 1960s, they routinely included a retrieving test between 8 and 10 weeks of age, and again at 32 weeks. When they subsequently quit testing at the earlier age, they found that puppies that weren’t tested (and thus, weren’t exposed to retrieving) until they were 32 weeks old failed miserably, with only 11% fetching. Even with training, most never retrieved satisfactorily, leading the researchers to conclude there was an optimal time to learn the concept of fetch.

The Bio-Sensor exercises are simple, and are performed on each puppy from beginning to end before starting with the next puppy. Each exercise is performed for only 3 to 5 seconds. They are as follows:

**Tactile stimulation**: Hold the puppy in one hand and use a cotton swab to tickle it between the toes on any one foot.

**Head up position**: Using both hands, hold the puppy perpendicular to the ground so its head is directly over its tail.

**Head down position**: Holding the puppy in the same position as in exercise 2, gently bend the head down so the nose is pointing toward the ground.

**Supine position**: Place the puppy on its back in both your hands, so it’s parallel to the ground.

**Thermal stimulation**: Cool a damp towel in the refrigerator for five minutes, then place the pup on it, feet down.

These exercises don’t take the place of normal play and interaction, but are in addition to it. Remember, though, overly enthusiastic stimulation can be as bad as nonexistent stimulation. I’ve heard of people placing puppies in the freezer for 30 seconds, figuring if touching a chilled towel for 3 seconds was good, making a pupcicle would surely produce a superdog. Wrong.

**Food for Thought**

You may even be able to feed your puppy brain food. In fact, your grandmother may have been right when she said fish was brain food. Certain types of fish contain high levels of omega-3 fatty acids. In a recent study, puppies fed various levels of omega-3 fatty acids were subsequently trained to associate a symbol, either a cube or a sphere, with the correct direction to take in a T-shaped maze. Puppies whose dams were fed diets high in these fatty acids, and which were also fed them after weaning, not only had significantly higher levels of docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), a component of omega-3 fatty acids, in their red blood cell membranes, but also scored significantly better on the maze test than did those reared on the low omega-3 fatty acid diet. Based on these results, puppy foods are now available with DHA added to them.

This same result has been reported in human infants. Children born to mothers who had taken cod liver oil during pregnancy and lactation scored higher on a mental processing test at 4 years of age compared with children whose mothers had taken corn oil. Omega-3 fatty acids have even been implicated in reducing criminal behavior. One recent study found that supplementing the diets of poor children in Mauritania with higher quality food including fish for omega-3 fatty acids reduced their criminal activity when they got older. Another recent study found that adding fatty acid supplements to the diets of adult prisoners decreased prison violence. Understandably, both studies are somewhat controversial, but if giving my dog a fish oil pill will make him come when called and quit peeing on the floor, I’m there.
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