featuring

Robin - the Story of a Search & Rescue Dog
Great Western Weekend
The St Louis Specialty
Nih Lifetime Health Study Faqs
Celebrating Long Life and Happy Birthday Seniors
Wheaten Golden Years - When Is It Time?
What Have We Learned From The Colony Dogs?
Grandma’s Attic
Meet Our New Board Members
Devil’s Advocate

the wheaten is an all-purpose farm dog!
photo courtesy of Jody Sylvester

Benchmarks is available in color
on our SCWTCA web site,
http://www.scwtca.org
Click on Benchmarks and check it out!
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Editor's Notes:
Due to several typographical errors in Sue Goldberg's ads in the June issue, they are being reprinted in this issue (see pages 18 & 19).
Apologies to Christy Weagant for mistakenly referring to her AOM at NCTA as a "she" instead of a "he." He is Ch Baroque Top Shelf Hurrikane!
This is my last President's Message for Benchmarks. As I leave the Board, I want to thank you for the honor of serving and take this opportunity to recap highlights of the past three years.

Perhaps the hallmark of my time with the Board has been Bylaws, Policies and Procedures refinement. As a member of the 2006 Bylaws Revision Committee, I wanted to see the Committee's work brought to the SCWTCA membership, thus my motivation to serve on the Board. Of the 16 proposals, 15 passed in a 2007 ballot. The last of these 16, the two-year term for Board members, was affirmed by membership vote this year. I am particularly gratified by that passage as it provides greater Board stability and spreads the responsibility of the Nominating Committees over multiple years.

Another major milestone, led by Gay Dunlap, Gary Vlachos and Cindy Vogels, was revision of the breed standard to further define proper coat and describe the docked and undocked tail. Other breeds continue to struggle with the latter issue, while we are now better positioned to share dogs with countries under a docking ban.

The efforts of our extraordinary webmaster, Robyn Alexander, and countless others placed SCWTCA's Policy Manual and Bylaws on the web site to offer a better understanding of the club's inner-workings. Recently, Board Members Jinx Moore and Susan McGee completed a thorough review of the existing online Policy Manual and have recommended a major update and reorganization of this material to create a more accessible and accurate document. Additional information concerning this initiative will be distributed through Updates over the next several months.

Recording secretaries, Susan McGee past and Nancy Draper current, improved club communications by encouraging more informative reports from committee chairs, creating a more reader friendly Wavelengths.

Elaine Azerolo, Helen Moreland, Cecily Skinner and Health Committee members greatly advanced engagement in health research and dissemination though the Health Newsletter. Many DNA collections occurred for both the Canine Phenome Project (CPP) and the NIH Lifetime Study of SCWTs. Work is ongoing for both projects with many health survey completions still required for those participating in the CPP and many additional young Wheatens needed for NIH DNA collections. There are exciting developments in our research projects...stay tuned!

Despite high gasoline prices and a declining economy, our National Specialty continues to attract large numbers of exhibitors and delight the membership with innovations and outstanding services. With the 2007 baseball-themed event, 2008's "Celebration," and this year's "Now We're Cooking," specialty coordinators and their teams have toiled and are toiling long hours to bring us together for fun and competition in the best of circumstances.

Board members spearheaded countless innovations such as designing new National Specialty AOM medallions, creating a litter listing service, and instituting Certificates of Appreciation. Because Board members became more sophisticated Yahoo Group users and participated in online polling, quality discussion could continue on page 4.

A child of the thirties, I felt catapulted back in time. The RMS Queen Mary set sail on Her maiden voyage in May of 1936. She was the fastest cruise liner in the world and remained so until 1952. In 1993 She was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places with Historic Significance. Contrary to popular belief, the ship is not cemented into the ocean floor. She still floats and is permanently moored in her stationary home in Long Beach Harbor. On board, little has changed...all so very "retro." And in the upgrading process every attempt has been made to preserve the integrity of this retro atmosphere. Although now completely air conditioned, rooms still have vintage oscillating fans permanently mounted (though no longer operable) near the ceiling. In the bathroom, the original four bathtub faucets (also no longer functioning) once allowed passengers a choice of fresh water or salt water, both hot and cold. The art deco Observation Bar, original to the Queen Mary, is a jewel and we took advantage of it each evening for cocktails following the shows, prior to dinner.

The show venue, Queen Mary Events Park, was right on the water. For us it was a three-day event with an independent SCWTSCC specialty on Friday, SCWTCA supported show on Saturday and another SCWTSCC specialty on Sunday. Catholic Church Deacon Phil Goodman provided the "Blessing of the Animals" prior to the Saturday's judging. Just as he sprinkled holy water on the dogs, a few sprinkles began to fall from the sky. An exhibitor immediately quipped, "And God is blessing us from above!"

The stark white tents, set on a well-manicured lawn, provided ample shade for those in need of it. For others, there was plenty of sun in which to bask. The white tents and green lawn juxtaposed against a bright blue sky and sparkling water was, as one exhibitor noted, a truly esthetic experience. On Sunday, an exhibitor sitting next to me gazed out across the ring to the bay beyond with its sailboats and small yachts and said that it was the most calming and relaxing show she had ever attended. Someone else commented that they felt they were on vacation. There is something almost spiritual about the sea and ocean breezes! For those of you who did not attend, do make it a must for next year. Please see the photo on the following page, showing Great Western's venue with the bay to one side and "The Queen" in the background.
Betty Chapman

All who serve bring a unique combination of interests and skills to an organization. I have had the privilege to contribute mine over the past three years to help SCWTCA protect and advance the breed. It is time to pass the torch. Congratulations and best wishes to the new leadership who in October 2009 will take their own path toward helping SCWTCA, Inc. fulfill its mission.

With Warm Regards,

Betty Chapman

Great Western Terrier Show, Panoramic View courtesy of Ernie Slone

“SHOW RING SEMINARS”

Frank Sabella: …World-famous judge who has judged at every major show in the USA including Westminster and the AKC/Eukanuba Championships as well as throughout Canada, South America, Europe, Japan and Australia…Legendary show handler who has won over 600 Bests in Show, including Westminster.

Peter Green: …Famous Terrier expert and judge, who has recently judged at the FCI World Show in Sweden in 2008 and Best in Show at Crufts (UK) in 2009…The only living person to have won Best in Show at both Westminster…which he did four times…and at Crufts. Six times piloted a dog to the position of No.1 All Breeds in the US; 8 times BIS at Montgomery County Kennel Club.

Margery Good: …World-famous breeder/owner/handler, accompanied by her “superstar” Sealyham Terrier Ch. Efbe’s Hidalgo at Goodspice (“Charmin”)…Charmin has won 95 Bests in Show including 2009 Crufts (22,000 dogs entered), 2008 FCI World Show in Sweden (21,000 dogs) and 2008 AKC-Eukanuba National Championships.

Sasha Reiss (Serbia): …Professional handler who has shown over thirty different breeds and finished over 500 FCI certified champions throughout Europe and in Argentina, Brazil and Israel…Poodle specialist who also has been instrumental in the development of grooming styles for several FCI-recognized breeds.

They will be joined by breeder/handler/grooming specialists Sarah Hawks, Loretta Marchese, Mario DiFante, Sue Zecco and others.

Live-action subjects to be covered in the morning session: Formula for success in the show ring; Know your breed: Table and lead training puppies; Conditioning: Showing your dog in the ring; How styles of presentation vary slightly depending on the breed; Stacking your dog on the ground or on the table; Gaiting your dog; Baiting: The judge’s examination and what to do as the judge goes over your dog, and Patterns of movement in the ring.

To be covered in the afternoon session: All phases of coat care and grooming techniques for Poodles, Bichons Frises, Portuguese Water Dogs, Kerry Blue Terriers and several wire-coated terriers that are stripped or pulled.

If you’re seriously interested in becoming more professional and expanding your knowledge about showing dogs in the breed ring, this program is for you!
AKC LITTER AND INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS DROP FOR THE SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIER

This is not meant to imply the drop in AKC registrations is a Wheaten Terrier phenomenon; it is pretty much the situation across the board. Why is this, we might ask, and what might we do to mitigate the trend?

In days gone by the AKC stood alone as a dog registry. Such is no longer the case; there are many registries from which breeders and dog owners may now choose. Sadly, the high-volume commercial dog breeders have picked up their marbles and are no longer playing with the AKC, choosing to join other registries instead. This is in spite of the fact that many of these other registries are considered to be unreliable. Unbeknownst to most of us, and in rather typically elitist fashion, we thought that AKC considered us their bread and butter. In point of fact, the fancy has accounted for only 10% of AKC’s registration revenue. In an effort to recover these lost high-volume commercial breeders’ puppy registrations, AKC sought to form an alliance with Petland. Petland was to encourage puppy buyers to register their pups with AKC. The delegate body subsequently voted down the agreement. Given that registrations are historically what has floated AKC’s boat, the AKC is now in rather dire straits.

What can we do? If one believes that great oaks from little acorns grow, please see that all of your litters are registered and that each and every puppy you produce is registered with the AKC. Granted this is but a drop in a somewhat empty bucket but it is important!

The following truths must be acknowledged:

1) We, the fancy, cannot possibly satisfy the vast market for puppies by ourselves.
2) We must get over the idea that we are the only ones capable of breeding a healthy attractive pet. This is not to excuse those who don’t (the back yard breeders or puppy millers with dogs kept crammed into chicken-wire pens, poorly cared for with bitches bred every season), but to concede that there are others that do.
3) The AKC’s plan to register mixed-breed dogs is in their best interest and, therefore, in ours. Remember that our dogs were all mixed-breeds somewhere long ago.
4) One of AKC’s three mission statements is to “Take whatever actions necessary to protect and assure the continuation of the sport of purebred dogs.” Perhaps our own mission statement should voice support of this.

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Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

- Dog Registrations
- Litter Registrations

Year

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008
Our Specialty show this year was again held at the beautiful Purina Farms in Gray Summit, MO. The weather was beautiful on Specialty day, just like we ordered.

Ten puppies and junior dogs competed in Sweepstakes classes with Sonya Urquhart judging the classes. This year we awarded 1st-4th place in each class a cooler bag with a Wheaten design. The Best in Sweeps and Best Opposite received framed Wheaten 6 x 6 tiles. Best in Sweeps was Jendu Outlaw, owned by JoAnne Vogt & Dana Frady, from the 6-9 month puppy dog class. Best of Opposite Sex in Sweeps went to Reyen's My Gun's in My Garter, owned by Kay Baird and Gwen Meyer.

Twenty-five dogs and bitches competed in the regular classes, all judged by Richard Urquhart. Pewter trophies were given for first through fourth place class winners and for Winners Dog, Reserve
Winners Dog, Winners Bitch, Reserve Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, Best of Opposite Sex and Best of Breed. Purina also donated trophies for many of the placements.

Best of Breed went to Ch Doubloon’s Ultimate Player who is always breeder-owner handled by Elena Landa. Best of Opposite Sex was Ch Eringlo Rise Above The Mist.

Winners Dog & Best of Winners was Reyem’s Gun For Hire and Winners Bitch was Azlough Eringlo Mythic Angel. Reserve Winners Dog was ‘Tis Himself Michaleen’s Celtic Star and Reserve Winners Bitch went to Dromara Au Toten’ Lolli.

For a complete listing of all the results, visit our web site www.scwcticgsl.com and look under the Specialty Show link.

Sandwiches were served after the breed judging, compliments of CH ERINGLO RISE ABOVE THE MIST. He is breeder owned by Dennis and Cindy Shea. By Ch Rainbow’s Down Under out of Ch Eringlo Alwaz Án Angel, NJP. Presenter is Susan McGee.

CH ERINGLO RISE ABOVE THE MIST was BEST OPPOSITE SEX. He is breeder owned by Dennis and Cindy Shea. By Ch Rainbow’s Down Under out of Ch Eringlo Alwaz Án Angel, NJP. Presenter is Susan McGee.

Elena Landa’s, bitch, CH DOULOON’S ULTIMATE PLAYER, took top honors when she was named BEST OF BREED. Always breeder/owner handled, she is sired by Lonestar’s Order Of The Phoenix. Her dam is Ch Doubloon’s Playing The Field.

The Club also provided trophies for Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Winners Dog, & Winners Bitch for the two shows that followed on the weekend. This year prizes were embroidered towels one day and embroidered tote bags the next.

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

MALLEY AND TIPPER COMPETE IN THE AKC NATIONAL AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA

March agility madness brought the swiftest and most agile dogs in the nation to the AKC National Agility Championships. Nearly 900 top dogs and handlers representing more than 90 breeds made their way to the Cabarrus Arena in Concord, NC, March 27 – 29. This year the field included two Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier teams with Malley (MACH3 Joy-Dells New Years Malley XF) and Lorri Ligato from Ohio and Tipper (MACH Ballybae Katie’s Uptown Girl CD XF) and Bill Gore from Connecticut. Not surprising for agility trials, the competition was tough and included the best of the Border Collies (228), Shelties (158), Golden Retrievers (57), Australian Shepherds (51) and other popular agility breeds. Qualification required 400 speed points (1 point for every second under standard course time) and 6 double Qs all earned from November 2007 to November 2008. Agility Wheatens are no strangers to competition and these two teams have been hot on the agility trail over the past year. Tipper finished her MACH in February and was High In Trial at the SCWTCA obedience trial last October. Malley placed 12th in the 2008 National Agility Invitational (Benchmarks, March 2009) and recently added her MACH 3. Malley and Tipper ran with ease over 3 rounds of standard, jumpers with weaves, and hybrid courses and were fast enough to break into the top 50 out of 195 dogs in the 16-inch group. Faults were costly, however, and Tipper finished 93rd and Malley was in the 151st spot. So it’s back to the practice rings for weave poles and contacts, but hopes are already high for next year. Lorri and Bill, along with spouses John and Helen, had the chance to share some experiences and heartily agree on the great feeling that comes when other competitors say, “I never knew Wheaten Terriers could run like that!”

* Master Agility Champion: requires 750 points and 20 double qualifying scores; MACH3 requires 2250 points and 60 double Qs.

Pictures of Tipper and Malley competing are on page 38.

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SCWT LIFETIME HEALTH STUDY FAQs
Ostrander Canine Genomics Laboratory, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

PURPOSE

What is the purpose of the SCWT Lifetime Health Study?

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.

Why is the SCWT Lifetime Health Study important to Wheaten owners?

This study is an exciting and meaningful way for Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier owners to give back to the breed they love. The cost to participate is minimal and the potential benefits to the breed are significant. This study will look for genetic causes of diseases prevalent in the breed. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a very highly regarded research organization and will fund this study.

How does the SCWT Lifetime Health Study work?

Owners donate blood samples to the NIH where DNA is extracted for use in genetic research. Annual surveys are completed by owners during the 10 year period to record health and other information about the dog contributing the DNA. Data on each individual dog and owner is kept confidential.

PARTICIPATION

Who may participate?

All purebred Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers born between 1/1/2005 and 12/31/2009 with a known pedigree are encouraged to participate. This includes: healthy Wheatens and Wheatens with medical conditions; Wheatens with AKC registration, with foreign kennel club registration, and those who are not registered, provided the pedigree is known.

Why is there an age limit for dogs participating?

The study is designed to follow a large group of young dogs throughout their lifetimes to determine the incidence of various diseases in the breed, including age of onset. Since 1000 samples are needed, it would be unrealistic to ask for all dogs to be exactly the same age at the beginning of the study, so dogs up to four years of age are being included.

What is the minimum age for collection on a puppy?

Since the project requires a 5 to 10 cc sample of blood, it is not recommended that very young puppies be collected due to their small size. NIH suggested that dogs be between 1 and 4 years of age when the sample is collected. However, slightly younger puppies may be collected. The DNA does not change as the dog ages.

Which kinds of medical conditions are of interest?

All medical conditions are of interest. Diseases to be researched will be determined as disease patterns emerge during the ten years of the study. The NIH is interested in a variety of disorders that occur within a single population.

What do I need to do to participate?

Donate a blood sample, send it with the consent form and a three generation pedigree and complete annual surveys for ten years. Owners may have the sample collected by their veterinarian using a free kit from NIH, or blood can be donated and sent through a group clinic hosted by clubs or individuals. Details are available at www.scwtca.org.

I am not a member of SCWTCA. Can my dog and I still participate?

Yes! All Wheatens under the age of four years are encouraged to participate as long as an accurate pedigree is available.

SAMPLE REQUIREMENTS

What kind of sample is taken from my dog?

A blood sample is needed. Blood is extracted with a needle using standard sterile techniques and should be drawn by a veterinarian or veterinary technician.
Why is a blood sample needed instead of a cheek swab?

The amount and quality of DNA collected with a cheek swab is not adequate for research analysis. Blood is considered the optimal source for high quality DNA.

How much blood is needed?

A 5 to 10 cc sample of blood is needed. This is a small amount, approximately one teaspoon. When collecting from a very young puppy, a smaller amount (3cc) may be sent, though an additional sample may be requested later if needed for the study.

If a dog is on medication, can its blood be collected for DNA extraction?

Yes, it can be collected. Medication does not affect the DNA.

Are there special shipping and handling requirements?

Samples should be collected into the tubes provided by the NIH. There is no special handling required for shipping beyond packing carefully to avoid breakage. Samples can be shipped at room temperature; cold packs are not necessary. Each sample should be clearly identified and accompanied by the owner’s consent form and dog’s pedigree.

How long can blood be kept before it is shipped?

It is ideal for samples to be shipped immediately or on the next business day. Samples need to arrive at the lab within seven days of being collected. The sample should be refrigerated until shipped.

Do I need to notify the Ostrander Laboratory when I ship a blood sample?

Yes. Send an email to the lab to let them know that a sample has been sent. Include the date and service used. The email address is listed on the instruction sheet in the collection kit.

Will the Ostrander Laboratory notify me when they receive the sample?

No, they are unable to notify individual owners. If you want to be sure the package arrived, you will need to use the US Postal Service or other shipper’s arrival confirmation system.

My dog already has DNA stored at another location. Can that DNA be used for this study?

No. A separate blood sample is needed for this project. This is an extensive, long-range study which may require significant amounts of DNA. While researchers at NIH are likely to collaborate with those at other research facilities, DNA donated specifically for this study is essential.

ENROLLMENT

How do I enroll my dog?

Dogs are enrolled by collecting a blood sample at a group clinic or at a private veterinarian’s office. The sample is mailed to NIH along with the consent form and a three generation pedigree. Annual health surveys will be sent to participants by the NIH and may be completed online or returned through the postal service.

What information will I need to enroll my dog?

You will need the dog’s breed, registration information if available (registered name, registration number), dog’s call name, sex, and birth date and your contact information. A three generation pedigree is also required. If necessary, information can be completed or changed at a later time.

What are my ongoing obligations once I enroll my dog?

Owners will be asked to complete an annual survey for ten years. If a dog is diagnosed with a disease, copies of veterinary and laboratory reports may be requested.

What kinds of information will the annual surveys request?

Surveys will be developed as the study proceeds and will change slightly from year to year. They will include questions about the health and wellness of the dog, environmental factors, body measurements and appearance.

Ten years is a long time and anything could happen. What if I place the dog in a new home or am not here to continue providing information on my dog for the study?

continued from page 8

continued on page 10
Participants are encouraged to include information on the SCWT Lifetime Health Study and its ongoing requirements in their instructions to new owners or to those who will be caring for their dogs in the event of the owner’s death or disability.

**What if my dog dies before the end of the ten year study?**

Some dogs will be four years old when the study begins so it is expected that some will not live until the end of the study. Their DNA samples and information, including age and cause of death, are very valuable to the study.

**When and where will group clinics be held?**

Contact Kathy Drobnak at kdrobnak@jcfkk.com for information on organizing or attending a group clinic.

**COSTS**

**What does it cost to participate?**

The cost to participate is minimal. Costs include blood collection by the owner's veterinarian, which can be done as part of the annual health checkup, and first class postage to return the sample in the mailing tube provided by NIH (about $2.00). The annual survey may be completed online or mailed at the current first class postage rate. If blood is collected at a group clinic there will be no charge to participants for collecting and shipping samples. There is no sample processing fee.

**PRIVACY ISSUES**

**Will information about my dog be made public?**

No. Information about individual dogs is kept confidential. Data on specific dogs will only be seen by the researchers working on the study. The dog's identity, pedigree and health information as well as its owner's name and contact information will be kept strictly confidential.

**Will health information be revealed by the SCWT Lifetime Health Study?**

No. Individual dog health survey responses will not be revealed. Summary information will be included in annual progress reports to SCWTCA which will be published in Club media.

**Will health information about my dog be given to members of the SCWTCA Board, the SCWTCA Endowment Board, the SCWT Genetic Research Fund Board or SCWTCA Health Committee?**

No. All information about the individual dogs participating and their owners is confidential.

**RESEARCH DECISIONS AND FUNDING**

**Who will decide how the DNA will be used?**

The Ostrander Genomics Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health will determine how the DNA is used. Dr. Heidi Parker is the researcher developing this project.

**What diseases will be researched?**

That will be determined by the diseases represented in the DNA samples. As disease patterns become apparent, those occurring most frequently and which have strong genetic components will be studied.

**Who will pay for the research?**

The Ostrander Lab at NIH will fund all research including DNA extraction and storage, the database, and molecular analysis. Owners or the groups supporting clinics (SCWTCA, SCWTCA Endowment and SCWT Genetic Research Fund) will cover the costs to collect and ship the blood samples.

**What information will be released on the research done with the DNA?**

Results of research studies are published in scientific journals. The results include collective information and analysis. No information about an individual dog used in a study will be released. If a DNA mutation is found or if a genetic test is developed, information will be widely distributed.

**Will there be progress reports from NIH during this ten year study?**

Yes, SCWTCA will receive an annual progress report which will be available in Club publications, website and electronic lists.
Will I be notified if anything is found in my dog’s DNA?

No. This type of research is not designed to determine anything previously unknown by the owners about the health status of the individual dogs in the research study. The purpose of DNA sequencing (mapping) research studies is to find a segment of DNA associated with a disease. The ultimate goal of the DNA research will be to find a genetic mutation causing a disease and to develop a marker or direct test for the mutation. When a test is developed, it will be available to all.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Both the SCWT Lifetime Health Study and the Canine Phenome Project involve DNA research into Wheaten health issues. What are the differences between the two?

Both are important and potentially beneficial. They are different in scope and structure. For more information see the DNA Research Project Comparison chart in Benchmarks and Wheaten Health News, March 2009 issues on the SCWTCA web site, www.scwtca.org.

Where can I get more information about SCWTCA DNA projects?

SCWTCA DNA Health Initiatives Committee:

  Project Leader, Elaine Azerolo, eazerolo@centurytel.net
  Operations Coordinator, Kathy Drobnak, kdrobnak@jcfkk.com
  Communications Coordinator, Lee Martin, leemartin1@sbcglobal.net
  SCWT Lifetime Health Study Liaison: Helen Moreland, hjmoreland@msn.com
  SCWT Genetic Research Fund web site: www.scwtgrf.org

Compiled by Lee Martin, Elaine Azerolo and Kathy Drobnak  February 2009

An Update on the SCWT Lifetime Study at NIH – 06/30/2009

Samples collected:

We have 107 participants that are eligible for the lifetime study.

An additional 117 dogs have contributed blood samples for research including 11 with cancer and 2 hypothyroid as well as 29 healthy dogs over the age of 10

State of the health survey:

The first draft of the survey is complete. We are now awaiting input from Drs. Shelley Vaden and Meryl Littman regarding medical questions for the final version. In addition we are obtaining a final review from epidemiologist Dr. Lucia Hindorff to be sure that the data is collected in accordance with current protocols so that we will be able to collate the answers into meaningful results.

I anticipate the full release of the first survey by the end of the summer. It will be available in print copy or through our website: http://www.research.nih.gov/dog_genome/. The first survey requires some “catch up” information from owners as some of the dogs will already be 4 years old. All follow-up surveys, after the first, will be released in late January to February and will request information only about the prior year.

Participation:

Ages for participation in the life-time health study have been set as follows: all dogs born between 1/1/2005 and 12/31/2009 are eligible for inclusion in the life-time study. I have attached the new consent form. It gives the age requirement for enrollment and requests owners to agree to the annual health surveys when they enroll their dog. All owners of eligible dogs that have already sent in a sample will be sent the new consent form and asked if they would like to join the life-time study.

Heidi G. Parker, PhD
Wishing his kids a Wonderful Montgomery Weekend!!

CH. Doubloon’s Ultimate Player (#1 Wheaten Terrier)
CH. Doubloon’s High Stake’s Player
CH. Doubloon’s Playmaker
CH. Bryr Rose Chanel’s Monsieur
CH. Candance New Sun Rising
CH. Clanheath Undoubtedly Herself
CH. Wilobet’s Angel In My Pocket

And more to come . . . .

Lonestar
Wheatens

Bred By Tom & Wendy Neill
Owned By Peter Fritchman & Tom Neill
Stud Inquiries to Wendy Neill
INVEST IN YOUR WHEATEN’S HEALTH!

Support the SCWTCA Endowment, Inc. and Receive the 2009 Wheaten Trivet!

The SCWTCA Endowment is currently supporting these 5 Wheaten genetic projects. After raising money for many years waiting for projects like these to come along with Wheaten owners not only donating funds, but also courageously and unselfishly providing samples of their dogs’ blood and tissues to aide in research to rid the breed of diseases. Collecting samples was a difficult task—now, we must raise funds to process these samples.


* National Institutes of Health: Lifetime Health Study of the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier (2008). Dr. Heidi Parker, Staff Scientist, Ostrander Canine Genomics Lab.

* University of Missouri: Canine Phenome Project (2007) — 991 DNA samples have been collected from Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers from all over the U.S. for future Wheaten-related research projects. Dr. Gary Johnson, University of Missouri, Columbia.


* North Carolina State University: Longitudinal Clinical Study, Mode of Inheritance & Therapeutic Trial of Protein-Losing Enteropathy and Nephropathy (‘Colony Dog Studies’) (1997). Dr. Shelly Vaden, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

For 2009 only, we are offering—for each donation of $100—a beautiful, limited edition Wheaten Trivet, produced exclusively for us by Wilton Armetale. This 7"x6" trivet is heart-shaped to signify our love for our Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.

Of your $100 donation, $72 goes directly to these research projects. To make a donation and receive this Wheaten trivet, please make your check payable to “SCWTCA Endowment, Inc.” and mail it to:

Rosemary Berg
37953 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039.

We will happily note on the Endowment website (wheatenhealthendowment.org/endowment2009trivet.html) that your contribution is dedicated in the memory or honor of a person or a dog; so please tell us the name of the dog or person when you send your check. Be sure to give us your name and mailing address so that we can send the trivet to you. Also, please include your email address so that we can contact you, if need be.

You can contribute via Paypal on the Endowment’s “Make A Gift Now” webpage at wheatenhealthendowment.org/endowmentform.html.

Your financial contribution will have a significant impact on Wheaten health by helping to fund all these on-going Endowment-supported research projects. We are proud to partner with you in this fight against canine disease; we encourage you to continue your active involvement in this quest, increasing our might.

Thank you for your support!

VISIT US AT THE MCKC’09 WHEATEN WARES BOUTIQUE!
Lessons Learned and Other Thoughts

This is one of those columns of random thoughts…it’s been that kind of spring and summer.

Report Card

Last year, I wrote “The Honeymoon’s Over,” looking forward to hearing about lots of plans from the current Board of Directors and setting out five things I hoped they’d accomplish this year. Since you’ll be reading this in back-to-school season…let’s see what sort of grades the outgoing Board got. Admittedly, without minutes from the June meeting, they’re really “incompletes.”

First, a success: staggered terms were adopted by the membership. Three other items were a mixed bag, but I’ll combine them for a passing grade. The membership process was addressed with membership criteria; I still believe it is inherently wrong to accept comments without providing them to a prospective member. More aspects of the club business are online. An online yearbook remains overdue; it’s no rap on anyone to say despite all the good, hard work of recent committees, it’s an impossible task and time to throw in the towel. A preliminary budget was presented at the February meeting, although neither it nor a summary was included in Wavelengths.

As for Board goals, Numero Uno on my wish list, the President had three good ones:


2) Support Health projects fiscally and otherwise, with special attention to the DNA Health Initiatives of CPP and NIH.…

3) Develop more “new blood” in the organization by increasingly engaging our volunteers and new members who are the future leadership of SCWTCA.”

Sorry, no passing grade here. Reading back through Wavelengths suggests very little time was devoted to them. There was little concerted effort toward developing new blood with few newer members heading projects. Instead, I saw much discussion on topics unworthy of the Board’s time: membership cards and pins, taking care of the MCKC and Sweepstakes judges and their gifts, getting specialty stewards…isn’t that what committees are for?

An unexpected challenge was the “tail question” and its handling was indicative of the year: started strong, ended so-so. High marks for properly handing it off to the Breed Standard, nee Judges’ Education Committee, which addressed the issue well. But when the committee widened their charge to address coats, the Board stumbled. Opening the standard suggests more than one issue should be considered, and the Board simply bowed to the committee.

A new board arrives in October. Perhaps the GPA will be higher this time next year.

Unimaginable

When something doesn’t go well, I look for a lesson. I’m hardly a Pollyanna…stop laughing…I just don’t want to make the same mistakes over again. There are always new ones to make.

When I posted about Rocco’s death, I implied more was coming. John has written about it but I remain unable to add anything. It’s not the emotion…although we mourn him daily…it’s because I can find no value in just repeating the story: a wonderful dog in all regards, lost because of a vicious, stupid, owner.

Try as I might, I can find no lesson for anyone in Rocco’s death and only pain in the retelling. We have all had enough sorrow.

But I can thank the many people who mourned him with us and ask they too remember him in his happiest of times, winning Sweeps at Del Val, an AOM at Hatboro, greeting kids at dog shows, and relaxed, comfortable and loved by John and me.

Lessons Learned

Like I could write this column without discussing Judge-gate?

This is not about what happened…those who know aren’t talking…it’s about how the Board chose to handle it.

Make no mistake: an organization has choices when a problem arises. They can get to the bottom of it. They can figure out how it happened. They can be transparent to their stakeholders…their customers or members or interested parties they count on. They make clear how seriously they take the problem by their actions and their words.

Or…they can sweep it under the rug. They can rest on platitudes. They can feign innocence. They can adopt “the best defense is a good offense” strategy and attack those who ask questions.

Which organizations do you think are more successful, have more loyal members, and accomplish their goals and objectives?
Which approach do you think a membership organization's elected leaders should take?

Which organization do you belong to?

Which organization do you want to belong to?

It's About the Dogs

We too often take professional handlers for granted, "hired guns" finishing dogs because of influence, not skill or the dog's quality. As an aside, I'm always amused that those who complain loudest are the same ones who send the dog they can't finish to a handler.

Back when I sent my first homebred show dog to Margery Good, now known worldwide for her success with "Charmin," the Sealy, I told her how important the dog was to its owners. She smiled and said, "Tell them we do this because we love the dogs, too."

I love talking to handlers about dogs. Not just for their considerable knowledge...but for how they feel about them. From Peter Green, dismissing the ugly wound on his hand because the dog "didn't like getting his nails cut," to his son, Andrew, feeding French fries to our Norfolk, Georgia,...the stomach on legs...to all of them melting at the memory of a special dog.

Laura King in the ring at Bucks. I asked if she missed Kelly with whom she'd had made such a great team. She sighed, saying she'd fed him dinner for the last time before she left and he went home the next day. Then she looked away, tearing up.

Maripi Wooldridge at the first Virginia Terrier show. Late in the day, waiting for the group, Maripi sat with a Skye puppy upside down on her lap rubbing its belly and yes, talking baby talk to it. And a couple of years later, coming out of the ring with Ruben, her homebred Lakie, who'd made such a splash over the Cherry Blossom weekend specialty, grinning ear-to-toe and snuggling him.

Jimmy Dickson, perhaps not well known beyond the east coast. Jimmy grew up in dogs, runs boarding kennels and has as serious a demeanor as you'll encounter. When I recently helped him at a show with his Borders, he was far more delighted with his Bred By girl's win...and like every breeder fretted that she might be too small to finish...than he was going BOB with his special.

Our recent experience watching the groups with "Fred," a 4-month-old puppy. As each handler came around and caught sight of him, a goofy grin lit their faces...including the guy about to win the Herding Group and BIS but who wanted to hear whether he'd be old enough for sweeps at MCKC.

So at the end of this column, there are the two best lessons of all...good ones to remember as we head to MCKC in the coming weeks.

It's about the joy the dogs bring to all of us.

And that, after all is said and done, we're lucky to be breeders.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: BENCHMARKS

"BITES"

An article by Keven Harris: International All Breeds Judge (ANKC, AKC, FCI, PCCI)

July 4th, 2009

Re: The Devils Advocate. An article in the March 2009 issue by Pam Mandeville.

This subject is a tough assignment for any writer let alone bringing it home to your own in the National Breed Quarterly.

So, hats off to Pam Mandeville for bringing out of the closet a subject most people just refuse to discuss or are simply not interested in, if for no other reason than to not give up information that could be otherwise shared. Information that could go a ways to maybe correcting what appears might be a problem in the SCWT (and other terrier breeds also). Of course, there is the other side of the coin": those who continue to produce the problem bites but do not, for whatever reason, seek help to improve their lot.

While I was weaned on a breed that required an undershot bite (Boxer) but could still break your heart at every turn, I was blessed with many of the great Terrier Doyens in my learning years. These mentors who themselves grew up in families of dedicated terrier men, (in those days it was just men, no offence meant) were Johnny on the spot so to speak, as these villainous canines actually worked for their keep, going about the business end of vermin eradication with an unbridled passion.

To these men, the subject of dentition was not confined just to the bite but the whole of the mouth. The jaws, boning therein, the manner in which the teeth are anchored thereto and the quality of the muscular attachment in the region of the cheeks and jaw so descriptive in several terrier standards, play a major role in achieving that single most important requirement in almost every terrier. "... well filled up under the eyes and with punishing jaws..." Without these essential features, the terrier might easily become the victim, having taken on a quarry much larger than itself as they often do.

The bite itself is of equal if not greater importance; e.g., at whelping time and in the wild before domestication, and completes the picture of a true terrier mouth. Herein lies a problem for me, one that Pam may or may not agree with but let us say it is an exchange
of information and agree to disagree.

In an interesting comparison, that Bastion of the Terrier world, the United Kingdom from whence the majority of terriers have their origins, there are only three breed standards that vary from a true complete and regular scissor bite, one asking for a vice like grip implying if you are mechanically minded, edge to edge, one which says level is acceptable, and one which allows both scissor or level. This last one is the Cesky Terrier and not of British origin where the FCI standard has been used for this breed of the Czech Republic.

The AKC Standards allow eleven breeds to have similar variations, between vice like, scissor or level, level or scissor. No, I did not repeat the last two variations. There are some that actually place level above scissor. As if this might not be confusing enough for some, there is the premise that all of these are correct including SCWT where it can be either scissor or level, not just that level is acceptable, implying again both bites are correct.

This gives rise to the question, “…how can both be correct when they are genetically different...” There is, I am sure, any number of reasons within the fancy which will hold firm that level is as correct as scissor. I on the other hand am not convinced. In its home of origin this breed was required to qualify in several trials over vermin such as badger, rat, and rabbit before attaining a conformation championship title.

A specimen with anything but a scissor bite was separated from the kennel stock and disposed of.

So, where does one go from here? Pam writes about the undershot mouth and how if there is a specimen with everything else going for it except in mouth, it might be used in a program to gain or improve on the very good traits you are seeking, as a compromise. She is dead right about one thing however; down the track major problems will occur, and why? Because genetics take over your wonderful plan and suddenly you are worse off than when you started.

Never think for a second that undershot is anything else but a recessive and perpetuating.

I had a recent experience when presented for group judging with a Scottish Terrier of beautiful breed type in every way, an apparent big winning terrier. My immediate thought was, wow, this will be hard to beat!! Then I examined the mouth, where upon the handler quietly said to me, "it's almost level" as I struggled with the fact that my vision had been blown out the door by a decided undershot bite. This exhibit did not make it to the four placements!

There is no doubt in my mind that a level bite will always be the precursor to an eventual onset of undershot specimens. In any breeding plan where scissor is the preferred bite and the very best mouths are left out of the program, expect the worst.

Compromise is a great tool if, and only if, there is an absolute positive outcome. There is no compromise when in desperation one turns to inferior genetic material for a quick fix. There are no quick fix solutions in this breeding game we all love, and with which, over time, we endure both success and failure. One thing is certain. Change brings about consequence, either good or not good depending on which fork in the road one takes.

Always keep doing what you always did, and you will always get what you always got.

Planning to get it right will always be the best solution.

History:

Keven Harris began his successful career in dogs just short of 50 years ago with Boxers and later adding the English Setter and Siberian Husky breeds to the kennel which has produced 60 champions, multi BIS winners in the three breeds and the number 1 dog all breeds for two consecutive years.

Licensed to Judge all breeds in 1985, he has officiated in many countries of the world including several assignments in the USA. He was the 2IC to the Chair of the Judges training program in his native Australia where for some 15 plus years he delivered anatomy and breed lectures to trainee judges.

Now located in the Philippines, he is in demand for assignments world wide.

The above article (“BITES”) was written for the SCWT Quarterly after having received the December 2008 and March 2009 issues by email from the editor, Gay Dunlap, wherein the writer had asked for the opportunity to make comment on a number of subjects.

No one person is ever totally right about any given subject however and hopefully the article “BITES” might be both enjoyed and stimulating.

benchmarks . volume 37 . number 3 . page 16
LOCHLINEAR FINNEGAN INVERLOCHY

“Finnegan”

(CH Harbour Hill Mike Delfino x Can US CH Keepsake Inverlochy Lochlinear

Finnegan gets his third major at GWTA ~ before the age of 9 months!

Our thanks to Cindy Vogels for Winners Dog

Thanks to Kathy McIndoe for BOS in SCWTSCS Sweepstakes

Special thanks to the SCWTSCS for a wonderful Specialty weekend

Pat Mullin
Owner/Breeder/Handler

Trudie Forbes
Co-breeder

www.lochlinear.com

www.inverlochy.com
LIKE MOTHER...

CH SHANDALEE ROCKETFIRE
“Roxie” going WB and BOW to finish with a 4-point major from the Puppy Class at the Del Val Specialty, May 2005

Proudly Bred & Owned by
Sue and Harvey Goldberg
908 647-0907

Wheatens of Shandalee
For those who appreciate the difference
Max finished at 9 months of age, with 3 majors and BOB over Specials!

ALMOST CH SHANDALEE ROCKET SCIENCE

“Max” going WD and BOW for a 4-point major - his second - at age 7 months from the Puppy Class at the Del Val Specialty, May 2009

Proudly Bred by:
Sue and Harvey Goldberg

Co-owned and loved by:
Nancee Bailey and Sue Goldberg

Loved and Spoiled Rotten by:
“Aunt” Dawn Sealy
The fog lifted just as they touched down on the green grass, the breeze from the ocean ruffled their capes but nothing would deter their determination...a whirlwind of powerful arms and legs moved tables, set up displays, unfolded chairs, hung precious artwork, tied knots. No complaints; only laughter and smiles and, in what seemed an instant, they were done with the task...an army of super heroes had built a monument to friendship and sportsmanship and came to the aid of their fellow man!

Super women and Super men flew in from distant lands to help us - Jinx Moore, Elena Landa, Susan McGee, Sandy & Glenn Amorosia, Lori Kromash and many more. Of course we had our own super heroes: our local club members and the imagination and hard work of Joan Johnson and Caroline Filling and the fabulous artwork of Merrillee Ford. Heroes show us the strengths of humanity, the goodness in people and the wonders that we can accomplish.

The weekend began on Friday, June 19 with an Independent Specialty and Sweepstakes. Jackie Whitham was the Sweepstakes Judge and Peter Green was the Breed Judge.

Our hospitality chairs, the Magnificent M's..Marilyn, Merrillee, Michael and Marc spent the weekend using their delicious talents to feed the crowd. Marilyn Smith and Merrillee Ford used their super powers on the hospitality table all day Friday! Scones, cold watermelon, quiche, each bite more wonderful than the next.

Saturday was a supported entry for the Great Western Terrier Association and was judged by Cindy Vogels.

Michael LaMotte and Marc Boyer, complete with Under Dog costumes, made hospitality really memorable.

Our Amazing Raffle chaired by Jeanine and Myrna Flavell followed the breed judging. This Dynamic Duo collected and displayed remarkable treasures that were truly a delight to see – thank you to all who contributed.

That evening we replaced our annual “Dinner on the Green” with “Dinner on the Queen.” The historic Queen Mary served as a wonderful backdrop for dinner and guests were free to explore the ship after the festivities.

After dinner, Susan McGee, guest extraordinaire, auctioned off the Wonder Wheaten centerpieces. The lively evening was full of laughter and heartfelt friendship. Thanks to Barbara Zapf for making dinner arrangements. It was delicious!

Sunday morning was our SCWTCSC Specialty. Sweepstakes was judged by Kathy McIndoe and the breed judge was Dr Scott Kellogg.

Hospitality was presented by Marilyn Smith & Merrillee Ford.

Throughout the weekend many people pitched in to help make the specialty weekend super duper. Thank you to all.

Bow Wow Boutique: Miriam Kahan; Raffle: Jeanine & Myrna Flavell; Decorations: Joan Johnson, Carolyn Filling and Merrillee Ford; Keeper of the Gold: Connie Koehler; Hospitality: Marilyn Smith, Merrillee Ford, Michael La Motte & Marc Boyer, the Apgoe's and the SCWTCSC friends and members; Dinner: Barbara Zapf; Artwork: Merrillee Ford.

Thank you and may you always recognize your hero!

Karla Baer Cohen

Judges’ critiques and photos of the winners follow on the upcoming pages.
Friday's Specialty Sweepstakes Critique
Judge Jackie Whitham

What a pleasure and how flattered I was to judge the sweepstakes at the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California's specialty in Long Beach. The day was just right for the puppies; a little overcast but not cold at all. The new site is amazing right there on the bay next to the Queen Mary. Perfect for Great Western, such ambiance!

Friday's Sweepstakes Best Opposite Sex was Katdancer Look at Me Scamper, from the 6-9 Puppy Dog class, bred by Lee Martin and Carala Luker. Sire: Ch Katdancer Easy To Look At; dam: Katdancer Matter of Opinion. He is owner handled by Lee Martin.

Best In Sweepstakes on Friday was the puppy bitch, Tralee Bay's Higher Than A Kite! Breeder owned by Stephen & Jillann Steging. Sired by Ch Harbour Hill Nuts & Chews out of Ch Tralee Bay's High On You!. She was handled by Jill. Presenter is the SWTCSC president, Miriam Kahan.

THAN A KITE, asked for the win the whole time she was in the ring. She was impossible to ignore. My Best Opposite In Sweepstakes, Katdancer Look At Me Scamper, was extremely complimentary to her and was great in his own right.

I remember seeing some lovely mouths with great big white teeth and correct bites. Most of the dogs had good depth of pad and most were “clean” movers. I had several classes in which I was sincerely wishing I had more that one 1st place ribbon. There were a large number of dogs in the classes that were of great quality and should have a very successful show career, hopefully helping our breed along when used in a careful breeding program.

I am concerned about the extreme number of “gay” tails that were in the ring that day. I was forced to ignore the tails being carried way over the back because of the number of them that were that way. I question what the future tails will look like if and when the tails are not docked. An extremely gay tail carried way over the back and sinking into the topline can really ruin the outline and type that I expect to see from our Wheatens.

Please let me say thank you for the pleasure of judging on this special day.

Friday's Specialty Sweepstakes Critique
Judge Peter Green

Thank you for inviting me to judge your specialty show. I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The venue and the weather made for a memorable day.

My general impression was that these were some nice dogs to judge. The bitches were stronger than the males, but that is usual in most breeds. Most common faults were upright shoulders and poor movement.

WESTRIDGE SALUTE TO THUROW was Winners Dog, from the Open Dog class. Bred by Ilse Barron, he is owned by Ursula Thurow. Sire: Ch Harbour Hill Mike Delfino; dam: Ch Westridge Sassy Sara.

Winners Dog was Westridge Salute to Thurow. Just 18 months, with a very nice coat, nice outline, moving well. He has a nice head and expression, well made shoulders and front, good topline and tail set - won WD quite easily. Reserve Winners, the puppy dog, Lochlinear Wish Upon A Star, a 9 month old puppy with good conformation and shows well. He has a good head, good neck, with short body covered by a nice coat. With more time he'll be a very nice dog.

Winners Bitch and Best of Winners, Duidream Dash of Pizazz, and Reserve Winners bitch, Harbour Hill Perfect Housewife, were very similar in type. About the same size and outline. They had good coats, good shaped heads with nice expressions. Dash was a little more mature in body and covered ground with a bit more style and ease.

continued on page 22
The Champions Class had some lovely type Wheatens, most in really good condition. There were at least two dogs and three bitches who were excellent, besides a very competitive veteran.

Best of Breed, Ch Doubloon's Ultimate Player, has exceptional style and presence about her. Beautiful head and eye, nice neck and shoulders, good legs and feet, nice short body with good tail set, good strong rear. She is sound and moves effortlessly. She would have to be considered competitive in any Terrier Group. Perhaps the shoulders could be groomed into her body better.

Best of Opposite Sex, Desert Rose Bonney Man's Dream, is a strongly made dog in excellent condition, good sound construction, covered with a good coat, moves soundly.

The Awards of Merit were all excellent Wheatens, very competitive dogs and made the assignment a real workout for me.

**WINNERS BITCH & BOW** was **DUIDREAM DASH OF PIZAZZ**, bred by Bonnie O'Connor, C and D Bowen & Ann DeFoore and owned by Deb Hanson and Bonnie O'Connor. Ch Duidream Quicktime X Duidream Dance Of Erin. She was expertly handled by Danielle Hanson.

**BEST OF BREED** was **CH DOUBLOON'S ULTIMATE PLAYER**. Breeder/Owner handled by Elena Landa, she was sired by Ch Lonestar’s Order of the Phoenix. Her dam is Ch Doubloon's Playing the Field.

**WINNERS BITCH & BOW** was **DUIDREAM DASH OF PIZAZZ**, bred by Bonnie O'Connor, C and D Bowen & Ann DeFoore and owned by Deb Hanson and Bonnie O'Connor. Ch Duidream Quicktime X Duidream Dance Of Erin. She was expertly handled by Danielle Hanson.

**AWARD OF MERIT** to **CH ANDOVER MAYHEM MAGIC**. Breeder/Owner handled by Jackie Gottlieb. His sire is Ch Andover Salt N'Sea Big Baby out of Ch Andover Magic Maid.
AWARD OF MERIT to CH AISLING CLADDAUGH U2 CAN BE LIKE ME. Breeder/Owner handled by Viviana Hetherington. Her sire is Ch Marymore Gift Wrapped; dam is Ch Claddagh’s Star Studded Ceili.

AWARD OF MERIT to CH MARQUEE’S PARTY GIRL. Bred by Sonya & Richard Urquhart, she is owned by Rose Rose & Sonya Urquhart. By Ch Marquee A Fool and His Money out of Ch Marquee’s Birthday Celebration.

SATURDAY’S TOP WINNERS, GREAT WESTERN, JUDGE CINDY VOGELS

BREEDER/OWNER: ELENA LANDA. BREEDER/OWNER: CHRISTY WEAGANT & R & S URQUHART.

BEST OF BREED again to CH DOUBLOON’S ULTIMATE PLAYER (Jolie). Breeder/Owner: Elena Landa. By Ch Lonestar’s Order of the Phoenix X Ch Doubloon’s Playing the Field.

BEST OPPOSITE SEX to CH BAROQUE TOP SHELF HURIKANE. Breeder Christy Weagant & R & S Urquhart. By Ch Stratford Top Priority X Ch Marquee’s Birthday Toast. He is owner handled by Christy.

ALON MOCHISHLE’S LEGACY was WINNERS BITCH & BOW. Breeder: Sandra & Glenn Amorosia & Jon Caliri. By Ch Legacy Wildwest Wildflower X Ch Ltd Edition Blacke O’Grntree. She is owned by Sandra K and Glenn J Amorosia.

LOCKLINEAR FINNEGAN INVERLOCHY was WINNERS DOG. He was Reserve WD on Friday and BOS SWEEPS on Sunday. Breeder: Pat Mullin, Trudie Forbes and Shari Robinson. By Ch Harbour Hill Mike Delfino X Ch Keepsake Inverlochy Lochlinear. Owners are Pat Mullin and Kimberly Palmer.
I would like to thank the SCWTSC for asking me to judge the sweepstakes at their specialty this year. It is an honor to be asked to judge one's peers and I always enjoy judging puppies. In addition, I would especially like to thank the exhibitors who put in the time and effort to show me their puppies.

As with most entries, there were some dogs who were very good and others not quite as good. All of the puppies appeared to have wonderful Wheaten temperaments. They all showed happily; some were perhaps too happy and really made their handlers work, but they are puppies, after all. Eye color was uniformly good, as were bites, with only one slightly questionable bite. There were no really outstanding movers, but no really bad movers, either. Size was an issue in some dogs, but not as much as I have been seeing in a lot of entries lately. I was, however, very disappointed in the overall conditioning of the entry. There were too many dogs that were far too thin and there were also more than a few whose coats were not in good condition and some who appeared to have been chewing.

In the interest of being concise, I will, for the most part, address only the class winners.

6-9 month dogs: First place to Lochlinear Finnegan Inverlochy, a nice, moderate dog with good coat, in good condition and well presented. He has a nice head and expression and a good topline and tailset. I found him to be straighter in the shoulder than I like and if I could change him, I would make him shorter in the loin.

12-18 month dogs: I'm going to have to preach a bit here. First in this class went to Ltd. Edition Dempsey's Legacy and second to Ltd. Edition Braddock's Legacy, dogs that I found, when I later looked in my catalog, were littermates. The placements in this class could have easily been reversed because these two boys are so similar; kudos to their breeders for producing such consistency. Both of them have the potential to be quite striking, handsome dogs, but they were both in poor condition, much too thin with coats dry and not well trimmed. As someone who has owned a lot of males, I know how hard it can be to get weight on adolescent boys, but there's no point in showing them in condition like this. I really hope someone can help get these guys in shape, because our breed sorely needs dogs like these could turn out to be.

9-12 month bitches: The first place winner, Lontree Golden Gard, is a very nice bitch, nicely trimmed, in good condition, with nice coat and color, and she showed very well. She has the best shoulder of the entire entry, with a pleasing blend of neck, good topline and tailset. I really wish she had more leg under her.

12-18 month bitches: I put a lot of thought into awarding Bonney Apple Of My Eye first place in this class. She is a square, well-proportioned girl, moderate in size, yet elegant, exactly the type of bitch I like. She was well trimmed and well presented, with a long neck that blends well into her topline, a short back and high tailset. She unfortunately had patches of gray on each shoulder, but I gave the gray a thorough examination and it is only on the tips of the coat; the hair underneath appears perfectly clear and by the time this critique is published, I imagine the gray will be gone.

Bonney Apple of My Eye, was my Best In Sweepstakes on this day. The gray on her shoulders was a bit off-putting, but it will soon be gone and, aside from that, she had everything I look for in a bitch. She was seriously pressed for the win by the 9-12 bitch, Lontree Golden Gard. Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes went to the 6-9 puppy dog, Lochlinear Finnegan Inverlochy, a delightful young fellow, that I hope will grow up to be a handsome dog.

Again, thanks to the club for the opportunity and the hospitality, to the exhibitors who showed, and to my ring stewards who did a wonderful job of making sure everything ran smoothly.

(Photograph of Lontree Desert Star X Ch Desert Rose Bonney Sweet Sue.)

BONNEY APPLE OF MY EYE was BEST IN SWEEPS on Sunday. Her breeder/handler is Bonita Snyder and she is owned by Bonnie and Victoria & Dave Gosnell. By Ch. Lontree Desert Star X Ch Desert Rose Bonney Sweet Sue.

SWEEPS BEST OPPOSITE SEX was LOCHLINEAR FINNEGAN INVERLOCHY, bred by Pat Mullin and Trudie Forbes and. Shari Robinson and owned by Pat Mullin and Kimberly Palmer. Sire: Ch Harbour Hill Mike Delfino; dam: Ch Keepsake Inverlochy Lochlinear.

Photos of Sunday's specialty winners are on the following page. Presenter, once again, was club president, Miriam Kahan. There were many repeat wins as the photos will attest. Sunday's AOM award photo of Andover Mayhem Magic was not taken. Friday's BOW, Duidream's Dash Of Pizzaz, was RWB on Saturday and Sunday.
JOLIE
(CH DOUBLOON’S ULTIMATE PLAYER)
was
BEST OF BREED
for the third time over the weekend

TJ
(CH DESERTROSE BONNEY MANS DREAM)
was
BEST OPPOSITE SEX
both days he was shown

CLADDAGH’S MAN IN UNIFORM was WINNERS DOG. Breeder owned by Jim and Karla Cohen, he is sired by Ch Westridge Back to Waterford out of Claddagh’s Once in a Blue Moon.

RESERVE WD was PITTERPAT’S BLUE BAYOU, bred by Sheryl Beitch and owned by his breeder and Santi & Jack Teague. Sire: Ch Westridge Back To Waterford; dam: Ch Pitterpat’s Old Glory.

WINNERS BITCH & BEST OF WINNERS was GEMSTONE ONE FOR ALL. Breeder: Jim and Tami Herzog. She is owned by her breeders and Dolores Mele. Sire: Ch Bonney Nip N Tuckit; dam: Ch Gemstone’s Diamond Chase.

AOM to CH WESTRIDGE HIGH TIME, bred by Ilze Barron, and owned by his breeder, Ed Reis & Jackie Whitham. By Ch Westridge High Adventure CD RE X Westridge Lady Day.

And an AOM to Saturday’s Best Opposite Sex, CH BAROQUE TOP SHELF HURRIKANE breeder owner handled by Christy Weagent and co-bred by the Urquharts.

A second AOM to CH MARQUEE’S PARTY GIRL. Bred by Sonya and Richard Urquhart and owned by Sonya and Rose Rose.

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MEIRLEAC

THIS IS NOT THE END...
JUST THE BEGINNING OF BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES

SOFT COATED WHEATEN TERRIERS
SINCE 1983

HUGH AND RONNIE COPLAND
415 GEORGE STREET
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120
847.429.0993
WHEATEN@WIDEOPENWEST.COM
Reflections

presents a new champion...

CH Reflections All You Need Is Love “Henry”
(CH DUIDREAM QUICKTIME “MAC” & CH REFLECTIONS MY WILD IRISH ROSE “BENTLEY”)

Owners: Susan Farrar, Kate Farrar, & Pat Bajoras
Bred by: Pat Bajoras
Expertly handled by: Alison Miller
What Have We Learned From The Colony Dogs

Dr Shelly Vaden .... July 2, 2009

Fifteen years ago, the first dogs were born into our colony. The dogs have been wonderful! They have provided us with great joy as well as a wealth of information. These dogs were bred with several goals in mind. It is time to reflect on what we have accomplished.

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

Our second goal was to sequentially evaluate dogs to gain a better understanding of the development of clinical signs of this disease, so that we could make better recommendations for screening SCWT. We have been able to effectively achieve this goal. We know that increases in fecal API are prevalent throughout the colony (and the general population of SCWT). These precede the onset of PLE. However overt PLE, as manifested by decreased serum protein concentrations, does not always precede the onset of PLN. The dogs developing overt PLE have had a greater number of fecal API samples >18.7 ug/g. All affected dogs that have been tested have had enteric food allergies. This information is very useful because it suggests that the enteric disease may have a pathogenic role in the renal disease, as suspected. In order to be an effective screening tool, evaluation of fecal API must be initiated in dogs that are less than 3 years of age and continued annually lifelong. As for PLN, we found that microalbuminuria is highly prevalent in SCWT of our colony. It often precedes the onset of increased urine protein: creatinine ratios, which is a standard test used to screen dogs for proteinuria. Some dogs of our colony had sporadic microalbuminuria and some have increased values that are not progressively increasing. However, we know that microalbuminuria that is persistent and of increasing magnitude is the best early predictor of PLN.

We have also been evaluating the therapeutic benefit of sodium cromoglycate administration and hydrolysate diet consumption in the affected SCWT of our colony. This has been a more difficult study to perform because our other objectives require that we follow the disease to a later stage than which we might generally intervene therapeutically by today's standards. Even in this later stage of disease, there does appear to be some benefit of the therapies in certain dogs. However, some individual dogs have not responded. Some dogs also have responded to the administration of an elemental diet (Vivonex). In clinically affected dogs, providing an elemental diet may give the intestinal tract a period of relative rest, allowing it to regain some function and start to recover. Perhaps this period of 'rest' will give time for other therapeutic agents (e.g., corticosteroids) to be more effective.

As a final part of these studies, we have been feeding a litter of dogs a hydrolysate diet since weaning. It appears that this diet may delay the onset of PLE or at least make the clinical manifestations of it less severe. However, 2 of these 4 dogs have succumbed to PLN. This data is preliminary, because 2 of the dogs are still alive. Absolute conclusions cannot be made at this time. Furthermore, direct applications of these findings to the general population of dogs will be difficult. We are certainly not advising that apparently unaffected SCWT from the general population be fed a hydrolysate diet.

We have been blessed with 22 dogs: 14 SCWTs and 8 SCWTxBeagles. So how many are still with us? We only have 2 SCWT and 5 SCWTxBeagles remaining. Of the SCWTs, one has PLE and the other does not have any clinically apparent disease. The SCWTxBeagles will be 14 years old this October. We are starting to see some geriatric diseases in them that are not related to PLE/PLN. Many of them have mild osteoarthritis. One had a stroke and a rectal tumor but is still living the good life. Two of them have proteinuria that may be unrelated to the disease we are studying. One has PLE/PLN. All dogs appear to still enjoy their daily routine and are free of persistent symptoms.

We are always open to collaborative studies and have many samples that can be shared. To date we have collaborated with investigators from the GI Lab at Texas A&M University, Karin Allenspach of the Royal Veterinary College, Iwan Burgener and other investigators from Bern University, Meryl Littman and Paula Henthorn at Penn and investigators in the Clinical Nutrition group at NCSU.

We are indebted to the support of the SCWTC and to the many other Wheaten supporters who have contributed to the Colony Dogs. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the colony dogs, you can make it by check or credit card. 

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

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

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Visit the Colony Dogs at http://www.colonydogs.org/
Celebrating Long Life

wheatens that shared their lives with us for 14 years or more
compiled by toni vincent

LARNOOK GLEANGAY ICEMAID  “GEMMA”
June, 8 1991 - November 13, 2008
Ch Gleenngay Medicine Man x Aust Ch Larnook Calamity Jane

Gemma was our introduction to Wheaten ownership. Although her breeders warned us that she was quite naughty, she was always the perfect lady. Never destructive, very laid back, loving all people, and most animals (including cats and horses), she was a perfect ambassador for the breed. In her younger days, Gemma competed in both the conformation and obedience rings, and also tried agility, tracking, and herding cattle, but she excelled best at being Queen of our hearts. We all miss her.

Angela Hervey-Tennyson & Peter Westcott  (Melbourne, Australia)

CH MANSURA MORNING HAS BROKEN  “RANDEE”
March 18, 1995 - July 30, 2009
Ch Paisley Midnight Sun X Ch Mansura Andover Lady Boss

What can you say about a dog that from the moment you saw her as a puppy you knew she was special? I flew to Arizona to pick her up and bring her back to Florida. Randee was the perfect dog; trained easily, she was a champion at 9 months and became my constant companion. Where ever I was, Randee followed me. She was so smart and funny, never missing a meal. The other dogs knew Randee was the “A” dog, even though none ever challenged her. She knew if someone was visiting that they MUST have cookies in their purse and often she would root through their bags looking for goodies. Even in Randee’s senior years her eyesight was perfect, although her hearing was not so good. Randee will be in my heart forever and I know I will see her again one day. Hug your Wheatens very tight as they are God’s gift to us.

Owned by Lynn Cone, Raelyn Wheatens

CAN CH HONEYCOMB’S JASMINE JUBILEE  “JAZZ”
January 29, 1994 - June 18, 2009
Am Can Ch Legacy Wildflower Wizard X Can Ch Pakenham’s Farrah the Fairest

Jasmine is sorely missed by myself, husband, son and everyone who knew her sunny disposition. She loved everyone.

Owner:  Anita Roy
Our boy Rolly nearly made it to his 16th birthday. He lived a wonderful life, first as a show dog and then as a very loved family dog. He made our family happy with his super attitude. He grew up with our two girls and always looked forward to them coming home from college for breaks. He is sorely missed. Owned and loved by Bob, Pat, Stepfanie, and Michelle Robeski.

Pat & Bob Robeski

Sienna was so smart and so funny. Her eyes would just sparkle with mischievousness and fun. She loved to chase the sea birds at the beach and never failed to crack us up driving along when she would bark at any and all animals she would see. She did not like the sun and always gravitated to the shade. She loved to play in the sprinkler and her little pool. She loved Agility and Obedience with all her friends. Mary: "She was my shadow and my best friend. I loved to take her on my day off and we would run errands together. She didn't care where we went or how long we were gone as long as she was with me. She would keep my seat warm in the winter time. We miss her every minute of every day."

Mary and Richard Rodriguez

My grandson named “Jacques” because of the way he always used to play in the water bowl as a puppy. With his dog show days long behind him, Jacques now accompanies us in our motor home to shows, which I superintend. As any good dog should, he absolutely hates outdoor cats but, strangely enough, he gets along quite amicably with Beckett, our inside cat. Jacques now spends his days lounging lazily around the house, keeping an eye on all of the goings-on.

Rosemary Berg
CLADDAH’S GRANUILLE O’MALLEY  
“MALLEY,” “MALLEY MOO” OR “SKIDDLES”  
May 12, 1995

Ch Doubloon’s Myths & Magic X Claddagh’s Little Miss Marker

Malley was a singleton puppy and we wanted her to be strong and bold for the ring so we named her after the Irish, female pirate Granuille O’Malley. We had read that O’Malley marched in to see the Queen of England and declared she would bow to no man…true to her namesake, Malley has ruled our hearts and our home for many years. She is an amazing girl that has had 2 wonderful litters, herded sheep and performed in the conformation ring. She is still spry, still beautiful and still our little wayfarer.

Jim & Karla Cohen, Claddagh Wheatens

CH DOUBLOON’S GOTTA DANCE  
“LOLA”  
August 8, 1995

Ch Doubloon’s Master of Illusion X Doubloon’s Little Bit O Magic

Meet Lola, the loaner dog. When “The First Wheaten” toppled into depression over the death of her Sheltie pal, I called the breeder. “I have a pretty little pup I could lend you,” she said. “That oughta’ cheer her up.” And so Lola joined our family on the lend-lease program. Nearly 14 years later, she’s still with us: guardian of the front door, proprietor of the den couch, mother of two litters, stern mentor to our younger Wheaten, once our daughter’s jogging partner -- now stately walking companion to the youngest grandchildren, skilled trainer of humans (my husband carries her upstairs to her bed every night) and doyenne of our 5-dog population. Yep, her hearing’s going, and so is her eyesight, and there are times when we have to remind her where the door is. But she’s still the good-natured, even-tempered girl we fell in love with all those years ago, playing with the puppy toys (and the puppy) and batting our knees when she wants a pat or a hug. And for us, the dictum never changes: “Whatever Lola wants …”

Ann Nelson

TIERNEY  
July 30, 1995

Woodland’s W.P. Callinan Secret X Brayson’s Copper Sunrise

Tierney has had an adventurous life moving from his birth home in Minnesota to Pelham, NY and then to Oak Park, IL, and living with two young sisters and a series of young women from the US and then from France. He always enjoyed life in these urban suburbs as he went for long walks around their nearby downtown areas.

A year ago the household relocated to Bellingham, WA. Tierney’s eyesight has deteriorated and he is rather arthritic but he still enjoys a slow walk around our hilly neighborhood, his meals, and lots of naps. When we travel, he, along with Sierra, our 11.5 year old Siberian Husky, boards out in the country with our veterinarian, so we know he will be cared for if anything goes wrong.

Mary Summerfield
Happy Birthday to our wheatens, 14 years and older! ... continued

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**CH WILDFLOWER COLUMBINE  “CRYSTAL”**

September 20, 1993

Ch Legacy Wildwest Wildflower X Ch Wildflower Camellia

Grandma Crystal, as we call her, has brought us SO much joy. Each moment that we have with her is a blessing. At sixteen (16) she still has some gitty up in her gait, and a twinkle in her eye. She can’t hear a thing but, her nose still works, she never misses a meal OR a treat. Happy Sweet Sixteen old gal!

Bonita Snyder

---

**AM CAN CH TOUCHSTONE PENNY CANDY  “TOFFEE”**

August 21, 1994

Ch Amaden’s Meant To Be X Am Can Ch Touchstone Crooked Halo

Although she doesn’t see or hear very well anymore, Toffee always manages to beat the younger dogs to anything that “falls” from the kitchen counter. She sleeps most of the day but always greets us with a wagging tail and insists on getting her share of the pats. She still has a silky, shiny coat, although it’s a little thin and on a good day she’ll run in the yard with the puppies displaying the beautiful, flowing movement of her youth. No one else believes that Toffee is 15 years old but I know every new day is a blessing.

Shelly Sumner

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**LUELLEN HAPPY GO LUCKY BOY  “REILLY (AKA REILLY ROO)”**

July 26, 1993

Ch Lontree Five Star Generally X Brearah’s Daydream Believer

Reilly just celebrated his “Sweet 16th Birthday” last week. Happy Birthday Reilly! Reilly’s age has not dampened his enthusiasm for being out in his yard, or his appetite. He still loves an occasional piece of pizza crust. Even though he has some trouble getting around at times, he is still a happy and sweet boy. We feel very blessed to have him. We love you SO much Reilly.

Sharon & Terry Gainer & family

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**“BRIO”**

July 26, 1995

Am Can Ch Waggish Will X Can Ch Paddington’s Dealer’s Choice

Brio turned 14 years old on July 26th and on July 27th she was out sniffing the backyard for the elusive skunk that had left its scent somewhere on the other side of the fence! Brio is a gentle and intelligent girl and gives new meaning to the word “Wheatenizing:” for example, the act of completely rearranging a freshly made bed. Her most endearing quality is the never ending kisses that are freely offered to all those who will sit still long enough to receive them. We love her and thank her daily for just being her!

Marilyn Zeldin (Toronto, Ontario Canada)
HEXACRES CAKE AND CANDLES  “CANDY”

May 27, 1994

Ch Hexacres Andover Dr. Who X Ch Carlinayer’s Red Hot Mama

At 15 years of age, Candy still “froggy-dogs” daily. She loves her daily mile walk at the end of which she’s on her hind legs begging for a treat. She also sneaks a snack off the counter top standing on her hind legs!

Betty Faust

“GRANDMA’S ATTIC”  ... Taking Another Look at the Standard

Jackie Gottlieb

I recently had a very unusual query from an out-of-area person, looking for a puppy. She wanted to know what type of Wheaten I bred. She was quite familiar with the breed, having spent 15 wonderful years with a now deceased Wheaten, had pictures from old Benchmarks, and had attended a few shows, despite not being at all involved in showing herself. To my surprise she was referring not to coat, but to size and structure. She wanted to know if I was breeding “square” or “rectangular.” I pointed out that my breeding program was guided by our AKC Standard for the breed, and its second sentence, under the heading “General Appearance” states: square in outline.

As is my usual practice, I referred her to our web site, and told her how to access the printout of the Standard. It led me to think that perhaps more of us should do the same and reread that document, which has so well withstood the rigors of time. Recently clarifications were made on the subject of coat texture and tail docking, changes approved by the membership and awaiting final approval by the AKC. Careful perusal hints that perhaps some of its content has lost its emphasis with some breeders. Looking around the show ring, it is difficult to reconcile its strictures with the number of oversized, over-boned, long-backed, coarse specimens being shown today.

To check for yourself, go to our superb web site, and here is how to find it: Enter www.scwtca.org <http://www.scwtca.org/>. On your left is the heading, “The Breed.” Follow the arrow, and click on “Breed Standard.” Here are just a few of the words that pop out to give the overall picture of breed type: Medium-size, well-balanced, square, moderation, graceful, hocks well let down, and gait free, graceful and lively. The section on gait, coming after the details of structure, is brief but says so much. Movement is the proof of conformation. One thing that is not spelled out, but is implicit, is that Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier movement is “Terrier Movement.” It is a more moderate way of going, and is not the wide-open movement so dramatic in the sporting breeds. Most certainly it is not the lumbering gait of the larger working breeds. We are not looking for exaggerated reach and drive. We are looking for the gait that most efficiently allows the dog do the work for which it was originally developed in the country of origin. What was required of an all-purpose farm dog, working a small property, was endurance and flexibility. This would entail four good legs, balanced angulation front and rear, and low hocks to permit quick change of direction. “Short coupled” dictates a short loin and a rib cage that extends well back, providing the heart and lung space needed for endurance.

We expect our judges to reread our Standard before they come into the ring, and refer back to it when a question arises. We breeders and exhibitors can ask no less of ourselves. This is our blueprint, and we have all pledged to uphold it.

Happy Birthday to our wheatens, 14 years and older! ... continued
Every year in October, at the SCWTCA Annual Meeting, we have the opportunity to meet the incoming Board members. This October we will meet several new directors. I have included the length of term they will serve. This is the first year of staggered terms. The people who have 1 year after their name will be eligible for re-election next year.

The new board is as follows: President, Jinx Moore (2 years); Vice President, Susan McGee (1 year); Recording Secretary, Nancy Draper (1 year); Corresponding Secretary, Anna Marzolino (2 years); Treasurer, Lori Kromash (2 years); Directors, Kay Baird (2 years); Willie Rueda (2 years); Pam Tinnelly (1 year); and Gary Vlachos (1 year).

I asked each new Board member a series of questions and requested that they provide a photo of themselves, preferably with their dog(s). I think you will see that our Board is an interesting, experienced and well-qualified group of people.

Here is a chance for you to meet Board members and put a face to the name. Each of them has more in their lives than SCWTCA. Here is what I requested of them:

After a brief introduction of yourself, please answer the following “dog related” questions.

- How and when did you first become interested in Wheatens? When did you get your first Wheaten? When did you join the SCWTCA?
- What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member?
- What all breed, obedience, agility, or breed clubs do you belong to? How are you involved (offices, committees, etc.)? Do you have any other special club or work experience, e.g. P.T.A., that especially qualifies for the SCWTCA Board?
- How many litters have you bred?
- Who was your first finished champion, performance title holder, etc.?
- What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out?
- If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why?

Meet Kay Baird

I am a retired school social worker and had a private psychotherapy practice for several years. Since retirement—and divorce—I have much more discretionary time to devote to my passion—that being Wheaten Terriers. I was a complete novice when I got my first Wheaten and hired a professional handler to show her. Fortunately, I realized I knew nothing and so kept my mouth shut for several years and listened and learned from those who did know. I bought my first Wheaten, Ch. Mist O’Morn’s Molly McGuire “Molly” in 1988. I have always loved the spirit of terriers and hairy, but non-shedding dogs as well. It wasn’t until 1996 that I was able to join SCWTCA. Molly was my first AKC conformation champion. She finished so quickly, I thought, “Oh, this is easy.” Now you know how really naïve I was. I have not personally participated in performance but several who have bought puppies from me have done so with their Wheaten quite successfully.

My SCWTCA experience was on the last Bylaws committee. I learned a great deal about the workings of the club and importance of committee work. I attended the Keystone Health Seminar in Colorado. I attended the World Dog Show in Amsterdam in 2002. I take every opportunity to learn not just more about our breed, but dogs as a whole. Professional handlers and judges have been great teachers for me over the years, and I take every opportunity to “pick their brains” as well as those of long-time breeders of Wheatens. Now that I am retired, I look forward to having the time to be more involved in SCWTCA activities.

I currently am a member of the Milwaukee Wheaten Club. I formerly belonged to an all-breed club where I served as trophy chairperson for several of their shows and also served as ring steward many times.

My experience as a school social worker and private therapist will serve me well in my service to the SCWTCA Board, club members and our breed. In my work I dealt with the general school population and children with special needs, as well as their parents, and with families of varying cultures and values. Being a therapist requires careful listening, questioning in order to gain all possible, necessary and relevant information, sifting through that

continued on page 36
information in order to make the best suggestions and thoughtful decisions. In addition, one must weigh differing opinions and employ diplomatic language in voicing one's own opinions and views. One needs to know when to compromise for the good of the whole, not letting one's own personal agenda drive either one's thinking or vote.

In 20 years of breeding, I’ve bred 50-52 litters. I fell in love with breeding and employ some of the same nurturing skills I used in my profession in raising the puppies and selecting future owners. I have learned no litter is the same; there can always be surprises and something new to learn. Currently, I co-breed with Kent and Gwen Meyer. This allows us to have more dogs, and thus more litters than some other breeders. Kent's mother, Cindy Meyer, was also a Wheaten breeder, so Kent has been involved with the breed his entire life.

I feel great pride when former buyers come back to buy their second, third, or even fourth Wheaten from me because their experience with our dogs has been so satisfying.

The funniest thing that happened to me at a dog show was when I first started out. Molly's first show was the International in Chicago. She was in the ring with Suzy Kipp and looked so beautiful and was so well behaved, I didn't recognize my own dog. Suzy teased me about this for years.

I suspect that I will have a lot to learn in my first year on the Board. There are so many needs and priorities—always health research and raising the money to support that. However, I would like to see more education of our breeders about what meets our Standard and how to more carefully evaluate their litters as to what is actually good structure and what is truly a good representation of our breed in the show ring. Not every litter will produce show quality pups that later will be worthy of being bred. I am concerned that too many are losing sight of our breed standard and excusing too many faults in the dogs they take into the show ring. Producing one or two or even 8-9 litters doesn't make a good breeder. Of course, getting members to take advantage of the educational opportunities is another matter.

I would also like the Board to re-visit the issue of associate membership.

Meet Willie Rueda

Thank you for your nomination to the SCWTCA Board of Directors. My name is Willie Rueda and I live in Washington, DC, with Wendy, my wife, Mateo, our son, and our two dogs Edison and Leia, a Border Terrier. I have been a practicing architect for more than 22 years, with 12 years as a partner in my own firm. Our work is as diverse as our list of clients and my association with the dogs has led to work in designing animal care facilities.

How and when did you first become interested in Wheatens? When did you get your first Wheaten? When did you join SCWTCA? While I did not grow up with dogs, I had always hoped to have many. In 1984, while away at college, my parents agreed to take in a friend's two-year-old Wheaten (Molly) after she and her housemate (a Jack Russell Terrier) stopped getting along. She was quite the character, endearing herself to our family from the start. My parents later added a second Wheaten from Molly's breeder and it was through her that Wendy and I really came to love the breed. I can remember spending hours reading and rereading the SCWTCA Owner's Manual, wondering where in the world one could even see a dog show! In 1992, Wendy and I added our own Wheaten, Angus, and it was our trips with him to the park that led us to meet our first friend in Wheatens, Kerry Kuehner. She helped us find our way to our first shows and to join the now defunct DC club. At our first Montgomery she introduced us to Joy Laylon, who asked me to show her promising young bitch, Lovey. She ultimately became our foundation bitch—Ch Lontree Laced Kid Glove. At 14 years of age, Lovey was awarded an AOM at our National Specialty.

We became members of the National Club in 1996--the same year we bred our first litter.

What SCWTCA offices and committees have you worked on and how long have you been an active member? My first
involvement in Club affairs was with the Code of Ethics Committee that worked on the current version the club has used since 2002 and later worked on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. More recently, I have worked with the Health Committee. And since 2004, I have been responsible for organizing the video recording of our National Specialty.

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

Between my family and my business it is difficult for me to commit to many dog activities. I currently serve as a board member of the SCWT Genetic Research Fund, but my experience in dog organizations is limited. I have served as President of the DC Area SCWT Club that is no longer in operation. One of my long-time interests has been pedigree research and in 2007 I launched an online database at http://www.scwtgrf.com through the SCWTGRF that showcases more than 48,600 pedigrees and 750 photos of Wheatens from around the world.

How many litters have you bred? We use the breeding prefix Trebol, which means 'shamrock' or 'clover' in Spanish. To date we have bred seven litters. We have whelped five litters from 1996-2003 that produced seven AKC champions, and since then, our breeding efforts have been with Betsy Geertson (Orion). So far, this partnership has produced two litters from which we count multiple performance titlists and the winner of our 2008 National Specialty Sweepstakes.

Who was your first finished champion, performance titleholder, etc.? Our first champion was Edison—Ch Honeylee's Hilight On Trebol. And his father, Ch Brenmoor's Lightning Bug (Mic), was the first dog that I showed to his championship. There are also a number of Trebol performance titlists. And though I can’t take credit for training them, they represent an important aspect of the breed’s temperament and willingness to work that reflects well on our breeding program.

What is the funniest thing that happened to you at a dog show when you first started out? By far the funniest thing I recall was in the ring at our first Montgomery in an open class of 30 bitches. Asked to move Lovey in a triangle pattern, I dutifully went up, over, switched hands, and returned to the corner—a perfect ‘L’! Devastated, I turned around, went back to the corner and returned to the judge, now correctly gaiting my exhibit on the diagonal. Only to be asked to redo the down and back, I was simultaneously embarrassed and exhilarated.

If you could pick one thing to focus on for the next year, what would it be and why? For me it will be important to take time to learn how to be an effective member of this Board and I look forward to this challenge. Of long-standing importance to me is having an open club that serves all interests fairly and encourages broad member involvement on committees. In addition, I am interested in breeder education that explores pedigree management to help members make informed choices for both breed type and health.

Meet Gary Vlahos

PROFILE

I first became interested in Wheatens around 1977 when Bill and I were looking to buy our first home. We knew that our first addition would be a dog. We started attending numerous dog shows in our area looking for the ideal breed. But it was Bill, while on a business trip to NYC, who happened to stumble upon a Wheaten. He knew immediately it was the breed for us. After introducing me to the Wheaten at the next dog show, it wasn’t hard to sell me on that idea too!

In 1978 we purchased our first Wheaten from Joy Laylon (Lontree). CA Ch Lontree's Borstal Boy became our foundation dog. A little more than a year later he was joined by our foundation bitch, CA AM Ch Harwelden's Miss Dub-Lyn. It was during this time that we joined the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America.

I am not a numbers man, so when asked how many litters I have bred, how many champions, etc. I usually get a pained look on my face. The last count I got, from a much more reliable source than I, was that we have bred over 50 champions in the US. As we have also exported dogs to Canada and Scandinavia, there are Brenmoor champions titled in countries that include Canada, Estonia, Finland, Luxembourg and Sweden.

What I am most proud of though is not the number of Ch’s, but that within those numbers I was able to establish a "type" that at least phenotypically speaking had a positive influence on the breed.

EXPERIENCE

I am approved to judge 13 breeds and Junior Showmanship, hav-
arly mornings withjudge here in the US, Canada, Sweden and Finland. Over the years I have not served in the official sense on many committees for our club, but I have given grooming seminars when asked to by various regional clubs and also internationally. My most consistent contribution to the club and the breed has been in teaching, with the emphasis on Judges’ Education. I continue to serve on the Judges’ Education Committee with Gay Dunlap and Cindy Vogels.

Most recently I served on the Standard Revision Committee. I am very proud of the work we did here. It was purposefully limited in scope, and will serve our breed well in its clarifications. I am glad that the majority of the membership embraced these changes.

EXPERIENCES!

I will always remember two amusing weekends in my show career. The first was in Chicago at the Specialty there. I had my “Double” littermates, Doolin (Dog) and Kylemore (Bitch). I took Doolin into the Bred By Dog class only to receive a lesson from the judge in canine anatomy as it pertains to the differences between dogs and bitches! He patiently waited while I switched littermates outside the ring to the guffaws of my fellow breeders and ringside! By the way... I went winners dog that day! You too might want to try it someday!

My second weekend of smiles happened when I suggested to a young upstart in our breed that he accompany me to the Spring Louisville shows and learn the ropes of how to compete with the “big boys”! Bill had stayed behind to care for a litter, so I was glad to have a student/assistant with me to help. Funny thing was, whenever I introduced Willie to my dog show friends, they would smile, and as they were shaking his hand their heads would turn my way and ask; “Where’s Bill”?! Don’t worry... Bill’s still here!

BOARD GOALS

I feel we still need to accomplish more in our education. For Judges’ Ed we need to figure out how to generate more interest in attending breed seminars in already established venues. We might also explore an online presentation that incorporates a real person teaching while utilizing our Breed DVD and possibly footage from some of our national specialties.

Materials and venues continue to need to be developed to help promote Breeder’s Education.

I also look forward to being brought up to speed regarding our Yearbooks. I feel we have the talent and resources within our membership to bring this project current, and I am hopeful that this Board can help realize that goal.

Photos of “Malley” and “Tipper” competing at the AKC National Agility Championships in Concord, North Carolina.

Story on page 7.
When this issue hits your doorstep, hopefully we’ll see a trace of spring in the air. Springtime brings rebirth and new life. Soon I’ll see the deer in our yard with fawns by their sides and hear the chirping of baby Robins whose mothers always seem to think that our log cabin is the perfect place to build their nests. Of course, the new life that excites me the greatest is when a litter of puppies is born. What a thrill it is to sit by the mother’s side and watch anxiously to see what the next pup will look like. When the delivery is complete, you sit back, take a deep breath and size up the wet little beings and wonder, “Will one of these be my next Champion?”

I owned many breeds of dogs growing up. All were pets and all were my best friends. I can remember the countless picnics I’d have with my Cocker Spaniel and Saint Bernard. Often my other best friend, my Grandmother, would accompany us. She was an animal lover herself and would always bring along a bread crust for the dog’s lunch. I remember our Collie mix who waited anxiously every evening around six for my father to get home so that he could be the first to greet him, and my Newfoundland who kept visitors in their car when they arrived at my house. I don’t think most of them were as scared of his 180 pound size as they were of his gobs of drool hanging from his jowls. I loved each and every one of those dogs and the others we had. I cannot imagine life without them.

The scary part is, with the aggressive way the animal rights movement is fighting, there might be a day when experiences like these just won’t happen. There will be no more raising litters in our homes, no more furry childhood friends, no more sloppy mouthed dogs to kiss you when you arrive home. Can you imagine that world?

That sounds so far-fetched. I know it does. However, one step at a time our rights as pet owners are being attacked. They are creeping in slowly so we won’t see what’s happening until it is too late. It starts with a pet limit law here, a breed restriction law there, then a mandatory spay/neuter law, limits on the number of puppies you can sell, breeder licensing requirements, and the list goes on. With each law, they get a step closer to their goal. We don’t fight back at first because hey, neutering pets is a good thing, isn’t it? The laws seem harmless, but each one gets more restrictive until, so many have passed that all of our rights as pet owners have been taken away before we even realize it.

People involved in the animal rights movement will openly tell you this is their goal. Ingrid Newkirk, PETA president and co-founder was quoted in the Chicago Daily Herald, March 1990, as saying, “One day, we would like an end to pet shops and the breeding of animals. [Dogs] would pursue their natural lives in the wild ... they would have full lives, not wasting at home for someone to come home in the evening and pet them and then sit there and watch TV.”

I grew up considering myself a proponent of animal rights. As a teenager I saved and collected money to send to PETA and HSUS. They told me stories of horrific animal suffering. Why wouldn’t I want to help?! I was clueless that they wanted to do anything other than save mistreated animals. I only knew that I loved animals and hated to see them suffer. Animal rights organizations target children just for this reason. They gain celebrity and nationwide support because people do not realize their real agenda. They don’t know that HSUS doesn’t even own any animal shelters or that PETA euthanizes a huge number of animals every year. They don’t realize there is a difference between the Animal Rights and Animal Welfare movements.

The only way for us to keep our rights to own and raise our four footed friends, is to speak up, be heard, and fight back. Dog laws are trying to be passed in states across the country. Don’t sit back and let it happen. See what laws are trying to slip into your location. Learn more about the true agendas of the animal rights movement and spread the word to your friends. Teach others the difference in Animal Rights and Animal Welfare. Make it clear that being against the animal rights movement does not mean you are supportive of the inhumane treatment of animals.

Stand up now; let your voice be heard before it is too late. Imagine a life without your comfort spaniel by your side. That thought alone should be enough to make you act now.

Royal Spaniels is internationally recognized as the premier magazine for Cavalier King Charles and English Toy Spaniels. Permission was granted by the editor to reprint this timely and timeless warning.
BAROQUE WHEATENS

It’s HurriKane Season in the Pacific NW!

“KANE”
Am. & Can. CH Baroque Top Shelf HurriKane
CH Stratford Top Priority X CH Marquee’s Birthday Toast

AOM NCTA April 2009-Judge Lynne Myall
AOM NCTA Specialty April 2009-Judge Lydia Coleman Hutchinson
BOS GWTA June 2009-Judge Cindy Vogels
AOM GWTA Specialty June 2009-Judge Scott Kellogg
Group Placement at 8 months Sept 2008-Judge Candy Way

Breeder/Owner Handled by Christy Weagant
Co Breeders: Richard & Sonya Urquhart

WWW.BAROQUEWHEATENS.COM
Here’s the calendar that has something for everyone:

13 months, January to January, National and Regional Specialty show dates with reminders for sending entries, beautiful photographs and much more.

The calendar will be available in September and will make its debut at the MCKC Boutique.

2010 SCWTCA Calendar
All New Design Coming Soon!
It’s all about . . . . “MeMe”

CH Marquee’s Party Girl
(CH Marquee’s A Fool and His Money x CH Marquee’s Birthday Celebration)

Celebrating **TWO AWARDS OF MERIT**
SCWTCSC/Great Western Specialty 2009!

Thank you Judge Peter Green!

**Breeders:** Sonya and Richard Urquhart, Marquee Wheatens

**Owners:** Rose Rose (owner/handler) and Sonya Urquhart;

Supported by Dr. Arnie Spanjers. Groomed by Nancy Han. Loved by all
….. “MeMeMe” does it again!

Thank you Judge Dr. H. Scott Kellogg!
I remember my Tibetan Terrier, Rebel. At fourteen and a half, he had led a grand life. Full of himself, he enjoyed being the center of attention. At nine years of age, Rebel had become the number one Tibetan in AKC obedience. He was Mr Personality and will always be my favorite pet. Rebel was small for a Tibetan but that didn’t stop him from enjoying top-dog status among our four Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers. It was a shock when he was diagnosed with lymphosarcoma. My agile, bright-eyed boy could not have a terminal disease. Within a month, he developed enlarged lymph nodes in his throat. Other than that, he continued to be carefree and my constant shadow and companion. I would do anything to keep him alive. At mealtimes I hand fed him canned food in pea size morsels, anything else he would regurgitate. However, I knew I keep him alive. At mealtimes I hand fed him canned food in pea size morsels, anything else he would regurgitate. However, I knew I needed an answer to my question, When is it time? How will I know when to let him go? I talked with a Tibetan breeder and asked, “When will I know the time is right to put him down?” Her answer was, “It’s better to put him down a week too early than a day too late.” I adopted this quote as my own and use it to counsel my Wheaten owners.

Losing a loving, devoted pet is never easy. To euthanize a faithful companion and member of the family may be one of the hardest decisions we ever make. You may ask why we don’t allow our dogs to die naturally. Euthanasia is from the Greek; it means “a gentle death”. It’s a very fitting way to let our Wheatens go after a life of love and clownish antics. Dogs have no awareness of the inevitability of death as we do and they have no fear of it.

When I took Rebel for his final visit to the vet, I was not prepared for the emotional roller coaster I would be riding. He jumped into the van, tail wagging with delight and took his place on the seat next to me. He showed all the signs of being healed. As usual, he walked into the clinic as if he owned the place; I did not realize he was just responding to the moment. I lost sight as to the reason I was there. I could not hold my emotions together and retain my composure. How could I sign the papers that would take his life? I was unable to decide what to do with his body; regretfully I never obtained his ashes. Because of this heartbreaking experience, I vowed to be there for my owners. When one of my pups becomes terminally ill, I am there, with as much information and support as I can give.

Pet owners with a geriatric or critically ill dog must be guided. They need to know what defines a good quality of life.

1. If their Wheaten has been a good eater, does he eat with gusto or does he pick at his food, eating just to survive?
2. When a family member comes home, does he still greet them, acknowledging their presence and responding to their attention?
3. Does a normally clean dog lose control and eliminate in the house or in his crate?
4. Does their dog have chronic pain due to arthritis or some other degenerative disease? Can this pain be controlled?

Even one NO to these questions may tell the owners everything they need to know.

It’s never easy. I’ve been there, too many times. I evaluate my geriatric Wheatens on a daily basis. They might have arthritis, congestive heart disease, cognitive dysfunction or other aging conditions. I am always relieved when we have another day together.

Amy Millman, who owned Meirleac’s Plop Plop Fizz Fizz, said it all. “The decision is never easy, no matter how much you are expecting it or how much you prepare for it.” All the preparation in the world is not necessarily going to make the decision any easier when you are faced with a terminally ill or dying pet and are trying to determine if it’s time to let him go. For most breeders, the time will come when an aged or sick dog is beyond care and his owners turn to you for counseling.

Making a decision to end a pet’s life is mind-boggling. Many owners do not, and will not, talk about it until the end is near. Then, it becomes a decision made under a tremendous amount of emotional stress.

Making a decision to end a pet’s life is mind-boggling. Many owners do not, and will not, talk about it until the end is near. Then, it becomes a decision made under a tremendous amount of emotional stress.

Be prepared ahead of time:

1. Have your owners go to their vet and sign the permission slip for euthanasia. It also helps to pay for the procedure at the same time.
2. Make sure that the necropsy information, if needed, has been given to the vet. http://scwtca.org/health/postmortem.htm.
3. If the Wheaten is thirteen years or older, have your owners give information to their vet regarding the samples needed for the SCWTCa DNA geriatric studies. http://scwtca.org/health/geriatric.htm
4. Your owners will need to decide what will be done with the body. There are several choices; separate cremation with ashes returned to owner, communal cremation (in

continued on page 45
which they will not receive any ashes), burial in a pet cemetery or the body returned to owners for burial.

In this manner, your owners can make these important decisions without being emotionally distraught. It is the first and most positive step towards ending your dog's discomfort. Caution your owners against the temptation to extend a suffering dog's life for self-gratification. The dog's welfare must always come first. When that final call to the vet is made, here are a couple of other things that might be considered.

1. The appointment should be made for the last one of the day. That way they won't have to feel rushed or face other clients waiting in the vet's office.

2. Counsel them to stay with their Wheaten during euthanasia. Facing their pet's mortality will help with closure in his death. If an owner just cannot do this, then volunteer to go with them or handle it yourself. Their Wheaten has the right to be with their best friend to the end.

3. Suggest the dog be sedated before euthanizing takes place. This will allow the owner a little extra time with their pet as he peacefully goes to sleep. This is far less traumatic on the dog and owner than restraining the dog while hunting for a vein.

4. Explain to your owner or have the vet explain what to expect in the process of euthanasia.

In addition, do not forget that the death of our Wheatens is something all of us as breeders and/or pet owners must experience and come to terms with, sooner or later.

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I would like to thank the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Southern California for the invitation to judge their annual specialty.

The new location is wonderful ... a beautiful backdrop complete with a cooling sea breeze. I would also like to thank the exhibitors for their entries--judging such specialties are a highlight for my role as a judge.

Being a breeder/exhibitor for Wheaten's "kissing cousin" (Kerry Blue Terriers), I appreciate the time and effort it takes to present an entry in "show shape". I was asked by the club president to author a short critique: I will mention some general impressions, and make some comments on the winners.

I thought the overall quality was good.

Regarding heads: earsets were generally good, not many large ears. Eye color was very good--no light eyes. Bites were also very good, which was very pleasant to see, since there have been some problems with off-bites in the breed in the past. Most heads were well-balanced; some could use a little more length.

Regarding outline: most were keeping with a square outline. Some were a little short-legged/longer backed.

Regarding bodies: there were several that could have used more substance--they could use more body under their coats. Only a couple were too heavily bodied.

Regarding movement: there were quite a few that were close-moving in the rear, and a couple of open hocks. On the other hand, most moved well coming--I saw only a couple of dogs moving out-at-the-elbows. Lateral movement was adequate in most dogs--a few were superior in reach; this is an area that can be improved. Some entries were not in good muscle tone, and some exercise would be beneficial in improving their movement. I used to roller skate with one of our Best in Show Kerries, and it really helped with lateral reach (brisk walking or jogging should be sufficient).

Regarding coats: most coats were acceptable to good; some very good, a few excellent. I did not see many coarse/brillo coats, which was nice. Only a couple of dogs with too much dark hair in their coats. A couple of dogs had stringy coats. Most coats were age-appropriate, and color was fine in general. And over-trimming was minimal.

Regarding temperment: most had good temperments. Specials were fun to watch spar.

Best of Breed went to a very lovely bitch: moderate size, well-balanced, square outline, dead-on movement coming and going, good (and improved) lateral movement, good coat and color, showed well.

Best of Opposite Sex was very competitive: the winner was very balanced, very square in outline. Showed very well, moved nicely. Good coat and color.

Best of Winners and Winners bitch: a very nice younger bitch. Again, well-balanced and proportioned. Age-appropriate color and coat. Nice body under coat. Moved well (did get tired towards the end of breed judging--she had a long day!)

Winners Dog: well-balanced dog, nice moderate body under coat. Moved well. Coat and color good. Not the most animated dog at times, but used ears well enough.

Awards of Merit: very competitive with the breed and best of opposite winners--very nice breed representatives

Again, I would like to thank the club for their invitation, and their hard work to put on a wonderful specialty. Good luck to exhibitors in the future, and thank you for making my judging assignment most pleasurable.
It gets harder. The dog learns to search for people buried alive under all sorts of materials - collapsed buildings, aeroplane or train crashes, and disasters such as earthquakes and explosions. This demands a maximum from the dog in both physical and intelligence work. The dog slips and slides and climbs over things that shift and shake. He must learn to ignore this and concentrate on filtering out the human smell from all the various other scents at such a site.

The dog has to learn to search a completely empty building alone, as a handler cannot always accompany him. Interestingly, it is very important that the handler keep giving the dog water to drink in these dusty environments as the nose of a dog must always be wet to work efficiently.

Part of the training for this type of search is on wobbly equipment such as a plank balanced at the ends of barrels. It is done in gentle stages with the handler, until the dog is confident to go it alone.

The dog is introduced to a narrow tunnel... to a seesaw...
scaffolding...

horizontal ladders...

and step ladders (down is difficult!).

He is taught to go carefully, responding always to commands. The handler learns to send the dog by voice and hand signals. Dog and handler have to learn the feeling of being lowered on a rope. Needless to say the dog has to get used to heights in a number of different ways from being in a ropeway carriage to moving about on platforms.

There are occasions when the dog's only way into a building is via a fireman's ladder. It is the handler's task to give calm, clear commands from below. Sabine says that one wrong step could mean the dog's death. It happened once that Robin slipped though the ladder with all four legs ... only a couple of rungs were holding his body. His quiet and confident behaviour meant he got back on his paws again. However the whole episode could have turned out differently and it brought home just how dangerous such rescue work is.

Combined with learning all these different skills is ordinary obedience work and lots of it: send aways, recalls, direction training, down, come, wait, etc. The dog must learn all these by voice commands and hand signals, as they are essential for his own safety. The dog has to be tolerant of other dogs and be a good traveller.

Robin passed his first examination as a search and rescue dog in September 2008. He particularly enjoys the equipment training (ladders, seesaw and shaking board.) He also enjoys going over ruins to find a hidden person. But best of all, Robin says, is the play with his toy when he is successful and has done well!

If you want to see more photos of Robin, log on to his web site: http://www.rescuewheaten.de/

An immense amount of training goes into a success like this and the trainers deserve as much credit, if not more, than the dog! Well done to you all. And Good Luck.

Robin in his working “uniform.”
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